

CORRESPONDENCE.

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FROM MONTREAL.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

I just pen you a few hurried lines preparatory to our going to the front, which we do in a few hours.

The Queen's Birthday opened very dull with a drizzling rain, clearing up, however, towards the afternoon. It was intended to hold a review of all the Volunteers at Logan's farm, but the state of the weather precluded that and the companies paraded at their several armories whence they were marched to the Champ de Mars. It was generally understood during the morning that some Fenian news of more than ordinary excitement had been received and the Volunteers were in some measure prepared for Col. O. Smith's harangue. It was a truly spirited one and he spoke with all the fire of enthusiasm and soul. It was to the effect that the Fenians were massing in great force on the frontier, that the government relied on them, he was sure they would not be disappointed, that several of them would leave that very afternoon and the others probably soon after, &c., &c. The gallant Colonel's speech was received in the spirit it should be, and three cheers were given for the Queen and three cheers for the Colonel.

Later in the afternoon a detachment of one company from each of the several battalions left for St. Johns, Brigade Garrison Artillery, Royal Engineers, Hochelagas, Prince of Wales' Rifles, and Royals, also Capt. Muir's Cavalry, the whole under command of Col. Osborne Smith. They were escorted down to the depot by an immense crowd and intense enthusiasm was manifested on their departure in the cars.

The balance of the several regiments paraded to-morrow at 5 a.m. and it is expected that they will follow by early train.

The holiday was but partially maintained, nearly all the shops being open and several offices. Flags were out, but the inclement weather seemed to deaden and make dull everything. There was considerable excitement down town over the news and the general wish is that if any of the thieving rascals be caught little mercy be shewn to them, and from the temper displayed by the Volunteers, we can safely predict that they need no lessons on that score.

Several rowdies were arrested by indignant Volunteers for disparaging remarks on their appearance, &c., and would have been roughly handled had it not been for the officers.

The Montagnards Light Infantry were during the afternoon inspected by Lt. Col. d'Orsonnes, who, after the inspection, delivered one of those neat and patriotic speeches so characteristic of him.

And now for the Fenians.

B.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PRUSSIAN ORDERS FOR CONDUCTING LARGE MANŒUVRES.

The following is the text of the very interesting pamphlet which is referred to in the article from the *Daily News*, which we reprint in another column. The translator of the subjoined extracts is Capt. Milligan, of H.M. 39th regiment, A.D.C., who was present during the great Prussian manœuvres of last year, and the pamphlet is published by Mr. Mitchell:

GENERAL OUTLINE OF THE OBJECT OF ARMY EXERCISES, WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS AND METHOD OF CONDUCTING THEM.

The object of all army exercises is to train the commanders of all ranks, as well as the men under them, to perform the duties which may be required of them, to teach the latter to use their arms skillfully, and to move with silence and regularity: it is also a means of ascertaining the degree of proficiency which the divisions of the army have attained. Army exercises may be of two kinds:—

I. Such as are included in *parades*, by means of which the troops are trained in the use of their arms and are accustomed to perform evolutions quickly and methodically (Drills).

II. Exercises depending entirely on the nature of the ground and designed in accordance with a general idea adopted as a basis (Manœuvres) thus:—

(a) Without dividing the division or corps which may be manœuvred intact against a skeleton enemy commanded by an officer appointed for that purpose:

(b) Or by dividing the corps into two parties under two commanders appointed to act against each other on some general plan (Field Manœuvres).

The orders for purely tactical exercises are laid down in the drill exercises for the different arms; they must be conducted carefully and strictly, according to the regulations. It is essential that the officer conducting them should act with decision and assurance, founded on a thorough knowledge of his work.

In order to fulfil every object in view in performing these exercises, the largest tactical body must, as a natural condition, be limited to the brigade. When the different branches of the service are practised in manœuvring against a common object, in order to make such exercises really useful, their movements must be influenced by the contour of the ground, which should consequently offer natural difficulties.

The chief aim of all manœuvres detailed in paragraph II. is to teach commanders and soldiers to avail themselves of the advantages of ground and to practice with intelligence the requirements of actual service. By means of a clearly defined plan (the general idea), the situation of the troops affords an opportunity to the commander of the whole, as well as the commanders of the individual portions of the force, of displaying and improving their military ideas, of exercising the talent of coming to a rapid determination, and of acquiring a readiness in handling troops, due regard being had to the nature of the ground and to the emergencies of the moment.

The movements must not be arranged beforehand, nor should the relative position be specified. All must be left to the guidance of the commander, who is himself simply furnished with the "general idea," and who must not be shackled by a precon-

certed conclusion to the operations. It must therefore be understood that the principle of these exercises is to make the situation at the end of the manœuvres the sole test of the value of the dispositions which have been effected. Any preparation for the actual field day in the shape of a rehearsal would be quite antagonistic to this view.

All manœuvres will be useful and instructive in so far as they place troops in such positions as might be expected to occur in service, and accustom them to overcome the difficulties they may then meet with. In time of war a division may be on the march without knowing when and where it is likely to encounter the enemy. The unexpected intelligence of his appearance might make it necessary for the moving column quickly to take up a tactical position. The army may have been marching in several columns, and this would render it more difficult to take up a position when the enemy comes in sight.

It is essential that movements similar to these should be practised, and that the troops should be suddenly informed on the march by the officer superintending in chief of the presence of an enemy, or he might arrange that some troops representing the enemy should appear suddenly. Upon which the column should break up the line of march, and, in spite of all difficulties, form up without confusion.

All movements should be conducted as quietly and as deliberately as possible, so as to enable the superintending officer to point out on the spot any faults that may occur, and to impart the necessary instruction suggested by the occasion.

It is very necessary that the interior order of the troops should never be lost in the performance of any manœuvre. When the great exactitude in halting and moving which is required on parade, cannot be retained, yet order must always be preserved, as, without it, it is out of the question to employ troops efficiently. The "telling off" must not be neglected, as otherwise the power of designating any portion of the troops, the section of a company for instance by simple word of command, would be lost.

The exercises mentioned in Part II. consist of manœuvres in two divisions (field manœuvres). In this case, the two sides are drawn up against each other in different positions in conformity with a preconcerted plan (general idea). Each commander should sketch out the dispositions for his own side, according to what he conceives will be best adapted to the object he has in view.

The chief desideratum of these manœuvres is, that they should call forth the talent of quickly and correctly apprehending the import of similar situations in war, and acting according to the inferences deduced.

The "general idea" should indicate clearly and comprehensively the position of the two divisions, without entering into details: these should be left to the free judgement of the two commanders. To fetter their dispositions would be directly opposed to the spirit of these exercises. The general idea may indicate the strategical position of the opposing forces for several days, but the nature of the ground and other circumstances may necessitate the substitution of a different supposition for the remaining portion of the exercises. Still each of the two commanders should be made acquainted with so much of the general idea only, as is required to mark the strategical points of the division under his command, and the information need only be of such a nature as he would be likely to ascertain in war by the means at his disposal. The situation