

strap, if hitching places are near; but the hobbling plan makes a scout independent in a meadow behind a hill, whence he might often make valuable observations. Scouts should be furnished with powerful telescopes to enable them to count distant forces with accuracy and in safety. A wary scout, at a prudent distance, with a good glass, can often gather more valuable information than a more reckless one who ventures in closer. The former sees, himself unseen.

If men can be found well acquainted with the country to be operated in, so much the better scouts. But if this is impossible, every scout should carry a map, on a large scale, to be filled in with details from his observations. Under this system, it will be seen, a scout becomes an important adjunct of the topographical engineers, and may be often of great service. The scale maps furnished them should be drawn by the engineer officers of the corps, and the scouts will very soon learn their use, and become emulous of supplying the best details for their skeleton maps. True, an engineer officer would be needed on the corps staff, but this is only as it should be; and if topographical skill were more generally utilized by cavalry officers, the gain would be immense to the whole army. A very little experience under the guidance of a good practical topographical engineer, would render the majority of men of intelligence and fair education capable of filling the details of a map enlarged to say two inches to the mile, with a fair degree of accuracy, increasing every day. Distances from place to place should be timed by the watch and paced very carefully noted at every change thereof on a note book. Courses by the pocket compass, carefully laid down, will help the engineer officer and his assistants amazingly. If every scout carried a note book in which he was taught to record his route, in the form of an itinerary, maps might be made with but little difficulty that would prove of great service in operations over the same ground. The general and engineer officer, by taking a little trouble to train scouts in this matter during winter quarters and in long rests over well known ground, can very soon judge of their capacity and correct their inaccuracies, besides teaching them how to do the greatest amount of work in the shortest time. No scout need then come in empty handed. Even if he has not seen the enemy, he has mapped the country, and topographical information is always valuable.

In the second part will be found brief directions for an itinerary over a supposititious country, and rules for estimating distances by the size of objects, etc.

Scouts should be paid highly and kept on probation. If they are detailed from the ranks they must be very sharply watched, to prevent their becoming marauders. Scouts have such fine opportunities for this practice that the only real safeguard against it is the selection of honest men for the duty.

(To be continued.)

VOLUNTEER FIELD ARTILLERY.

The following letter has appeared in the (English) *Observer*:-

Sir,—You have kindly given two letters from me on this important subject; may I beg the favour of another?

No sooner was it proposed to turn some Royal Garrison Artillery into Field Artillery than critics sprang up, urging—"that will never do! It's putting skilled labour to unskilled work!

Then it is urged, "Volunteer Artillery is only fit to be Garrison Artillery, as the skill required in managing Field Artillery is beyond them!"

Every one interested in the subject must be familiar with the above two representations. Now, there can be no doubt that the science of artillery is developed by heavy gunnery in all its varied branches; but it is also not unfrequently true that the man who, by such qualities as style and temperament, likes, and is highly fitted for, one thing, dislikes, and is totally unfitted for, another thing, and seldom is that shown more than in Garrison and Field Artillery.

From the two sayings above given no deduction can be made unless, as Volunteers do not claim to be highly skilled in either branch, some one will be bold enough to step before the public and urge that they are unfit for both.

It surprises me to hear and read such fancies expressed as that carriage, omnibus, and van horses are unfit for Artillery, and would require long training. Let me ask seriously, what is it proposed to train them to? Surely not to harness!

To those who imagine that horses must be trained to Artillery fire, I can speak from great experience.

Any team stands it well enough from the very first, and in a day or two hardly notices the guns, while single horses standing close to the teams take up the general confidence.

I venture the opinion there are no horses superior to London ones for Artillery purposes, and that on requisition London could turn out 3000 any day.

In regard to the training of an artillerist, I join the general view, that a lengthened period is as absolutely necessary to him as it is in the mastering of any other varied and somewhat intricate subject.

