

have long been as full as they will hold, and some 20,000 Regulars and Militia lie under canvas. Between Thorn Hill and Caesar's Camp and round towards the right, the whole landscape is studded with encampments. These are chiefly on rising ground, and the white bell tents—some whiter than others because made of cotton—show out clean and neat against the dark trees. The sombre mass of south Camp Huts is picked out by a few white buildings: behind these lie Camps of Regulars, on Rushmoor bottom a Militia camp is near the Roman Catholic Church on the hill to the left; rows of horses stand at their picket ropes among the tents the dusty roads in the distance are covered with bits of red; orderlies gallop here and there: the air is loud with the rattle of long lines of Control wagons, laden with hay and all imaginable stores, and far away to the right is the desert stretch of the Long Valley, across which a caravan of men and horses slowly moves, stirring up clouds of sand as it goes. The fresh regiments as they come in are at present merely added to the existing force, so that the camp as it now stands is still a single division, under the command of Sir Hope Grant.

The 2nd Tower Hamlets Militia, under Colonel Halkett, have been at Aldershot a fortnight, and are now preparing, in common with all the troops, for the grand move on Friday. The regiment has had a fortnight to make itself at home, and seems to have settled down well to camp life. All the Militia have had their tents pitched for them on coming into camp, but when they go into the field they will have to manage for themselves, and there is every reason to suppose they will be perfectly well able to do so. Of course they have been hard at work all this quiet time. They have come on remarkably well in their marching, though not so well in the handling of their arms; but the art of war would not be an art at all if it could be learnt in a fortnight. The 2nd Tower Hamlets is 650 strong, 200 of them are recruits. The reporter for the *Times* says they are not men of fine physique indeed, he saw no Militia regiments (he did not visit all) whose men taking them together, gave him an impression of stature and strength—but they appeared well capable of their temporary profession, and had been tried by the Long Valley, which soon weeds out the weak ones. The 2nd Tower Hamlets were at first rather difficult to get in hand, but they are now settling down to their work, and give very little trouble. We are told that the advantages of the camping over the billeting are infinite upon the face of it. The men are not turned out in the streets after drill, but are kept together by the regimental canteen, which is well supplied with newspapers, and where the reckless expenditure of their daily sixpence cannot do much harm. The 2nd Tower Hamlets have very cleverly made themselves paillasses by sewing up their tent straw in one of the blankets served out to them, a 'manœuvre' which keeps their camp clean and neat. The chimneys of their mess kitchen blew in during the Wednesday night's rain, but their tents were well and strongly pitched. Here and there was something wanted in trimness, but the essentials have been carefully attended to. The open air trench cooking with wood—a simple matter—is done without difficulty by this regiment, and after one day of dreadful confusion, occasioned by a late arrival in camp, all went on well. Their health is excellent, only two men being in the hospital tent.

Grievances are beginning to crop up. "After going through the tents of the 2nd

Tower Hamlet," says the correspondent we have quoted above, "I cantered over to Boorley Bottom, where lie six regiments of Militia and a battery of Royal Horse Artillery. All these troops are close together in adjoining fields. The town of tents, the Artillerymen cleaning their horses, the Militia marching back into camp after drill, charmingly framed in hills and woods, Boorley Bottom is a pretty spot but the water is not very good, and there is some diarrhoea among the men. The six Militia battalions are all well arranged, and the troops work hard, having three parades a day. There is some complaint at their having to start on a five or six hours field day with nothing better than a cup of coffee in their stomachs but there was an order to set this right, owing to some complication which is easily remedied, it has not been carried into effect. The sergeants of the 1st Middlesex, and I believe of the other regiments, have a capital mess marquo, which with all its furniture, is supplied gratis by a brewer, who looks for his reward to the beer which he sells at wholesale price. The horses of the Militia officers do not picket well, and a good many of the officers seem to think that the Government might have been a little more liberal to them. Encamping puts them to about double the expense of usual years; they have to buy many things, such as filters, furniture, lamps, cooking plant, which are not necessary at head quarters, and they—or, at any rate, some of those I spoke to—consider that the Controllers might have issued to them such things as ground-sheets, for instance, even if they charged a fair rent for them. It must be remembered that although officers have to equip themselves as for the field, or nearly so, they do not receive the field allowance allowed in actual war.

