

complete operation within six years without any very great disturbance of the roster of reliefs.

13. A partial disturbance of the roster has been unavoidable, as will readily be understood when it is considered that according to the actual distribution of the infantry of the army, several of the proposed districts would each possess both of its battalions at home, while an equal number would each possess both of its battalions abroad; and these districts require to be brought gradually into harmony with the principle which requires each district to have one battalion abroad and the other at home.

14. Thus, although it may appear to any one examining the proposed scheme of linking without a knowledge of the considerations on which it is based, that any particular regiment may be transferred without inconvenience from the district where it has been located to another district, this cannot be done without affecting the interests of its twin regiment, and without disturbing the whole roster of reliefs which has been carefully prepared by anticipation, in connection with the proposed new system for the next fifteen years. The only mode in which the transference of regiments between districts can be effected without disturbing the roster of reliefs is by the transference of two linked regiments together.

15. The connection of the Militia with the regular infantry of the army is proposed to be accomplished mainly through the agency of the depot centre which will in each brigade district be common to both services.

16. The proposed establishment of Line battalions, always of eight companies at home and abroad, and of depot centres, is given in Appendix (B).

17. Of the officers of a depot centre, the lieutenant colonel, paymaster and quartermaster will exclusively belong to that organization. The remainder will be officers all on the full pay of the two Line battalions of the brigade district, attached during a certain period for duty at the depot.

18. The functions of the lieutenant colonel will embrace the immediate command of the depot; the command and inspection of all the Infantry Reserve Forces within the brigade district; and the superintendence of recruiting both for the Line and Militia battalions of the brigade.

The major, borne as supernumerary major on the list of the home line battalion of the brigade, will assist the lieutenant colonel, and his general functions will be those of a brigade major or district adjutant.

The six captains will be taken—three from each of the Line battalions of the brigade, and will be shown in the *Army List* attached to the depot. Two of these captains will be the adjutant of the two Militia regiments of the brigade.

The four lieutenants will be taken—two from each Line battalion, and will be shown in the *Army List* as attached to the depot.

19. The depot organization in time of peace would be on the principle of a 4 company organization; but with the power of immediate expansion on emergency into an 8 company depot battalion.

This principle is observed so far as regards officers in time of peace by posting to the depot for exclusive service therewith, 4 captains and 4 subalterns.

20. As regards non-commissioned officers: besides the usual staff of sergeant-major, quartermaster-sergeant, &c., it is proposed to attach to the depot 8 colour sergeants and 36 sergeants. Of these 4 colour-sergeants and 4 sergeants would belong exclusively to the depot. The remaining 4 colour-ser-

geants and 32 sergeants would really belong to the two Militia battalions of the brigade. The 4 colour-sergeants would supply the sergeant-majors and quartermaster-sergeants of these battalions. The 32 sergeants would constitute the permanent staff of the same battalion at the rate of 2 sergeants to each of their sixteen companies.

21. In the event of the training or embodiment of both Militia battalions they would at once draw away from the depot centre their 2 adjutants, 2 sergeant-majors, 2 quartermaster-sergeants, and 32 sergeants, leaving the depot with 4 captains, 4 subalterns, 4 colour-sergeants and 4 sergeants, besides the usual battalion staff. If then it were desired to increase the depot to an 8 company cadre, the deficiency of officers would be supplied as most convenient; and that of non-commissioned officers might be supplied from the Army Reserve non-commissioned officers, and by such other from the home Line battalions as might not be fit to encounter the hardships of service in the field.

22. Here it should be observed that the Army Reserve men and pensioners resident in any brigade district would be attached to the depot centre for the purposes of payment, training and discipline.

23. It is proposed to store all the Militia infantry and Army Reserve arms, clothing, &c., at the depot centre; and, as a general rule subject to the exceptions hereafter detailed, to train the infantry Militia battalions under canvas at their respective depot centres which will be their natural headquarters.

24. All Line and Militia recruits will immediately on being raised be sent to the brigade depot for their recruit training.

