

—A fearful accident, involving the loss of several lives, occurred on the 5th ult. Our ironclad the *Corbora*, having been taken down the Bay for some gun practice, Captain Mandoville, her commander, made arrangements also for some torpedo experiments to come off abreast of Queenscliff, our principal watering place, near the heads of Hobson's Bay. From some bungle in the management of the apparatus, which nobody as yet has been able to explain, an explosion of a torpedo took place, blowing the operators themselves and their boat high into the air, only one of the men having escaped destruction. Captain Mandoville and his first officer, Lieutenant Collins, had left the scene of action, and gone on shore at Queenscliff to witness from that point of view the action of the torpedoes, and the scenic character of the business, ending in a frightful catastrophe, has been somewhat severely criticised. The remains of only two of the boat's crew were recovered from the sea, and on those an inquest has been held without throwing any light on the immediate cause of the explosion. If our torpedo defences are merely to blow up our own defenders, the sooner we abjure such critical and bungled novelties the better.—*English paper.*

—The rapidity with which the Japanese and Chinese people appropriate the ideas and imitate the practices of the western people is very remarkable. At a very early period of Chinese irruption into this continent the immigrants began to assimilate American ideas. "Mo alloo fanceo Melican man—hato nigger, hato Injun." That was the first step in approach to nationalism. But the Chinese have not stopped there, and the Japanese have also been progressive. The latter have learned to produce Dahlgren and Armstrongs, and the former have learned to strike. Our despatches show that the most enlightened native Americans could not raise a more dangerous riot, nor get a store with more success, nor demand high wages with greater confidence. The day when Chinese labor was cheap has nearly run its course. The poet tells us that "Through the age one increasing purpose runs, and the moon widens with the process of the suns," and probably he did not intend to confine the idea to the Caucasian race.

—The weapons of modern Republicanism, whether in Ireland or Russia, are such as are quite as easily wielded by the agents of oligarchy or even of absolutism, as those of democracy. A mere handful of men, less than one per cent of the people, can if they are so resolved, carry out a system of terrorism by secret murder, or more open slaughter. It is certainly an alarming feature of modern society that murder should be so successful, and no sentiment evoked by its commission, except a desire to save the neck of the assassin from the halter. Unfortunately too this crime has been repeatedly successful. Large concessions to trade unionism followed the murders, outrages and "rattlings" of Sheffield and other manufacturing centres. And the wounding of Prince Alfred in Australia in an attempt upon his life, was followed by large concessions to the peasantry of Ireland. The political apostles of majorities are teaching resolute and unscrupulous minorities the road to power, and are rapidly making all peaceful government of mankind utterly impracticable.

Short Tactical Lessons for all arms at the Ontario Gunnery School.

"B" Battery, Royal School of Gunnery, Kingston.

FIELD ARTILLERY ORGANIZATION.

In European armies, field artillery is divided into horse and field, but in the Militia Field Artillery of Canada there is no such distinction. All the field batteries, with their full complement of six horses to each gun, 9 pr. M.L.R., 800 lbs., would be able to move with sufficient rapidity to accompany cavalry—in fact, the system followed is that of the old Bengal Horse Artillery, viz., carrying the gunners on the off horses, gun axle seats and limbers which answers all practical purposes of mobility. An artillery advance at speed is rarely over a mile,

and each time the guns come into action, the horses are rested, while the gunners are also comparatively rested during an advance and fresh for their work instead of attemping to run after their guns on foot, and arriving—if they ever did arrive—at the scene of action too tired and exhausted to fight their guns. It is inconceivable that an undesirable feeling of jealousy should for so many years have kept the "Field Artillery" of Great Britain and France in the extraordinary condition of choosing the alternative of arriving in action (after anything of a rapid advance) without their gunners, or following the other alternative of bringing the ammunition wagons under fire, as the only means of carrying up the gunners, and running the risk of ammunition wagons being exploded by a stray bullet, but as we cannot afford the luxury of what are called horse artillery in European armies, we, in Canada, have changed all that. Our Canadian or Bengal Horse Artillery system, brings a minimum of men, horses and ammunition wagons into the first line of fire, for it is rarely that undulations of ground or other cover cannot be found for the ammunition wagons within the distance required to supply ammunition when that in the limbers is exhausted. To effect this the wagon need not be exposed, but the wagon limber trotted up and exchanged for the gun limber, which trots to the rear, relieving the horses and drivers of the gun teams who require relief, for it should be remembered that no soldier of the fighting line has so severe a strain put upon his passive courage as the artillery driver, sitting or standing still under fire, with no weapon but a whip in his hand, and none of that active duty which makes men forget danger.

THE BATTERY UNIT

It is fortunate for field artillery that the fighting or tactical and the administrative unit are the same. It is not so with any other arm.

A battalion of infantry extended for attack ceases to be a tactical unit, being uncontrollable by one man.

It first resolves itself into wings under its majors, and then into companies under their captains. The present War Minister of Great Britain has, for purposes of promotion, increased the number of majors to four, but they will not be like the German Hauptman, administrative as well as tactical leaders. In the cavalry the squadron becomes an impromptu incongruous tactical unit, exemplifying the scriptural difficulty of serving two masters.

The field artillery having this advantage, of being in peace and war under the same tactical and administrative leader, becomes a splendid fighting organization.

It has, moreover, the great advantage of becoming in our small armies, and widely severed operations, a tactical unit somewhat equivalent to that of a brigade of infantry, which is the smallest unit with which it can be associated, and its commander becomes from the nature of things in a great measure the decider of his own fighting movements, having received a general idea of what may be required of him, from his artillery chief if with a large force, or from his Brigadier, or General of division, if with a smaller force. These points have been dwelt upon at length, because the command of a field battery though requiring the tactical *coup d'œil* and decision of a General, generally falls to the lot of a comparatively young man, and as such a command on active service may be considered within the reach of every "field artillery subaltern," he should lose no opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of tactics of all arms, which can be gained by any observant officer in the course of the service of artillery with other arms.

Though a battery of artillery often has to act as an almost independent tactical unit, especially in the little wars of Great Britain, and also probably in the unavoidably detached defensive operations with which we Canadians would probably, and unfortunately have to commence a defensive war, in which we would not have taken the initiative of concentration, the lessons of the late great wars in Europe show that great artillery results can only be obtained by concentrated artillery action, and as our battery unit consists of only