

for the subjects of England in general, if my inventions had proved a false conception in the womb of nature, and never quickened into birth. I hope Providence has so wisely ordered it, for me soon to fall into the hands of a wise and good King, who truly loves his people. It is cruel injustice done me, makes me take this public method of addressing the enemies of England to encourage me, who possibly at the end may prove my best friends.

N.B.—My inventions are ready for the inspection of any gentleman who will be pleased to see them. To be heard of at Mr. CLEWE'S Rider's Court, Leicester Fields.

It has been generally assumed that the disaster to French Military prestige and national honour, was to be attributed to the mismanagement of the late Emperor, and the venality of his government, but if the following is correct, the so called committee of National Defence are chargeable of corruption and villany of a far worse description, because they took the very means to prevent the possibility of retrieving the disasters their countrymen had met with:

"The way matters were managed in the French Department of the North during the war with Germany, suggests one cause of the calamities that befell the French. Our information is obtained from M. Louis de Segur, as quoted by the *London Army and Navy Gazette*: Tenders for shoes were accepted from a shawl dealer, a carpet maker, a piano seller, a bagman, and from a gentleman whose normal trade consisted in coloring pipes! One contractor examined before the Committee stated that he bribed the Divisional Chief Lober with 3 per cent., but Lober demanded 5 per cent. which he said he received from other contractors. This frightened M. Mennier away; he declared his preference for dealing with the *Intendance Militaire*, where he reaped greater profit, though he had to bribe every one, from the chief workman to the principal officer of the Administration. But to corrupt all these men was less costly than to satisfy the demands of M. Lober. In a neighboring Department, where there was an honest functionary, the cost of a uniform amounted to 25 francs, but in that of the North the exigencies of M. Lober and others raised the price to 41 francs 50 centimes. All the contractors rushed to the Department of the North, where everything was purchased; pantaloons refused in the Pas-de-Calais were brought up at 9 francs by one enterprising gentleman, and were sold to the Prefecture at Lille for over 13 francs the pair. And so on with other articles. The Prefecture contracted for 60,000 pairs of shoes, but 113,000 were furnished and paid for, and such shoes! An inspection was held after the war, and they were divided into seven categories. There was the *Remplin* shoe, where a slip of osier gave the sole an apparent elasticity; the empaied shoe, where a stiff bit of wood replaced the osier; the *pinnama*, where the sole was filled with bark, etc. etc. And amongst this strange collection the best were boots which had been refused for the English Army. Knapsacks called *Americains*, were bought at 7 francs 50 centimes; they were covered with rotten canvas and a sticky substance which exhaled a fearful smell. They adhered to one another in such a way that a pickaxe was almost necessary to separate them; they were resold by the Tours Government

at about 2d. a piece. As for muskets, 15,000 stand of arms intended for the negroes of Senegal, were purchased in spite of all remonstrances and of the declaration that they were not good enough even for the National Guard. The operation of buying cannon was confided to an oil merchant. A requisition of 1,243 horses was made and 70 disappeared the next morning, nor has anything been heard of the runaways since. The artillery of the department never fired a shot, but still harness had to be provided; it was, of course soon forthcoming, but the leather was either like tinder or india rubber; the buckles broke like glass, and the collars would have been too small for a full sized donkey. The reports of several officers are appended to the report of M. de Segur, and they are heartrending to read. At Pont Nonello we learn that the troops had arms of all sorts and cartridges of the Army calibre. There were men whose muskets could not go off, and when ordered to charge they had to tie the bayonet on to the musket."

We republish from a contemporary a very interesting article on "Bridge Practice in the Austrian Army." Our readers will recollect that their attention has been drawn to the subject of "Military Bridges" and the principle of their construction, by a series of articles in a recent volume of the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW*.

To the professional soldier, this must always be a subject of surpassing interest, for on a thorough knowledge of the art and an enlightened appreciation of the principles which govern the construction of Military Bridges, the success of any given operation absolutely depends; therefore the details of practice are extremely valuable, for it is not probable, the conditions will be always the same, and therefore the experience will be likely as varied as in actual service.

It is to be regretted that the Cavalry Military Service does not possess a Staff Corps, and technical knowledge therefore must be confined to individuals who have acquired it for pure love of the profession. There is, however, abundant material in the country for an efficient Engineer Corps if it was only utilized.

We have from time to time published the laws and regulations governing the organization of the armies of various countries, in this issue we present our readers with a digest of "Russian Military Law," in which the principle of rigid conscription forms the basis of organization. As the question of Reorganization has been introduced in connection with our own military system, and a mere modification of conscription with its worst features advocated. We invite the attention of our readers to the Russian system which is at least as logical as the Prussian, and less open to objection; how far either can be made applicable to our social condition here, is a problem yet to be solved. But it would seem as if the great principle underlying all successful organizations—personal adaptability—was altogether left out,

Our readers will weigh well the lesson taught by the following article, bearing as it does on the great question of discipline. Its full value will be readily recognised by every true soldier; it is undoubtedly the best plan to keep the soldier constantly employed, not at harassing or useless work, but at that really necessary:—

"Some remarks lately published by a Russian officer who was much among the Germans during the latter part of the war in France go to show that there was a striking advance made in discipline and interior economy in the Prussian army from the standard of 1866. That being the first great campaign made by it since Waterloo, it was the fashion to assume that any sort of dress would do for the field, and the men was left very much to their own devices as to how far they should care for their personal appearance, provided only that the arms and accoutrements were kept in serviceable order. Thus it is notorious that a large part of the 1st Division of the Guards got rid of their helmets as an encumbrance before the battle of Koniggratz, and marched into Berlin in triumph at the close of the war without them. All this was completely reformed in 1870. The short former experience in Bohemia had convinced the heads of the army that the system of small punishments for petty irregularities then attempted was inapplicable to war, and that officers should, instead of it, be taught to rely for the necessary discipline on the plan of keeping their men constantly occupied and in all respects well in hand. Hence at every long halt during the late war there came into use detailed inspections, musketry practice, and even squad drill by subdivisions. Whenever detachments were brought in from outpost duty, it was the almost invariable custom to give them fair time to polish up, and then to make a close inspection of their arms, dress, and kits, including in the mounted corps all that belonged to the horses or guns or carriages. As soon as the armistice was concluded, a royal order directed that the regular drill and inspection hours should at once be reverted to, one-third being utilized specially by the superior officer for inspections of their respective commands. The infantry are thoroughly worked according to the drill book, the cavalry, artillery, and engineers being each exercised separately at the proper manoeuvres or practice of their special service. The stores were verified and deficiencies noted, the gun carriage repainted, and the men's clothes repaired. It happened that this armistice coincided fortunately with the date when the clothing—which is renewed for nine months of war instead of two years of peace—was due to the troops. But it was no doubt owing to the previous care of the authorities, as well as to this circumstance that many of the troops first sent off to Germany, almost as soon as peace was signed, returned to their homes with scarcely a stain upon them to show the terrible work they had gone through. As to the discipline this critic declares it to have been excellent, though severe in its dealings with the country people whenever franc tireurs were in the neighbourhood, when a system of taking hostages from among the residents was in regular use."

The following synopsis of a lecture before "The Royal United Service Institute," on the 2nd February, is taken from *Broad Arrow* of 14th of that month, and affords