25. Nothing in the foregoing proposals is to be interpreted as diminishing in any manner the control hitherto exercised by Militia commanding officers over their respective regiments during the non-training periods of the year. The headquarters of their regiment will, by this scheme, be simply transferred from one place to another.

26. It appears probable that the large staff of sergeants attached to the depot centre might be made available to a large extent in diminution of the number of sergeant-instructors now employed in instruction of Volunteers.

27. But the necessary condition of such an arrangement, which if it could be effected, would be a benefit both as regards efficiency and economy, is that the yearly drill of Volunteers shall be concentrated within certain limits of time. In the neighborhood of cities a standing Volunteer camp might be established during the camping season, wherein the Volunteers might pass eight or more clear days in successive batches, breakfasting and supping in camp, and drilling on their return in the evening from their different daily employments. This plan was successfully tried in Canada, at Montreal, and was very popular with the men.

28. It may also be found possible to arrange that the tents occupied by Militia battalions during their yearly training at depot centres may, when vacated by them, be appropriated for the training of the Volunteers of the district, the officers and staff being permanently present, and the men coming up in batches as most convenient, so that each man shall pass eight clear days in camp and not less than half the strength of a corps shall always be present. It is evident that in this supposed case the sergeants attached to the depot would suffice for the instruction of the Volunteers under training.

It is true that the present sergeant instructors of Volunteers have charge of the

arms at their respective stations; but the captains of corps or companies might well be made responsible for the proper care of those articles; and they should certainly be competent to drill their men at any time throughout the non-training season, when voluntarily drills might be performed.

29. It is very desirable, whenever such an arrangement may be possible, that the arms of Volunteer corps should be stored at the depot centre.

30. The following proposed distribution and establishment of Line battalions are based on the actual numbers of rank and file, shown on the estimates of the year:—

57 battalions in India China, &c., to be maintained at a minimum strength of 820 rank and file.

13 battalions serving at other stations abroad, at minimum strength of 650 rank and file.

Of battalions at home:—

The 18 first for foreign service at minimum strength of 820 rank and file.

The 18 next for foreign service at minimum strength of 700 rank and file.

The 35 remaining battalions at minimum strength of 520 rank and file.

31. It has been proposed, under the head of "Recruiting" that recruits shall in future be enlisted for general service, during peace in either of the Line battalions of any brigade district, and during war in either the Line or Militia battalions of any such district.

(To be continued.)

The memoir on the Defence of Paris by M. E. Viollet-le Duc, ex-lieutenant colonel of the auxiliary legion of engineers has recently appeared. The special interest which attaches itself to this report, says the *Engineering*, consists chiefly in the tenacious studies of offensive works made around Paris by the Prussians, and the defensive works which have been opposed to them. The author shows in the first place that the fortifications of Paris could not be considered as seriously adapted to defensive purposes, and that, while the city would require a numerous army, the forts served only as bases for the operations of attack. M. Viollet-le-Duc draws, as a conclusion from the result of the operations round Paris, that in place of closed forts, which can be rendered untenable by long range guns, batteries ought to be substituted, supported by trenches disposed in such a manner as not to hinder the movements of the troops; these batteries and their trenches ought to provide plenty of shelter, to prevent the mischievous consequences produced by continued exposure to danger. Behind should be one or more lines of retreat, arranged as the first, with batteries and trenches, disposed so that the troops should have facilities for reforming and preventing the enemy from establishing himself in the abandoned positions. All these lines should be placed as far as possible from the city, and every natural advantage should be seized upon for strengthening them. By such means a small number of resolute men could check a corps d'armee, as happened at Bourget on the 21st of December. Earth and timber should become the materials almost wholly employed in the defence as in the attack, and war should be more and more a matter of engineering. The soldier should learn to handle the spade and pick as well as the rifle: the officers of every class should lean less on their individual courage and that of their men, and bestow more attention on the study of the military art, theoretical and practical.