

to have been carried out in Ireland and elsewhere, the rifle used has been an ordinary Colt's repeater, adapted in a somewhat crude manner, to embrace the principles of the invention. In all cases both riders and horses were totally untrained, yet the practice at the ranges showed very fair results. It was naturally assumed that the horses would be restive under these new conditions, but it was found that they were not. A remarkable feature was that the weapon, though in such a strange position, in no way interfered with any of the movements of the horse, even when jumping hurdles. The arm which Capt. Peel proposes ultimately to adopt is Maxim's self-ejecting magazine rifle, fitted with a folding stock, and carrying, say, 10, 20, or more rounds of ammunition, so arranged as to be fired by the rider from the saddle. The elevating and depressing of the rifle will be performed without dismounting. The weapon is so attached as to be readily removable under any conditions, so that it is at once available for use as an ordinary rifle. When in position the breach of the weapon is protected from dust and injury by a cover. A suitable form of bearing rein is provided to prevent the horse lowering his head within range of the rifle.

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In another column we reprint a narrative of an attempt being made in the Russian service to further utilize the shooting weapons of the Cavalrymen, and the dissenting opinion of General Gourko, that "the strength of cavalry rest in the sword alone, and they should never resort to the carbine until there is no possibility for mounted action." Before the English invention however, this objection quite disappears. The next may perhaps be an electrical attachment by which rifles slung under riderless horses may be discharged automatically, after the animals, having been started at the gallop, have advanced within point blank range of the foe!

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There is a great deal of common sense in the contention of a correspondent in a recent issue of the "Army and Navy Gazette," that too great prominence is given to the competitive features of gun practice at artillery meetings. He bases his remarks on a quotation from an article from the pen of General Sir W. J. Williams, in which that noted Artillerist says: "We must teach the men to be soldiers, and we

must teach them gunnery; but let us remember that when we teach them gunnery we are no more teaching them to be soldiers than if we taught them how to make a gun instead of how to use it.

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The correspondent continues as follows:

"The system of instruction carried out at Okehampton this year was in many respects excellent; but I think that not a few left the camp with the feeling that half the good was taken out of that instruction, by making the practice too much for the practice camp, and not enough a training for war. We heard too much about 'verification,' 'series,' 'per-centage of targets destroyed,' &c. The daily comparisons by the series of the different batteries practising, tended to cause the commanding officers generally to use their most experienced layers, and consequently the practical instruction in laying of the others suffered in proportion. Again, it was the subject for remark, that, when one day in August the four batteries came to manoeuvre with the infantry (field-firing), half the new crotchets in the recently issued manual, "Fire-Discipline Drill," such as calling the subalterns and layers to the front, silent drill, &c., were at once abandoned, as everybody knew they must be on service. Moreover, the commanding officers of brigade divisions did try to manoeuvre their batteries on the old system, and not according to the instructions printed for use, which lay down (I believe I quote correctly) that majors are to kneel down as soon as they have selected their positions for action, &c. Is it possible to believe that in action a battery commander can be dumb, and can help moving about, encouraging the men, pointing out errors, &c.? As well expect the captain of a polo team not to open his legs when he sees his goal in danger. I, for one, fear that if we go on riding this new hobby, "fire-discipline drill," to death, the mobility, smartness, drill and usefulness of our batteries will suffer much. We shall find many majors sacrificing everything to gunnery, ignoring the fact that a battery, to be of any use at all on service, must be able and fit to march long distances, move rapidly over rough ground, and manoeuvre in any formation at the word of its commander. All these things must be taught by drill before the gunnery comes in."

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The annual prize meeting of the New South Wales Rifle Association is, according to reports just received, a six-day event, in which the public men of the colony take an interest hardly second to that of the competitors. The shooting is varied by interesting team competitions, and the association are not too timid to make the teams large enough to be more fairly representative than those to which we are accustomed. The regimental march, for instance, was for teams of ten, with the severe test of firing fifteen shots at 600 yards.

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The *United Service Gazette* contains this interesting negative: "There is not much faith put in the report that Lord Wolseley is likely to be selected for the post of Governor-General of Canada, though some probability is given to the rumour by supposition that in view of the forthcoming military appointments in the

East it might be found advantageous to provide Lord Wolseley with such a berth. Several other names, military and civil, have been mentioned in this connection, but there is as yet no decided favourite in the running for the post of successor to Lord Stanley of Preston."

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The *New York Tribune* makes a suggestion and a request in connection with the forthcoming Chicago Exhibition which, if it should come through the proper channel, is well entitled to consideration by the Lords of the Admiralty. In 1815 the United States ship *President* was captured by a British squadron off New York, and the same vessel is now said to be lying in the West India Doeks. What is asked is that the British Government should now, as an evidence that the two nations have agreed to forget old quarrels and let bygones be bygones, return the old ship to her former owners, if she is fit to make the voyage. It would be a handsome act, and some sort of a return for the manner in which a British ship was returned not long ago. The old *Constitution* will in all probability form one of the features of the Exhibition, and this relic and the *President* would be mute witnesses to the wise reconciliation of the two great English-speaking nations.

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The first General Orders of the year, appearing on the 8th, consists of the usual announcement respecting the annual examination of candidates for admission to the Royal Military College, Kingston. No change has been made in the subjects or conditions. The examinations will commence at the district staff office at the headquarters of the several military districts in which candidates reside, on Tuesday the 14th June next.

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A provisional edition of Volume I. of "Cavalry Drill," has been approved by the Imperial authorities, and is now being issued. In any case where these regulations are at variance with the regulations for the instruction and movements of Cavalry, issued with Imperial General Order 107, of 1887, the latter regulations are to be considered as superseded by the corresponding portions of the new volume. Of course the Canadian service will not be affected by the new regulations until they are officially proclaimed here.