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THE AUTUMNAL MANOUVRES OF THE BRITISH ARMY.—NO. II.

(From the Broad Arrow.)

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2ND.

The stampede of horses belonging to the 1st Life Guards, recorded in our last impression has been followed by another midnight sally. On Saturday, about ten p. m., just as the tired soldier, was about to take his rest, and the equally tired officer, was peacefully enjoying his well earned repose, the 3rd Royal Surrey Militia, was startled by the unmistakable sound of advancing cavalry. Nearer and nearer it came and a wave of maddened horses crashed into their camp—the Bays had broken loose! Under very trying circumstances the men behaved exceedingly well, and immediately rallied round their officers to protect the Government property and their own, both of which were placed in imminent jeopardy. Thanks to the steadiness and precaution taken, nothing serious happened, though there were numerous hairbreadth escapes. The Captain of the day while going his rounds was within an ace of being killed. The Bays are said to have suffered severely, one splendid charger of great value, belonging to an officer, had an eye knocked out; another had half his face cut away. Several horses had their legs broken, and the turnpike gate in the Farnborough Road against which the unfortunate animals dashed, was spattered with blood.

Another report says:—"On Friday and Saturday, the 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays), arrived from Colchester and took up their quarters on Cove Common. The strength of the corps, which is commanded by Colonel Seymour, is twenty-three officers, 568 men, and 370 horses. The horses were picketed according to the new system. A few minutes after nine o'clock, seventy-six horses suddenly broke loose from the right wing of the regiment, and galloped madly in all directions. The vast expanse of common ground in the locality is intersected by the Basingstoke Canal and other numerous ditches, into which many of the animals plunged, and were rescued with difficulty from drowning or suffocation. The lives of some of the pursuers were placed in great danger, owing to their ignorance of the locality, and one man narrowly escaped drowning in a large reservoir in which three horses were found swimming about. About a dozen soldiers entered the water breast high, and just as the man referred to was about to seize a horse the animal plunged away, and the poor fellow sank beyond his depth. He was rescued with difficulty by

two comrades, and remained some time in an exhausted condition. Of the number of horses that broke loose no less than twenty-four were officers chargers. A charger belonging to Captain Grentorex had an eye cut out, while another broke his leg so severely that the bone protruded a considerable distance through the skin, and was obliged to be shot. A meeting of officers having been called to inquire into the circumstances, directions were issued for the men to tether their horses according to the system formerly used. The 1st Life Guards also resumed the old system."

The plan of picketing is generally disapproved, and the determination of the officers to resume the old method has been heartily welcomed. The former consists in attaching a ring to the near fore and off hind legs, each being secured by a rope fastened to a piece of wood resembling a tent peg, about fifteen inches in length, which is driven firmly into the ground. The soldiers give a decided preference to the Indian system. Complaints are made of the laxity of the Control Department in the supply of the cords used for picketing purposes, the amount of circumlocution necessary, for obtaining a single cord being truly astonishing. Thus the men are induced to shift with improper material rather than go through the formality attending each application.

The special correspondent of the *Times*, in allusion to the first stampede writes:—"The pegs and chains to which the Life Guards horses were picketed by the forefoot (they had also heel ropes) were served out four months ago. They had been tried eight times, at Eaglefield Green, Bushey, and elsewhere, and had been found equally unsatisfactory on each occasion. Half the men or a great number of them, were obliged to stay up with the horses, and the hammering in of the pegs, like the building up of the scaffold on which somebody must now be hung, went on all night long. At one trial no less than 700 pegs were rendered useless in two nights by their splitting or by their cords or chains breaking, and the unanimous opinion of the officers of the two regiments was that the pegs were unsafe. Under these circumstances, it undoubtedly was the plain duty of the Colonel to make a very strong representation to the authorities, to tell them clearly that he would not answer for his horses in camp, unless he was supplied with other picketing materials. The knowledge that he had done this would of course, absolve from the responsibility he has now incurred, but whether he did do this or not I am unable to say. In laughing at this affair, which has made a distinguish-

ed regiment ridiculous, we must not forget its very grave side. No miscarriage could well be more serious, for it was the accident of an accident that many lives were not lost. The 2nd Life Guards now lie close beside the 1st; had they moved into their present position, a day sooner than they did, their horses would to a certainty have gone too, would probably have dashed through the other camp, and no one can say what would have been the consequences. As it is the only casualty to human limb was the overturning of a cab, by which the driver was rather severely hurt; the loss in horses was also wonderfully small, for only six or seven are dead, and the regiment was able to turn out to a field-day on Friday 175 strong, its full number being 227. The only advantage of the peg system of picketing is that it enables each trooper to carry his peg and chain behind him and to be independent of his comrades, but a single horseman must be a poor contriver, indeed if what with his reins, and stirrup leathers, he cannot manage to fasten his horse up safely somehow or other. The object of the picketing system is to enable a regiment to keep securely in line in the middle of its tents, and nothing can be better for this than long ropes buried six inches in the ground tightly stretched, and fastened to stakes hammered into the head, at every five yards. To these the horses are secured by head-ropes; they are also kept straight by heel-ropes, long enough to allow them to lie down. The 1st and 2nd Life Guards have taken refuge in this system, which is practically the same as that which has long been safely used by the artillery. Their horses are now perfectly quiet, and the men sleep in their tents with easy minds. Let us hope this system will answer; it has at least the precedence of the Artillery. The pegs and ropes which has failed so dismally are said to have been copied from the Prussians, but this a Prussian officer denied while I was in the camp. Most of your readers will think that one of the first duties of those in charge of a number of highly fed horses brought out of their stables, and tied foot and heel all night long in the open air, was to keep strict watch and ward that no stray curs or flock of geese, or whatever it was that so scared the steeds, which did not understand the 'luxury of war' came within half a mile of the camp."

It is estimated that of the 40,000 men of all arms and services, who are to take part in the manoeuvres, only 8000 were wanting this evening to make up the full complement. The town and camp and all the country round are alive with men and horses. The permanent barracks and huts