

THE NEW DRILL BOOK.

The following is the completion of the digest of the changes in contemplation as reported by *The Broad Arrow* and reprinted in our recent issues:—

Sec. 7. *Formation to meet a cavalry attack.*—The immediate presence of bodies of cavalry will demand a closer formation than that of the extended line. In such cases the men of the fire unit may be ordered to form round their leader. At drill, this will be signified by the command cavalry, when the men will double to their leader, form round him, fix swords, and turn outwards. If ordered to do so, they will practise receiving cavalry as directed in the Firing Exercises.

Unfix Swords. Extend. Reforming.—The squad will be ordered to unfix swords, and the men will resume their former order, moving by the shortest line.

Sec. 8. (No change.) The squad will be dispersed, and the men taught to assemble on the leader on the word assemble, forming at the double in two ranks in their original positions on his right or left as ordered.

Sec. 9. *The Charge.*—(No change.)

Sec. 10. *Field calls, signals, and use of the whistle. Field calls.*—(Very little change.)

THE COMPANY.—GENERAL RULES.

1. The company will be practised in movements in extended order, on the principles laid down for the squad.

2. *Extensions.*—Extensions may be made by one or more sections, not in excess of half the number of the company; the remainder being kept in support. During an extension, section commanders will see that the men take their proper intervals, and preserve the general alignment. Before any part of a company is extended the object and general direction of the advance should be clearly explained, and a man named to direct. The commander of the section to which this man belongs will see that he keeps the true direction. It must be impressed on all, that those who boldly advance generally win the fight, and that though the loss may be great in attacking a position, the loss of a force retiring after having been once committed to an attack is immeasurably greater.

3. *Officers and section commanders.*—Half company and section commanders will be in rear of their respective commands when extended in the firing line, in such a position as will enable them to superintend their men; when in support they will lead their commands in front. They must be constantly on the look out for, and comply at once with, the signals or orders of the captain, who will be in rear of the extended line. When three officers are present with a company, one will always be with the firing line.

4. *Cover.*

5. *Reinforcements.*—Gaps in the firing line will be filled by pushing forward sections. Commanders of sections in the firing line, as casualties occur, will see that the men of their command incline toward the directing man of the section; who, if he becomes a casualty, must be immediately replaced.

6. *Remarks on firing.*—Fire, whether the firing line is extended as a screen, or is in denser formation for attack, will be under the supervision of section commanders, subject to the general directions of the captain. The attacking force should always try to get as close to the enemy as possible before opening fire, consistent with its not suffering undue losses. Volley firing will be maintained during the development of an attack, until the captain orders independent firing. The number of rounds to be fired every time the extended line makes a halt will depend very much upon the ground and actual conditions. The advance must not be delayed by halting of men or for longer than is absolutely necessary to rest the men, for it must ever be borne in mind that the actual occupation of the enemy's position is the object of the fight.

7. *Range-taking.*—In addition to the use of instruments for range-finding, ranges during the advance will be estimated by selected non-commissioned officers or men.

8. *Remarks on the Attack.*—The normal front on which a company should attack may be considered as equal to half the number of men in it, i.e., company of 100 men about 50 paces, but this is only given as a general rule. The attack may be made, according to circumstances, on a front of greater or less extent, subject in the latter case to the invariable rule, that no more men shall be placed in the firing line than is consistent with the free use of their weapon, i.e., about 30 inches per man. That portion of the enemy's position which it is intended to attack should be clearly pointed out, and the manner in which it is proposed to carry out the attack should be clearly explained by the captain to all the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates trained as leaders of sections. In training, blank ammunition should be sufficiently used, and the enemy represented by a force, skeleton or otherwise, according to circumstances. Without a visible enemy, such instructions are comparatively useless.

1st Zone.—3,000 to about 1,500 yards. In this zone in open country the company would probably find it most convenient to move with a fourth of its strength in an extended line, occupying the full front of the company in line, with the remainder in support 200 to 300 yds. in rear.

2nd Zone.—About 1,500 to about 800 yards. During the advance over this zone, as opportunities offer for fire, and the firing line begins to suffer from the fire of the enemy, it should be strengthened by the addition of one or more sections, so that on reaching medium ranges (about 800 yards from the enemy) it should stand with half its sections in the firing line and half in support. The supports should be in single rank.

3rd Zone.—About 800 yards to position. In this zone the advance must be carried out without hesitation, either by a general advance of the firing line or by separate advances of sections, as may be best with reference to the intensity of the enemy's fire. The supports will be pushed closer to the firing line, quite close if the ground permits, and as casualties occur in the latter, they must be replaced by an immediate advance of sections or sub-sections from the supports. With the magazine rifle the fixed sight will be used from 500 yards, and at 350 yards from the position swords will be fixed. On the arrival at say 200 yards from the position, magazine fire will be ordered by the captain, and any portion of the supports not used up will run forward and join the firing line. On a long shrill whistle from the captain the men will cease fire, and led by their officers and section commanders charge the position.

9. *Receiving cavalry.*—The company will be practised during any phase of the advance in meeting an attack of cavalry; the extended line will act by sections as described for the Squad, S. 7, the supports as described in Part II, S. 16.

10. *Assembling when dispersed.*—The company will also be practised in rapid assembly when dispersed, as described in Part II, S. 17.

11. *Charge.*—The company will be exercised in delivering the charge on the principles laid down in Squad, S. 9. On the word prepare to charge, officers and section commanders, if not already there, will run to the front of their respective commands and lead them in the charge.

12. *Word of command, bugle sounds, signals, and use of the whistle.*

THE BATTALION.—GENERAL RULES.

1. *Movement in presence of an enemy.*—A battalion will protect its front and, when moving alone, its flanks with an extended screen and supports on the principles already laid down. Distances must depend upon the nature of the