

Gleanings.

As a result of the encouragement given to the study of language in the British service quite a number of officers of the Indian army now understand Russian, a language almost unknown a few years ago among British officers. Ten more have just been declared qualified to act as interpreters.

To protect every £100 worth of sea-borne trade cost. Russia £8.2 a year; Italy £7.8 a year; Germany £5.03 a year; France £3.05 a year; and the British Empire £1.3 a year. To protect each ton of merchant shipping under the national flag costs Russia £9.1 a year; France £7.8 a year; Italy £5.07 a year; Germany £2.3 a year, and the British Empire £1.1 a year.

The Duke of Wellington once remarked that "people with nice notions of religion ought not to enter the army." Evidently the same idea prevails in Germany, with the difference that there the doctrine of free will is outside the argument. At any rate this must be the reflection of the two young German soldiers who declined to attend reserve drill and demanded their discharge, quoting the sixth commandment as their justification. The authorities were not to be convinced by this scriptural logic, and decreed thirty-four days to be spent by these religious enthusiasts in the seclusion of a fortress, where possibly their views on the immorality of soldiering will undergo modification.

The War Office has it in contemplation to issue an improved cavalry saddle for experiment shortly. One has already been submitted, and meets with a certain amount of favour. Its merits are not accepted, however, with that unanimity with which they might be; many officers holding that the present saddle has not been properly tested, and that

the defects which are brought to notice in the report on the cavalry manoeuvres are not due to inherent defects in the saddle itself. Major Hegan, in his "Notes on Manoeuvres of the Prussian Guard Cavalry Division, 1890," writes:—"All regiments use blankets under the saddle. They are of two sorts—a white and a grey one. The former is not liked, and will not be issued any more. It is worn folded in four, hangs low, and sweats the horse unnecessarily. The grey blanket is the last issued, and is found very satisfactory. It is used with the new saddle, and folded in nine—first in three lengthways and then again in three. It is laid on the horse's back with that end to the front which shows three edges together—consequently there are no edges to the rear. No straps or contrivances of any kind are required to keep it from slipping." This is a practical detail. We should at least subject the German system to a fair test, and modify our arrangements for issue, etc., before wasting large sums of money on a new saddle, simply because the old one failed under the very peculiar circumstances of the recent Berkshire manoeuvres.

ONTARIO ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting, for receiving reports, electing officers, and transaction of business will be held at the Canadian Military Institute, 94 1/2 King Street West, Toronto, on Tuesday, the 24th February, at 2 o'clock p.m.

Members are reminded that it is intended, notice thereof having been given, to move a motion to the effect that Clause 5 be so amended as to permit Field and Garrison Batteries to affiliate on payment of \$5 and \$3 per annum, respectively.

L. HOMFRAY IRVING,
Secretary.

Toronto, 26th January, 1891.

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