

The drivers to be armed with swords and pistol, the other men with rifle and bayonet. Say that a regiment consisted of 80 wagons, 320 horses, and 1120 men. - Of these, 960 could fight on foot, and the empty wagons could be moved about at a gallop from one sheltered spot to another without the slightest difficulty.

If a small body of cavalry were required to reconnoitre, pursue, &c., the regiment could furnish two squadrons of 40 files each in addition to 880 men on foot, and the wagons could be still manœuvred as before with two horses in each.

Let us see how many men and horses it would give the same fighting force if the men were mounted on horseback:—

	Men	Horses
For two squadrons of 40 files each.....	160	150
For 880 men on foot, another 880 would be required to hold the horses.....	1760	1760
Total.....	1920	1920
Instead of 1120 men, and 320 horses, and 80 wagons.		

Now, it is said that the Horse Artillery can keep pace with any cavalry regiment, and over almost any ground.

Where artillery could go infantry wagons could go, and if sufficiently horsed, at the same pace. Perhaps another pair of horses might be required to each wagon, but I do not think so, because mounted infantry would very rarely be required to gallop, not nearly so often as Horse Artillery; and in action, the only time when galloping would be necessary, the wagons would be generally empty.

For flank attacks, as suggested by Colonel Chesney, such a force would be particularly valuable, because not only could the mounted infantry themselves be rapidly conveyed to the point of attack, but the empty wagons could return and bring up a load of infantry to support them.

Again, although mounted infantry ought to be a distinct and specially trained corps, yet this is not absolutely necessary; if drivers were forthcoming, any regiment might be turned into mounted infantry, without any additional training.

It is not easy to say without trial whether mounted infantry could defend themselves against cavalry whilst on the move, but I should think that a wagon full of men armed with rifles and bayonets would be a hard nut for cavalry to crack, because the cavalry could not ride over them, and the rifles would tell at close quarters, even if the wagon were being dragged at a gallop over heaps of stones.—Your truly,

WAGONER.

## THE GERMAN ARMY.

The summer inspections are concluded, and inspectors, general officers, and military commissioners, German and foreign, are unanimous in declaring that the guard has never been in such noble form, exhibited so grand a physique, and given proof of such perfect fitness to take the field at a moment's notice, as this year. *Ex uno disce omnes.* I have no doubt that what I can guarantee as truthfully to be spoken of the guard may be asserted with equal veraciousness of any or all of the other seventeen corps d'armée of which the German army is composed. Such an army the world has never yet seen as that which the German Empire has provided itself with "to com-

mand peace," Field Marshal von Moltke's definition bath it. No two European armies, choose whichever two you will, and combine them in the way that may offer most perils and inconveniences to Germany, could at present contend, in the opinion of the very first military authorities of this country, with any hope of ultimate success, against the gigantic offensive and defensive forces at the disposal of the German War Office. It is not only that the maximum of physical vigor, discipline, and excellence of armament has been attained in this army, but that the Fatherland is fortunate enough to own seven or eight generals of first rate capacity, and fifty or sixty more who are perfectly equal to assuming the responsibilities of a large independent command, and to conducting a campaign of the first magnitude to a successful conclusion. Moreover, this army is officered by gentlemen of whom it may without the least exaggeration be said, that every one of them is capable of efficiently fulfilling the duties incident to a rank at least one step higher than that which he actually holds in the service. The Prussian Officers Corps is as far superior in every soldierly respect to that of Russia, France, Austria, or Italy, as Moltke, Werder, Blumenthal, Goeben, Stiegle, or Stoschare to any six generals that can be selected out of the united non-German European armies, or as the Mauser and Krupp are to the almost innocuous Brown Bess and smooth bored muzzle loading field piece of thirty years ago. In fact, the German army which earned for itself in 1871 the admiration of the world, has undergone such improvement since the conclusion of the French war that experts pronounce it to be at least twice as effective as it was three years ago.

