

providing rewards for proficiency. We hope to see all this achieved in good time; meanwhile we are glad to find many of our militia officers sufficiently enthusiastic to voluntarily drill the boys in institutions where companies have not been formed or are not authorized; in this connection we call to mind the names of Major Hughes, in the Toronto public schools, Lieut. Burnett, in Orillia, and last on the honorable roll, Lieut. Brennan in the Peterborough separate schools.

THIS week we conclude Colonel Macdonald's trenchant essay on the reforms necessary in our field exercise, and we have willingly devoted to it a great deal of space, because the whole problem of infantry manoeuvres is one of the most urgent questions now before the English military world. Our own little disturbance last year must have borne in on all who took part in it the necessity for reform in the methods of attack, and for finding some means of effectually controlling all the men when corps are scattered over considerable areas. All this Colonel Macdonald's scheme seems to do, but, even if it is not perfect, he has produced an irresistible array of authorities to show that *some* modifications must be introduced. Let our readers turn up their back numbers and read the whole article through connectedly, and then let them sit down and think the thing out for themselves, and resolve that in next summer's camps they will endeavor to take more responsibility upon themselves and learn better what their duties are in the field.

### Personal.

Dr. F. W. Campbell, of B Company Infantry School Corps, whose promotion to surgeon major after twenty years' service as a surgeon, appears in last week's general orders, is among the senior medical officers of the force, and has a record as a volunteer of which any man might be proud. He joined No. 2 company of Montreal Independent Rifles as a private in the summer of 1855, at the age of sixteen years. In 1858, when it formed No. 2 company of the 1st Battalion Volunteer Militia Rifles of Canada, he became hospital sergeant of the battalion. In May 1860, on his graduation as M.D., he was gazetted its assistant surgeon, and in 1866 served with it (then become the 1st or Prince of Wales Rifles) on the Eastern frontier during the Fenian raid. On the 6th October, 1866, he was gazetted surgeon of the regiment, and again served with it at Pigeon Hill and St. John's, Que., during the Fenian raid of 1870. He continued as surgeon of the Prince of Wales Rifles till the 21st December, 1883, when he was transferred to the permanent force as surgeon of Infantry School Corps, in which he is still serving. On leaving the Prince of Wales Rifles, with which he had been connected for twenty-eight years, Dr. Campbell addressed a letter to his brother officers, in which he made a statement such as few men in the force could make, viz: "that up to that date, during his entire connection with it, the regiment had *never* turned out, either for active service or holiday parade, that he had not been with them. What this means can only be fully appreciated by those who know the large amount of varied service which the Prince of Wales Rifles have performed. Dr. Campbell is one of Montreal's most prominent physicians, and is in the prime of life. After a service of thirty-one years in the militia of Canada, it is pleasant for us to record his promotion and to express the hope that he may be spared many more years to serve the force with which he has so long been connected.

### Military Saddles.

IN our former article, (reprinted in No. 64) having shown what we consider to be the main defects of the present military saddle, we shall now proceed to discuss what in our opinion is the best description of girth and the best method of its adjustment, and after entering shortly into the vexed question of blankets *versus* numnah, we shall refer to a saddle which we consider carries out all the conditions required, but which, if adopted, would necessitate the adoption of a rational method of carrying the kit. There is no doubt that unless the girth is made of the proper material (which must be of a plastic nature) and fixed in the proper place on the saddle, it is bound to gall the horse.

1st. With regard to material: web girths are the best, but on service are liable to rot, while solid leather gets as hard as a board; if, however, the leather is cut in slips and plaited, the double object is attained of presenting a soft surface which at the same time does not slip. The horsehair girth is largely used in America with great advantage.

