

any given spot of those that have defeated them. During the pursuit of Ketchwayo, Lord Gifford and I, with only three men, were for several days following as close as we could upon the trail of the king, and as we were riding about forty miles a day with nothing with us but what we had on our saddles, we had to obtain our food from the villages filled with youths who had recently been fighting against us. During that time we never met with the smallest opposition, and should certainly have endeavoured to lay hands on the king wherever we found him, if we had been fortunate enough to come up with him. It seems to me, therefore, and I may here speak from tolerably direct personal experience, that the disaster to the pursuing column in Matabeleland was a bit of bad luck such as it is impossible to avoid in war; that at all events the heads of the expedition are in no way to blame for the misfortune. They did what was the right thing to do under the circumstances, and they could do no more.

DRILL BOOK BLUNDERS.

An observant militiaman here submits a few questions for the compilers of the Manual Firing and Bayonet Exercises for the use of the Canadian Militia.

MANUAL EXERCISES.

As there are no instructions for the right hand to assist in unfixing or returning the sword bayonet, do they expect that weapon to jump to the scabbard, or remain suspended in the air after it has been "gently raised off the muzzle of the rifle with the left hand?"

In performing the review exercise, the last order given is to "unfix bayonets (or swords)," although no order is given to fix them, how can the former be done without the latter?

Where can the instructions for the "recover arms" be found?

AT "THE PORT" ON THE CHARGE.

The instructions in the Infantry drill for this movement state distinctly that in charging, the rear rank will continue to move at the slope. The rifle exercise books say the rear rank will come to "the port," breaking into double-time, remaining at "the port."

Militia general order says both of those instructions are to be strictly adhered to; how can that be done?

FIRING EXERCISE.

How can a man get his ammunition to load with if he holds the rifle close above his pouch?

What is the difference between individual firing and independent firing? The writer can discover none except that the latter is not taught by numbers, and the instructor has to point out some object to be aimed at. If no other difference, why have two names for one exercise?

GUARD MOUNTING.

On page 192 the corporal of the old guard is instructed to bring in the old sentries and "dismiss" them, while on page 104 is stated every relief is to be regularly inspected before going to, and also on "returning" from its post. Which is correct?

BAYONET EXERCISE.

Review exercise, section 7, page 213.—For this exercise the company will be drawn up as in line.

Page 214.—When the exercise is completed line will be formed as follows: "Shoulder arms, form line, quick march. The ranks in rear will move to their proper places." As there is no command nor instructions for men to move to the rear, how did they get there?—*Toronto Telegram*.

Cromwell and the New Model.

At a meeting of the Military Society of Ireland, held in Dublin on February 28, Col. F. A. Le Mesurier, C.B., R.E., delivered a lecture on "Cromwell and the New Model." The chair was occupied by Viscount Wolseley.

The chairman said it was not very long since Judge O'Connor Morris had delivered a lecture on the same subject as that chosen by Colonel Le Mesurier, who, however, had pursued the subject still further, and he was sure they would all be interested in it.

Colonel Le Mesurier, in the course of his lecture, said the adoption of the new model certainly coincided with the turning point of the history of the civil war. To explain the amount of change effected in the army he proposed to inquire, first, what the old model really was, and then to compare its effect with the results that followed the introduction of the new. In those days there were four different kinds of mounted soldiers. Three were of cavalry, the Cuirassiers, the Arquebusiers, and the Carabiniers. The other mounted troop was called dragoons. The cavalry were armed with defensive armour from head to foot. Their offensive armour consisted of a sword and two pistols. Their horses were obliged to be, at least, 15 hands high, to carry the weight of the man and the armour. The Arquebusiers had defensive armour, but not to the same extent. They had an open casque and breastplate. They also had a sword and pistol, and an arquebuse, which was 30 inches long, and carried a bullet seventeen to the pound. The Carabiniers were armed in the same way as the Arquebusiers, except with regard to their firearm, which was a carbine 27 inches long. Then came the dragoons, who were merely infantry mounted. It was necessary that their horses should be swift, for, though they fought as infantry, they always worked with cavalry. They were armed as ordinary foot musketeers, part of them having muskets and part of them pikes. The lecturer read extracts from a drill-book published about this time, to show the cumbersome manipulation which the musket of that day required. He explained what the form of battle at this period was like, and then referred to the battle of Edge Hill, the relief of Gloucester, the battles of Newbury, Marston Moor, and Naseby, which he described in some detail. The new model was adopted in 1644. All members of Parliament were to resign their commissions in the army, which was no longer to be controlled by a Parliamentary Committee. A commander-in-chief was to be appointed, and Fairfax was the first chosen for that position. Cromwell was appointed Lieutenant-General of Horse, being second in command. How this new model grew under Cromwell afterwards and increased in power and unity and size, and became the most efficient army in Europe, was familiar to most of them. Cromwell was certainly the greatest cavalry officer of his time, and perhaps of all time. He knew well the power of his own army, but he also knew the limit of that power. One thing he did was to rid the army of politicians. In several other respects he left a mark upon the army the influence of which was felt even at the present time. The lecturer concluded by an eloquent tribute to the devotion of the modern British soldier to "the Queen's flag."

