

Why? Because it has only been formed lately, and though it had marched past steadily and creditably, it is evidently not the opinion of Royal Artillerymen that Field Artillery can be made efficient in the course of a few days drill, even when officers are instructed and gunners are well trained. Drivers and horses require training also; and this one practical concession of fate may well be a lesson to Volunteers, who make perfect garrison gunners, but never good Field Artillery.

A correspondent writes:—"This morning the contingent of Metropolitan Police marched into camp, and took up their quarters on Gun-hill. Their serviceable appearance was universally remarked, but much speculation was caused by the portentous apparatus, as part of the impediments of the march, of a Thompson's road steamer. Did they use this machine it was asked, to catch offenders wherewithal, or to pulverize them when caught, or was it merely brought down as a vague brooding threat, on the *omne ignotum pro terribile* principle? The functions of a metropolitan police man with divisions to each of which are attached a Provost-marshal and his myrmidons, do not seem easy to define without special information; but the outing can do the policeman no harm, and as Britons they may find the spirit move them to take part in a fray at a pinch. Their appearance is certainly highly creditable to the metropolitan police force.—*To be continued.*"

THE SEVEN RESOLUTIONS.

From Lloyd's Weekly, Oct. 28th.

We have to announce the plan and nature of the general movement for comprehensive social reforms, which has been under consideration for many months past, and for which we prepared our readers last week, warning them at the same time not to be led away by the Birmingham agitation against the House of Lords. On the 23rd ult., the most numerous meeting of trade delegates that has been held at Manchester for the last twenty years, was summoned "to arrange the preliminaries for holding a large meeting of the working classes, in the Free Trade Hall to consider the following propositions, intended to be embodied in separate bills and introduced into Parliament at the commencement of next session." These propositions were nothing less than resolutions that had been previously adopted by a carefully constituted Board of Trade Representatives. The Board had been holding meetings at short intervals for many months, and debating every point of the programme. At last the course of action was shaped, and the following resolves were unanimously adopted:—

"1. To secure the families of our workmen from the dismal lanes, crowded alleys, and unwholesome dwellings of our towns, and plant them out in the clear, where in the middle of a garden; in a detached homestead, in wholesome air and sunshine, they may live and grow up strong, healthy, and pure under the influences of a well ordered home."—Adopted by the Trades' Representatives, 27th January, 1871.

"2. To enable this to be effectually carried out, there must be created a perfect organization for the self government of counties, towns, and villages, with powers for the acquisition and disposal of land for the common good."—Adopted by the Trades Representatives, 27th January, 1871.

"3. The next condition of the well being of the skilled workman is, that a day's labor shall consist of eight hours of honest work."—Adopted by the Trades Represen-

tatives, 27th January, 1871

"4. In addition to schools for elementary education, there shall be provided schools for practical knowledge and technical skill in the midst of their homesteads."—Adopted by the Trades' Representatives, 27th January 1871.

"5. For the moral and physical well-being of the people, places of public recreation, knowledge and refinement shall be organized as parts of the public service."—Adopted by the Trades' Representatives, 27th January, 1871.

"6. Public markets shall be erected in every town for the sale of goods in small quantities of the best quality, at wholesale prices."—Adopted by the Trades' Representatives, 27th January, 1871.

"7. There shall be provided a great extension of the organization of the public service on the model of the Post Office, for the common good."—Adopted by the Trades' Representatives, 27th January 1871.

The first resolution will open a pleasant prospect to thousands who are now cramped and confined in dismal holes and corners; oppressed with heavy rents for cellars and garrets; and debilitated by bad air and food. How the mass of our toiling millions are to be planted out in detached houses surrounded by smiling gardens, and to be made healthy, wise, and happy, is not set forth; but that legislation towards the greatest happiness of the greatest number is about to be attempted by a council of legislators and representative working men, is a fact of happy augury.

