

of war for the carriage of tents," &c., than the loading of these wagons with them. This was the decision years ago of competent artillery officers; nevertheless no steps have, it is believed, been taken to prepare in time of peace the "other means;" and the makeshift was officially recognized of lessening the weight by "removing temporarily the projectiles" from the wagon boxes. When shall we learn to do as the Germans do in military training, viz., the counterpart in peace of all that would be required in war, even to the practising of disorder, and rallying therefrom, in their cavalry charges. This system of packing ammunition wagons is the more reprehensible with us because it cannot be adopted in India, where the greater part of our field artillery is located, and it leads there to the sham practice of turning out for inspection, and "marching order parades," in a fashion that cannot be followed on service. In India, the Commissariat Department provides carriage for all baggage. It would be destruction to gunners' kits to pack them either on the wagons or gun limbers, on a march in India; and the sooner we improve the mobility of our field batteries, as well as horse artillery, by having separate ammunition columns and baggage transport the better. The ammunition might be distributed in a more suitable form of cart, built solely with a view to its carriage, than in wagons with limber, originally designed to carry much beside the ammunition. It is evident that six horses in three such carts could transport much more ammunition than a team of six in the present cumbersome wagons. These carts could carry boxes similar to those now in use, so that exhausted limbers might be at once replenished by an exchange of their ammunition boxes when empty. Wolsley's excellent Pocket book for Field Service draws attention to the want in our army of lighter transport carriages. It says "our artillery wagons and equipment are the heaviest in any army." Some of our transport carriages have a draft weight when packed of 46cwt., and yet only four horses are allotted them. Others, with more than 30cwt., are drawn by two horses. In the Red River Expedition, it seems two-horsed wagons, with a weight of 20cwt., were found to work well over "every bad road."

With such experience, it is hard to understand why we continue six horses to our light field guns. We keep up the same number as were formerly used with the 24 pounder howitzers and smooth-bore 7 pounder guns, in which the weights behind them were respectively 43 and 41cwt. Attention has been for many years so concentrated upon the mechanical improvement of the gun, that its tactical handling has been comparatively neglected, and yet as much depends on this, as on the excellence of the gun itself. Perfection in the weapon won't atone for tardy and complicated movement in battle. The French Chassepot was a better weapon than the German needle-gun in 1870, and the Austrian field gun was superior to the Prussian in 1866, but in the handling of the weapons, and in the mobility of their field artillery, the Prussians were superior to their enemy in both campaigns. In future it will be of more importance than ever to field batteries to be capable of rapid deployment in action. Short and handy teams, with no more men or horses or ammunition than are indispensable, pushed to the front, and a thorough good system of feeding them, and supplying ammunition from reserves kept at comparatively safe distance, will give great advantage in future over artillery inferior in this

tactical respect, when the guns themselves are at all evenly matched in mechanical virtues. It is evident that to be properly efficient light field batteries must be able to move rapidly for short distances of a mile or two, and it will be indispensable that all the men required to work the gun should be carried with it into action. Spare ammunition columns must be kept distinct from, and yet in constant communication with, their guns, and no organization that ignores this can be efficient.

Those who have studied the development of field artillery believe that "mistakes in its employment in action will in future very seldom be capable of repair." It was noted lately in the *Times* that a distinguished artillery officer had remarked, "L'artillerie anglaise, il y a peu de temps, était à la tête des artilleries de l'Europe; dans quelque années elle sera à la queue." This was said with reference to the mechanism of our guns, but we have probably little to fear on this account; it is in tactical handling that we are behindhand. No foreign Power can approach us in perfection of our parade turn-out of batteries; but these who look below the surface, and see efficiency in nothing that is not suitable on service, know our field battery organization is sadly wanting still, while judging from the new field exercise book for both the horse artillery and light field batteries, it can only be said we have improved a little on the old one. There are now only 143 manœuvres or formations for practice instead of 199! The old spirit still infects our system, whereas, to meet the entirely new requirements of artillery tactics, Hamlet's advice to the players, "Oh, reform it altogether," should be the motto for those who would improve our artillery field training.

May 3, 1876.

EMERITUS.

The Indian Massacre.

