

method, and am myself strongly opposed in principle to the 'Bancherian' bend, but if it fell to my lot to reorganize a squadron taken over in bad condition, I should unhesitatingly make use of it. Train *half a dozen horses into good form and then let all the squadron ride them till they had secured some idea of what a good horse should feel like under them.*"

Hit the Nail on the Head.

Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

DEAR SIR,—In your issue of the 15th of the 15th of April last I notice a letter from "Subscriber." I have read it very carefully and have come to the conclusion that he has hit the nail on the head. I had a letter written on the same subject, but on reading "Subscriber's" I consigned mine to the waste paper basket, as he covered all my points so much better than I had done myself. I might further add I brought "Subscriber's" letter to the notice of several officers of long service, and one and all declared that it was perfectly true in every particular. Those parts especially in which he says the force object to "be treated as school boys" which is done under the present absurd Canadian drill regulations, and that portion dealing with "Colonels having nothing to say about the work," etc., etc., and the responsibility "they have to assume if called on to act in case of a raid or a riot." I cannot emphasize too strongly "Subscriber's" words: "The system is absurd."

Yours truly,

CAMBRIDGE.

Military Service at York Minster.

A special service for the military stationed at York and the local volunteers was held on Sunday last (April 29th) in York Minster, the offertories of the day being in aid of the Soldiers' Daughters' Home. The arrangements were carried out under the superintendence of the Dean and Mr. T. B. Whythead, the Chapter Clerk. The nave west of the organ was reserved for the military, and the Lord Mayor and Corporation of York occupied seats on the east of the organ, while the military bands which took part in the service were located on the east side of the choir seats, the public being admitted to the north and south transepts. The streets were crowded with spectators to witness the soldiers march from Fulford Barracks to the Minster, headed by their respective bands. The troops at present quartered at York, and who attended the service, were the 6th Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers), the King's Own Scottish Borderers, who marched to the music of the bagpipes, the 14th Regimental Depot, 3rd West Riding Regiment, the York Companies of the 1st V. B. West Yorkshire P.W.O. Regiment, and the York Batteries of Artillery Volunteers. The total number present was 91 officers and 1,048 men, in addition to Major-Gen. Wilkineon, C.B., and the staff of the North-Eastern District. The service opened with

the processional hymn, "Onward, Christian Soldiers," which was accompanied by the combined bands of the Carabiniers and the Borderers, the bands having played as a voluntary the grand processional march "Daniel" (H. Moore). The Rev. A. S. Commelie read the prayers. The first lesson was read by the Rev. Chancellor Raine; and the second by the Archbishop of York. The anthem, accompanied by the bands, was that composed by Dr. Naylor for the military service in aid of the Egyptian War Fund, "And Asa cried unto Lord." Dr. Naylor conducted, and the bass solo was sung by Mr. A. McCall, and the tenor solo by Mr. J. Shakespeare Robinson. These solos, as well as the choruses for the alto and trebles and the double quartet, were unaccompanied, but the chorus, "Thanks be to God," was accompanied by the bands, and had a very impressive effect. The hymn before the sermon was "Jesus Christ is Risen Today." The Very Rev. the Dean preached, taking for his text the words, "Fight the good fight of faith." At the close of the sermon a collection was made for the Soldiers' Daughters' Home, and while the offertory was being taken the combined bands played Schubert's "Ave Marie." The pipers afterwards played the march of "The Land of the Leal," and the combined bands "March of the Israelites," from *Eli* (Sir M. Costa). The National Anthem was then sung, and the Archbishop pronounced the blessing, the bands playing as a recessional Viviani's "Silver Trumpets."

German Army Equipment.

The details of the operations in the marching kit of the German Infantry, to which we have already had occasion to refer, have now been made public. They affect nearly every article of the existing uniform. Though in some respects the changes may seem unimportant, they all contribute to reduce the weight which the German soldier has now to carry or to give him greater ease. The stand-up collar, for instance, is to be replaced by a turned down one, the length of the coat is to be curtailed, the calico shirt is to be exchanged for one made of some knitted texture, the upper parts of the boots are to be made of lighter leather, and the nails employed in them are to be manufactured of lighter metal. The knapsack and its contents will be considerably lightened. The weight of the polishing materials and of the tinned food will be reduced by 200 and 400 grammes respectively. The hinder cartridge pouch will disappear, and to compensate for its loss the two front ones will each contain forty-five instead of thirty cartridges as hitherto, whilst an extra reserve supply of thirty per man will follow in the rear. Further, the present bayonet will be superseded by a new model weighing between 400 and 500 grammes less, the belts, etc., will be made of narrower leather, the number of the intrenching tools will be reduced to fifty spades, ten pickaxes, and five hatchets per company, which will be carried by the strong-

est men, the mountings of the helmets will be made of aluminium and reduced in size, and the overcoats will not be so thickly padded as heretofore.

These innovations represent a diminution in the weight of the marching kit of 13 lb. or 14 lb. Under existing conditions the German Infantry soldier carries a load of more than 33 kilogrammes, which will in future be reduced to 26.138 kilogrammes. With the exception of the Italian Infantry soldier, whose kit weighs exactly 26 kilogrammes, that of the German Army will be lighter than any other carried by the infantry of the chief Continental Powers. In France the kit weighs 28½, in Austria 28.9, and in Russia 29½ kilogrammes. As regards the number of cartridges, also, the German soldier with 90 will carry fewer than the soldiers of any other military Power on the Continent, excepting those of Russia, who have only 84. The French Infantry soldier carries 120 cartridges, the Austrian 100, and Italian 96.

The trials of the new kits will be made in ten battalions of different army corps, including that of the Guards, and will be concluded after the great autumn manoeuvres.

King Theebaw's Regalia.

An English officer, whose reliability is beyond dispute, but who is unwilling, for private reasons, that his name shall be mentioned in the matter has made an interesting statement to the Press Association, with regard to the mysterious disappearance of King Theebaw's regalia. He says:—"I was in Burmah when Mandalay was taken, and a few days after, a friend of mine shewed me the handle of a fan, thickly studded with rubies and other precious stones. It was a remarkable article of great artistic worth and value, and has been identified by a Russian, who was on Theebaw's personal staff, as the handle of the State fan and a portion of the missing regalia. My friend said he had been lucky enough to obtain the handle for a nominal sum from a soldier who had offered him the article for sale. I ascertained that the soldier in question along with another soldier, either of the Liverpool or Queen's Regiment, had broken into the Royal Palace on the night it was taken, and that they had secured the greater part, if not the whole, of the regalia. This they placed in a bag, and in order to accomplish their purpose they were compelled to break the fan. The whole lot was then buried within the compound of the Palace, as the soldiers were unable to get past the guards at the gates, encumbered as they would have been with the stolen treasure. A few nights afterwards