The 2nd resolution points radical reform in our methods of government. Counties, towns, and villages are to be endowed with independent governing force; and these local bodies are to be able to acquire or dispose of land for the common good. Through this agency the inhabitants of towns are, we suppose, to be gradually spread out in well-ordered homes, surrounded with health-giving gardens. Nor is this all. The man who is the head of a perfect household will crave leisure to enjoy it. He must have a due share of rest from work, and he will insist that eight hours are enough to give to labor out of each twenty-four. An Eight Hours' Bill, to be applied to all trades and industries, is therefore part of the programme which is about to be submitted to the entire body of the working class. What will the Newcastle masters say to this?

The resolution to the effect that technical education shall be obtainable in the midst of the smiling homesteads, is inseparable from a complete plan for the improvement of the condition of the working community. While our toilers are greatly superior to those of the continent in energy, they are behind those of France, Belgium and Germany at any rate, in taste, often in skill. We have been alarmed at the result of this inferiority, of late years. It was made painfully manifest at the Universal Exhibition of 1867; and it has been neglected by "the powers that be," ever since. The International Exhibition just closed at South Kensington was another opportunity of promoting the better education of our workfolk, which the Science and Art magnates deliberately passed over. It has become perfectly plain, that if the skilled working men of England want to put their children in the foremost ranks of modern industry, they must force upon Government the adoption of measures that will set skill and taste within the reach of every lad who is destined to live by handicraft.

The Trades Representatives have resolved that this hard worked nation shall have refined and improving means of recreation

placed within the enjoyment of all classes, at those hours which meet the convenience of the greater number. Could anything be more reasonable? At our popular holidays we are still as dull as in the days of Frost-sart. Our people can neither dance nor sing; nor can they gain admission to museums and picture galleries on the day of their rest from labor. If places "of public recreation, knowledge and refinement," were at their disposal, public manners and morals would gain, and we should not hear of more than 150 drunken police cases in a single day, in a city like Liverpool, where wealth is abundant and the conveniences for healthy popular festivities are many.

The resolution that applies to public markets shows the Trades' Representatives who have been deliberating on the peoples wants and claims, are practical and soundly understanding men. The poor man pays a higher price than the rich man, because dealing with the petty shop-keeper, he has to pay more profits. Through our complex system, the distributors are multiplied till that which costs a farthing to produce cannot be consumed at less than sixpence. Wasteful in our kitchens and spendthrifts in our dealings, our population is underserved with wages on which the foreign workmen flourish exceedingly. The poor refugees massed in the byways of Soho teach us a daily lesson in the art of living well, and cheaply; and most of the cities of the continent, where markets abound, and every housewife buys direct from the producer, can show us how it is that the poor English purchaser is so scurvily treated.

The seventh and last resolution is vaguely worded, but we take it to mean that the railways for instance, shall be put under state control, and managed, not by dividend hunting boards of management, that treat their employees as few West Indian planters ever worked their slaves; but by public officials, under regulations made solely for the general convenience and safety.

We submit these seven moderate, and at the same time searching, and far reaching, heads of social reforms to the consideration of the public; with the simple remarks that they are the expression of the calm and deliberate will of delegates, who represent every class and description of labor, that an imposing organization is forming to carry them in the shape of bills through Parliament; and that the ends they contemplate are of infinitely higher importance than any or all of the reforms or changes developed in Mr. Potters remarkable letter to the *Times*; or sketched by the political agitators of Birmingham.

The *Rupert*, the armor-clad ram now building at Chatham, is being completed as rapidly as possible, extra hands being employed for the purpose. This was one of the last vessels designed by Mr. Reed before he resigned his appointment of chief constructor of the navy, and is the most powerful ram ship yet constructed. The ram is carried about eight feet below the water, which will enable the *Rupert* to attack any iron-clad vessels at their most vital parts. The sides are protected by means of armor plating twelve inches in thickness, the vessel being sunk, when in action to within twenty inches of her upper deck. She will carry a single revolving turret, the base of which is protected by means of an elliptical-shaped breastwork, covered with plates twelve in thickness. The two 18-ton guns which will be placed in the revolving turret will fire over the breastwork, and will be placed at a sufficient height to enable them to be used in any weather.