Peace, indeed, is the German military man's busy time, when he is so hard worked that life becomes a burden to him; the only relaxation approaching anything like a holiday—and what a holiday!—he ever gets is during war time. During the three military years that have just been completed by the holding of the 1874 summer inspections, the Prussian army has been entirely re-armed and taught the use of its new weapon; it has learned a new tactical drill; its artillery organization has been totally altered, and its cavalry has been thoroughly instructed in a branch of offensiveness that will, I fancy, rather astonish and discomfit the next enemy Germany may think fit to engage. Of the rank and file not one man in a hundred of those who served against the French is still under the standard; but, fine fellows as were the soldiers who won the victories which are recorded in that extraordinary list—unbroken by reverses—that begins with Weissenburg and ends with Montretout, there can be no doubt that the troops now constituting the peace strength of this army are finer fellows still. In the guard, especially, the increment in height and breadth of the men—particularly in the heavy cavalry regiments—is strikingly noticeable to any one whose eye has been familiar for the last half dozen years with the appearance of these famous household regiments. Still more obvious to the casual glance is the improvement in quality of the chargers recently furnished by the Kemont Commission. The Prussian trooper's charger, was always a strong, serviceable, hardy beast, but he was by no means handsome or smart looking, and he appeared a little too small for the weight he had to carry. Even the guard chargers failed to come up to the British cavalry officer's notion of what crack regiments' mounts should be, they never looked equal to their work, though I am bound to say they proved themselves to be so during

the war in France; their grooming was always a little coarser than we fancied it should be; and a really good looking troop horse was as great a rarity as an ugly officer's charger. You should see the Guard Cavalry mounts this year. It would puzzle Aldershot to show anything in that line handsomer or more thoroughly fit for active service. The chargers of the Guards du Corps and Garde Cuirassiers would do the highest credit to the Enniskilling or to any heavy Cavalry regiment in our service. All the Light Cavalry, too, is admirably horsed, and there is really nothing to choose between any of the regiments, but some of the professional critics here assavate with the utmost vehemence that nothing in the Prussian service (and, *sous entendu*, in Europe) can touch the 2nd Lancers (Garde Uhlanen) and the Red Hussars, stationed at Potsdam. Man for man and horse for horse, I would back our 10th Hussars or 12th Lancers against the latter; still they are magnificent troops, all but peerless.

It is a somewhat curious fact that nine out of ten of the conscripts from the new Reichslander choose the Cavalry as the branch of the service they prefer serving in, and that considerably more than a half of those would-be troopers beg to be drafted into Grand regiments, for which they are generally, by their stature and strength, naturally qualified. I have taken particular pains to inform myself respecting these young soldiers from Elsass Lothringen, and received from all quarters the most satisfactory accounts of their conduct and bearing in the service. They are almost invariably obedient, good tempered, tractable, and extremely desirous to learn their duty. Their officers find them duller and more difficult to teach than the average German—much more so than the Bradenberger, Rhineland, or Mecklenburger—but very trustworthy, anxious to please, and *bons camarades* with their fellow troopers. Their make desirable officers' servants, show more aptitude for riding than for any other department of their military instruction or exercise, and exhibit no proclivities towards drunkenness or quarrelsomeness. Personal friends, who have Alsations in their squadrons here and in other German garrison towns, tell me that they wish for no better material out of which to manufacture good soldiers than the "Annectaten." The Lorrainers do not get on so rapidly, nor are they nearly so soon reconciled to their military duties, as the Alsations, for the simple reason that they speak nothing but French on joining their regiments, and have to wade through the double drudgery of learning German as well as drill. They are, however, very well behaved, quiet, and biddable, as a rule; and it is pleasant to hear that the German comrades are, on the whole, kind to them and tolerant of their short comings.

By next November the German army will be brought up to the full peace footing strength accorded by this spring's Army Bill—the maximum of 401,657 men, that will enable it, ten years' hence, to expand in war time into a force of from 1,500,000 to 1,600,000 men, 350,000 horses, and above 3,000 field pieces. We may be quite sure that despite the pardonable prevarications of Von Kamecke during last session's army debate, so long as King William lives this maximum, wrung with such difficulty from the German Parliament, will be kept up to its extreme limit, and that the National Defences Budget will steadily increase from year to year. It may be a comforting reflection to peace lovers that *la revanche* may be regarded as postponed *sine die*. There is