

## REGULAR AND YEOMANRY CAVALRY.

75. It is not possible to effect the same intimate connection between these two branches of the cavalry service as proposed to be created between Line and Militia Infantry; because it could only be in very exceptional cases that men would volunteer from the Yeomanry for service in the Regular Cavalry.

The Yeomanry consist of the farming class who are attached by personal interest to the soil, while the Regular Cavalry obtain their recruits, for the most part, from the urban population.

The suggestions for dealing with this subject are therefore limited to the following measures:—

76. Adjutants of Yeomanry regiments to be appointed in future from captains on the full pay of Regular Cavalry regiments.

The permanent staff sergeants of Yeomanry regiments to be sergeants of Regular Cavalry.

Cavalry officers to be allowed to go on half pay after a certain length of service for the purpose of serving as officers in Yeomanry regiments.

77. As it is proposed that in future the officers of Yeomanry, like all other officers of the Reserve Forces, shall qualify professionally for the rank which they may hold, as well as for promotion to a higher rank, facilities should be given for professional instruction by attaching officers of the Reserve Forces Cavalry to Regular Cavalry regiments on the system which has been so successful in instructing officers of the Reserve Forces Infantry and Artillery.

78. It might be possible to extend the system of forming cavalry training schools at cavalry stations conveniently situated with respect to the Reserve Forces Cavalry Corps; where Yeomanry recruits on first enrolment might receive their recruit training; and where officers on first appointment might learn their duties; a certain number of the permanent staff sergeants of the Yeomanry regiments of the district being attached to the depot centre for the purpose of instruction.

## ON RECRUITING.

79. The brigade districts into which the country is proposed to be divided will constitute so many recruiting districts, each of which presided over by the lieutenant colonel of the depot centre, will form the special recruiting field for the Line and Militia Infantry battalions of the brigade.

80. These will, it is expected, as a rule, obtain their recruits within the limits of their brigade district, although recruits may be allowed to enlist from any locality for the Line regiments of any brigade; and although Line regiments will not be precluded from accepting recruits wherever they may be stationed at home.

81. Under a system of voluntary enlistment the recruiting arrangements must obviously be very elastic; and where the occasion requires it, particular regiments, which may find it very difficult otherwise to obtain their necessary supply, may be allowed on special authority to send recruiting parties into brigade districts other than that to which they belong.

82. Thus, if it were not considered desirable that any battalion should possess an exclusively English, Scotch or Irish character, such a result might be precluded by means of the recruiting arrangements above referred to, whereby each battalion, obtaining a certain number of recruits in its proper Infantry district and by enlistment at its temporary head quarters, might be required to

supplement these, in such proportions as might be desired, by recruits drawn from districts in any part of the whole United Kingdom.

83. One of the great advantages anticipated from parcelling the country into districts of limited area is that thereby every corner of the country will be more thoroughly explored and worked for recruiting purposes than heretofore by the recruiting machinery of the different districts.

This recruiting machinery will, for the Line and Militia infantry, be supplied in each district by the permanent Militia staff attached to the depot centre, under the orders of the lieutenant-colonel of the depot.

84. The committee is of opinion that in the case where a district is formed of two battalions belonging to the same regiment, one supposed to be always abroad, the casualties of the foreign battalion may be supplied with certainty and regularity, even under the present recruiting laws. Recruits from the depot being of a rule, drafted into and forming the lower stratum of the home battalion; and the supplies of men required to feed the foreign battalion being drawn off from the upper stratum of the home battalion. By this method the drafts for India, consisting of men of the required age, would at all times be ready made up, and might be despatched as required.

85. The case of a district which is composed of two linked regiments however, present difficulties which it appears almost impossible to surmount, unless the Secretary of State shall have the power to transfer men by a stroke of his pen, from one of the linked regiments serving at home to the other serving in India; and that power can only be obtained by enlisting all recruits for general service in the Line battalions of any brigade.

86. The periods at which Indian drafts must be despatched are arbitrarily fixed by the Indian climate. If those drafts may not be supplied by the home battalion, they must be composed of men fresh from the depot, recruits of a few months service; and the conditions as to age will probably be found very embarrassing.

So long as the demands for Indian drafts are limited to seventy or eighty men for each regiment, which constitutes the present average, it might be possible to supply that number of men of the required age straight from the depot. The operation of the system would be to pass into the home battalion all recruits under the age for Indian service, and to retain the others at the depot until the time should arrive for despatching the drafts. But when the short service system shall come into fuller operation the demands for Indian drafts would be proportionally increased; and it would be found often impossible to make up the yearly draft without resorting largely for aid to the home battalions. When that time arrives one of two courses must of necessity be adopted viz:—

— Either the number constituting the depot must be largely increased at the expense of the battalion serving at home, the latter being proportionally reduced; or some arrangement as to terms of enlistment must be made which will admit of the linked battalion at home supplying a large part of the draft to be sent abroad to its sister battalion.

87. It would seem moreover, very desirable that the system proposed to be inaugurated, though differing in name in two adjacent districts, should be identical and uniform in its action; and if the proposed mea-

\* One district having two battalions of the same regiment, while the other has two independent regiments.

sure of enlisting men for general brigade service should be viewed as tending, in a very small degree, to weaken the line which now separates two independent regiments, it is hoped that the good sense of the army may be relied upon to accept a provision, the advantages of which are so palpable to the general good of the service.

88. In time of war it would be convenient to enlist recruits for general service in the Line and Militia battalions of any brigade district.

89. Recruiting for the Guards, Engineers, Rifle regiments and Cavalry, must be general over the whole surface of the country under the following arrangements:—

Whenever any of the above named services have occasion to send recruiting parties into any particular Line brigade district the authority for their doing so should be communicated by the adjutant-general of the army through the general commanding the division to the lieutenant-colonel of the brigade depot concerned.

90. Recruiting for the Royal and Militia Artillery, will, as a rule, be by artillery districts, in the same manner, and with the same general qualifications, as recruiting for Line and Militia Infantry is by infantry brigade districts.

91. But an artillery district will comprise many infantry districts, and the question arises—how are the requirements of the Artillery in respect to general recruiting to be reconciled with the requirements of the localized infantry regiments, and with the jurisdiction of the colonels of infantry centres over their respective recruiting districts; so not only shall there be no clashing of interests or authority, but that the different services employed in raising recruits may act in perfect concord.

92. Since it would be impossible to ensure a fixed and certain supply of recruits from each of the recruiting districts into which the country is supposed to be divided, the Royal Artillery must have facilities for obtaining specially qualified recruits in such districts as afford the most favourable field for their recruiting operations.

93. Whenever, therefore, the colonel commanding the artillery of a division might apply to the divisional general for authority to raise recruits in any one, or in several, of the Line recruiting districts comprised within the command exercised by the general; the latter, should he see fit to grant the application, should instruct the colonels commanding these Line districts that the artillery had been authorized through the agency of the Artillery lieutenant-colonel, to raise so many recruits (specifying the number) in their respective Line districts.

94. It is indispensable that the officer placed in special charge of a recruiting district should have this information, since the entrance of a party of Artillery to raise recruits within his special recruiting field might seriously affect his calculations, unless the number of recruits to be thus exceptionally raised were known and allowed for by him beforehand.

95. The general should obviously be charged with regulating the recruiting service of his divisional command. That command comprises many Line centres or recruiting districts; and the general should therefore be the judge—in the event of the artillery applying to raise an exceptional number of recruits in any particular district, whether that number can be spared without seriously prejudicing the efficiency of the localized force for which that district forms the special recruiting ground.

(To be continued.)