

Mounted Infantry.

A Lecture on "Mounted Infantry and its action in Modern War" was delivered recently in connection with the School of Military Engineering at Chatham, by Lt.-Col. E. T. H. Hutton, D.A.A.G.

The lecturer began by defining Mounted Infantry as infantry soldiers who, in addition to their duties as infantry, were so organized and trained as to render them capable of being given means of increased locomotion whereby they might act in their capacity as infantry soldiers, when great mobility and rapidity of movement was necessary. There should be no confusion as to the functions of Mounted Infantry and Mounted Rifles. The latter were horsemen trained to fight on foot. Moreover, they were differently equipped. The introduction of Mounted Infantry into our service was due to the teaching of experience, that directly Cavalry are opposed to Infantry fire, their further action must be paralyzed from their sheer inability to compete with their opponents on equal terms. It was to give our Cavalry this necessary fire power that our present force of Mounted or Mobile Infantry existed. It was intended to create for this country a combined force of the three arms, viz: Cavalry, Artillery and Infantry, which should be able in all circumstances to act freely and efficiently without any support from a slowly moving Infantry. Numerous instances were cited to demonstrate (1) that the independent action of one arm without the other two could never achieve any real or solid results; (2) that the independent action of Cavalry alone trained to rely mainly, if not exclusively, upon *l'arme blanche* was liable to be paralysed at any moment, and that its tactical effect could at best be temporary, while any lasting strategical result was impossible; (3) that a certain degree of tactical effect might still be looked for from the judicious use of masses of Cavalry against Infantry; (4) that, if used in conjunction with such fire power as Infantry men carefully-trained to fight on foot could alone supply, the independent strategical action of Cavalry was increased a hundredfold. If the maximum of result was to be achieved by mounted troops acting tactically on the field of battle or strategically—*i.e.*, by independent action—it must be by the employment of the combination of the three arms. There must be Cavalry possessing the highest skill and training in the use of *l'arme blanche*, there must be the employment of a rapidly-moving and highly-trained Infantry armed with the most perfect fire weapon, and there must be an Artillery armed with the most effective guns and possessing similar powers of mobility to the Cavalry and Infantry. It was a fair assumption to make that the Power which could first satisfactorily solve this problem and achieve this result would in the next great war effect such a revolution in the tactics of the past as would eclipse the feats of Sheridan and Stuart and astonish the world with successes such as might rival those of Napoleon and Alexander. Touching upon the recent Cavalry manœuvres in Berkshire, the lecturer said that by the presence of a force of three companies or 400 Mounted Infantry it was sought to prove (1) the value to Cavalry of a force of mounted or mobile Infantry; (2) the fact that by two months' training and by a well thought-out system of organization Infantry could work mounted with cavalry in the field, and could at the same time maintain their efficiency. For the result he would quote from the *Times*. The *Times*' military correspondent, a well known and not too favourably disposed critic of the value of Mounted Infantry, referred to it in his first letter as "a distinct innovation on accepted and orthodox tactical ideas." He said, "Continental soldiers and nearly all our own Cavalry officers declare that there is no need for the formation of a body of Infantry to be told off specially to help them, . . . that their troopers can dismount and can do the work quite as well as any Infantry." In his last letter the read as as the deductions of his personal study of the manœuvres, "One of the results of the manœuvres has been to prove the great value of a mobile Infantry in regular warfare." He even went on to say that he noted "a tendency on the part of certain Cavalry to keep safe by hanging on to the Mounted Infantry." If that was really the result of an experiment in peace manœuvres with black ammunition, what might be looked for from the same force on service with ball ammunition a force of whom 44 per cent. were marksmen, and all of picked physique.

"The home authorities," so says a military journal, "are *not quite satisfied* with the present cartridge." This is euphemism *in excelsis*, the truth being that the authorities are at their wits' end to know what to do to provide ammunition that will permit of the rifle being used as a rifle and not limited in its employment to an unhandy, badly-balanced pike. Magazine rifles, it is averred, are being "got ready" for dispatch to India; but between the getting ready and the dispatching process there is a very wide gap. The magazine rifles will only be really ready when the powder and bullets are also in the same state.—*Broad Arrow*.

The Seventh Fusiliers Annual Rifle Matches.

The annual rifle matches of the 7th Fusiliers took place on Thanksgiving Day. The weather was very fine for shooting purposes: the light was a little uncertain but the wind was steady. The whole of the matches went off without a hitch, and the Battalion are well pleased with the interest taken by the citizens, as shown by their visiting the range during the match. The following were the scores:—

NURSERY MATCH.—Open to those having never won a prize exceeding \$2.50. Ranges 200 and 400 yards, 5 shots: Pte. Ross, 42; Sergt.-Major Ironsides, 39; Pte. B. Harding, 39; Corp. Heaman, 36; Pte. Gould, 35; Sergt. Leadbeater, 34; Pte. Westman, 34; Lieut. Howie, 33; Pte. Highan, 33; Corp. Price, 30; Pte. Richardson, 30; Pte. Cahill, 30; Sergt. Boucher, 29; Pte. Ferguson, 29; Corp. Allen, 29; Pte. Griffith, 29; Sergt. Webbe, 28; Pte. Poole, 28; Lieut. Dawson, 28; Bugle-Major Coughlin, 27; Pte. Ritchie, 27; Corp. Sullivan, 27; Pte. Thompson, 27; Pte. Huff, 26; Pte. Gordon, 26; Pte. Harding, 24; Corp. Bickley, 23; Lieut. Magee, 23; Pte. Park, 23; Pte. Miller, 22; Pte. Pennell, 21; Sergt. Grey, 20; Pte. Hewitt, 20; Pte. Jeffrey, 20; Pte. Giles, 19; Sergt. Thompson, 19; Col.-Sergt. Garside, 18; Pte. McConnell, 18; Pte. Spicer, 18; Sergt. Faulds, 28; Pte. Draper, 17; Pte. Howe, 17; Bugler Bland, 16; Pte. Palmer, 16; Pte. Gordon, 15.

