

with far greater speed and certainty. An immensely increased area will generally be available for immediate supplies, and particular districts need no longer be subject to exhausting requisitions. The establishment of great magazines at the junction of important lines, will be effected with comparative ease, and the operations of army transport in the form of horses and vehicles, will be confined to the space between the depots formed on the railway and the front of the army. The sick and wounded, removed with ease and regularity, will no longer encumber the movements of armies to the same extent as before, and the commanders will be lightened of some of their heaviest cares. But the quotations we have made from authorities of a former epoch are no less applicable now than before. The same principles must govern the selection of points on which to establish magazines, and the direction of the lines of supply. And as railways are a more vulnerable kind of communication than ordinary roads, the general will not be less solicitous than before to guard his communication from the enterprises of the enemy.

In the campaign in Georgia, 1861 (described in Part IV., chap. VI.), the aid which Sherman derived from his railway was very important. He was operating in a country where the obstacles were numerous and the roads bad; and he was linked to his base by a single line of railway, conquered bit by bit from the enemy, who frequently broke it in retreating. "This main road," he says in his report, "has been admirably managed, and has supplied this vast army (100,000 men), so that not a man, horse, or mule, has been for a day without food, and with abundant supplies of clothing and ammunition." Not only was the daily supply kept up, but provisions for several weeks were stored at important points of the communications. And throughout the campaign the cavalry on both sides were extensively employed in enterprises against the railway, as the most effectual means of damaging the enemy.

It has been thought necessary to dwell so strongly on this part of the subject, because it is absolutely essential as a foundation to any solid superstructure of military theory, and because its importance is apt to be overlooked by those who form estimates of warlike operations. It is extremely difficult to persuade even intelligent auditors that two armies are not like two fencers in an arena, who may shift their ground to all points of the compass: but rather resemble two swordsmen on a narrow plank which overhangs an abyss, where each has to think not only of giving and parrying thrusts, but of keeping his footing under penalty of destruction. The most unpractised general feels this at once on taking a command in a district where his troops are no longer supplied by routine; or, if he does not, the loss of a single meal to his army would sufficiently impress it on him. While distant spectators imagine him to be intent only on striking or parrying a blow, he probably directs a hundred glances, a hundred anxious thoughts, to the communications in his rear, for one that he bestows on his adversary front. Perhaps no situation is more pitiable than that of a commander who has allowed an enemy to sever his communications. He sees the end of his resources at hand, but not the means to replenish them. How to spread his troops to find subsistence for themselves? How then shall they be assembled to meet the enemy? Shall he combine them for a desperate attack? How, if that attack fails, are they to be fed? He will then have no alternative but to make

the best terms he can, or see his army dissolve like snow. Even should there be near him large available stores of food, still, if the communication with his base be cut, his fate is merely postponed, for he can neither procure cartridges and balls for his rifles, shot and shell for his cannon, nor recruits for his ranks to replace the waste of battle. All leaders, then, must feel how stringent are the conditions under which they move, and how considerable must be the prospective advantages for which they will venture, even remotely, to risk the loss of their communications.

It will be necessary, then, for the student who prepares to follow on the map the operations of a campaign, to begin by ascertaining the bases, or points on both sides on which the armies ultimately relied for the supplies of munitions of war, and for the reinforcements which their respective governments furnished; constantly to note and bear in mind the main roads by which, moving from their bases, they approached each other; and lastly, to mark the positions of the fronts of the armies in all their changes.

Without these preliminaries he cannot hope to acquire a clear idea of the merits, object, or effect of a single movement.

(To be continued.)

BRITISH AND CANADIAN RIFLEMEN.