2nd. The point at which the girth should be attached must be central, with three buckles shaped like a broad arrow. A broad belt with a ring at either end, which is just long enough to come around the horse's belly, might with advantage replace the buckles, which in some respects are objectionable, and a small stud and eye-holes substituted. The broad arrow attachments to the saddle are thus rendered permanent, and they can be made of three narrow strips of leather, which terminate in a single narrow strip perforated with holes and a stud, or merely lashed, as in Mexico, to the ring by a sailor's knot. By adopting this method it is absolutely impossible for the girth to slip under the horse's withers. Of course the present slipping forward of the girth arises from the faulty construction and fitting of the saddle; if the tree fits well a surcingle would keep the saddle in its place without a girth at all; but the present girth, if loose, will slip forward even if the saddle is in its proper place, while the girth suggested can never do so, as the centre of its gravity passes through the centre of the horse. The system suggested has been adopted by the Austrian cavalry. There is another point on which authorities differ—that is, the relative advantages or disadvantages as between the use of the blanket or numnah, for while the numnah is much handier and you can saddle quicker with it, yet if the horse loses flesh the numnah cannot be adapted to the altered conditions as the blanket can. Perhaps the best method of all would be the adoption of a light waterproof blanket nearest to the horse's body, with a felt numnah containing pockets (after Captain Crichton's pattern), to hold the man's clothing and grooming kit. If a good fitting saddle, *without* panels, were placed on the top of this, and an Australian plaited girth attached to it centrally by three fan-shaped straps, we feel certain that the British cavalry would not have any horses laid up from sore backs or girth galls, provided that ordinary care was taken.

It now remains to indicate the pattern of the saddle which would fulfil the above conditions. The principal leaders of the Confederate cavalry during the civil war in 1862-64 all spoke in favor of using a saddle without panels, and the McLellan was considered the best. This saddle (of which there is one to be seen at the United Service Institution) had been devised for the cavalry of the U.S.A. It was not padded at all, but the tree, of wood entirely, was made smooth, and neatly covered with raw hide, and so shaped as to rest uniformly on the horse's back. It was used with a blanket. Now, although this saddle answered well (one continuous march of eighty-six miles of a squadron of 100 horses not giving a single sore back), it had the radical fault of being too heavy, i.e. within 4 lbs. of our own cumbrous pattern, in addition to which the side-boards were too wide apart in front. But a new pattern (the invention of Colonel Whitmen) has lately been tried and adopted by the American government, and this is the saddle to which we should wish particularly to draw the attention of the Committee on Saddlery, as we consider it the best one yet brought out. The principle is much the same as the Mexican, Texan, etc., but greater care is taken in the construction, especially in fitting to the horse's back. The seat is also very comfortable, and properly arranged for the equal distribution of the weight. With this saddle you are brought well down on the horse in a close, firm seat, and being closer to the animal, you have a greater power over him with the leg. The advantages are—first, greater lightness than any other military saddle in use; second, admits of a lower bridle hand; and thirdly and last, being made of a uniform material throughout, there is no danger of expansion or warping from heat or wet. Perhaps the most important point of all is the great reduction of total weight, which is the one great *sine qua non* calculated to increase the efficiency and mobility of the cavalry.—*Broad Arrow*.

### Common Sense on Parade, or Drill without Stays.

BY LIEUT.-COLONEL THE RIGHT HON. J. H. A. MACDONALD, M.P.

(Commandant the Queen's Edinburgh R. V. Brigade.)

(Continued from page 524.)

On the other hand, there is a tendency to make groups the tactical units, and to allow all other tactical order to be broken up. This is to be most seriously deprecated as unsound in itself and absolutely unsuited to the characteristics of the British race. Groups must not become commands, but only controlling and rallying aids within commands. The group is as eight needles with a special magnetic affinity, so that as eighty needles bound together in sets of eight are more easily handled and set in order than eighty separate needles, so the men of groups having a natural cohesion, and aided by the special magnetic power of their group-leader, may maintain order and recover it more quickly than they could do as individuals.

Lastly, let stiff drill and action exercise be more intimately associated than they are at present; let parade drill and action drill no longer be sharply contrasted, and take place, as they often do, absolutely at different times, but rather let them be combined; let there be frequent