DETAILS OF THE ROUT OF CUSTER'S EXPEDITION.

Chicago, July 7.—A special to the *Times* from Bismarck recounts the late encounter with Indians. On the morning of the 25th an Indian village 20 miles above the mouth of the Little Horn was reported three miles long and half a mile wide, and fifteen miles away. Custer pushed his command rapidly through. They had made a march of 78 miles in 24 hours preceding the battle. When near the village it was discovered that the Indians were moving on in hot haste, as if retreating. Reno with seven companies of the Seventh Cavalry was ordered to the left to attack the village at its head, while Custer with five companies went to the right and commenced a vigorous fighting, during which he lost Lieuts. Hodgson and McIntosh, and Dr. Dewolf, and twelve men, with several Indian scouts killed and many wounded, he cut his way through to the river, and gained a bluff 300 feet in height, where he entrenched, and was soon joined by Col. Benton with four companies. In the meantime the Indians resumed the attack making repeated and desperate charges which were repulsed with great slaughter to the Indians. They gained higher ground than Reno occupied and as their arms were longer in range and better than the cavalry's they kept up a fire until nightfall. During the night Reno strengthened his position and was prepared for another attack, which was made at daylight. The day wore on. Reno had lost in killed and wounded a large portion of his command, forty odd having been killed before the bluff was reached, many of them in hand to hand conflict with the Indians,

who outnumbered them ten to one, and his men had been without water for thirty-six hours. The suffering was heartrending. In this state of affairs they determined to reach the water at all hazards, and Col. Benton made a rally with his company and routed the main body of the Indians who were guarding the approach to the river. The Indian sharpshooters were nearly opposite the mouth of the ravine through which the brave boys approached the river, but the attempt was made, and though one man was killed and seven wounded, the water was gained and the command relieved. When the fighting ceased for the night Reno further prepared for attacks. There had been forty-eight hours' fighting, with no word from Custer. Twenty-four hours more of fighting and suspense ended when the Indians abandoned their village in great haste and confusion. Reno knew then that succor was near at hand. Gen. Terry, with Gibbon commanding his own infantry, had arrived. Soon an officer came rushing into camp and related that he had found Custer dead, stripped naked, but not mutilated, and near him his two brothers, Col. Tom and Boston Custer, his brother-in-law Col. Calhoun, and his nephew Col. Yates, Col. Keough, Capt. Smith, Lieut.-Col. Cuthendon, Lieut. Thurgess, Col. Cooke, Lieut. Harrington, Dr. Lord Mackellogg, the Bismarck *Tribune* correspondent, and 180 men and scouts. Only one Crow scout remained to tell the tale. All were dead. Custer was surrounded on every side by Indians, and the hewes fell as they fought on the skirmish line or in line of battle. Custer was among the last who fell, but when his cheering voice was no longer heard, the Indians made easy work of the remainder. The bodies of all save the newspaper correspondent, were stripped, and most of them were horribly mutilated. Custer was not mutilated; he was shot through the body and through the head. Col. Smith arrived at Bismarck on Wednesday night with 35 of the wounded. The Indians lost heavily in the battle. The village numbered 1,800 lodges, and it is thought there were 4,000 warriors. Gen. Custer, was directed by Gen. Terry to find and feel of the Indians, but not to fight unless Terry arrived with Infantry, and with Gibbons' column. The casualties foot up 261 killed and 52 wounded.

"Despatches from Gen. Terry, dated from his camp mouth of the Big Horn, July 2nd, confirm newspaper reports of the fight on the 25th of June on the Little Big Horn, and of Custer's death. Terry has fallen back to his present camp. I have sent full despatches to the Lieutenant General, who will probably communicate them. I have not yet received Gen. Terry's report of the action or list of casualties." The Secretary of war and Gen. Sherman are both absent from Washington, attending the celebration by the Army of the Cumberland, in Philadelphia. The presumption is that there will be an immediate conference upon the subject of the Indian war, now fully inaugurated.

Canadian Press Association.

The Canadian Press Association members were tendered a reception, on Thursday, by the New York Press Club. Appropriate addresses were made. In the afternoon the City Hotel, the Post Office and other buildings were visited. In the evening Gilmour's Garden was visited by invitation.