

## MARCHING OUT.

## ON THE DEPARTURE OF THE LAST BRITISH TROOPS FROM QUEBEC.

At evening the flag of the Brave was unfurled  
On the Citadel famous in story,  
And the war-drum whose note runs with day  
round the world,  
Beat its heart-stirring summons to glory.

But the flag in the sunset seemed sadly to wave,  
And the drum's martial tone spoke of sorrow;  
And we mournfully breathed our farewell to the  
Brave,  
For we knew they must part on the morrow;

Knew the dawn must behold the last gathering,  
the march  
That a bond of a century would sever,  
And hear the last echoes, as under the arch  
The column would tramp forth for ever.

Long we gazed on the bark as it flew from the  
shore,  
And fast on our hearts the thoughts crowded,  
Of the light of the Past that would guide us no  
more,  
Of the Future in darkness shrouded.

Are ye borne to the north, to the south, to the  
east,  
To realms where fresh laurels are growing,  
Where new medals are gleaming for victory's  
breast,  
Where empire's bright tide is yet flowing?

Or seek ye in sadness, yet proudly, a land  
The sun of whose power is declining,  
Like Quebec's granite wall round her weakness  
to stand  
Against rivals their armies combining?

In advance or retreat, be your lot what it may,  
Duty's wreath still be yours the world over;  
May the spirit of Wolfe on the dread battle day  
O'er the ranks of his soldiers still hover!

Whom now shall the land ye have shielded so well  
From the near-lying foe find to guard her,  
When the red line no more is drawn out on the  
hill,  
When the gateway has lost its last warder?

Perchance in your fortress the foeman may stand  
And trudge in his triumph your story;  
But he never shall silence the rock and the strand  
And the river that speak of your glory.

YORK.

## THE SWISS MILITARY SYSTEM.

(Continued from page 36.)

I have thought it necessary to dwell at some length upon this curious complication of the Swiss military system, viz: the division of authority between the Cantons and Confederation—the latter making the law, the former administering it—because every practical question connected with the subject before us seems to me to hinge upon this point, and yet almost always overlooked by those who look only to the federal statute-book for the Swiss military system.

Thus the federal law fixes the military age as beginning for each Swiss with the beginning of that year in which he shall become 20, and ending with the end of that year in which he has become 44. During these periods he belongs theoretically to each of the three classes in succession, viz., the *elite*, the reserve, and the landwehr. The duration of his service in either or any of these classes is practically left to State legislation, provided only that he does not enter the first class younger than the twentieth year, nor the second or reserve class later than the thirty-fourth year of his age. As for the landwehr, there was until recently no regulations at all; it simply consisted of all the men who had completed their active service in the two other classes. Now, provided the canton kept its quota, viz., 3 per cent of its population in the first, and 1½ per cent in the second class, complete and efficient, it was obviously free to fix the duration of service. One canton might see fit to keep its men the entire 14 years in the first class, another only 4, 6, 8, or 12. Again, it might pass its men already in the twenty-sixth year into the reserve, and in the thirtieth into the landwehr, without the Con-

federation having any right to object, provided always the contingents of the two first classes were maintained at their full complement. In point of fact, the different cantons have largely availed themselves of this latitude, and some have found it more economical to keep the duration of the service up to a maximum, in order to diminish proportionately the number of recruits whom they would annually have to cloth and drill. Thus it will be seen that in some special cases of application the Swiss system of universal liability would be made to somewhat resemble the practice of standing armies.

It is proposed to do away with the cantonal quotas determined by a percentage on the population, and while still reserving to the Cantonal governments very considerable latitude in the appointment of their troops among the three classes, yet to oblige them to equip and drill the whole of their available material. At the same time the landwehr or second reserve class, is to receive an organization analogous to that of the two others. Certain exemptions are, however, made for special branches, as for instance the cavalry, which is to serve seven years in the *elite*, or first class, one year in the reserve; after which liability to service ceases, save in the event of a great national catastrophe. Similarly, the railway and telegraph corps are to serve twelve years in the *elite*, and are then permanently relieved from duty. Field Artillery is only organized in the two first classes; but the men, on entering the second reserve or landwehr, are told off to siege parks and trains.

The Swiss Federal Army will thus hereafter be constituted as follows:—

I. Engineer corps, consisting of 9 companies of sappers and miners, three companies of pontoniers, and three of telegraphists for each of the three classes, viz., 29, 9, and 7 companies of each kind respectively.

