

the unfortunate accident which happened to a member of the Prince Edward Island detachment, it is worthy of note that this is the first incident of a similar nature which has occurred since the inception of these contests.

The Halifax Brigade having this year succeeded in winning the much coveted efficiency prize—though run very close by the New Brunswick Brigade and by a battery of the hitherto invincible Prince Edward Island Brigade—it is a matter for especial regret that owing to the destruction of their drill shed by the recent fire they will be unable for some time to resume the voluntary drills necessary to the maintenance of efficiency. Prompt steps should be taken by the Department to repair the damage or to provide temporary accommodation, so that the local force may not be altogether discouraged.

On the whole, as we have said, the Artillery well maintain their creditable all-round efficiency, and the marked success of the comprehensive plan upon which they work should lead the other branches to take pattern by them.

The War Office has put an end to the confusion respecting the proper name of the new magazine rifle by adopting "Lee-Metford" as the official designation. The other names commonly used were "Lee Speed" and "Lee-Burton."

The U. S. *Army and Navy Journal* reports that a turning point in the history of the National Lancers, of Boston, has been reached by the admission of a number of gentlemen whose names are given with this comment:

"To those who know the standing of these gentlemen in the community it means that an effort is to be made to have a cavalry company in Boston every bit as exclusive as the splendid City Troop of Philadelphia and Troop A of New York City.

"Most of the gentlemen interested in the movement are members of one or more of the various Boston clubs and nearly all are already good riders.

"Many of the new members are horse owners, so that the appearance of the company on parade will be equal to any like command in the country, as well as allow frequent mounted drills, a thing at present unknown.

"Both the city of Boston and the commonwealth of Massachusetts are to be congratulated upon having such a beneficial and substantial improvement to the cavalry branch of the service."

THE NEW U. S. DRILL REGULATIONS.

(*Army and Navy Journal*.)

On the conclusion of the recent fall drill at Annapolis of the naval cadet battalion, the new infantry tactics for the navy may be said to have been given a practical test in all but fire work. As the drill adopted by the navy is the new infantry drill for the army, its working at Annapolis, where it was first put in practice, may be of some interest to the military service.

The new drill was taken up at Annapolis about Sept. 1. To say that it has proved a success puts it mildly. Its every feature is indicative of simplicity and mobility. This is characteristic of both the marching and of the manual. Less memory is required than formerly, and a mass of useless appendages in the form of markers and guides has been gotten rid of. These statements are based on the actual workings of the drill, and not on any theoretical summary. On the last of the fall drills the cadets in responding to the order to assemble, fell in, facing square to the front, and with arms at an "order." The companies dressed with arms at an order, the greatest difficulty being shown in taking the alignment. Again, after aligning their companies, the company officers went by the shortest way to their proper positions at the front and centre. Time was saved

As an instance of the celerity possible under the new

drill, the following movements were executed in thirty minutes time:—(1) Open ranks, (2) Manual of arms, (3) Close ranks, (4) Firings, (5) March in line, (6) General alignment, (7) Front into line from column of companies, (8) Companies right and companies right turn, (9) Change of front, (10) Form line of columns, (11) Change directions in line of columns of fours from close column, (12) Movements by sections. A feature of the final drill was the rapidity with which the street riot work was executed. The battalion was formed in columns of squares, each company forming a square, then opened up a little later into column of companies. When the leading company approached an imaginary side street, running at right angles to the line of march, the first company executed "sections right and left turn." As each section made its turn the rear rank obliqued on the flank, then came up on the line of the first rank, all pieces being brought down to a charge bayonets. The movement was executed in a flash, and in an instant after the order was given a solid wall of steel was protecting the battalion flank, each flank section in the meantime firing volleys down the side street. As soon as the rear company had passed the side street, each of the flank sections executed the march by the right and left flanks, then columned right and left, the front rank of the two sections obliquing and uniting in front of the rear rank.

In its operation the new infantry drill is very German in character. The battle formation in the new tactics is one of the strong features of the drill. A line is thrown to the front, the men taking the normal battle interval of one pace. The units in the line are the squads of four men, each squad being in charge of a squad leader. The line is formed by the deploying of squads to the front, and their extension on arriving on the line of formation. The fighting line is worked at a distance varying from 300 to 600 yards to the front of the reserves. In action, the fighting line is fed from time to time. There is no falling back. The one feature prominent is the constant increase of the fighting line. The work of the naval battalion showed that the fighting line could be fed with celerity and much freedom of action.

In point of effect, the new tactics have in no wise lost in martial show. In the change of direction, it would naturally be supposed that the substitution of the turning for the wheel does away with a very pretty sight. On the contrary, the turnings, as seen when changing direction in column of companies, is strikingly fine. The effect is not unlike the graceful curving of an intact line, the curve assuming the rigid straight line on the completion of the turn. By the turning methods, the change of direction is rapidly formed, and is a great improvement over the old wheels.

The new naval tactics seem to be admirably adapted to the needs of the navy. Just so much of battle work has been given as naval battalions are likely to need. The shore work of seamen infantry is likely to be confined more particularly in future to clearing streets, maintaining order in captured cities, and in putting down riots. For such work, the riot drill should meet all demands. It is simple, and very effective. It is the first of its kind ever seen in this country, and the adoption of this part of the Navy drill by National Guard organizations would be a good thing.

The United States Revenue Marine Corps has taken up the new Navy drill, as has also the Naval Reserve. It would seem that there has been no mistake made in the new tactics. Whatever changes may be ordered will be more in the line of changes in phraseology than otherwise.

The conditions of success are attainable and capable of demonstration; * * the preparation of study and thought is essential to skill in war, and * * being thus prepared, a leader in order to achieve the most notable successes, need not be gifted with inspiration, but only with the more appreciable, though still rare, combination of sound sense, clear insight, and resolution. — *Harvey*.