"But a far more vital grievance than this, and one much nearer the root of the whole Militia system, is entertained by a proportion of the Metropolitan Militiamen. While I was in the camp of the 1st Middlesex, a man came up to the Adjutant to complain upon the very subject I am speaking of. He said he was a cabinetmaker, earning 30s. a week, and wanted to know if the Government would make up his losses to him. Costermongers, who earn as much as 30s. of a Saturday night, and indeed, a good many men, are very disconcerted on this point. They do not like the loss of their lodging money, they cannot earn money after hours as they can in a town, and if they lose by the Militia they will keep out of it if they can. All this is matter of much difficulty. It is certainly quite impossible to indemnify a costermonger drilling for the good of the community at a shilling a day, for the loss of a Saturday night's trade, but a costermonger ought not to be in a worse position in camp than at the headquarters of his regiment, and if his lodging money is a real loss to him, he is entitled to have his case considered. But, at any rate he must be a gainer in health by his transfer from London courts to Berkshire camps. It is impossible to see the men sitting at their tent doors at Boorley Bottom, or gathered round their cooking fires, without thinking that these autumn manœuvres, properly conducted, will help to strengthen the whole body of the nation as well as its sword arm. There is one other point I ought to notice. The field ration of meat issued to the troops will be three quarters of a pound a day, including bone. If these same men were on active service in war time their ration would be one pound, and the difference may turn out to have been unwisely made."

Orders have been received from the Horse

Guards directing the following regiments to be held in readiness to move from the camp at the conclusion of the autumn manœuvres:—1st Life Guards to Windsor; 2nd Life Guards to Regent's Park; Royal Horse Guards, to Hyde Park; 3rd Dragoon Guards to Maidstone and Shorncliffe; 7th Dragoon Guards, to Norwich, Ipswich, and Colechester; 10th Hussars to Colechester; 12th Lancers to Hounslow; 1st Battalion, 4th Regiment, to Portsdown Hill Forts; 2nd Battalion 9th Regiment, to Shorncliffe; 33rd Regiment to Dover; 42nd Highlanders, to Devonport; 4th Battalion 60th Rifles, to Winchester, 61st Highlanders, to Fort George and Aberdeen; 94th Regiment to Newport, Brecon, and Bristol; 101st Fusiliers, to Bury and Ashton; 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade to Dover. The following corps will remain at Aldershot:—2nd Dragoon Guards, 7th Hussars, 9th Lancers, 2nd Battalion 4th Regiment, 2nd Battalion 15th Regiment, 2nd Battalion 19th Regiment, 2nd Battalion 22nd Regiment, 35th, 46th, 50th, 82nd, 99th, 100th, and 102nd Regiments.

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 4TH.

With reference to our comment on the absurdity of the Control pleading ignorance of the number of horses and men required for a provision and equipage train, a letter has appeared under the signature of "G" who says:

"This is undoubtedly the case, as the solution of the problem has not yet been attempted in England. We know however very well what is thought necessary in other countries. Let me quote *Rustow, König um dei Rheingeeuze*, 1870-71:—

"Prussian Army Corps of 30,000 men.—Provision column 160 carriages: field battery, 5; ambulances, 30; equipages, 200; sundries, 3—total, 397 carriages, requiring at four horses per carriage, 1588 horses. Also,—Horse depot or reserve, 170 horses; escort, 120—total horses, 1878.

"This for an army without tents, and which 'requisitions.'

"Colonel Reilly, in a published report on the French and Prussian armies of 1870 gives for the strength of the train for 100,000 men—Provisions, 1224 wagons; equipage, 1260 wagons—Total 2484, requiring at four horses a wagon, 9936 horses, or say 10,000, without allowing for reserve horses or escort. This for an army which only shelters its men in *tentes d'abris*. At this rate 3000 horses would be required for 30,000 men. There appears to be no reason why the War Office should have been 'surprised to learn that the Control' strength of horses—viz., 1041 in all Great Britain—would suffice to move 30,000 men, who were to have tents to shelter them, and who would not have requisition to the farmers on the road.

Permit me to add a short extract from the above-quoted report by Colonel Reilly:—

"The intendant of the army of the Loire had to improvise all his transport, as all the Military Train had been lost at Metz and Sedan. The carts of the country were called in and organized into brigades, and became tolerably efficient as long as the Army became stationary; but the Intendance, with "hired transport" was totally inefficient to supply the Army when moving to a distance from its base of operations.

The manœuvres may be said to have commenced to-day, as a force of 13,000 men marched out with all their camp equipage to the Sandhurst hills and back, a distance both ways of from fourteen to eighteen miles. At Sandhurst they pitched their tents, cooked their victuals, and rested for an hour or two; the tents were then struck,