

would be as fully under the control of their officers as they are now we would feel very enthusiastic over the new scheme; but there seems some need to examine the thing carefully from every side, with the aid of a little experience in the drill, before pronouncing an unqualified opinion on the merits of this open formation.

It is probably a consideration of this scheme of open drill that has induced the *Volunteer Service Review* to very pertinently remark: "The days are, we hope, passed, when the ideal perfection of a private soldier marching past shall be, for the rear rank man to have his nose glued to the collar of his front rank man, and for both ranks to look as if they were fowls, ready trusted for roasting. We should like to halt one of these preposterous formations, exactly in front of the saluting flag, and order them, without more ado or preparation, to fire three company volleys as per regulation. Unless some were good enough to fall down at once, like skittles before the bowler, the rest could not possibly get ready or present. When wars are short, sharp and bloody, is it not madness to spend time over anything but 'war drill'?"

Personals.

The 90th is about losing one of its most popular officers in Lieut. Jackes, who is leaving Winnipeg. He formerly served in the Queen's Own, and on the formation of the 90th enlisted, rising rapidly in the rank, he went to the front as a sergeant, and was wounded at the capture of Batoche. After the return of his regiment he was gazetted a second lieutenant vice the late Lieut. Charles Swinford, killed in action.

The English official *Gazette*, of the 7th contains the following appointments. To the Royal Artillery—Gentleman cadet A. C. Macdonell, from the Royal Military College, Kingston, Canada, to be lieutenant; and to the Royal Engineers—Gentleman cadet J. N. C. Kennedy, from the Royal Military College, Kingston, Canada, to be lieutenant. The last named is a son of the late Lieut.-Col. Kennedy, the first commanding officer of the 90th Rifles, who died last year in England on his way home from the Soudan.

The whereabouts of the several officers of the Department of Militia are as follows: Sir Adolphe Caron is in Ottawa, attending to departmental duties; Sir Fred. Middleton is ill in Toronto, but expects to be in Ottawa by Saturday next; Col. Powell, A.G., is at his office, as are also Col. Panet, Lt.-Col. Macpherson, director of stores, and Col. Bacon, who has got pretty well through the rush of the D. R. A. business, and is now ready to submit the several results to a meeting of the executive council; Col. Bergin, S.G., is at his home in Cornwall, and Lt.-Col. Irwin, inspector of artillery, returned from Manitoba on Monday and is on the point of leaving for Prince Edward Island.

The *Manitoban* in commenting upon the success of the prairie province's representatives at the D.R.A. matches, speaks of Col-Sergt. C. N. Mitchell of the 90th, as follows:—He was very successful in most of the competitions, and was one of the twenty best marksmen at the meeting, being selected as the Manitoba representative of the Wimbledon rifle team of 1887. Sergt. Mitchell has been to Wimbledon twice already, and would have been there much oftener had he not been ruled out for three successive years by the old regulation, now happily repealed, which prevented marksmen belonging to the team from going if they had been twice to Wimbledon within three years.

G. H. McMichael, the junior major of the Dufferin Rifles, has been obliged to resign his commission in consequence of his approaching departure for New York, where he proposes to reside in future. He has been connected with the regiment since 1881, when he raised No. 6 company, assuming command of it. Later he was appointed to the adjutancy, and got his promotion to a majority last year. His fellow officers regret his departure exceedingly, and on the 13th testified their esteem by entertaining him at dinner in the officers' rooms, when all his brothers in arms within reach of Brantford, and a few other friends, were present. A pleasant evening was spent, with songs, recitations, and speeches brimful of kind words and regrets. Major McMichael is to be congratulated upon having so thoroughly won the good wishes of the regiment and of the citizens of Brantford generally.

Common Sense on Parade, or Drill Without Stays.

BY LIEUT.-COLONEL THE RIGHT HON. J. H. A. MACDONALD, M.P.

(*Commandant, the Queen's Edinburgh R. V. Brigade.*)

(Continued from page 459.)

