

SUPPLIES.—(Two Chief Points).

1. Organization of supplies in district. Where the distributing centres lie, what is the method of distribution, amount of stock usually kept in villages, etc.

2. Items of information likely to prove of interest, such as the actual or possible output of bakeries, flour mills, etc., names of prominent forage and meat contractors (and their reputation), average amount of petrol to be had, amount of forage kept on farms, prices, variations according to time of year, etc.

A very great amount of statistical information is usually available from official returns and publications.

RIVERS.

A river can affect an army in many different ways. It may be merely a barrier, it may be a defensive position, or merely a delaying position, it may cover a flank, it may be an auxiliary line of supply.

The nature of Part I of the River Report will vary according to the function of the river. Part II will contain every detail of the crossings over the river, (bridges, ferry, ford, etc.) It is important to lay particular emphasis on the approaches to both banks and to look out for suitable places to throw pontoons.

BILLETING.

The system of billeting is a great feature in foreign armies. After attending several foreign manoeuvres, I am rather of the opinion that the worst billet is usually better than the best bivouac.

In delightful summer weather, a bivouac is excellent, but if it is cold or wet or windy, one is often so cold that one cannot really rest, however tired one may be, and one starts the next day at a great handicap, compared to the man who has been between four walls.

In Europe the Mayor of each commune possesses a billeting census, which is revised annually. The system works A. 1, and when one sees a French or German battalion going into billets, it is like a number of workmen returning home after a day's work, no difficulties and few delays.