Canadian riflemen have recently won fresh laurels in the simultaneous match between the Victoria Rifle Club, of Hamilton, and the Bristol Long Range Rifle Club; the former were the victors by 16 points. Colonel Taylor, of Bristol, umpire on behalf of the V.R.C., writes that the Bristol "team" fired on the afternoon of the 7th inst.; that the day was fine, with a smart breeze, and that there was much mirage. Below will be found the score of the Hamiltonians, and also that of the Bristol Club. It will be seen that Mr. W. E. Metford, the patentee of the rifle used by the majority of the competitors, made the highest score. The conditions stated that bullseye should count 3, centre 2, and outer 1, instead of the usual 4, 3, and 2. We give the totals both ways:—

Names.	800 yds.		900 yds.		1000 yds.		Totals.
	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	
Mason J.	38	28	31	21	35	25	166
Murison	36	26	30	26	31	22	101
Adam	38	24	31	21	31	21	162
Mason J. J.	33	24	36	26	29	20	98
Freeborn	31	21	35	26	24	19	98
Brass	31	21	31	21	21	21	91
Schwarz	31	21	36	26	19	14	89
Murray	39	21	39	21	22	15	81
Totals	275	190	275	196	223	156	773

Names.	800 yds.		900 yds.		1000 yds.		Totals.
	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	
Metford	38	28	31	21	37	27	111
Linc.	32	22	31	21	34	24	99
Miller	31	21	31	21	30	24	98
Gibbs	35	25	25	17	37	26	95
Bingham	33	24	30	24	24	16	91
Schacht	30	20	31	22	25	17	92
Arrowsmith	34	24	33	24	16	11	81
Capt. Ford	31	21	31	24	16	10	84
Totals	276	198	264	187	216	150	755

Majority for V. R. C., old way, 18; new way, 16 points. Each competitor had ten shots at each range.

9TH BATTALION.—This Battalion left the City on Thursday morning, the 21st inst., under the command of Col. Panet, for St. Michel, where they will remain to perform the usual sixteen days annual drill. The men, who carried a full kit, looked remarkably clean and soldier-like. They were played down to the steamboat by the band of the 6th Regiment.—*Quebec Chronicle.*

The death is announced of Mr. McTavish, late Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, at Liverpool, on the 23rd inst. We gather from the *Montreal Gazette* that Mr. McTavish went to the Red River Settlement in 1857 as chief factor in charge of the Company's trading interests in that section of the country. In 1859 he succeeded Mr. F. G. Johnson as Receiver of Rupert's Land and local head of the Executive, and in 1860 on the death of the late Sir George Simpson, he became acting Governor of Rupert's Land, a position which he was permanently appointed in 1861 on the retirement of Mr. A. G. Grant. Since September last, his health gradually failing until death put an end to his sufferings on the 23rd.

THE INDIAN WAR.—A trader from Fort Garry, July 17th, reports that the Blackfeet Indians in the vicinity of Fort Carleton, were becoming troublesome, they had taken a quantity of goods and property belonging to traders there, and threatened others. The Fort has not been attacked or captured, as heretofore reported, but the officer in charge was alarmed for its safety.

Considerable fighting was going on between the Blackfeet, Sioux and piegans in the North West. The Indians are under the impression that Canada has bought the Red River from England, and that their presents may not be forthcoming as heretofore.

THE INDIAN ATTACK CONFIRMED.—Pembina dates to the 17th inst. reliable information has been received that the Blackfeet Indians have taken Fort Carlton—a Hudson's Bay post. Commander McDonald is among the killed. Forts Bell and Edmonton were also attacked.

THE CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS.—Major Walker asked the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies whether Her Majesty's Government had taken or were about to take any steps to mark its sense of the zeal and gallantry displayed by the Colonial forces during the recent disturbances on the Canadian frontier. Mr. Monsell stated in reply that Her Majesty's Government immediately upon receiving information with respect to the conduct of the Canadian Volunteers, addressed a despatch to the Governor General of Canada expressing—what I am sure was the feeling of the House and of the country—their sense of the spirit, bravery, promptitude and energy exhibited by the Volunteers during the recent disturbances on the frontier. They had further addressed a letter to the Governor General of Canada asking him whether there are any officers to whom he would recommend that the Order of St. Michael and St. George should be awarded. No answer has yet been received but I can assure the hon. member that Her Majesty's Government are anxious to mark, in every way they can, their sense of the gallant conduct of the Canadian Volunteers.

REVIEWS.

Blackwood for July has been received. It is, as usual, filled with interesting matter, and has the conclusion of the charming little novelette "John," in this number.

The *Illustrated Canadian News* comes to us in its usual attractive dress.

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