BATTALION MATCH.—Open to all members of the battalion and retired officers. Five shots at 200, 400 and 500 yards, any position.

Capt. Payne	67	\$10 00	Pte. Harding, H.	42	\$2 00
Capt. Hayes	65	8 00	Pte. Ritchie	42	2 00
Pte. Ross	63	6 00	Pte. Gould	42	2 00
B.-M. Hiscott	62	6 00	Corp. Hayman	42	1 00
Capt. Dillon	62	6 00	Pte. Allen	41	1 00
Pte. Hiscott, T.	61	5 00	Col.-Sgt. O'Brien	41	1 00
Pte. Hiscott, W. C.	61	5 00	Pte. Price	40	1 00
Capt. Ashplant	60	5 00	Sgt. Boucher	39	1 00
Pte. Hiscott, A.	58	4 50	Pte. Crow	39	1 00
Sgt. McCrimmon	56	4 00	B.-M. Coughlin	38	1 00
Sgt. Major Ironsides	55	4 00	Sgt. Webbe	38	1 00
Sgt. Leadbeater	54	3 00	Pte. Griffith	38	1 00
Col.-Sgt. McCrimmon	54	3 00	Pte. Highan	37	1 00
Lieut. Howie	52	3 00	Pte. A. Gordon	36	1 00
Col. Tra y	47	3 00	Corp. Sullivan	36	1 00
Pte. Harding	45	2 00	Pte. Ferguson	36	50
Pte. Cahill	44	2 00			

Special prizes.—Medal by Capt. Payne, for best shot in A Company, to be won twice, Bandmaster Hiscott.

Cup by Capt. Hayes, for best shot in B Company, to be won twice, Pte. Ross.

Medal by Lieut. Kingsmill, for second best shot in A Company, Pte. A. Hiscott.

Cup by Capt. Ashplant, for best shot in D Company, Sergt. McCrimmon.

Sergt. Major Ironsides' medal, for best score by non-coms. in Battalion match, Sergt. McCrimmon.

Lieut. Coo's medal for best shot in F Company, Col.-Sergt. O'Brien.

Capt. Dillon's medal, for highest score made by any officer or man who went with Battalion to the North-West, Capt. Payne.

COMPANY MATCH.

B Company had this pretty much their own way. It was for a challenge cup presented by Mr. W. J. Reid, and cash prizes. Company teams of five; 200, 400 and 500 yards, 5 shots. Scores in battalion match to decide.

1st, B Company.—The cup and \$10.—Capt. Hayes 64, Pte. Ross 63, Pte. W. C. Hiscott 61, Pte. T. Hiscott 61, Lance-Corp. Price 40; total 289.

2nd, D Company.—\$7.—Capt. Ashplant 60, Sergt. McCrimmon 56, Sergt.-Major Ironsides 55, Col.-Sergt. McCrimmon 54, Pte. Harding 42; total 267.

3rd, A Company.—\$5.—Capt. Payne 67, Bandmaster Hiscott 62, Pte. Hiscott 58, Sergt. Freeland 33, Pte. Pool 32; total 252.

4th, E Company.—\$3.—Sergt. Leadbeater 54, Lieut. Howie 52, Corp. Galpin 28, Pte. Saunby 24, Staff Sergt. Gray 23; total 181.

5th, C Company.—\$2.—Pte. A. Gordon 36, Corp. Spicer 20, Pte. Jeffery 20, Col.-Sergt. Brown 19, Pte. N. Gordon 15; total 110.

BATTALION MATCH.

The great contest of the day was between teams of eight men from "D" Company I. S. C. and the 7th Fusiliers, for a cup presented by Hon. John Carling. Conditions of match: 7 shots each at 200, 300 and 400 yards; cup to be won three times before becoming absolute property of either corps. Last year it was won by 7th Fusiliers by a majority of 23 points, this year the "D" Company carried it off with a majority of 19 points, after a hard struggle. Highest score was made by Capt. Hayes, 93 points. "D" Company have reason to be proud of their victory.

"D" Company, I. S. C.

Corp. O'Brien	33	23	32	88
Sgt.-Major Mumroe	32	27	29	88
Capt. Denison	31	26	30	87
Corp. Brown	25	28	30	83
Sergt. Beaumont	22	22	33	77
Pte. Chesterfield	24	23	29	76
Pte. Galbraith	25	22	27	74
Capt. Young	23	23	24	70
Totals	215	194	234	643

7th Fusiliers.

Capt. Hayes	32	29	32	93
Pte. T. Hiscott	29	20	33	82
Capt. Payne	27	24	30	81
Bandmaster Hiscott	29	19	29	77
Capt. Ashplant	29	16	29	74
Pte. W. C. Hiscott	26	24	24	74
Sergt. O'Brien	23	19	30	72
Lt.-Col. Tracy	26	19	26	71
Totals	221	170	233	624

There were two extra series matches, the chief prize winners in which were:—
200 yards, 5 shots. Pte. T. Hiscott 25, Bandmaster Hiscott 24, Capt. Hayes 24, Capt. Ashplant 24, Capt. Payne 23, Pte. Ross 23, Sergt.-Major Ironsides, 22.
500 yards, 5 shots.—Capt. Dillon 22, Capt. Hayes 22, Pte. W. C. Hiscott 22, Capt. Ashplant 22, Bandmaster Hiscott 22, Col.-Sergt. O'Brien 21.