

An important innovation in the new drill-book is the introduction of no less than six pages devoted to the education of the individual soldier as a rifle-shot.

The character of the new regulations, viz., to regard the instruction of the private soldier on the drill-ground solely as a means to an end—as a preparation for the actual and chief mission of the warrior, is here very clearly seen. In no case is the soldier's drill permitted to be an end in itself, however important such drill might be in preserving or maintaining the physique of the men.

In the old drill-book only a few words were spent upon the instruction of the individual soldier in shooting; and the very fact that the new drill-book breaks the rule of brevity which otherwise distinguishes it in order to dilate on this subject proves how necessary it was for the German army that better and fuller instructions should be given. A German officer writes to the author of this article in connection with this:—“Every intelligent soldier greets with the liveliest satisfaction the various observations, instructions and explanations as to position of the body, aiming, bringing the rifle to the shoulder, carrying it, etc., in the open field.” In the small space at our disposal it is impossible to describe in detail the nature of these instructions. It is sufficient to remark that they are of the simplest and most practical kind which common sense could dictate. That they formed no part of the military instruction for the German army until the present year 1888 remains a fact of considerable historical interest.

In that part of the new regulations in which the instruction of troops is dealt with, numerous alterations have been made. The three-rank formation long ago recognized as antiquated, abandoned altogether in the case of the Jagers, and preserved otherwise only on the drill and parade ground, has now been finally done away with. Simplifications have been introduced wherever possible.

Careful instructions for firing while kneeling have been added for the first time. The use of the whistle for giving the order to “cease firing” is now enforced by rule, for, as is indeed obvious, a whistle is the only sound which is audible when firing is going on. It may be said generally that the new drill-book embodies the experiences gained in the late Franco-German war. The defects noticed then and since in the German drill system have hitherto been supplied at the discretion of the regimental commander. The unwritten law has now been clearly and definitely drawn up for uniform guidance in the future. The observations on firing—its effects and the observations of these effects—discipline while under fire, etc., are all new to the drill-book though they contain nothing intrinsically novel in themselves. It is just worth mentioning that the advance of troops in springs or bounds (*sprungweise*) which was first of all employed experimentally in the war of 1870-71, has now been definitely admitted into the German drill system. The formation of the square, which has been done away with for battalions, has been preserved for the companies. In forming the square, however, more importance is laid upon the men being quickly ready to fire than upon the regularity of the formation. The second part of the new drill-book, which contains the regulations and instructions to be observed in actual warfare, is not only most important in itself but embodies the principal innovation in the volume. In the old drill-book only a few brief and scattered remarks were devoted to this subject. Great weight is laid upon cultivating and maintaining the *moral* of the men. Open order is to be regarded as the rule and close order the exception. An Infantry engagement is generally decided according to the effect of the fire, the latter being greatest when open order is preserved. “It is the duty of the officer,” according to the drill-book, “above all things to convince his men that there is nothing more dangerous than to turn one's back to the enemy.” The use of magazine fire is restricted, though not by any fast rule. Suitable opportunities for employing the magazine are said to be at the last moment before storming and when receiving the charge of the enemy, also when repulsing cavalry, and on all occasions when a sudden and immediate encounter with the enemy is about to take place, when fighting in woods, and when pursuing a retreating foe. It is distinctly stated that in many cases the use of magazine fire must be left to the discretion of the individual soldier; but, to prevent the chief capabilities of the arm being frittered away at the wrong time, the soldier must be most carefully instructed to save the magazine for those moments when an immediate decision is sought to be obtained or a serious danger has to be averted. It may be taken as a definite rule that magazine fire is only of use and is only to be employed when there is no doubt that the enemy is within range. The numerous other additions and alterations contained in the second part of the drill-book have all been effected with the same object in view, to increase the efficiency of the soldier on the battle-field, and, above all, to widen the practical sphere of tactics.

