



CANADA MILITARY GAZETTE.

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, FEB. 10, 1857.

NOTICE.

As it was stated in our last the first two numbers of this journal will be transmitted to every Officer in the Active force, either directly, from our own office, or through our agents.

Our MONTREAL Agents are Messrs. HILL and MARTIN. Our TORONTO Agent is Mr. CAMPBELL, King Street, and our HAMILTON Agents, Messrs. GEORGE BARNES & SON.

All the Agents are authorized to receive the moneys for subscriptions, and advertisements.

All communications on business to be addressed to DAWSON KERR Esq., ST. PAUL STREET OTTAWA. All communications to the Editor to be addressed, MAJOR TURNER, OTTAWA, in all cases *post paid*.

Any person in ENGLAND wishing to take this paper can do so by application to the Messrs. CLOWES, *Military Bookellers*, LONDON.

We again impress on our subscribers the necessity, if they wish to take the paper, of sending in their subscriptions at once. The third number will be sent to no one who does not so remit. We ask no credit, all our paper is paid for in cash, and our workmen must be paid weekly; consequently we cannot give credit.—If our paper is worth having, it is worth paying for. The cash system is being now universally adopted by our confederates in the Upper Province; it will be found the best in the long run by both the *Proprietors of Newspapers*, and the subscribers. We have commenced on that system and shall abide by it. We have a confident belief that there is sufficient *esprit du corps* in Canada, among the Volunteer force, to maintain a paper, edited by one of themselves, who has been in the country for seventeen years and made it his home. If there is not, the Editor is simply mistaken, and has not understood his men.

THE FACT REMAINS THAT NOT ONE NUMBER OF THIS PAPER, AFTER THE SECOND, WILL BE SENT, UNLESS ITS PRICE FOR A YEAR IS PAID EITHER TO THE PUBLISHER, IN OTTAWA, OR TO THE AGENTS MENTIONED ABOVE.

THE ARMS OF CAVALRY.

It is said that his ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE has determined on the abolition of fire arms in the form of Carbines, in the Imperial army. It is to be presumed that the repeating Pistols of Colt, or some other maker will be adopted.

When under the recent organization the question of arming our Provincial Cavalry troops came up, it was determined to arm them only with the sabre and a Colt Revolver. This was to a certain extent correct in principle, because CANADA is no country for Cavalry action on a large scale; any firearm carried by a dragoon would be used for personal defence, at close

quarters, and but rarely for the annoyance of the enemy at a long range. The old fashioned carbine, even of the last pattern, was a perfect nuisance to carry, and its fire absolutely ineffective at a range of over 60 or 70 yards.

The Colt revolver issued to the Canadian Cavalry Troops is in fact a belt pistol, Colt's second size, and is worn in a holster attached to the waist-belt on the right side. This is the most handy way of carrying it, as it is accessible in an instant; a great improvement would be the attachment of a thong, about 3½ feet long to the butt, the other end being secured to the waist-belt, so that the dragoon, having his sword attached to the wrist by the sword knot, could seize his pistol, use it, and then without losing time in replacing it in the holster, throw it over his left shoulder, and catch up his sword.

These pistols are very costly, and should never be issued from the store of the Troop, except for service, or practise, when they should be immediately cleaned, oiled, and replaced in store.

All Cavalry, from time immemorial, have been divided into "Heavy" and "Light"—the "Heavies" are the Grenadiers of Cavalry; the "Lights" their "Light Bobs." "Heavies" form the Cavalry of close combat; it is their work to attack in mass; to pour themselves, squadron after squadron, against everything that stands in their way. To do this they must trust to their powerful and swift horses, the heavy weight, their strong arms and good swords.—The sword of the "Heavy" should be long and straight; the trooper should trust more to the "point" than the "cut"—indeed MARESCHAL SAXE proposed to the KING OF FRANCE, to give the heavy Cavalry long rapiers, in the bayonet fashion, with which they could not cut at all; and his pistol should be thought of only as a last resource, in some peculiar accident of the fight. In the Continental armies no Cuirassiers ever carry Carbines—they have a long, half basket hilted, straight sword (*pallasch*), with a cutting edge, it is true, but the blade very narrow and thick in the back; they have also one holster pistol; all these horsemen, in France, Bavaria, Belgium, Wirtemberg, Saxony, Spain, Prussia and Russia, are equipped with breast and back plates of steel, and steel helmets—in Austria alone, the Cuirassiers wear only the breastplate. Some of the defensive armour is bright steel, like that of HER MAJESTY'S Life Guards; some covered with an exterior plate of brass, and some with black Japan varnish. To Cuirassiers the Carbines are absolutely useless, for the butt constantly slips off the armour, if fired from the shoulder.

