

that at present our officers are debarred from promotion beyond the regimental rank of captain.

The increase of the total establishment to 100 is also urgently required.

GARRISON ARTILLERY.

The following is the strength of this arm of the service:—

Of the batteries in Ontario ten performed their drill at Kingston, one at Toronto two at their own headquarters, viz., the Sarnia and Goderich Batteries.

Nearly half of the men who come to Kingston were recruits.

The following batteries did not turn out for drill, viz:

The Iroquois Garrison Battery, No. 4 District.

Napanee Garrison Battery, No. 3 District.

The Trenton Garrison Battery, No. 5 District.

The Cobourg Garrison Battery, No. 3 District.

FORTIFICATIONS.

I have but little to add this year to what I reported last year respecting the fortifications.

"At Kingston the fortifications being mainly of stone, a large amount of pointing, &c. is annually required; but nothing has been done since the summer of 1870, and probably not for some time previous thereto."

"At St. John, N. B., the two new works on which it was proposed to mount heavy rifled guns, remain in the same unfinished state as when visited by you in July, 1871. It would appear advisable to use every endeavour to have those works completed and armed as soon as possible; for as the works are at present, it would take some months to complete and arm them, though every exertion might be made; in the meantime, the shipping and city might be burned by any enemy's vessels, in the event of hostilities, as the old cast iron guns remaining on the works are no protection against modern vessels, and the British fleet would probably have sufficient work to do without detaching vessels which ought to be able to defend itself."

"While at Halifax this summer, by the kindness of the officer commanding the Imperial Artillery, I was permitted to visit the new works erected there. They are, without doubt the most complete and formidable works on this continent. Some of the forts have shields of iron 15 inches thick in front of the guns; these latter are 7-ton, 12-ton and 18-ton rifled guns, throwing shot of 115, 250 and 400 lbs. respectively. Some 25-ton guns, throwing 600 lb. shells are yet to be mounted; but even without them, it would be utterly impossible for the strongest ironclads of any navy in the world to approach within range of the City of Halifax. I mention these matters as I conclude they will interest you, and also that you will be more able to see the necessity of further and more extended instruction for the 15 Batteries of Militia Artillery in the vicinity of Halifax, who in the event of war would be largely employed in the above works."

WARLIKE STORES.

I have made only a partial inspection of warlike stores, not having been called to make any general inspection.

(To be Continued)

THE MUSKETRY INSTRUCTION OF THE GERMAN INFANTRY.

(From the *Revue Militaire*.)

The needle gun which until lately has been in use in the Prussian army, and to which a great part of the success of 1865 may be attributed, was in the war of 1870, acknowledged to be greatly inferior to the chassepot. The Germans themselves allowed this to be the case. Also immediately after the conclusion of peace, they set to work with that ardour which characterizes all their endeavours to effect progress in military matters, to find some new type of infantry small arm superior to the latest patterns adopted by other nations. If certain papers are to be credited, these investigations are about to bear fruit in the weapon as yet imperfectly known by the name of the "Mauzer" still resembling a simultaneous transformation of the Chassepot with a metallic cartridge available for the two systems. Moreover, the old needle gun has, as one knows, received some improvements which had been adopted before the war, but events prevented their being carried out except in a small number of weapons.

But is it sufficient to possess an excellent weapon alone? Is it not of far greater importance to know how to make use of it, and with great superiority? This is exactly the question which appeals to us to give great interest to three articles published in the *Allgemeine Militair Zeitung* with the title, "The Musketry Practice of the German Infantry."

There is no doubt that in this respect, we (the French) have been sadly behindhand, and that the greater number of the neighboring powers have long ago gone ahead of us, and this avowal ought not to be painful to us if we make the firm resolution to regain that position which we ought never to have lost. For many years shooting has been looked upon in our army as a totally secondary consideration—simply as an accessory, so to speak. Some corps (*chasseurs a pied*, amongst others) have retained good and wholesome traditions in this respect; but it would have been easy to count the regiments of infantry who took that zeal and interest in this branch of the service which it deserves. Since the adoption of more accurately shooting weapons, there has, perhaps, been some slight improvement in this respect; but one may without urging too much, say that up to the present time the instruction of our infantry as regards their shooting has left much to be desired, and that, with the exception of a few individuals rare enough in the different corps, our men are no shots.

One may, moreover, allege that it is not only in the Army that shooting is neglected, but that the entire nation (with the exception of some provinces) must share in the responsibility of this cause of inferiority. Shooting is neither liked or practised as it ought to be. One cannot deny the truth of this assertion, when one considers the bad or negative results of all the attempts which have been made in this respect for the last thirty years. It is quite otherwise not only in Prussia, but in many other countries, shooting is there held in great estimation in all classes of society; from the earliest age, the art of handling, loading, and firing a firearm is known; and consequently it is not surprising to see this exercise properly appreciated in the army, especially when the army is only the reunion, the rendezvous of all classes of the population.

On the other hand, in spite of all their good will, can our soldiers do much better than they have already done? How many garrisons are there that the ranges are too small, and altogether unsuited for musketry practice? And how often has it not happened that some infantry regiments could not even fire during the whole year the amount of ball ammunition granted to them by regulation? And how many others are there not who finished their firing in fifteen days, and never fired another round during the rest of the whole year—that is to say, during the remaining eleven months and a half.

Without entering into a detailed comparison between the Prussian method of instruction and our own, we think it interesting to show how our neighbors endeavor to make their soldiers good shots, and how they find that their old regulations are no longer in accordance with the arms in use and with the fighting of the present day.

Their last regulation for musketry instruction was not very old, since it dated from the 2nd November, 1864; nevertheless they find that whilst containing many excellent ideas, this regulation has had its day—that is to say that it no longer suffices with the arms which ought to be put in men's hands. "If in 1876," says the author, "the results have appeared satisfactory, it is now no longer so, and whatever may be said to the contrary, it must be allowed that our musketry instruction in peace time no longer sufficiently prepares the soldier for the real shooting of war." In order that our readers may thoroughly understand the observations contained in the three articles of the *Allgemeine Militair Zeitung*, which we propose to analyse, we think it indispensable to point out the general principles which regulate musketry instruction in Prussia.

The first exercises for bringing the rifle up to the shoulder call for no particular remarks, as they are similar to those in use with us and with other armies. But together with first exercise there is another frequently practised in the Prussian Army even for shooting with ball cartridge; it is that of the position with the rest, the weapon, or rather the left hand, resting against a picket. It is not this that we call firing from a support, since the musket should never, as a principle, rest on any support, whatever when shooting; it remains always placed in the fork formed by the first finger and thumb, which presses steadily, but without stiffness, against the picket in question, the left arm slightly curved, the left hand as high as the shoulder, the little finger serving to catch hold of the support. This stake or picket must be round and not too thick, in order that the little finger of the left hand may encircle it; the best kind are simple hedge stakes which have still got their bark; they should not be driven into the ground, but should be fastened on to a stake in the shape of a cross, in order that the men may not get into the habit of leaning the whole weight against it.

The position with a rest, the man being recumbent, sitting or kneeling does not differ, so to speak, from our own, and we have no particular remarks to offer upon this point.

Such is not the case as regards the drill for aiming at a moving object, which plays an important part in the musketry instruction of the Prussian infantry soldier, as we shall see further on. In this respect, the weapon is recommended to be directed against the moving object with the left hand, and not by moving the back or the haunches. The further off the object is,