

active measures are taken to arouse a spirit of public generosity such as occasionally is shown to a marvellous extent by Englishmen when necessity arises.

The first step actually taken in the interests of the service has been to submit a bill to Parliament to free volunteers from the necessity of serving on juries, and from the approval this has met with, there is little reason to doubt that it will become law.

Among the other suggestions made for improving the status of volunteers, are some for conferring substantial benefits, and others for honorary distinctions.

The suggestions made are all of a nature which would be advantageous only to a volunteer in England with one exception, and that is the proposition that a medal be granted for long service—the idea is after twenty years—to be distinctive from any existing medals, and to be given to officers and men alike.

The consideration of a similar proposal for our militia might be entertained by the department with very beneficial effects. It would tend not only to keep men in the force, but would give commanding officers an immense pull in ensuring their regular attendance at a sufficient number of drills to guarantee their efficiency.

THE NEW SMALL BORE RIFLE.

Some interesting particulars have been received of the action of the Mannlicher rifles used by a portion of the congressional troops in the closing engagements of the Chilian struggle. The claims which were advanced as to the humanity of the new small bore rifle seem to have been fully borne out by the facts elicited through actual conflict. The wounds inflicted by the 8. mm. Mannlicher bullets were quite characteristic in their nature, they either killed at once or healed without troublesome complications.

Even at long ranges bones were shot clean through without splintering, and no portions of the lead bullet or its steel casing were found to remain in the wound to give rise to further aggravating symptoms.

The physical effects produced by this new weapon of offence may fairly be claimed to entitle it to the fanciful designation which has been applied to it of being a philanthropical engine of war, but the moral effect produced by it was simply extraordinary.

Not more than 30 per cent. of the Congressional troops were armed with it, yet 56 per cent. of the losses of the Balcamedists were due to its fire, the rapidity and accuracy of which was such that the Balcamedists, utterly demoralized declared they would rather be shot down by their own officers than advance against such death dealing weapons that killed them like dogs.

More interesting even than the effect of the bullets are the accounts of the rapidity with which the Mannlicher could be fired.

On an average each rifle fired in three hours from 160 to 200 rounds. This clearly demonstrates the great necessity for the maintenance of the strictest fire discipline, lest the consumption of so much ammunition in such a short space of time might exhaust all on hand without any possibility of obtaining an additional supply for the firing line at least.

Letters to the Editor.

The paper does not necessarily share the views expressed, in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.

THE MOUNTED POLICE.

DEAR SIR,—Your excellent article on a fit successor in the event of Commissioner Herchmer's quitting the N. W. Mounted Police contains valuable modern lessons. The man of "ungovernable temper" is nowhere nowadays—nowhere in the race. What is required is, as you well say, "tact, suavity of manner, and knowledge of *savoir faire*."

It is not, I think, without interest to hark back to the British Army's history to see the changes brought about under the head of "discipline"—changes found absolutely necessary—consequent upon improvement in civilization and education. Let us glance at some of the methods of maintaining discipline in old days.

Grose says (*Military Antiquities*, 1786) that a "common punishment for offenders among the followers of an army when martial law prevailed was the 'whirligig'." This was a circular wooden cage, with many apertures, which turned on a pivot, and turned round with such velocity that *the delinquent inside it soon became extremely sick!* Adjutant Cuthbertson, writing in 1768, says "whenever the regiment is under arms the drum major should have his apparatus for whipping constantly with him." It will be right for a soldier who has been whipped to remain twenty four hours after it in confinement, that he may have leisure to consider seri-

ously of his crime, whereas was he to be immediately enlarged it is odds but he *might persuade himself into a belief of having been ill treated.* The Duke of Wellington brought about radical changes for the improvement of the status of the soldier. He spoke of the "mutual confidence between officers and men."

Taking a stride in the "whirligig" of time to the present day, what do we find in our Queen's Regulations—golden words with which every soldier is familiar:—"Officers of all ranks will invariably practise towards their subordinates such methods of command and treatment as will not only ensure respect for authority, but also foster those feelings of self-respect and personal honor so essential to a high standard of military efficiency." As has been well said, it is like a question of horsemanship; the best rider is the one who always has his attention on the alert, and keeps a light but firm hand on the bridle, not one who lets his reins hang loose, and from time to time recalls his horse's attention to the fact that he is in the saddle by a jerk at the curb; the former will get far more out of his horse and take far less out of himself than the latter.

In view of this how important those words of yours, as applied to any commander, "tact, and suavity of manner."

"MARTINET."

THE SNIDER.

DEAR SIR,—In regard to the use of the Snider rifle, I can see no reason whatever why we are compelled to use this rifle in military matches, even though the forces are armed with it and use it for purposes of drill, unless it is that the Government factory manufacture the ammunition and it must be used.

Even in a small affair like the North-West rebellion, the authorities at once had a large number of Martini-Henry rifles sent out, and is it at all likely that in case of any difficulty with any other nation the volunteers of this country would have to defend themselves with an inferior weapon against their (most likely) superior ones, while our superior weapons are rusting in the stores.

I do not therefore think that because the force are unfortunately armed with it, is any argument why we should be obliged to use it for shooting, as all or nearly all the volunteer force who take an active part in rifle shooting could go back to the Snider in case of necessity, and it would make no difference whatever to those who do not shoot at all if they are required to use either rifle.

I think that in having to procure two rifles in place of one is a great drawback in getting young shots to take as great an interest in shooting as they would had they to procure but one, as it costs from \$30 to \$40 more in the matter of a rifle and requisites than if only one were used. More practice is required, and conse-