

that it was these same spearmen who, on two separate occasions, actually succeeded in breaking a British square, this feat appears in its true light.

The cavalry on this occasion was led by Kitchener in person, and more than one Emir recognized the "spy of the Soudan." Afterwards, when the prisoners were brought in for interrogation, the scene was most laughable. This one had known him as a merchant at Dongola; to another he was a slave-dealer of Korosko; while yet a third remembered him as having hawked dhurra (millet) cakes about the streets of Omdurman. Needless to say, they one and all evinced boundless astonishment at recognising in their quondam acquaintance the most dreaded and most renowned warrior in the Egyptian service.

Since then things have altered greatly. Slatin Pasha has escaped from the clutches of the Mahdi, and, with Major Wingate, directs the Intelligence Department of the Egyptian army. There is now no need for a white man to take his life in his hand and penetrate in search of information into the regions that still own the sway of the Mahdi's successor. A constant stream of native spies passes backwards and forwards between the British outposts at Dongola, and the Khalifa's headquarters at Omdurman, and exactly what is happening at the latter place is known 48 hours later at the former.

It will be a proud day for the Sirdar when he enters Khartoum a conqueror, at the head of the army he has, to all intents and purposes, created. That he will so enter it some day in the not very distant future there can be no reasonable doubt; and then, and not till then, will the Soudan be permanently rescued from one of the cruellest, foulest, and wickedest despotisms that has ever been established since the world began.—London Answers.

A PLAN OF ORGANIZATION.

THE correspondent of THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE at St. Thomas has obtained from an officer of the 25th Battalion the following interesting suggestions as to an organization for the permanent corps and the city corps:

"There is at the present time great interest taken in military matters in Canada. The Government and people seem anxious to assist the militia, and all agree that Canada should have a very efficient and well-trained force. At the same time, there is a strong feeling against a standing army, be it ever so small. The fact is known to all that our militia is not what it should be. We are not lacking in loyalty; it cannot be said that in case of need we would have any difficulty in securing good men. We know from past experience that at the first alarm the people of Canada would respond as one man. This being the case, can we improve our condition from a military standpoint without increasing the expenditure to any extent? With this in view, the following suggestions are made, at the present time referring to the permanent force and city corps only. The rural corps should have far more consideration than can be given in this letter.

THE PERMANENT CORPS.

"First, our permanent force or schools of instruction should be of greater help to the militia. Among the officers of the permanent force we have many good soldiers and men of ability. I will only refer to the N.C.O.'s and men of this force, and would suggest that at each school of instruction there be at least thirty-five or forty first-class instructors, men able to impart instruction. To get men of this kind the Militia Department should be liberal with the pay. With this number of instructors at each school, the D.O.C. could, during the spring and fall drill of the city corps in his district, send such instructors as in his judgment he would consider would be of use to the different corps. These instructors, under the direction of the officer commanding the battalion, would

take over the N.C.O.'s and thoroughly post them in their duties, and would assist at squad, company and battalion drill, and in any way that would help to make the corps a very efficient one. A visit from an officer of the permanent force, say once a week, during these drills would have a very good effect and be of great help to the officers in many ways, such as sword exercise, lectures on interior economy, discipline, etc.

"As to the number of N.C.O.'s and men besides these instructors at the different schools of instruction, that is a matter of little importance to any other than the commandant and officers of the school, who know best the number required to keep the schools what they were intended to be—first-class schools of instruction for the officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the Canadian militia.

THE CITY CORPS.

"I am confident a change should be made in the city corps. We do not want a large number of men so much as we want efficient and competent men, men able to command and impart instruction and good organizers. With the force officered by men of this kind in time of trouble, it would be an easy matter to recruit plenty of good men, and in a very short time have them in good shape and ready for duty, knowing that those at the head are competent men. I would suggest that city corps, especially those in the smaller cities, have an establishment as follows: Staff—as at present, except that each corps should have an hospital sergeant. Eight companies, each to have one captain, one lieutenant, four section commanders, four corporals and 20 privates.

"These battalions should have authority to drill, say, 40 evenings during the year, and the officers, N.C.O.'s and men to receive pay for the actual parades they attend; the pay for each evening's drill for a private to be 25c., for a corporal 30c., for a section commander, orderly-room clerk and paymaster's clerk 40c., for a Q.M. sergeant and sergeant-major 50c.; and the pay of officers on the same basis. The fact that the officers, N.C.O.'s and men would only receive pay for the parades they attend would be fair to all and no loss to the country, not as it is now, when many enthusiastic, good soldiers attend every parade, and other careless, indifferent men do not attend half as many and receive the same pay. I am confident with this establishment and encouragement and the assistance, as suggested, of the officers and instructors from the permanent force, that one year's trial would more than convince the Department that any small increase in the expenditure is more than paid to the country in having ready for immediate use in case of need many good battalions in all parts of the country, well drilled, with good commanding officers for battalions and companies, and good section commanders, so that if needed the strength of each corps could be increased to 800 strong, and, with able leaders, be of great service to their country."

A BATTERY AT THE "SOO."

Editor MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—I am in hopes that our new Major General will be more of a success than his predecessor. By General Herbert's most arbitrary action we are now without any volunteer force in this extensive district. In 1892 he disbanded my mountain battery of 21 well-drilled, active young men whom he had never seen, and so far as I can ascertain no report was ever made by any of the inspectors of artillery. I was placed on the retired list with the rank of brevet major, after having been connected with the militia of Canada since 1837. Being over age, I could not complain, and did not, for being retired, as I had two N.C.'s who had first-class certificates from the Royal School of Gunnery at Kingston; one, my battery sergeant, was well qualified to take command of the half battery. My friends urged me to bring up the matter in the House, but I did not, not wishing to bring politics into the case.

Truly yours,

Sault Ste. Marie, Oct. 27, 1896.

JOS. WILSON, Major, R.I.