Now to obtain the means of doing this, without any *bouleversement* of system, it is only necessary to stick to the universally convenient "fours." Instead of perpetually forming fours and coming up to shoulder to shoulder, a proceeding which at present will occur fifty times at one drill, wasting much time, let the men remain in four deep. They will then, when moving in company or line, be always moving with an interval, obtaining constant practice in judging interval by the eye. They will have the utmost freedom of bodily movement, while at the same time the strictest accuracy can be maintained in training. When standing in fours-deep, let the fours be told off, "right, left—right, left," thus forming them into small knots of eight men, who shall be instructed to attend to the direction relating to fours, that they "will act together, not only in fours, but on other occasions; they should therefore take notice of one another when told off" (*Field Exercise*), thus providing the means of rallying into order on a small scale, which is the very soul of recovery of order on the large scale, while at the same time in no way weakening actual commands. "In fours or eights there can be no dangerous individuality." (*Colonel Bell.*)

To train in correct movement with a greater interval, move off each rank in succession, and double the lefts behind the rights. This will give a six feet interval, amply sufficient for an attacking line, which it is now universally admitted "should be in force from the first." (*Von Boguslawski.*) It is requisite that the skirmishing line should be thicker, not thriving in order that the offensive power of the weapon may be fully developed." (*Home.*)

Test distances frequently. When the men are being moved about in fours, test by taking arm's-length interval. When moving with the lefts behind the rights test by bringing up the lefts and taking arm's-length interval. Then advance a step further and practise each rank in making its rights and lefts move alternately through one another, first at the quick, then at the double, forming line and again testing intervals. It is inconceivable, until it has been tried, how quickly men become accustomed to keeping an interval, and how little drift or failure of accuracy occurs. Four hundred men, after two days' training, have been set out in one continuous line at arm's-length interval, covering 330 yards of ground, and the rights and lefts doubled over one another in succession for several hundred yards, and, on correcting intervals from time to time, been found on an average not more than three and a half paces out on the whole 330 yards of frontage. This was done with volunteers whose number of drills per annum would not exceed eighteen or twenty. Here, again, is the testimony of army officers that the ordinary training of the soldier can be perfectly and efficiently done without touch. "I may tell you that my brigade had orders from the Horse Guards for the whole of last season to work in open order. I was at first rather opposed to it. I thought the men would never work with it, but I am pleased to say at the end of the season, when I was called upon to report, I said that I hoped it would be kept up, that the men worked perfectly well and marched admirably. In fact, I may say that the loose order drill has answered perfectly." (*Major-General the Hon. W. H. A. Fielding.*)

"I am convinced that no other formation known to us is equal to 'fours,' for general purposes of movement. The difficulties raised by your critics are not real or insurmountable difficulties at all. Some of your friends are disbelievers in the possibility of training men to field movements without touch. To my knowledge and experience it has been successfully tried in recent times in two regiments, viz., the 41st and 34th regiments, when commanded by Colonel Rowland, V.C. I saw both regiments drilled by that officer with intervals, and the men were just as steady as if they had been touching each other. Moreover, they did all the old-fashioned wheels and echelon movements in this formation, and if men can be taught that sort of thing they can be taught anything." (*General Sir Donald Stewart.*)

"As it has been said that 'an ounce of experience is worth a ton of theory,' I may say I have been practising with three very untrained battalions. . . . They were moved over every sort of ground which one could find at Aldershot; and broken up, sometimes moving in fours to the front, sometimes in fours deep. . . . I found there was no difficulty and practically no gaps. . . . With four drills those regiments were able to move over very difficult ground." (*Major-General the Hon. W. H. A. Fielding.*)

Here is a testimony from Australia. It states that the army officer in command there was fully impressed with the advantages of the fours formation, and tried it with the volunteer troops at Adelaide, and that it was found thoroughly easy for the men to learn and exceedingly easy to