

required to carry any kit or equipment at all. Two or three things point towards this possibility. What is the one great feature and desideratum of modern war? In one word it is pace. In the early part of this century operations in the field were conducted with the utmost deliberation. Troops laden like pack animals with ponderous muskets, ill-conceived and injurious knapsacks, heavy and spongy great coats, not to mention a blanket and a few other items—these men marched as a rule deliberately, fought deliberately, and, in fact, did everything in a slow, precise, and orthodox manner. When winter arrived the opposing forces retired by mutual consent into what were known as winter quarters, where they remained until warm weather enabled them to emerge and recommence hostilities, after the usual leisurely fashion. Now we have changed all that, and to some purpose too. In 1866 six short weeks sufficed to carry the Prussian troops from Berlin to Vienna, and to prostrate the Austrian Empire. In 1870 the war broke out in July, and, although it lasted six months, the events compressed into that period were such as in the beginning of this century would have required ten years to accomplish. In fact, when war breaks out now the campaign is carried on regardless of summer heat or winter cold until some result is arrived at. Prince Bismarck told his countrymen in a recent speech that the last war would be mere child's play compared to the next one; and as pace was the great characteristic of the last war, we may assume that the pace will be even more severe in the next one. We hold it to be an impossibility for Infantry to perform that which will be expected of them in future if they are to be loaded as they have hitherto been.

Another consideration also presents itself, and one to which we drew attention some time back; that is the increasing quantity of ammunition which is to be carried on the persons of the men. The problem that the next war will present for solution is—How are the Infantry to keep up the pace which is ever increasing, to carry the old marching-order kit, and also the hundred and more rounds of ammunition that are now declared to be absolutely indispensable? The answer is obvious. To do all three is a manifest impossibility. Which, then, must give way? The pace must be kept up at all hazards, and we suppose that it will be ruled that the hundred rounds of ammunition must be carried, although we have taken the liberty in these columns of denying the necessity of it. On these assumptions, then, the kit proper must be discarded, and therefore we hope that our military authorities will await the results of the next war on the Continent before committing themselves and the nation to any expense in the matter.

We cannot see any way out of the difficulty at present. It is useless to propose that the soldiers' kits should be carried for them. No system of transport could cope with the difficulty, for as it is the enormous mass of guns, carriages and vehicles of every description will more than fill every available road, and the experience of war has demonstrated conclusively that when once the soldier and his pack are separated during a campaign, they never meet again. It remains, therefore, to be seen by the light of the next war what the Infantry soldier can carry and what he cannot carry. That the next war will be marked by some new departure in this question there can be hardly a doubt. What direction it will take is hard to say at present. Meanwhile we are in the comfortable position of being able to wait for the experience of others, as we are now doing in the magazine rifle question. In all matters appertaining to naval reform we are expected to lead the way, and we do. In matters military we can afford to wait.

### Army Society in San Francisco.

"SAN Francisco Society" is the title of a pamphlet of forty-two pages by Mr. Watson, in which many phases of life are discussed. Under the head of "Army and Navy" he says:

"The Army set is almost as exclusive as the foreign circles, and among themselves the Army people have a great deal of quiet enjoyment, which few outsiders are admitted to. Among Army ladies conspicuous for their hospitality are Mrs. Bingham, Mrs. Cochran, Mrs. Shafter, Mrs. St. John Greble, Mrs. Howard, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Russell, and Mrs. Best.

"For the Army man what can be said? There is a charm about brass buttons that, were the wearer as thick-headed as a ploughboy or as brainless as the renowned Tin God, would still make him the idol of the maiden and the despair of the ambitious mother.

"We are fortunate in our young soldiers. They are most of them good looking and a well-bred set of fellows, and not half so badly spoiled as they have a right to be. Then it must be remembered that socially they are invaluable. Where would society have men for afternoon teas, for morning walks, for its best german leaders, were it not that a generous Government has supplied these available youths? Of the present set, there are three so popular that were the average society girl asked to play in the old-fashioned game of forfeits, she would bow to the

prettiest (Lieut. Mott), kneel to the wittiest (Lieut. Bean), and kiss the one she loved best (?)—well, that would be a tie between Lieut. Towers and Lieut. Sturgis.

"The courteous and accomplished post commander at Black Point, Major John A. Darling, has a firmly-established position in the regard of society. The commander-in-chief, General O. O. Howard, is so well and so highly known, it seems needless to speak of him, and Colonel Shafter's genial hospitality has made him most popular.