Light Dragoons have been classed as Lancers, Hussars, and Chasseurs à cheval, or Light Dragoons, as in England, but the true Chasseur à cheval of foreign armies carries a much larger carbine than the English Light Dragoon, in fact a long and light Fusil.

Lancers are now generally recognized as troops for the line of battle. They carry in most services, as in England, the lance, sabre, and pistol. It has lately been the fashion to recruit them from heavier men, and mount them on heavier horses. A great deal has been said pro and con as to the efficiency of the lance. Our own impression, (we have seen it used in action) is that there is, under certain circumstances, no more formidable weapon. The rush of a squadron or two of good lancers upon bro-

ken infantry is a disastrous affair for the latter. MARESCHAL MARMONT in "The Spirit of Military Institutions" recommends that the front rank of all heavy Cavalry should be armed with the lance, and this system has been adopted in Russia. It has not yet been tried in battle, so we know not the result.

Hussars and Light Dragoons differ in no respect, except their dress. In England, though five Regiments are still called Hussars, they are so only in name; they have abandoned the slung Pelisse, and there is between them and the Light Dragoons, but a slight difference in the uniform. Both carry the sabre and carbine only. Pistols, except in the four Regiments of Lancers, were discontinued 16 or 17 years ago. We once heard a celebrated Cavalry officer, highly distinguished in the Peninsular war, affirm that he had never seen a pistol used, except by a vidette to fire an alarm, or by a farrier to shoot a glaucous horse.

Still it is clear that if the Cavalry of foreign armies, that is, the skirmishing portion of the force, use fire arms of long range, the British Cavalry must do the same thing. During the advance of the British army across the Pyrenees a Regiment of our Hussars, we think the 15th—was detached to skirmish with some French chasseurs, across a small river. Our troopers had a short, large bored carbine—the French a long small-bored fusil. We could do nothing, and the Regiment was withdrawn and replaced by the 10th Hussars, who had rifled carbines, and soon gave a good account of the enemy.—As for all Cavalry pistols that we ever saw, they were nothing but a nuisance to carry.

The vast improvements made in these days, in riding boots; the invention of the charge by percussion, and above all, that of repeating or revolving fire arms, has completely changed the mode of warfare. We only now refer to the change which it necessitated in Cavalry; but it must be evident to every one that the small belt revolver will not compete with the SHARR'S carbine used by the Dragoons of the United States. This arm is not a repeater, but it loads at the breech, and primes itself; is of exceedingly simple construction, and carries an ounce picket ball with great accuracy, with one drachm of powder, from six, to eight hundred yards.

It is quite true, as we observed before, that CANADA is no country for the employment of Cavalry of the line. There is hardly a piece of level ground to be found, cleared of brush, on which a Regiment of horse would find room to charge. It is clear therefore that our Cavalry must be simply a Cavalry, for the duties of outposts, with a perchance occasional skirmish, patrols, escorts, and orderlies. Under these circumstances their present armament is certainly a good one. They have an excellent sabre, not too heavy, and with the square handle so strongly recommended by poor CAPTAIN NOLAN; and a revolver. At present, therefore, this seems to be sufficient. Improvements in fire-arms have evidently not yet reached their height—and it is well to wait a little; but it is our decided impression that it will be found necessary hereafter to obtain, for a portion at least, of the provincial squadrons, a weapon which will compete with the American carbines.

There is a mode of uniting the pistol and carbine, in a most efficient way, of which we shall say something at a future day, as well as of