

their front, and it would be strange indeed if there were not on a flank some cover, such as a hill, a dip in the ground, a high edge, a plantation, or a cluster of houses. Such cover might be distant only 400 yards, or say twice as far. Even 800 yards could be easily traversed in one minute and a half, and the cavalry could commence the advance in single rank, with two or three yards between files, closing in, however, when on the point of striking. The infantry, startled by the sudden appearance of the rushing horsemen, whom they would not discover until at least half the distance had been covered, would be in a sorry plight. A cry of "Look out for cavalry," might be raised, but all would be more or less flurried. Only those bodies on the flank would be able to fire, and these would have to change front to do so. They would either cluster together, in which case time would be lost and a good mark be afforded; or they would remain with loosened files and be thus deprived of the moral support afforded by the touch of comrades' elbows. In any case, their fire would probably be hasty, ill-aimed, and of short continuance. Once among the scattered and loosened echelons, the cavalry would have little to fear. The dragoons would probably sabre but few, but they would indirectly cause greater loss than that suffered by them, while at all events they would certainly bring about delay which might be cheaply purchased by the death or capture of a hundred men. We have dealt above with the action of single squadrons; but entire divisions of cavalry can, if successful in beating off the enemy's horsemen, make serious diversions on the flank by dismounting some of their number to fire and employing their horse artillery. In short, after due consideration of circumstances and conditions, one is led to believe, with the Germans, that even in a pitched battle cavalry have still a very important part to play. And this, notwithstanding the extraordinary views enunciated by the late Adjutant-General of the Forces, future warfare will doubtless show.—*Army and Navy Gazette.*

The Horse Guards have under consideration the expediency of permitting the trial of a new drill for cavalry, which is the invention of Major-Gen. Keith Fraser, commanding the Dublin District. It has for its object the more effective use of cavalry under the conditions introduced by the magazine rifle.

Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.]

THE REGULATIONS RESPECTING MINIATURE MEDALS.

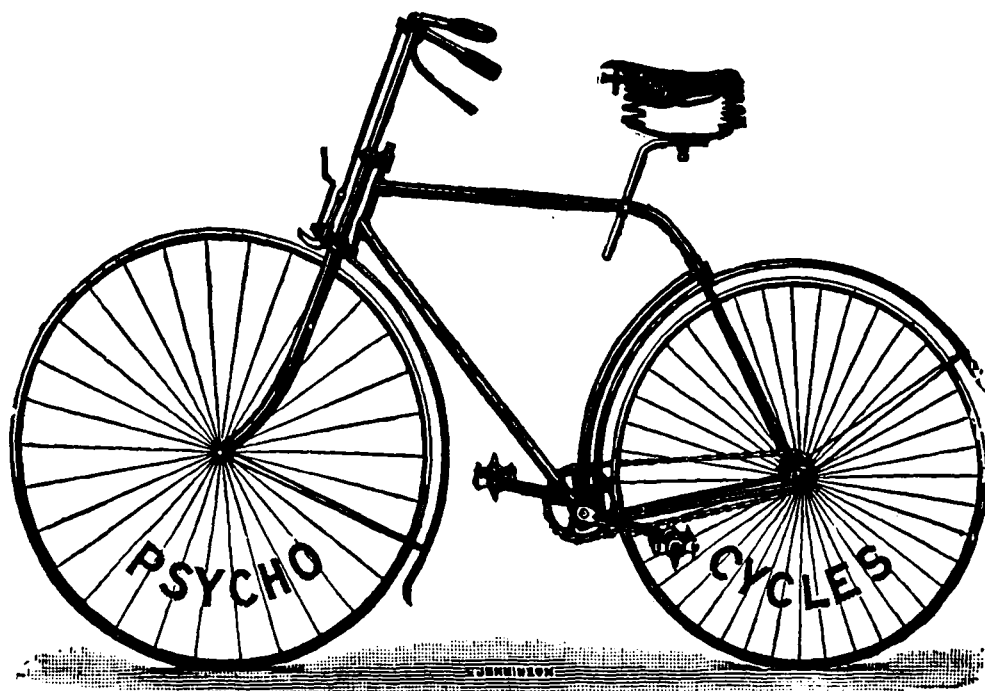
EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—You give prominence in your issue of the 23rd to the new army orders amending part ii, section xii, of the Queen's Regulations with regard to the wearing of orders—miniature medals, etc. We of the Canadian Militia are not over burdened with honours of this description; those of us, however, who were in the North-West in '85 are justly proud of our medal, with or without clasp—and few officers, indeed, are without its miniature counterfeit—displayed with legitimate pride on our undress uniform. To promulgate this *Imperial* Army Order in our Militia General Orders would be very unpopular and quite uncalled for and unnecessary. Outside of a personal antipathy or fad of the new A. G., Sir Redvers Buller, it is hard to guess for what reason the old regulation, which was found good and proper for so many years, should have been thus abolished. I expect to see a cry and howl in the English service papers against this order. Apparently our friends of the navy will continue to wear their miniatures as of old.

SNAP-CAP.

The Springfield rifles are to be abandoned. It is said that the Secretary of War is about to issue an order providing for this change, and substituting as an arm for the army and National Guard, a 30-calibre rifle. The new barrels can be used on a Springfield gun for the present, but ultimately a magazine rifle will be adopted. National Guardsmen will welcome such a change when it does come. It has been demonstrated that the smaller calibre, with a proportionally large amount of powder, is more effective and accurate, and at the same time much less cumbersome than the present army gun. Marksmen complain of the recoil of the heavy calibre gun, and there is no doubt that their work would be much improved if less powder were burned. The 7th N. Y. regiment, which was the first to obtain the percussion rifle in place of the old flintlock, and later substituted the breech-loader for the muzzle-loader, is now actively advocating, through its regiment *Gazette*, the introduction of an improved rifle of greater range and accuracy and smaller calibre than the weapon at present used.—*Providence Journal.*

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