

dispense with the valise, will deprive the soldier of a change of shirt, a matter of serious import to him when detached on active duties, away from the base of supplies; and if he cannot take his valise into the field on service with the S. W. Equipment, he certainly will not carry his blanket, but will soon rid himself of the encumbrance by throwing it away.

9th.—Another most serious defect in the S. W. system is the imperfect provision it affords for the carriage of great coat during and after heavy rain on the line of march.

For to enable the soldier then to wear it, he has to remove all his accoutrements, and when the rain has ceased, he has still to continue the march with his coat on, as he cannot carry it en baudolier owing to bag on shoulders, and to recall it for carriage on braces would necessitate too much delay and difficulty.

In the Oliver system the coat can be reached and used as easy as the coat cape, and afterwards carried en Baudolier if required.

10th.—The tension exercised by the haversack strap on the right shoulder in the S. W. is very distressing owing to the position the bag occupies below the great coat on the buttocks, and the length of the strap, and the course it has to pursue to reach the haversack in this situation.

11th.—But the most important advantage of all is, that, without any increase in weight, the Oliver equipment places each individual soldier in personal possession of 170 rounds of ammunition in the field, owing to its system of construction and the fact that it is 4lbs. 4oz. less in weight than the S. W., which can only carry from 90 to 100 rounds, and consequently needs two ammunition carts, and mules to accompany each regiment to supply each man with 65 rounds of extra ammunition, a system of supply which is precarious in the extreme, and often a cause of serious obstruction to an army corps on its lines of advance or retreat.

Our illustration gives a good idea of the difference in looks between the equipment now in use and that of Dr. Oliver, and further comments are unnecessary on our part.

Chitral and the Chitralis.

(From the Naval and Military Record.)

Chitral, the district on the North-Western frontier of Hindostan, on which a British army of 11,000 men is now marching, has hitherto been little heard of in this country. Our map will indicate the position of this mountainous stronghold of the wild Swati and Pathan tribesmen. Roughly, it is bounded on the west by Afghanistan and Kafiristan, the latter a country which theoretically is within the sphere of British influence. At the north is the River Oxus, and beyond it the territory of Russia; on the east the independent state of Kashmir; and on the south lies British India, with the Khyber Pass as its gateway. Chitral itself is a village round a fort, and there are two roads to it, on which British troops are travelling.

One, from Peshawur, runs northward over a terrible country, with mountain passes 10,000 feet high, and by this the main body is proceeding. The other and longer road is through Kashmir to Gilgit, and then for 100 miles almost due east. Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. Durand, who was formerly British agent at Gilgit, in a recent book, calls Chitral "the land of mirth and murder," and describes the inhabitants as a "short, active race, devoted to polo, passionately fond of dancing and songs, who seem unable to pass a flower without gathering it and sticking it in their small turbans." The old Mehtar was a typical mountain chief—tall, handsome, distinguished-looking, with a princely bearing and a dignified courtesy to his guests; he was relentless, cruel as death, a past-master in dissimulation, and steeped to the lips in the blood of his brothers and relations. Captain Younghusband, another Englishman, who knew the Mehtar Nizam-el-Mulk, gave a more favourable picture of him to the Royal Geographical Society in London last week. Admitting his faults, he yet says that he ruled his people well, and he added:—"I soon began to see how fortunate I was to have such a pleasant-mannered, amenable Prince to deal with, and, during the long lonely months in Chitral, I got to look forward to his almost daily visits to me as one of the chief cheering events in my life there. He would talk away on every imaginable subject, from the manufacture of soda-water to the meaning of a New Testament a missionary had sent him. I used to shew him all the illustrated papers I would receive, and books with pictures, and these used to go the round of his following as well." Since 1892 Chitral has been almost uninterruptedly in the state of disorder. In September of that year the then reigning Mehtar, Aman-ul-Mulk, died, and his second son, Afzul, seized the throne. Nizam, the eldest son, took refuge in Gilgit, but was re-established on the throne by the aid of a British force. On January 1st of this year, Nizam was assassinated by his brother, Amir-ul-Mulk, and the tragedy gave an opportunity to their uncle, Sher Afzul, who had been arrested in Afghanistan by order of the Ameer, to intervene. He escaped from Afghanistan, and was joined in the invasion of Chitral by his niece's husband, Umra Khan of Jandol, one of the most powerful Pathan chieftains. The whole country has submitted to the invaders, with the exception of the Chitral Fort, where the British agent Dr. Robertson, is shut up with Amir-ul-Mulk, the fratricide. The British authorities acting on the policy of recognising the de facto ruler, however he may have obtained his position, recognised Amir as the rightful Mehtar. They demanded the evacuation of Chitral by Umra Khan by 1st of April, and to enforce that demand our army is marching. The severe fighting which it has to encounter in the Malakand Pass, shews that its work will be no child's play, and that the difficulties of transport will be very great, although the distance from Peshawur to Chitral is only

185 miles. It will be easily understood that the succession of this insignificant Chitral throne is not the only object of our policy. Its main purpose is to secure our control over the mountains that hedge in the fertile plains of our Indian Empire. This is one of the ways by which a Russian invasion of India might be attempted, and we desire to secure that no expedition shall gather in force among the mountains of the Hindoo Koosh, and suddenly descend like an avalanche on our territory.

Presentation to Lt. Col. Call by his Officers and ex-Officers.

NEWCASTLE, N. B., April 19—On the 28th of January Lt. Col. Call of the Newcastle Field Battery gave a dinner to the officers and ex-officers, to celebrate the event of the calling out of the battery in 1875 for active service. To-day the officers and ex-officers held a very happy reunion, the purpose of which was the presentation to Col. Call of a handsomely framed picture of the present staff and ex-officers. It was in the best style of Notman of Montreal. In the centre is a likeness of Col. Call, surmounted by a field gun with the battery colours and nicely grouped around him are the other officers. The inscription at the top reads: "Newcastle Field Battery of 1868," and underneath it "Presented to Lt. Col. Call by the officers and ex-officers of the Newcastle Field Battery, April 19th, 1895." Those who compose the group are: Lt. Col. Call, Capt. R. L. Maltby, Lt. A. A. Davidson, Lt. H. H. Johnson, Surgeon F. L. Pendolin, Veterinary Surgeon John Morrissey, ex-Lt. James Mitchell, ex-Lt. W. A. Park, ex-Lt. C. E. Fish, ex-Lt. R. A. Lawlor, ex-Lt. P. Wheeler, ex-Surgeon John S. Benson, ex-Vet. Surgeon Jas. Brown. The presentation was made by Capt. R. L. Maltby in a few well chosen words, and was replied to by Lt. Col. Call in his usual happy vein. He recalled the history of the battery since its organization in 1868. Speeches, music and refreshments followed. Musical selections were given by Lt. Wheeler of the battery and Lt. R. A. March of the 8th New Brunswick Princess Louise regiment of cavalry.

The gathering broke up with God Save the Queen and cheers for the Newcastle Field Battery.—Sun.

Cooking Outfit for Campers.

"The essential cooking utensils of the outfit are very simple and few in number, viz.: a fry pan, a bean kettle, two pail kettles, Wilson skinning knife, and an iron mixing spoon. The smaller kettle fits snugly within the larger one and this in turn fits within the bean kettle. A suitable fry pan is obtained by cutting all but about three inches from the handle of the common type of long handled fry pan. On the top of that portion of the handle which remains is firmly riveted an iron socket of square cross section, into which the squared end of a green stick is thrust as