But to teach men the comparatively easy work of driving a field battery gun and of fighting it in action, when they are anxious and willing to do both, is quite another matter.

Occasionally I see and hear of long training and vast difficulties connected with Field Artillery. We are all entitled to our opinions, but when I notice statements of the kind, I feel they are not made by really practical, professional, loving, and observant artillerists; at least, I think not, and so decided am I on the point that if I heard they were, I should only differ and laugh.

So far as my abilities go, I have in my letters disposed of the subject of Volunteer Field Artillery men and horses. Now I come to another matter.

We all know that "a maid of all work," "a Jack of all trades," and a "handy man" are generally ill-requited and roundly abused; yet, and strange to say, Volunteer Field Artillery are not in a very dissimilar position to those useful servants.

For, in addition to their own special work as Field Artillerists, the regulations require that they shall learn the duties and drills of Garrison Artillery, which are endless in variety; then, as Infantry, they are required to move as a battalion and as a company, all of which drills are practically useless to artillerists.

About twenty years ago the same anomaly existed in the Royal Artillery, when every man was enlisted as and styled a "Gunner and Driver," just as if six feet and sixteen stone was the same as five feet seven inches and ten stone, both supposed to be equally available when fighting any gun, or driving a pair of horses as a postillion.

Happily for the Royal Field Artillery, the idea of "all work" has long since been given up as impracticable, and consequently it is

in the highest state of efficiency; but I suppose, for want of able friends, the Volunteer Artillery is hampered by the old system of requiring too great a variety of accomplishment for human nature when time is very limited. The correspondents of some morning papers have been criticizing our defects, but it does not appear that they have recognized the circumstance that we, who can scarcely call time our own, are required to be drilled and informed in about three times as many different things as is the same branch of the Regular service.

In every branch the Volunteers had best be content with one thing only.

A letter is now open at my elbow from the commanding officer of an Artillery Volunteer corps; the one idea pervading it is in *fantry drill as a battalion and a company*. Artillery duties are ignored. Is that as it should be?

Your obedient servant,

J. D. SHAKESPEAR, h.p. Royal Artillery, Lieut.-Colonel, Commanding 1st Middlesex Volunteer Artillery.

May 10, 1871.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have read the report of Lieut. General Sir Hope Grant on the *Brighton Review*, and one so very junior as myself must speak of it with every feeling of respect, at the same time, if he has been led into an error, as I believe he has, I may be pardoned for remarking on it.

I quote the paragraph concerning us.

"I would also state I consider the Volunteer Artillery should be solely confined to garrison duties, to which they are admirably adapted; but as Field Artillery they are neither manned nor horsed in sufficient numbers for service, and would necessarily run great risk of capture by an enemy if brought into action."

Having no time for actual inquiry, I write from memory in regard to the idea of our not being sufficiently manned, and shall not be far wrong. I had on the ground four spare men per gun, and I will venture to say another brigade had more than four times that number. Royal Field Artillery has not such a reserve of men, nor anything like it.

As to insufficiency of horses, we knew we were not going to have many killed in action, so we avoided the useless show of spare horses, and saved our money. But it is begging the question to imagine horses are not forthcoming because we did not parade them at Brighton. When we go on active service money will be plentiful, and, therefore, there will be horses got. The grounds for thinking we would then be captured so easily by an enemy are yet to be stated. We command men equal to such occasions and sufficient in numbers. Horses mean money, nothing more, and that we shall willingly give for what is necessary, though we ought not to be expected to be wasteful in a matter of mere display.

J. D. S.

May 13, 1871.

AN ADDRESS PRESENTED TO SIR G. E. CARTIER.

NIAGARA, 15, 1871.

The Mayor and Corporation of the town of Niagara waited upon Sir G. E. Cartier, Bart., Minister of Militia and Defence, to-day, at 11 o'clock, and presented an address in the drawing room of Queen's Royal Niagara Hotel, of which the following is a copy: