



CANADA MILITARY GAZETTE.

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1857.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TROOPS HAVING OCCASION TO
ACT AGAINST AN INSURGENT MOB, IN STREETS OR
ALSOVHERE, AND ALSO FOR OFFICERS COMMAND-
ING IN DETACHED QUARTERS.

BY CAPTAIN M'LEOD MOORE.

1. When Troops are called upon to act in Streets or defiles, where the flanks are confined, it should be understood, that as the flank only of the column can be engaged, it is always desirable that the intervals between the different Arms of which it is composed should be sufficient to enable a change to be made—so as to bring Cavalry, Infantry or Artillery to the front, and admit of their forming without creating confusion.

2. In order to insure this, columns so to be employed should *never* be large or deep, and dense columns are difficult to move if required suddenly to retire, and on this account, even if it is necessary to move large bodies to particular points, either through streets or by confined roads, a considerable interval should be preserved between the main body and the advanced, in order that the movements of the latter should not be confined.

3. Whether employed independently in streets, or as the advanced guard of a larger force, small moveable columns, consisting of Troops of each Arm should be formed as follows—

- 1 Troop of Cavalry.
- 1 Company of Infantry.
- 1 Gun.
- 2 Companies of Infantry.
- 1 Troop of Cavalry.

These will at any time be in a situation to act either to their *front* or *rear*, and to bring into action either arm, that may be required. The third Company of Infantry is attached to the column, in order when acting in streets, that it may be disposable to occupy Houses if required to do so, and there should be attached to it six Pioneers or other men furnished with hatchets, and crow bars, for the purpose of breaking into houses, or of breaking from house to house if necessary.

It may be convenient to carry these Instruments with the Gun so that the men appointed to use them may have their arms.

4. In order to facilitate the bringing into action each description of Force when required, columns such as are proposed should be occasionally formed, and the Troops practised in each movement to the front and rear. The simplest method of doing this is as follows—If the Cavalry in front are to retire and make way for the Infantry, the latter will wheel backwards on their flanks, the Cavalry will then file from both flanks to the rear, the leading files inclining inwards, leaving interval enough for the passage of the Gun, if necessary, and they will re-form either in front or rear of the Gun, as may be re-

quired by the leading files turning to their *right* and *left*, and moving on towards the point where their flanks are to stand, where they will give the word *right* and *left* form, which brings them to their proper front.

The Infantry, as soon as the Cavalry have passed through, if called on to open their *fire* will immediately wheel into Line and do so.—If the Gun is required to act, the Infantry will continue wheeled backwards and as soon as the Cavalry have passed the Gun will move up in to action, and such of the Infantry as there is room for, on each flank of the Gun will also *fire*. If the Cavalry are again wanted to the front, the Infantry, as before, will wheel backwards, and the Cavalry in double file from the centre will advance, and as soon as their front is clear will form to it. If the Infantry forming the front have to pass to the rear they will do so, by filing from both flanks, instead of inclining inwards, as directed for the Cavalry, and Artillery, and form—the same system will apply to the Cavalry and Infantry in rear of the Gun, which bodies may either put about and act with rear rank in front, or first counter-march if there is time to do so. If the column is attacked it is always to be understood that the Troops in the rear of those engaged are to act as a reserve to them; if both front and rear should be engaged, the 3d Company of the Infantry will be alone disposable to assist either party.

5. When acting in Streets with these moveable columns great care should be taken before passing deep into a Street that none of the houses left in the rear are hostily occupied.

6. Having passed into a Street if it is desirable to secure the rear of a Column, and to prevent the Street being entered by the opposing parties; some houses may be occupied by a few men from the disposable Company. For this purpose, Houses at the corners of Streets and opposite to each other should be selected, it is always better to occupy two houses with twenty men in each than one with forty. The fire from two houses affording material support to the men in each.

7. Men occupying houses and intending to hold them should be instructed to barricade the doors and windows of the lower story, by placing against them furniture and all such articles as will serve as an impediment to the entry of any persons attacking them. The first or second floor is that from which a house may be best defended, as there is then no danger in firing from houses opposite each other on persons below.

8. When occupying a house with view to its defence, it is always desirable if possible to fix on one that affords means of a *flank fire* from within on its doors, and care should be taken also to secure the means of retreat if necessary, either by having an open rear, or if in Streets by breaking into the adjoining houses.

9. If subject to a fire from without, when defending a house, feather beds placed against the windows, and kept there by chairs and tables placed against them, form an excellent breast work, over which the men can fire with comparative security, especially if fired at from the ground.

10. Good shots should be selected to fire, and the other men should load for them, this would not only contribute much to the defence being successful, but it would expose fewer men to casualties.

17. Officers commanding Cavalry Regiments should take means to teach the horses of their Regiments to leap the fences in the vicinity of their quarters, whenever an opportunity of so doing offers, so that if called on to act with Infantry some few men at least may be able to accompany them into the fields—in acting against insurgent mobs the utmost advantage will be derived from this.

18. Care must be taken in so training the horses that no injury is done them; they will commence with very small ditches or fences, and on no account ever attempt very large ones. When horses are leaping it must be recollected that whilst the girths are properly tight, the breast plate and crupper should be loosed, or they will be broken in the exertion.

Care must be taken to protect Troops from the too near approach of the mob by placing sentries at 20 or 30 paces distance when halted, and by small flanking parties when on the march in all cases where Cavalry and Infantry are not combined.

Any detachment finding itself too weak to move through the Country will continue stationary until relieved, defending its Barrack to the utmost, and this 20 men are competent to do against 500.

Should any officer commanding a detachment find himself so situated, when a general disturbance prevails in the country, care must be generally taken by him to secure a store of provisions, &c., and in regard to meat this object can easily be attained by having a certain quantity of it salted.

MILITARY PRISONS.—Colonel Jebb reports the state of Military prisons during 1855 as follows:—The number of prisons was 17, whereof 9 were in the United Kingdom and the rest at foreign stations: the whole were capable of holding 1,250 prisoners. Colonel Jebb cannot advocate a more lenient system of prison discipline for the punishment of offence in the Army, because he considers it would fail in its object, and be the least merciful, in the end, that could be pursued. The sentences should be short, but severe. The Colonel reports that drunkenness is very prevalent; in England the committals for this offence last year were 0.36 per cent., in Scotland 0.38 per cent., and in Ireland 0.77 per cent. In Ireland the percentage has been as high as 2.57 per cent., and in Scotland as high as 2.05 per cent., within the last nine years. In 1855 there were 1,577 prisoners under 20 years of age; 3,185 under 30, 528 under 40, and 32 above 40 years of age; 2,983 were English, 557 Scotch, and 1,742 Irish; 3,263 were Protestants, 344 Presbyterians, and 1,715 Papists. 5,020 prisoners were of good character (in prison), 182 of indifferent, and 120 of bad character. The total number imprisoned last year was 5,322. There were 2,441 cases of desertion, 1,201 of absence with leave or licence, 593 of drunkenness, 275 of disgraceful conduct, and 812 miscellaneous. The total charge for pay and allowances for prison officers and for the subsistence and washing of the prisoners (in 1855) was 15,931., and the full pay and beer money of prisoners in confinement, not issued, amounted to 13,863. 2,217 corporal punishments were inflicted last year—an immense increase, attributable to transient causes. 1,117 of these sentences were inflicted in the Crimes. There were 809 cases of recommitment last year.