

College paid by Canada. Are these officers to be deprived of pensions they may have earned by faithful service to the Empire, should they at any time be required to serve in the defense of their native land? There is on the Staff of the R. M. College, an energetic officer, a Canadian by birth, who has also served the Empire in India and elsewhere for twenty years; is it intended also to make it penal for this officer to serve his native country? and is the service of Canada to be rendered penal to all native born Canadians or British subjects, who may have committed the error of giving their best years to the service of Great Britain.

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

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

No. 3.

ADVANCED GUARD, PROPER AND MARCH OF THE MAIN BODY.

The advance guard marches two days or so in rear of the advance cavalry, according to circumstances. Their object is to give time for the main body to form the order of battle from the order of march, before it could be attacked by the enemy.

The Prussians use large advance guards, from one-fourth to one-sixth of the whole army composed of the three arms. They were able to fasten on and hold an enemy until the main body came up. The great retaining power conferred on infantry by breech-loading arms renders it feasible for a comparatively small force well posted to stop for a considerable time, and to inflict heavy loss upon a much superior force. This has greatly enhanced the value of large advance guards. If the advance guard is too far to the front it may be destroyed by the enemy before the main body can come up. If too close there will not be time for the main body in rear to deploy.

In a retreat, the advance guard, and in an advance, the rear guard should be a minimum.

The general of an advance guard should be an active and capable man. The commander of a rear guard, covering, as he does, the retreat of a dispirited army, requires the highest military qualities to be successful.

THE MARCH OF THE MAIN BODY.

In considering the order of march of the main body, three points have to be borne in mind.

- 1st. The extent of front.
- 2nd. The number of roads the troops should move by.
- 3rd. The order of march of the three arms.

The breadth of front of an army on the march should, under ordinary circumstances, be as great as possible, provided communication can be kept between the columns comprising it.

1st. Breadth of front in marching makes it easier to deploy for order of battle, unless the heads of the columns are so wide apart as to necessitate concentration before fighting.

2nd. The subsistence of an army is easier, the more widely it is separated, because they occupy a greater extent of country from which to draw supplies, and the pro-

vision and ammunition trains would be shorter when divided on different roads. The great Napoleon, in his wars, brought to perfection the system of making the country supply his troops, and this was one of the reasons for the division of his armies into army corps and divisions; as also the advantage of having the commanders and their staff mutually acquainted with each other and their troops during peace time.

3rd. The advance of an army along several roads is quicker than when they trail along in long columns by a single road.

The United States politicians wished to make McClellan invade the South along a single line; but he proved to them that it would take a week to deploy such a force in order of battle, and that the head of such a force could be crushed before it could deploy.

THE ORDER OF THE DIFFERENT ARMS MARCHING IN THE MAIN BODY.

That arm should march first that is first wanted, viz: *Artillery.*

For another reason, mounted troops should not, if possible be made to march in rear of infantry, as the walk of horses, especially in draught, is quicker than that of men, and horses are unnecessarily fatigued by having the pace continually checked. If columns of infantry march in front of guns their deployment would be checked unless covered by artillery fire, and under such circumstances the guns could not get to the front to cover the deployment.

In the Prusso-Austrian war of 1866, the Prussians were too careful of their guns and kept them so far to the rear that they effected very little in supporting their infantry.

In the war of 1870 they changed all this and put masses of guns to the front which produced powerful effects. The artillery should be accompanied by a body of sappers to prepare roads for them and strengthen bridges. The Russians employ mounted sappers for this purpose. The artillery should be accompanied by a sufficient force of cavalry to form an escort or support in case of rapid advance. Mounted riflemen would be the best arm for this purpose, and for many other purposes as the Boers have taught us.

After the artillery would come the main body of the infantry.

It should always be borne in mind that each arm of the service is comparatively helpless without the others, and that every body of troops advancing along a road in an enemy's country should be composed of a proportion of the three arms, otherwise the advance would resemble that of a man who, if it were practicable, tried to send his eyes and ears by one route, his arms and legs by another, and his head and body by a third.

It is rash and ungenerous to find fault with soldiers serving in a far off country, but we cannot help being amazed at the deplorable spectacle of the advance of the head quarters of Her Majesty's 94th Regiment, with the band playing as an advance guard, a long train of waggons in an enemy's country, and the commander himself