

In a recent issue we had occasion to refer to the probable consequences attendant on the concentration of the whole British army in Great Britain, the reorganization of the same and the establishment of depot centres by the Whig Radicals. The following communication to the *Broad Arrow* of 12th April, will show that the leaven of discontentment is already at work, and in all likelihood the Parliament of England at the bidding of Mr. GLADSTONE and his colleagues, has provided the Empire with a Prætorian Guard, before whose achievements those of their prototypes of the later Roman Empire will sink into insignificance.

Law and order are great blessings no doubt, and political economy is a very fine science, but it will not equalize the difference between nine and fourteen hours' labor, for three and six pence, and six pence per day, especially when the larger sum is given for the smallest labor.

Mr. GLADSTONE has no doubt achieved a great deal but we believe he will fail in playing the principal part in the parody of the parable of the "Husbandmen."

DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly insert the following lines in your valuable paper for the views of those who think wrong of their fellow countrymen that are protecting the shores of Old England and her own dominions?

Dear Sir,—In your paper of the 12th January, the great sensations caused by so many desertions at home—is it to be wondered at when a lot of young men looks upon the best of their time thrown away in the Service, and at the expiration of their period of twelve years they leave, or may get injured for life and be invalided home and out of the Service with six pence a day for twelve months. When a young soldier or sailor enters the service he almost sells his life for nothing; he may be maimed or killed, or done up for life, and then he can go as a poor wanderer where he likes. Why not give a man a chance of having a shilling in his pocket at all times, then there would not be so much discontent? A soldier and sailor is the hardest worked in creation of human beings. There is the labourer getting 3s. 6d. per day for nine hours' work, where the poor defenders of Old England are getting 6d. and 8d. per day, for fourteen hours daily labour and working hard. It looks very easy for a soldier to walk about with his rifle at his shoulder, but it is a great mistake; he is up the greater part of the night when on guard. Why, then, can people any longer wonder at so many desertions? More pay and more respect from superior officers, and then there will be more content throughout the Service, but not until then. If soldiers and sailors were to strike as the police, where would the Government be?—compelled to submit.

Hoping dear Sir, you will excuse me, and believe me to remain one of them.

OLD HAT.

February 27, 1873.

(Soldiers are very properly only permitted to strike against the enemies of their country. All other strikes are in their case provided against, and there is more probability that men so well paid, clothed, fed and cared for as the police will be taught their facings in the anti-strike drill than that the soldiers will be able to unlearn their convic-

tions of the necessity of discipline. Power and authority, knowledge and culture, do not exist by the sufferance of the million, but because without their help and control the million would be but a million of sand. There, take that lesson kindly; touch your "old hat" and thank God you are not a policeman, but a British soldier.—Ed. *Broad Arrow*.

The following will be an interesting notice to Canadian Cavalry soldiers as well as to the tradesmen of the Dominion generally, practical cavalry officers, like our correspondent "Royal Dragoon," would be able to appreciate the value of an improved saddle, such as that indicated by the subjoined notice, and we believe saddlers could be found in the Dominion capable of bearing away the first prize. We commend this article to their attention.

The Saddlers' Company of the City of London offer premiums amounting to 150 guineas for the improvement of military saddles—One of fifty guineas, one of thirty, one of twenty, two of fifteen, and two of ten. In awarding the premiums the following points will be considered:

1. Lightness. 2. Strength. 3. Durability. 4. General fitness for broad, ordinary, and narrow backs. 5. Ventilation for horse's backs. 6. Simplicity. 7. Dimensions of seat for rider. 8. Cheapness. 9. Easy fitting to horse's back.

Five judges will be appointed—two by the Saddlers' Company and three by the Horse Guards—with power to appoint experts from the cavalry and Indian service. Competitors are to send in by Oct., '73, to Saddlers' Hall, Cheapside, London, E.C., their patterns with a distinguishing mark only, and a corresponding mark in a sealed envelope containing the name and address of the competitor; also an explanatory statement, and the price for one or for one hundred or more. The patterns will remain the property of the competitors, and their carriage to and from London will be paid by the company.

Accompanying the circular of the company, are suggestions from the Horse Guards in regard to the requisites for a military saddle:

1st. Lightness, strength, and capacity to stand rough usage.

2d. Capacity for alteration by slight shifting or other method easily carried out in service, to fit horses differing in shape on the back and withers.

3d. The saddle must be made in such a way that the trees, or pannels, can be easily altered or repaired, and must have stuffed pannels, so as to be used with or without a numnah (leather or felt), as in the present saddle.

4. The carbine bucket, shoe-case (or shoe-case and saddle bag), wallets, crupper and breast-plate, as of course stirrups and girths must be securely fastened, so as to stand rough usage without the chance of becoming detached.

5th. It must carry shoe cases (or shoe-case off-side, and saddle-bag near side), wallets, and carbine bucket, as in the present saddle, and the wallets must hold as much as the present pattern.

6th. It must carry a rolled cloak in front (same size as cloak sent as pattern) attached, as at present, by three straps. The centre strap in each must be able to be drawn very tight, so as to bring the roll well up from the horse's withers, or backbone.

7th. Attention is drawn to the method of fastening the girths on the Belgian saddle which has great advantages.

There must be means for attaching a crupper and breast-plate.

9. The seat is a most essential point to consider. The rider should be able to sit well down in his seat, in the saddle, not pitched forward on his fork, or thrown back with his knees up (thereby losing all power and grip). The stirrups should be so hung that the ball of the rider's foot, when the leg is hanging perpendicularly from the knee, gets a good and natural bearing on it.

10th. The saddle and straps attached should be lighter, if made sufficiently durable.

11th. The price should be reasonable. It is intended that the total weight to be usually carried in marching order should be reduced to 16 stone 10 pounds, (254lbs.) but the saddle must be sufficiently strong to carry the extra weight detailed below:

	Lb.	Oz.
1. The rider, with arms, ammunition, accoutrements, etc., on him	175	
2. Carbine	6	9
3. Carbine bucket, off-side	2	10
4. A cloak and cape rolled in front	10	3
5. A roll, same size and (if necessary) weight behind	—	—
6. Wallets same size as at present, to carry each	6	7
7. Nosobag, with corn, hung from the cantle	12	
8. Shoe-cases (or shoe-case and saddle-bag 14 inches by 11) each	3	3
9. Mess tin over shoe-case	1	4
10. Hay in nets over the wallets ..	12	0
11. Picketing gear	3	

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We are enabled through the courtesy of Lieut. Colonel WILLY, of the Militia Department, to give our readers a full descriptive account from the *Daily Telegraph* of April 3rd, of the German war game, or *Kriegspiel* as it is called, with the method of working it in detail.

"A good general should be a good chess player," is an aphorism which has been so often repeated, that it has almost become a proverb, but above all other general rules, it has been proved by exceptions alone. Such is not the case with the *Kriegspiel*; it is, in reality played so far as the manipulation goes, by the umpires. The players properly merely give directions, and being conscious of having all their orders criticised, we can well understand how this circumstance alone removes it from the category of a mere game; the loss in which would be merely set down to want of skill or luck; in the *Kriegspiel*, on the contrary, it would nearly approach that of endangering professional reputation. Our Canadian soldiers would find it a matter of great profit to study the game and endeavor to have it played out as described.

The military authorities intend to make extensive torpedo experiments during the present year, not only at home stations—at Portsmouth and Woolwich, where sections