II The artillery consists of—  
128 pound batteries,  
36 4-pounder batteries,  
4 mountain howitzer batteries,  
20 companies of siege and pack artillery,  
10 companies of park train.

All these equally distributed between the *elite* and the first reserve. The landwehr on the other hand, has only 16 companies of heavy artillery, and 11 of park train.

III. Cavalry, which as already stated above only serves in the first class or *elite* consists of—

22 squadrons of dragoon,  
12 companies of guides.

IV. The sharpshooters consist of 10 battalions for each class, or 30 in all three.

V. The infantry has—  
57 whole battalions,  
8 half battalions,  
7 single companies.

for each of the three classes, or a total of 171 whole battalions, 24 half battalions, and 21 single companies.

The respective strength of each of these "tactical units" is as follows:—

In the engineer corps the company of sappers and miners consists of 120 rank and file, the pontoniers of 100, and in the telegraph corps of 88. Each has 8 saddle-horses and 32 draft horses, to which, in case of need, others may be added by local requisition.

In the artillery a full battery of 8 or 4-pounders, consists of 165 rank and file, with 104 horses. A mountain howitzer battery has 128 rank and file, and 56 horses or mules. A company of heavy artillery or "artillery in position" has 120 rank and file with 2 horses. A company of the train

has 120 rank and file, with 191 horses. In each of these cases the number of horses may be increased or supplemented by requisition if necessary.

In the cavalry the full squadron of dragoons consists of 101 rank and file, and 105 horses; the company of guides of 33 rank and file, and 34 horses.

The battalion of sharpshooters, 4 companies, commanded by a major, is composed of 490 rank and file, of whom 436 are riflemen. The battalion staff consists of 4 commissioned officers and 6 non-commissioned officers. Each company has 1 captain, 2 lieutenants, 1 sergeant-major, 13 other non-commissioned officers, 1 bugler, 2 pioneers, and 99 riflemen; 8 horses are allowed to a full battalion.

The battalion of infantry, in six companies of 120, consists of 738 rank and file, of whom 654 bear rifles; 15 horses are allowed to each battalion. The battalion staff is composed of 8 commissioned officers, the highest of the grade of major, and 10 non-commissioned officers. The company organization is substantially the same as for the sharpshooters.

A half-battalion, but which constitutes a "tactical unit," has three companies, together 373 rank and file, with 6 horses.

We are here naturally led to inquire as to the armament of this force, and upon this point the account to be given must in the main, be considered as satisfactory. The Swiss have always aimed at and prided themselves upon giving to their militia a superior weapon. This tendency has, to my thinking, led them, in one instance at least to take a precipitate step which, in the present state of inventive science is questionable progress. I mean the adoption of a repeating rifle. Numerous and conclusive experiments, both in Switzerland and elsewhere, have proved that no repeating or magazine rifle yet known can come up to the best class of single breech-loader, even in rapidity, if the firing is extended over two or three minutes, so that the man must refill his magazine. The repeater, on the other hand is far more fatiguing in the manipulation, and, of course, more liable to get out of order on service. The adoption of the Vetterli repeater, is, however still a theoretical fact, as none have as yet been issued to the troops.

The actual armament of the Swiss troops of the two first categories consists, besides 15,000 Peabody's purchased in America, and 40,000 "Prelat-Burnand" large bores, converted according to the Milbank-Amsler system, of the requisite number of the new small-bores with the same—viz., the Milbank-Amsler breech loading arrangement. This bore, is as nearly as possible ¼ of an inch, therefore about one half of a hundredth of an inch less than the English Martini-Henry. The cartridge is a rim-fire one, of an American pattern, and has 3½ grammes, or rather less than 60 grains of powder with a bullet weighing 22 grammes, or about 330 grains. The powder charge is, however rather than nominally indicated, on account of the excessive quantity of fulminate which the peripheric ignition requires. Proportionately the ballistical conditions of the Swiss small-bore are not so different from the Martini-Henry as would at first sight appear. The ratio of charge of powder to weight of bullet is 4 to 22 in the one, and as 85 to 435 in the other. If therefore the weight of the Henry bullet was decreased by only 18 grains that is 468 instead of 485 the proportions would be identical. The Swiss small-bore has rather a flatter trajectory at short ranges; but this, of course, rapidly alters to the contrary at increased distances.