

for preventing the recurrence of any marked irregularities during the subsequent operations. I annex a list of the unemployed staff, as also the regulations drawn for their guidance. On Monday, the 19th, the manœuvres were continued by the 2nd and 3rd Divisions, forcing the passage of the canal and railroad, then dividing them from the 1st Division, which latter was to retire on the entrenched position it had prepared at Chobham. A feeling having got abroad that general officers were too much restricted in their movements, I gave the merest outline for the day's proceedings, only confining the operations to a certain limit of ground on each bank, and giving the general line of direction, which was essential in order to obtain the necessary supplies for both man and horse. The ground to be worked over was of a character to enable the troops to move more freely than they did on Saturday, but otherwise was difficult for an advancing force, as the obstacles to be crossed, both canal and railroad with deep cuttings, were formidable. The 1st and 3rd Divisions, having been encamped in rather close proximity, got into contact very early in the day, and carried on a very warm contest, resulting in the withdrawal of the 1st Division before the 2nd could develop a turning movement from its left, which had been intended to threaten the line of communication of the 1st Division with the entrenched position in its rear, the 2nd Division having to perform a lengthened march, and having been retarded by the assumed destruction of all the railway and canal bridges which intervened between it and the 1st Division. The movements of the 1st and 3rd Divisions were spirited and well-performed, but I doubt the possibility of the earlier direct advance of the 3rd Division, without the actual flanking movement of the 2nd having become developed, and probably the 1st Division would have made a more prolonged resistance for the same reason, had not the certainty existed that the flank movement was intended. The troops that were engaged during this day worked well, and the chief fault was their exposure at times under circumstances when shelter might have been attained, and the too rapid advance of those portions of the force which knew that their camping grounds were to be to the front, whilst a too rapid retirement was equally effected by those destined to take up the entrenched position. The want of combination between the 2nd and 3rd Divisions was also sensibly felt. In this respect I cannot but think that in future, when two divisions or larger bodies of troops are combined, one officer should be placed in actual superior command. As I was extremely anxious to avoid personal interference as much as possible, and to leave all the arrangements for the day's movements to the respective generals of divisions, consequently a mere outline was given by myself of the objects and intentions of the day's work, and I left it to the generals of divisions to combine their movements in accordance with their own impressions. As a matter of course, the senior officer of the two took the lead when these combinations were arranged between them, but he only commanded his own division and consequently attended specially to the duties connected with his immediate force, and hence the combination was left too much to accident, and could not be observed on several occasions. In future a decided command must be established in like cases. The 1st Division encamped this day at Chobham, the 2nd at Sandhurst and the 3rd at Chobham Ridges. Outposts were thrown out, and left out during the night.

On Tuesday, 19th, the entrenched position at Chobham having been completed as far as time would admit, was strongly occupied by the 1st Division, which had been considerably reinforced by the entire reserve Artillery, consisting of five batteries, one of horse and four of field Artillery, and by an assumed reinforcement of troops from the direction of the metropolis. It was attacked from its right front by the 2nd Division from the direction of Bagshot, which attack when well developed was strongly supported by the 3rd Division from the direction of Chobham Ridges. The natural position of Chobham is a very strong one. Very good field works, had been hurriedly thrown up by the Royal Engineers, supplemented by Volunteer engineers, and largely assisted by working parties of the 1st Division. A powerful mass of artillery supported and defended these field works, including one of our new 16pdr. field batteries, and thus the position had become in every respect a really formidable one to assail. The actual force for defence was otherwise hardly equal to the amount of ground covered, and on this account, no doubt, gave way rather more at first than might have been expected from the formation of the ground, but ultimately it held its own with great effect, and I think would have maintained itself against the very superior numbers that were brought against it by the two combined divisions. The troops during the day worked admirably, but there were times when they exposed themselves too much to direct fire, and hardly took sufficient advantage of the cover which the undulating nature of the ground furnished, whilst advanced positions were given up, which I think in reality could have been much longer maintained. The exposure of troops more particularly the infantry is, however, a question upon which it is extremely difficult to theorise. Doubtless the more it can be avoided the better, but there are times when positions have to be attacked when exposure is inevitable; and it is on these occasions, as it seems to me, that our line formation is of such marked advantage, for the loss of troops moving to attack in extended line must be much less than when columns are employed, even if these columns be similar to the company columns so much adopted in foreign armies, and with large bodies of skirmishers in advance of them. The combination of movement during the day was better than I had seen it on previous occasions, and in this respect a marked improvement was manifested, but then it must be remembered that the ground to be worked over admitted of more compact cohesion than on previous days. Entire rest was given for the subsequent day, Wednesday, 20th, to all the forces, which encamped on the ground left by the respective divisions on the morning of the 19th. I had originally intended to have had a combined movement of the entire *corps d'armée* against a supposed skeleton enemy, on Thursday, 21st, bringing the force back bodily to the neighbourhood of Aldershot, but on reflection it appeared to me better to divide the force equally as to numbers on that day, and to break up for this purpose one, the 2nd Division. Accordingly, Lieutenant-General Sir Hope Grant gave up the command of his division on this occasion to Major-General Carey, who took with him one of his brigades of infantry and a portion of his cavalry, whilst his other brigade of infantry and two cavalry regiments, one from each brigade of the 1st and 2nd Divisions, were directed to join the 3rd Division and were placed under the orders of Major-General Sir Charles Staveley; His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales commanding