By the new regulations every German soldier becomes more or less a tactician. The opportunity is given him to use his judgment and intelligence independently. The reproach has frequently been made

against the German military authorities by those whose desire to find fault was greater than their knowledge of facts, that the German soldier is too much of a machine, that his very soul has been drilled out of him. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Perfect as the discipline in the German army is, it still admits (a fact which the work before me abundantly proves) of the individual soldier, down to the meanest private, exercising both head and heart. At the same time the regulations are so exact, and deal with such minute points in detail, that while not hindering the use of intelligence, they do not altogether necessitate it.

It remains to be said that the new drill-book has been joyfully welcomed by officers of all ranks throughout the German army. The Emperor has commanded that the same system with certain modifications is to be employed in drilling sailors and marines. The reform of the German military system, which has thus been commenced under the most favourable auspices, will not, however, stop here. It is expected that before long the Artillery will undergo extensive reorganization.

The Purpose of the Permanent Corps.

(By “Linchpin.”)

In consequence of the withdrawal of Imperial troops Parliament has at different times sanctioned the raising and maintaining of one troop of cavalry, three batteries of artillery, four companies of infantry and one company of mounted infantry. These corps were raised for the dual purposes of providing for the care and protection of forts, magazines, stores, etc., and of serving as practical schools of military instruction by affording officers, n.c.o. and men opportunities of joining for courses of study. As these corps form schools of military instruction for the militia, they were to be models in the largest sense possible.

Such is the substance taken from a paragraph in the Militia Regulations; and as two of these schools have now been in existence some 17 years I purpose showing the improvements (?) which have taken place during that period, not only in these schools, but also in schools of more recent date, and showing that the dual purposes for which the schools were established have only in part been achieved.

OUR STRONG PLACES.

The first reason urged for the raising of these corps being “the care and protection of forts, magazines, stores, etc.,” I will submit a few extracts from official reports, and ask you if you have ever seen any dilapidated works in your vicinity. The forts alluded to in advocating the existence of these corps were, I presume, Quebec, including the Lévis forts; St. Helen's Island and stores there; Fort Chambly; Kingston, with Forts Henry and Frederick, the Towers included; the Old and New Forts at Toronto; Fort Mississauga (Niagara); the Forts at St. John, N.B.; Dorchester Battery, Partridge Island; Fort Dufferin, etc.; the works for the protection of Victoria, B.C., and Esquimalt, including the wooden magazine since burnt down; Fort Osborne, etc.

Does “the points of the outside wall of tower require taking out and refilling with Portland cement” and “the rapid deterioration of the magazine within the tower is the result,” sound as if forts or magazines were cared for and protected? The reports of the Architect, Engineer's Branch, for the years 1886 and 1887 will show you the amount and description in general terms of the repairs done during these years, but it does not say what is urgently needed—repairs, additions, etc., which have been recommended, asked for year in year out, without effect.

For instance, it is officially reported in 1886 that “the existing conditions of the Tête-du-Pont Barracks at Kingston is such as to render urgent the question of their immediate repair or removal.” The previous year the barracks had been reported as “unhealthy”; and in 1887 we are told by the Architect in his report that “at Tête-du-Pont Barracks a large number of small repairs have been made.” A big difference between “immediate repair or removal” and “small repairs made.” By “small repairs” might easily be understood glazing of broken window panes, repairing latch guard room door.

THE VICTORIA ARTILLERY SCHOOL.

The second duty of the schools is to “serve as practical schools of artillery instruction” and “to be models in the largest sense possible.” If the authorities think they have realized this much their ideas and mine are far apart.

The General has recently returned from a tour of inspection extending as far as Victoria, B.C., where, according to the GAZETTE, he inspected, or shall I say inspected partially, “C” Battery R. C. A.

During that partial inspection, for it was nothing else according to the printed account, the battery was paraded, inspected, etc., as an infantry corps, even down to skirmishing. Where was their gun drill? Did the General, or did he not, propose that the battery should do a little repository drill? If he asked