

THE AUTUMN MANOEUVRES.

THE SCENE OF OPERATIONS.

(From the Broad Arrow, August 31.)

(Continued from Page 521.)

The correspondent of the *Times* says:—"The Control Department is still furnishing rations of undemable quantity and quality to all arms in camp. But it has a hard and trying time before it, and if it should fail in any degree however slight, it will expose itself to the keenest criticism. Those who are responsible for the original creation of the force could hardly have foreseen, and probably never calculated, the mischief that was capable of being wrought by that one word 'Control.' The proverb is emphatic as to the consequence of a bad name, but an injudicious name is almost worse. It is not so much in what it is as in what it implies that the word 'Control' is objectionable. To a general supposed to be in supreme command the question 'Who is your Controller?' ceases to be an innocent inquiry, and becomes a conceded taunt—if the phrase has any reality about it. On the other hand, if the Control be not real, or if from any cause the Controller should happen not to be taken into counsel, but becomes a mere executive officer for the fulfilment or facilitating of instructions already issued by higher powers, without reference to his views, or the means at his command, then the expression becomes mischievous as well as misleading. This is not by any means a piece of mere verbal criticism; but it reflects opinions which are current far and wide and freely expressed in conversation, and which ought not to be ignored in any further plans of army organization. The Control officers are working manfully and courageously to meet all requirements of the campaign, but woe to them if in any branch there should be a shortcoming."

Northern Army.—A correspondent at Aldershot writes:—"There can be no mistake about it—the northern army means, in Yankee phraseology, to wipe the eye of the southern force. Sir Robert Walpole, accompanied by General Shute, and Col. Marshall, the two brigadiers of this force, went to Pewsey today to reconnoitre the ground over which the fighting will have to be done. The cavalry, both heavy and light, have been working double tides, and are in very fit condition, whether for marching or for fighting. The 19th Hussars this morning struck their camp, and marched away *omnibus impediments*—and the said impediments strictly in accordance to regulations—for a long day in the country. The infantry of the 4th Division to day devoted itself to the practice of outpost duty by brigades in rotation, one brigade commencing work at six another at ten, and the third at four. But as we know all work and no play made Jack a dull boy, and there need not, if it can be helped, to be any dull boys in the northern army. As an interlude, accordingly to the serious busine., there was an afternoon of unprovoked steeple chasing and flat racing on the sequestered course on the further side of the Long Valley. The meeting was one specially got up by the Household Brigade and 9th Lancers; but the Grand Scurry which formed the closing race, was open to all. The most amusing feature of the afternoon was a steeple chase match between a couple of Hockey pomes. It was quite a sight, the punchy little animals—the bigger of the two being somewhere about eleven hands high—galloping along gallantly under their strapping riders, gaily flying fences considerably higher than themselves, and

ultimately setting to in quite a desperate finish on the flat. So many horses entered in the scurry, that they had to be divided into two batches, which ran one after the other. Of the first lot the horse ridden by Mr. Lancelles, of the Blues proved the winner; of the second, the horse so resolutely steered by Captain Clayton, of the 9th Lancers, finished first, and the stakes were divided, the deciding heat not being run at all."

The umpires decision as to the battle of Fox Hills is that Lord Mark Kerr was successful on both flanks and centre, and that Sir R. Walpole found great fault with General Parke's battalions for having contrary to order, advanced after "cease firing" and even for showing themselves at all in a position where the defending force was not only securely posted, but in greater force. The success of the defence, had been decided by Maxwell's counter attack on the enemy before this happened.

The following revised rules for the umpire staff and troops during the manoeuvres were issued from the Horse Guards to day:—

• RULES TO BE OBSERVED BY THE UMPIRE STAFF.

1. The umpire will be His Royal Highness, the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, or other general officer commanding. 2. The umpire staff will be distinguished by a broad white band round the right arm, above the elbow. 3. All orders from the umpire staff are to be considered as directly emanating from the umpire-in-chief, and are to be carried out with alacrity. 4. No general or other officer commanding a brigade, regiment, or battery is on any account to enter into discussion with the umpires. 5. The umpires may halt any body of troops, or order them to retire behind the first line or any other position indicated; and in case of collision the umpires may decide whether a body of troops has become non-effective from the fire of the enemy as to be withdrawn for a specified time from action. 6. The umpires will decide on the actual present circumstances, without reference to their effect on the general course of the manoeuvres.

