



## CANADA MILITARY GAZETTE.

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 1857.

IN ORDER that those of our readers who are not familiar with the constitution of the French army may have a better understanding of the paper which we are translating, written by the Reviewer of Mr. Du Martray's work on the "Theory of War" proposed by him, we give a short account of how the French Regiments are organized and officered. The memoranda that we have by us were made in the year 1839, and we regret to say that one arm, the Artillery, in some way then escaped our notice: it fit, however, hereafter.

We cannot say, having no detailed accounts before us, in what respect the recent war has induced the Emperor to alter the regulations laid down at the time we speak of. But in 1848 we find that there were six Field Marshals, sixty-five Generals of Division, and one hundred and thirty of Brigade, *en activité*,—that is, on full pay,—and that these Generals according to the arm of the service to which they belonged, Cavalry, Artillery, Infantry, ruled over, in a military sense, the seventeen Military Districts into which France was divided; that is—Paris, Lille, Metz, Strasbourg, Besancon, Lyons, Marseille, Montpellier, Perpignan, Toulouse, Bayonne, Bordeaux, Clermont, Nantes, Rennes, Caen, Bastia, Algeria, and so forth.

What is called the "Etat Major," or Staff of the army in France, at the same period consisted of 25 Colonels, 25 Lieut.-Colonels, 90 Chiefs of Squadrons, 140 First Captains, 140 Second Captains, 100 Lieutenants, and from these Officers are furnished the Aides-du-camp of all the general Officers of the Districts, and one is attached to each Regiment.

All the Regiments of the line were, at the period of which we speak, divided into three Battalions, each of 8 Companies, the Companies being from one hundred to one hundred and fifteen men strong, exclusive of the non-commissioned officers. Each battalion is commanded by an officer called the "Chef-de-battalion;" each Company has a Captain, First, and Second, Lieutenants, and two drummers; each battalion has a Light Company (Volligeurs) with two buglers, instead of Drummers. The Staff of the Regiment, consists of one Colonel-in-Chief—one Lieut.-Colonel—three Chiefs-of-Battalion—three Captains, styled Adjutants Major—one Captain, Treasurer—one Sub-Lieutenant, Assistant Treasurer—one Captain (*d'habillement*), in charge of clothing—one Standard Bearer—one Lieutenant, Staff Officer—one Surgeon Major—two Surgeons Assistant—twenty-four Captains—twenty-four Lieutenants—twenty-four Sub-Lieutenants—making a total of eighty-nine Officers. Each Regiment has for each battalion eleven Pioneers, and forty-five men in the band, exclusive of the drummers and buglers. There is but one Standard, the Imperial Eagle, to the Regiment, and it, with the band, are always at-

tached to the First Battalion.

There are in addition to the 75 Regiments of the line, 25 Regiments of Light Infantry, but they are officered exactly in the same way.

The Zouaves, Chasseurs d'Afrique, and other Regiments of similar character, are organized in a different way.

At this date the French Infantry mustered 320,000 men, 45,000 of whom were in Algeria.

At the same period the different Regiments of Cavalry—that is—2 Regiments of Carabiniers—10 of Goussiers—12 of Heavy Dragoons—8 of Lancers—13 of Light Dragoons (*Chasseurs*)—9 of Hussars—5 Squadrons of Guides—and 2 Squadrons of "Veteran Cavaliers"—were organized in 5 Squadrons each, the Squadron consisting nominally of 140 men, but in time of peace only half the Squadron was mounted. In each Cavalry Regiment there is a Colonel—Lieut.-Colonel—one Major—two Chiefs-d'Escadron—one Captain Instructor—two Captains Adjutants—one Captain Treasurer—five Captains—five Second Captains—five Lieutenants—five Second Lieutenants—one Captain of Clothing—one Standard Bearer—one Sub-Lieutenant, Treasurer—one Lieutenant (Staff)—one Surgeon Major—one Assistant Surgeon—one Veterinary Surgeon—fifteen Sub-Lieutenants; or fifty-one Officers in all.

