



The Volunteer Review

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

A Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Military and Naval Forces of the Dominion of Canada

VOL. V.

OTTAWA, CANADA, MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1871.

No. 44.

THE AUTUMNAL MANŒUVRES OF THE BRITISH ARMY.—NO. II.—(Continued.)

(From the Broad Arrow.)

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2ND.

The country chosen for the encampment was that adjacent to the Sandhurst Staff College, which as most of your readers know consists of ferny hills interspersed with furze, relieved by fir woods. The Staff took up its position on Saddleback-hill, and on the slopes opposite and far away out of sight to the right and left the camps were pitched, with their front to the rising ground of the Windsor-ride, behind which they were sheltered. Along and beyond the crests of these the outposts were posted. The camp was supposed to be in the face of an enemy, and the outpost duties were performed by six regiments of infantry and a proportion of cavalry. These men carried cooked dinners in their haversacks. The camps of the main force were pitched on sites pointed out by the Assistant-Quartermaster General. The Militia pitched their tents cleverly, considering their short experience, and there is now no doubt that they will be able to manage their camps very well when they take the field. While the dinners were being eaten the enemy had come much too near to be pleasant, and it was now high time to be off. After some flag-signalling between the Staff and the different camps the alarm was sounded and the tents fell not quite as though by magic, but still well together. The last tents to fall were strangely enough, some belonging to the Royal Engineers. Alderman Sir William Rose's men, brought theirs down in an instant with a ringing cheer, as though glad to start for home. The pickets were now being driven back, the baggage was packed and moved off to the rear, and the troops were formed into two lines to cover its retreat. The first line occupied the crest of the Windsor-ride, and the second the Saddle-back ridge; the out posts were gradually drawn in; there was some artillery practice as the phantom enemy debouched from the woods, over against the Windsor-ride, and as the quarters grew closer, there was some file firing at a rather short range.

The rain was now pouring down, and the troops had yet the worst half of the days work before them, considering that they had seven or eight miles to march home. It is not wonderful that there were some stragglers; but taken altogether, it is agreed that the Sandhurst expedition has been successful; untried troops have done very fairly, with several necessary and not altogether easy things, which might have been

done without surprising any one. Sir Hope Grant did not seem to be in the least encumbered with his new tools; he managed them easily giving them just as much to do as he thought they could do and no more. The retreat of the baggage was perfectly covered; everything seemed to be done in the nick of time.

The field telegraph had been laid down along the road, and sent messages from the Staff to the officers seven miles off. It is nothing but a wire cased in gutta percha, laid along the hedges and ditches and fields, just as it may happen, and lifted out of the reach of carts on road crossings by slender iron supports. A new field printing press has also come into use. Type, cases, and press are snugly packed in a covered waggon, and a clever arrangement of shelves and slides provides that the two men in charge may both work at the type, or one of them at the type and one of them at the press. The Queen's Bays have recovered most of their horses, and are hard at work changing back their picketing system. It is to be feared that there will be a good many dismounted men among the British cavalry before the manoeuvres are over, for last night forty horses of the 10th Hussars broke loose, making the third stampede. Colonel Baker is one of the champions of the new system, and its failure in his regiment gives it the coup de grace.

Announcement has been made by official programme that the distribution of the volunteers will be as follows during the manoeuvres:—

Hon Artillery Company Field Battery.—Attached to Royal Artillery, Aldershot—40.

1st Battalion.—Lieutenant-Colonel Mansel, 1st Administrative Battalion, Dorset Rifle Volunteers; Lieutenant-Colonel Steward, ditto, Major Mathews, ditto; Captain and Adjutant Barrett. Station, Woolmer. Total of all ranks (1st Dorset),—638.

2nd Battalion.—Lieutenant-Colonel Sir W. Humphrey, 1st Administrative Battalion Hants Rifles; Major Marx ditto; Major Bulwer, 23rd Middlesex (Inns of Court); Captain and Adjutant Crofts. Station, Woolmer. 1st Administrative Battalion, Hants, 19th Middlesex, and 23rd Middlesex, (Inns of Court)—531.

3rd Battalion.—Major Keene, 2nd Administrative Battalion, Wilts, commanding; Major Caldwell ditto; Captain and Adjutant Bradford. Station, Woolmer. 2nd Administrative Battalion Wilts Rifles, and 19th Battalion Surrey (Borough of Lambeth) Rifles—600.

4th Battalion.—Lieutenant Colonel Loyd Lindsay, V. C. 1st Administrative Battalion Berks Rifles, Major Sir C. P. Hunter, ditto,

Major Warner, 2nd Administrative Battalion Middlesex Rifles. Station, Harford Bridge Flats, 1st Administrative Battalion Berkshire Rifle Volunteers, Hon. Artillery Company (Infantry)—500.

5th Battalion.—Lieutenant Colonel Taylor, 49th Middlesex (Post Office) Rifles; Lieutenant-Colonel Vickers, 48th Middlesex (Havelock) Rifles, Major Dean, 26th Middlesex (Her Majesty's Customs) Rifles; Adjutant Steevens. Station, Harford Bridge Flats. 49th Middlesex, (Post Office), 2nd South Middlesex, 15th Middlesex, (London Scottish), 20th (North west Middlesex) 22nd Middlesex (Queen's Westministers), and 48th Middlesex Rifles—644.

6th Battalion.—Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Ives, 36th Middlesex (Paddington) Rifles, Lieutenant Colonel Kennard, 26th Middlesex (Her Majesty's Customs) Rifles; Major Wigram, ditto, Captain and Adjutant Elliot. Station, Harford Bridge Flats. 46th Middlesex, 1st Middlesex (Victoria), 11th Middlesex (St. George's) 26th Middlesex (Customs), and 1st Gloucester (Bristol) Rifles—554.

The total of the force to be assembled, after deducting the Artists' Corps, which will not take part in the manoeuvres, is about 3000, of whom the metropolis sends the greater part.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH,

To judge from the reports that have come in from camp to-day, it would require nothing short of a miracle to cause the failure after all of the Control Department in the article of transport. By dint of having taken heavy hostages of fortune the event seems to have been placed entirely beyond the reach of chance. It appears that the department itself has available for the impending duty 250 waggons of all kinds allowing a reasonable margin for reserve of vehicles and horses. These are allocated among the different companies of the corps. Through the medium of hiring there have been added to this transport park, 450 two-horse spring waggons of the kind with which we are familiar in the streets of London drawn in the majority of instances by fairly capable animals, well found and substantial. The last batch of this hired transport was inspected and approved to-day, and looked for the most part quite fit for the service undertaken even when seen under the disadvantage of a long march from Hounslow. The hired transport instead of being subdivided apart and by itself into detachments, has been allocated in sections to each company of the Army Service Corps each company being thus more than doubled, but still capable of assimilating harmoniously the increment; and utilizing in