• RULES TO BE OBSERVED BY THE TROOPS.

1. White bands two inches wide will be worn horizontally round the middle of the head dress by the southern force. 2. The umpires are general umpires for all arms, and the umpire on the spot will decide all questions connected with artillery, cavalry or infantry. 3. The umpires shall take their places between the opposing forces in the most advantageous position; they will be distributed, as nearly as possible, two in the centre, and two on each flank. 4. If no umpire is present when a doubtful point occurs, a general officer or brigadier may send for one, the troops remaining halted until he arrives. 5. No troops are to arrive within 100 yards of an opposing force; as a general rule the weaker body should retire; if for any reason it does not do so before the limit laid down is attained, the opposing forces are to halt, order arms, return swords and wait till the umpire decides which is to fall back. 6. Lines are not to exchange volleys nearer than 250 yards. 7. Skirmishers are to cease firing when within 200 yards of opposing skirmishers. 8. Cavalry charges to be considered effective by the umpires must be delivered with proper energy; the charging forces must be halted when within 100 yards of the opposing body. 9. Cavalry and artillery are not to remain halted under effective fire of infantry or artillery.

10. Skirmishers and artillery are not to move across a plain commanded by enemy's cavalry, unless supported. 11. Guns limbered up, if unsupported or weakly protected, may be captured by cavalry or infantry skirmishers. 12. Beaten cavalry must retire at a trot. Victorious cavalry must follow at a walk at 300 yards' distance. 13. A battalion in square (unshaken) cannot be attacked by single squadrons of cavalry. Three or four squadrons may attack, if the square is assailable from different sides. 14. When infantry are defeated by infantry (according to the umpires decision) the victors may pursue at 800 yards distance. 15. Obstructions are only to be considered tactical obstructions when they form actual natural obstructions, or are on prescribed ground. 16. The 'cease fire' and 'halt' are on no account to be sounded by any regiment for the purpose of carrying out any regimental details, but words of command only are to be issued. 17. Infantry will never fix bayonets except when formed to receive cavalry. 18. Villages with troops formed in front of them are to be considered as occupied. 19. General officers will take care that all hurry and forced rate of marching are prevented; the movements should be made with the greatest possible deliberation, and order and regularity must be maintained. When troops are broken by circumstances of ground or otherwise, they should be formed on the first opportunity. 20. The most economical use of ammunition is to be inculcated and enforced. Commanding officers will be held responsible that the troops do not commence the operations of the day with a larger amount of ammunition in their pouches than that fixed in the memorandum, dated Horse Guards, 22nd July, 1872. 21. Railways are only to be crossed by the regular bridges and crossings. 22. Firing near buildings or stockyards should be avoided as much as possible, and every precaution taken to guard against fire. 23. Great vigilance is required to detect and not give weight to 'manoeuvre tricks,' such as too great extension of line, for the purpose of surrounding, or the renewed attacks of troops already beaten. 24. The probable effect of fire, especially of artillery, must be considered; also whether there was confusion or absence of confusion. 25. Repeated attacks by the same body of cavalry are absurd, and impracticable in real battle. 26. The supposed destruction of bridges may be indicated by a flag, by the occupation of the bridges by a party of Engineers. The umpires will determine how long it will require to repair the bridges. 27. When the 'cease fire' and 'halt' followed by 'officers' call' are sounded, officers commanding brigades and divisions will repair to the umpire in chief, and the troops will encamp or wait for orders according to circumstances.

"By command,

"J. W. ARMSTRONG,

"Deputy Adjutant General."

SATURDAY, AUG. 24TH.

Northern Army.—We hear from Aldershot that, in consequence of the 4th Division having to march early on Monday, the men were not taken out today. Lord Mark Kerr very wisely decided in giving them a rest before their start on their five days' march, resting the first night at either Bramshill or Hazely Heath. Major General Staveley, had his men out in the direction of Cove for a time. General Parke's brigade burnt a good deal of powder in defending their ground against Erskine's and Anderson's brigades of the same division. Major General Parke made a very plucky attempt to