We publish this information to show our readers more distinctly how in the French service the Squadron of Cavalry is the Unit in that arm, and the Battalion in Infantry, as is also the Battery in Artillery. In our own service, though Cavalry Regiments are divided into troops, the Squadron is still the unit in the field. If we go back to the old times we shall find that during the wars of the League in France, the Cavalry was organized in the field. The "Cornet" was the Standard-bearer, and the Officer was named from the Ensign which he carried. In Marlborough's time the Cavalry force in the field was always estimated by Squadrons, and for all purposes of manœuvre, they are so in the British army to-day. The "troop" is simply a Regimental division, as is the "Company" in Infantry, but all English Cavalry manœuvres by Squadrons, the "troop" making the half-Squadron. The essential difference between English and all other regular Cavalry, is this, so far as we know, after an absence of a pretty long time from the old world, that the English use the trinal formation, that is, that the men wheel right or left about, or simply right, and left, by threes, the centre horse of "three" turning on its own ground, and the horses to the left and right, going about with him, the principle being that the length of one horse is as the square of three. In the Continental armies the thing is done by the wheel of Sections, of four men in each Section.

In order to understand M. Du Martray's propositions thoroughly, it must be known that in Artillery, Cavalry, and Infantry, the words of command, the trumpet and bugle "calls" differ; his object is to introduce simplicity and unity; it is evident to us that there are many difficulties—it would be presumptuous in a mere Volunteer Soldier to say whether these difficulties can be easily remedied, or not. It is possible that an opinion may be given at some future period, when wiser men than we profess to be have looked into this matter.

While conning over our notes, we found a short detail of the ornaments which distinguish the different ranks in Infantry and Cavalry in the French army.

The Colonel-in-Chief wears two large epauletts of bullion.

The Lieutenant-Colonel, two, of large bullion, but the strap of silver.

The Chiefs-de-Battalion, one of large bullion on the left shoulder.

The Captain, two, with fringe.

The Lieutenant, one, with fringe, on left shoulder.

The Sub-Lieutenant, one, with fringe, on right shoulder.

The Colonel of every Regiment wears in his cap, a white heron's plume, (the same plume that is used by the Officers of the Ottawa Field Battery). The Chiefs of the Battalion, and the Standard Bearer, have upright tri-coloured plumes.

In every French Regiment, where gold lace and epauletts is worn by the executive, or Regimental Officers, the Staff wear silver lace and epauletts.

In the Hussar Regiments which do not use the epaulet the rank is given by "Chevrons" on the wrist, above the cuff, the point of the Chevron being towards the shoulder; the Sub-Lieutenants having one; Lieutenants, two; Captains, three; Chiefs d'Escadron, four, alternately silver and gold; Colonels, four all gold, or silver, according to the lace prescribed for the Regiment.

The Colonel of Cavalry always wears the white heron's plumes; the other Field and Staff Officers wear drooping tri-colored plumes. All other Officers, black plumes.

commanding the 32nd Regiment of Militia of the State of New York, for a copy of the last report of the Inspecting Field Officer for that State. Up to this day we have hardly had time to do more than take a cursory glance through it, but we did read enough to show us, that there is, in the United States a strong desire to place the Militia on an efficient footing, and it certainly does appear strange that the people, who, of all others boast of making the best fire-arms in the world, do not supply their troops with anything better than old Brown Bess, which is in England now, a curiosity, like a reel in a bottle, to hang over the chimney. In reply to Colonel Nelson's letter all we have to say is that we heartily thank him for his good wishes, and had it not been so very kindly and complimentary, we should certainly have taken the liberty of publishing an extract therefrom, but we felt "kind of compelled" to save ourselves from the horrid sort of blush at reading our own praises in our own paper. We don't profess to be much of a prophet, but we do hear in mind one passage in a certain book which tells us that the prophet is not without honor except in his own country, and we do most certainly aver that the Canada Military Gazette has obtained a greater reputation abroad than at home, in England and the United States, far more than here, among the very men for whose benefit it was started. An English General Officer, one of the men who has made his mark in history, and now holds about as high a command at home as the Sovereign can give him, next to that of Commander-in-chief—tells us that a more useful paper could not be printed, because