"The Navy men suffer here from lack of opportunities, although one very fascinating representative, the best dancer in the cotillions, flits down from Mare Island now and then. He is tall and he is fair, and as an enthusiastic admirer once said to me, 'Most courteous and gentle of all who sate in hall among dames.' This fortunate gentleman is named Niblack. It must be confessed that society goes rather a mad gait when the booming salute from the fort announces the arrival of a man-of-war. (But I must correct myself—the United States is now too poor to afford the powder, and it is the man-of-war which announces its own arrival). Stern and hard experiences of partings, however, have taught the maid of many seasons to only play at love with these soldiers of the sea; and ships do not nowadays sail away leaving broken hearts behind."

### "Remember, Boys, I Led You."

#### An Incident of the North-West Rebellion of 1885.

BY THOMAS KELLY.

WHERE dark Saskatchewan's rushing tide  
By Batoche strand is wildly welling,  
Rebellion's flag is fluttering wide,  
In rifle pits are rebels dwelling;  
But now have come the soldiers true,  
To free, to save, protect who need them,  
With hearts resolved to die or do,  
With gallant men to guide and lead them.

Impatient for the coming charge  
Brave French and scouts are ready,  
Glitter their weapons bright and large,  
Their hands, their hearts are steady.  
The order comes—with dashing burst  
Rush French's scouts the quickest,  
With death-defying daring first  
Whery fly the missiles thickest.

Down the ravine, death's open door,  
Through bush, through smoke and slippery mire,  
Unflinching face the dread outpour,  
"Despising danger, death and fire":  
Through water, barricade, pitfall,  
Through fiery torrent fled them,  
While first and foremost of them all  
Brave, noble French still led them!

'Mid pealing shouts of victory,  
The vanquished rebels quickly fly,  
Set now are Riel's captives free,  
While death, unyielding, lingers nigh.  
The hero falls!—what does he say?  
(Canada, tears, hot and bitter, shed you!)  
While fast his heart's blood ebbs away,  
"Remember, boys, I led you."

While glows a spark of patriot fire,  
Long as life's bloom will warm us,  
While treason's deeds awake our ire,  
While noble actions charm us;  
While honour, valour, courage, truth,  
Delight the poets and sages,  
Thy name, brave French, will bloom as youth,  
Undimmed by future ages.

Should ever foes from distant lands,  
Dear Canada, thy shores invade,  
And ever sons' rebellious hands  
Be raised to give unholy aid;  
To punish mete such wicked clan,  
Which to the dust would tread us,  
Oh give us such another man,  
Another French to lead us!

The expenditure for the German Army, as estimated in the Budget which has been submitted to the Reichstag, amounts to 362,465,016 marks, including non-recurring items to the amount of 77,267,954 marks, and also a sum of 21,000,000 marks for completing the German strategical railway system.

A statement to the effect that the Mannlicher rifle has been selected for re-arming the Belgian infantry, will be probably received with as much surprise as it has been by the Liege gun trade. The factories and foundries of the Belgian Birmingham have been usually kept going by orders for armaments from foreign states, and notably from Austria-Hungary, upon designs furnished at Liege itself. The known defects of the Mannlicher are to be remedied by the inventor in the weapon intended for the *braves Belges*, but the same calibre of 8 millimetres will be adhered to in the new model.

Prizes have been offered by Gen. Ferron for the best pattern of cavalry saddle, applicable to all the mounted arms of the line. The competitions are to be sent to the inspecting committee at Paris before the 1st January, 1888. Premiums, in five classes to the amount of 10,000 frs. will be granted, severally, of 5,000 frs., 2,000 frs., 1,000 frs., and of 500 frs., for the four best designs in order of merit. The technical section of the French Cavalry Commission has also definitely approved of the cavalry sword or sabre being in future attached to the saddle, in lieu of being slung from the trooper's waist-belt. A V-shaped sling, nearly a foot in drop, is buckled at the two upper ends, beneath the left croup of the saddle, and a swivel at the lower point takes the single ring on the sheath about 3 inches from the hilt. There is less movement of the weapon when at trot or gallop, but the contrivance we have noticed under essay has certainly the disadvantage of singularly distorting the figures of the many under-sized French horsemen in obeying the order to "Draw!"