Viscount Wolseley expressed, on the part of all present, their acknowledgments for the interesting lecture which they had been favored with. Cromwell, he said, was the greatest ruler they had had in England, and whatever feeling they had about the House of Stuart, they must all agree upon this point. They had come to a period when they were not ashamed to

recognize that Cromwell was a great ruler, and was not the humbug and charlatan which some historians had called him. The military period to which the lecturer had referred was a very interesting one from an army point of view. The regiments in the British army did not date as far back as the time of Cromwell, but they dated back to the period of the Restoration. Many of their oldest regiments—for instance, the Royal Dragoons—dated from the time of the Restoration, and they were in many instances composed of men who had fought under Cromwell. Although the expression Dragoons was used at that period, the Dragoons were not really incorporated as a regiment till some years after. They were Mounted Infantry, and remained so for nearly a century. The arms to which the lecturer referred might be studied by anyone who paid a visit to the Royal Hospital, where there were specimens of early muskets, and pikes some fourteen or sixteen feet long. There were also at the Royal Hospital a number of helmets, or pots, as they were called; buff jerkins, and swords of that period.

The proceedings then concluded.

The Late Baron de Rottenburg.

Baron George de Rottenburg, C. B., who died at Windsor on Sunday last in his 87th year, was a well-known man in days gone by. He was a great favourite in society, and possessed many rare and charming accomplishments. Born in 1807, he entered the British Service in 1825 as ensign in the 81st Regiment, and became a colonel in the Army in 1854. In his early days he served with Sir de Lacy Evans in Spain, and used to tell many interesting anecdotes of his experiences. He described how, on one occasion, he was present when a regiment was ordered to be decimated for cowardice before the enemy; each tenth man being called out from the line and shot. One of them, a French nobleman, was marked for execution. He was a brave man, and proudly met his death without a murmur, saying he willingly died in the cause of discipline. He had joined the ranks as a volunteer, and happened to be one of the few who had stood by his officers; but he was a "tenth" man in the line and met his fate without remonstrance. Colonel de Rottenburg did good service during the Canadian Rebellion of 1837-38, in command of a large force of militia; and was afterwards adjutant general in Canada. In 1859 he raised and commanded the 100th Royal Canadian Regiment, and retired in 1861. Beloved by the men, many of whom at that time were of good old English and French families, descendants of officers of the old British and French regiments, he brought his fine regiment up to a high standard of excellence notwithstanding the difficulties he had to encounter. A good many of the junior officers were Canadians, French and English, and at one time there was a little unpleasantness because the Canadians would speak French at mess. Finally, one of the senior officers, who had been promoted into the 100th from another regiment, complained to the commanding officer that the Canadians were in the habit of conversing in French, and the English officers imagined that they were the subjects of conversation in that unknown tongue. Baron de Rottenburg listened to the complaint, and remarked the Canadian officers were all true gentlemen and unlikely to make disparaging remarks, at the same time adding, "I regard it that to speak French is a very graceful accomplishment, and I recommend those who can't converse in that language to learn to do so as soon as possible." Colonel de Rottenburg married twice, but had no family.—*Broad Arrow*.