

was so convulsed with laughter that he narrowly escaped a fit of apoplexy, and had to be helped off his horse by his astonished A.D.C.

"I suppose our sergeant major will be going back to pick up the stray ramrods," said Captain Crawford, referring to the standing joke which all volunteers formerly had to put up with. "Yes," answered his lieutenant, "but I saw the yeomanry adjutant scouring the field with a hand-cart to gather up his plume and horses' ears; you know the regiment was doing pursuing practice this morning."

The picnic element, which formerly occupied so important a place in volunteer encampments, has been finally eliminated. Officers' tents are no longer transformed by their occupants into Arcadian bowers, surrounded by labyrinths of floral decorations. All this has given place to a sober and earnest endeavour to assimilate the volunteers to the regular forces.

Thanks to the efforts of such officers as Sir Evelyn Wood, the Government of to-day is now thoroughly alive to the value of the modern volunteer. The appreciation of his work is shown by the increased facilities offered to officers to extend their knowledge of military subjects. In the old days it was the army which kept us in the background; now it is rather the civilian than the military man who scoffs at volunteering. I was speaking to a distinguished officer the other day, and he assured me that in the event of the great European war, which must come sooner or later, our regular army is so small in numbers that the employment of the volunteers will be an absolute necessity. The advice he gave to a subaltern was "Learn all you can, and the Government are certain to employ you."

The German Emperor and his Soldier Sons.

A sort of trial review of the Imperial Princes took place before the Emperor, at Berlin last week. A file of Foot Guards, under the command of Capt. von Pluskow (who is known for his great height), and a lieutenant, constituted the body of troops with whom the Princes were reviewed. The Empress watched her sons being drilled from a window. When the Emperor arrived the Princes gave him a smart military salute. He then gave a sign for the review to begin. The Princes at once drew their swords and marched to their places, the Crown Prince, as officer, to the right, and the two others behind him. It was a pretty sight to see the Princes march past the Emperor five times to the military band. They could not keep in step with the long fellows of the Guards, and now and then had to make a jump. Each time they passed the Emperor saluted. Next the soldiers went through the whole drill, and finally charged, the Princes taking part in everything. All went off splendidly, although in the charge the

Princes could not keep up with the Grenadiers, who were hurrying forwards shouting "Hurra." Another march past concluded the proceedings. The Emperor, who corrected his sons when they made mistakes, was very satisfied with the performance. When all was over, the Princes, beaming with joy, ran to their parents.

The Royal United Service Institution.

It was announced that a paper would be read on Friday afternoon last week, at the usual meeting of the members of the Royal United Service Institution, by Capt. Mayne, entitled "Interpretation of Part V, Infantry Drill, 1893." Forty minutes before the hour of meeting the Council of the Institution received an intimation from the military authorities that the paper must not be read. A notice was accordingly posted at the doors that the paper had been withdrawn at the request of the author, but that a paper on "The Method of Executing Infantry Fire on a Battlefield" would be read by Captain Mayne. There was a considerable audience, over which Colonel Slade presided, and a discussion of an interesting but technical character followed the address.

Colonel Lonsdale Hale, as the senior member of the Council present, said he very much regretted that the lecture which had been announced had not been delivered. It might be that the reading of the paper was only postponed, and it was not improbable that, though Captain Mayne might not deliver his views, someone else might be found to pick Captain Mayne's brains and analyze the views which he intended to put forward that afternoon. Those views were already public property and it was very possible would be put forward in the form of a lecture in that Institution. The lecture had been suppressed, but if he had come to the Institution an hour sooner the audience would have heard Captain Mayne's paper. The Royal United Service Institution appeared to have reached a crisis. When a lecture was sent there it was first submitted to a Journal Committee, some experts of that committee read it, and if nothing objectionable in it was found, the committee passed it, and it was printed and in due course delivered. Captain Mayne's lecture had gone through that process, and the lecture appeared to the committee to be merely a criticism and suggestion for the improvement of the Infantry Regulations. The old Artillery Regulations and the existing Cavalry Regulations had been criticized in the Institution over and over again, and there had never been the slightest objection. In the present instance, however, forty minutes before the time announced for the lecture, the Adjutant-General put his foot down and said, "This shan't be read." Things were coming to a plain point between the Institution and the military authorities. A month ago Major Murray brought forward a lecture which was submitted in the usual way and accepted and printed, and in that case also the authorities suddenly interfered. Ladies and gentlemen, in fact, assembled at the Institution to be made fools of. If things were to go on in this way, the Institution might as well put up its shutters altogether. It was a place in which, in the past, every professional subject had been freely and fully discussed, and in a letter which Lord Charles Beresford wrote some time since to the Institution he said, "I am perfectly certain that the machine-gun would never have been

introduced in the Navy if it had not been for the discussions in the Royal United Service Institution." Lord Northbrook, too, in speaking in that room, said, "We are very much indebted to the Royal United Service Institution for the discussions which take place in it, which thrash out all those different subjects and different questions that are brought before us." Over and over again, in fact, the authorities had recognized the value of full and free discussion; but his colleagues on the Council who were absent would be absolutely astonished to hear that the military authorities had for the second time interfered that day with the freedom of debate at the Institution, and had refused to allow a lecture to be delivered. If such a course of action was to be continued it would come to this, that the officers on the Active Staff would never be able to open their mouths until they had undergone the censorship of the Horse Guards or the Admiralty.

Captain Mayne was cordially thanked for the address he had substituted.—*United Service Gazette.*

Admiral Edward Hardinge, C. B., died at his residence, 32 Hyde Park Square, London, on the 2nd of May. He was the third son of the late Major General R. Hardinge, Royal Artillery, and was born in 1830. He entered the Navy in 1842, and the following year he was employed with the Naval Brigade at Sebastopol, serving in the trenches for ten months during the siege, and commanding a ladder party at the storming of Redan on June 18, for which he was specially mentioned in the *Gazette*. He was also present at the capture of Kinburn and the adjacent batteries, and received the Crimean, Turkish and Sardinian medals, with clasps for Sebastopol and Inkerman, the Knighthood of the Legion of Honour, and the Medjidie of the Fifth Class. He was promoted to rank of commander in 1856, and to that of captain in 1863, and as captain of the *Valorus* was employed in the protection of the Canadian fisheries during 1870. He was created a C.B. in 1877, advanced to the rank of rear admiral in 1879, and to that of vice admiral in 1885, and was placed on the retired list as an admiral in 1890. Admiral Hardinge received the silver medal of the Royal Humane Society for saving the life of a boy who had fallen overboard at sea.

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