the cavalry of Major-General Carey's forces, whilst Major-General Sir Thomas McMahon commanded that with Sir Charles Staveley. The reserve artillery was divided equally between the two forces. I regret that I did not carry out this new distribution of the force on the afternoon of Tuesday, 19th, as I think it would have prevented some confusion which arose on the morning of Thursday, 21st, when the troops first moved off to their respective posts, but, as I have stated above, it was a sudden change of plan, which I deemed advisable, but which at first had not been contemplated; and all the staff and supply arrangements having been made for three distinct and separate divisions, it would have been inconvenient to have interfered with the general organization of the force, if it was possible to avoid it. The general directions given by me for the day's operations were, that Major-General Sir Charles Staveley's force should take up a position covering Aldershot, whilst Major-General Carey should endeavour to turn it, and oblige Sir Charles Staveley to retire. The position was a very extended one, and in this respect had serious disadvantages, but it was commanding, and difficult of unobserved access, and required much caution and skill to be attacked with success. Sir Charles Staveley was long in doubt from which flank he was to be attacked; and it was therefore late in the day before the two bodies of troops got into actual contact, though the cavalry of Major-General Carey had early gone to the front in the direction of Fox Hill, or right of Sir Charles Staveley's position. Ultimately a very well combined and admirably covered attack was made by Major-General Carey's troops, skilfully handled, resulting in a large portion of General Carey's division gaining the plateau, whilst one brigade after a very long fatiguing march was brought up in excellent order and formation to the attack of the extreme right of the position, which concluded the operations of the day. The troops of both sides, and of all arms, had a very long and hard day's work, but came into their respective camps, in the vicinity of Aldershot, with a freshness and vigour which it was most gratifying to observe. Had the cavalry of the defending force been pushed more to the front during the earlier part of the day, and been kept well forward during the long march of General Carey's columns, I cannot but think that the ultimate attack on the position occupied by Sir Charles Staveley would have been extremely difficult, not to say impossible.

(To be continued.)

THE WORLD'S POSTAL SERVICE.—From lately issued returns it appears that the aggregate number of letters passing through the Post Offices of the principal countries of the world is nearly three thousand millions. In Great Britain the number of letters mailed was 25 per head of population; in Switzerland, 18, in the United States, 15, in the North German States, 8.3, in Austria, 4.9, in Spain, 4; in France, 3.3, in Italy, 3.1, in Russia, 3. It will be a matter of surprise to many that in the little kingdom of Switzerland the proportion of letters to population is so large, while in France it is so small, but the figures above given may be accepted as indicating with considerable accuracy the degree of business activity, and the popular intelligence and education of the different countries named.

The Kansas Legislature has passed a bill abolishing the death penalty in that State. Imprisonment for life is to be the sentence for murder hereafter.