

authorities favour the amalgamation of the Horse v. Field Artillery, others contend that the force should be divided into four distinct branches—Horse, Field, Mountain, and Garrison, and that these should consist of regiments of two battalions each. The present force of artillery, miscalled the Regiment of Artillery, is, in reality, a little army, and is the result of gradual growth and accidental circumstances. Among the accidental circumstances may be mentioned the incorporation of the Royal Irish Artillery, followed by the absorption of the Bengal, Bombay, and Madras Artillery. At the present time this "regiment" consists of about 1,300 officers and 34,000 non-commissioned officers and men. This large force is divided into the three brigades of Horse, Field, and Garrison Artillery, the latter having attached to it the Militia Artillery. There are many objections to the existing organisation, which is not calculated to promote *esprit de corps*. Experience goes to prove that an artillery officer may, in the course of a year, find himself under the command of three different colonels, and be, in consequence, really well-known to neither of them. The present organisation also gives rise to conflicting commands between brigade and district officers. It is felt by the best military experts that the organisation of the artillery should be brought more into harmony with the requirements of the mobilisation into army corps, and to do this effectively, what is now an army of artillery should be broken up into smaller and more manageable bodies. Every Continental Power has its regiments of artillery as well as brigades.—*Naval and Military Record*.

Instructions have been received at Chatham to prepare the *Benbow* for the pennant at once, to replace the *Superb* as Castguard ship at Greenock. The *Superb*, now at Devonport, has been ordered to proceed to Chatham when ready (probably about the 5th prox.) to pay off and turn over her crew to the *Benbow*.

It has been decided to keep Her Majesty's birthday on May 26, the day on which the Duchess of York was born. The Queen, it will be remembered, was born on May 24, 1819, and is therefore seventy-five years of age this month. The usual dinners and receptions will be given by Ministers, and a list of honours is already in preparation.

The Australian *Army, Navy and Defence Review* is deeply concerned at the want of a Naval Reserve in the Colonies, with head quarters in the chief maritime ports. Supposing, our contemporary observes, that a heavy naval action was fought off the coast, there is no provision made to replace those fatally or otherwise wounded. If any hostile ships were captured the Admiral would have some difficulty in providing crews to take charge of them

when turned into British ships of the Navy, as the Admiralty did in the great Dutch, Spanish, and French wars. In the event of war we intend to see a Russian or French cruiser brought into Sydney or Melbourne now and then.

It is said that if the new experiments with carrier pigeons are successful a larger number of birds will be trained for the purpose of carrying naval despatches. The first result of the experiments—which are being made both at Devonport and Porthsmouth—will be seen at the naval manoeuvres, when the birds will be largely employed to make communication with the shore and with the different sections of the Fleet. Experts in pigeon training have reported that there will be no difficulty in realising the purpose of Admiralty.

Major-General F. G. Ravenhill, R.A., who gave up the post of Inspector-General of Remounts the end of last year, has voluntarily retired from the Army. He entered the Service in 1852, and took part in the Crimean war from April 1855.

Lieut. General Sir Evelyn Wood has left London for a few days on a visit to Brussels and Waterloo.

The alterations in the marching kit of the German infantry have now been finally decided. They will reduce the weight to the extent of 31 lb. or 14 lb. The new kit is to be tried at the next autumn manoeuvres.

Lieut. Col. T. P. Shannon, Army Service Corps, who has served at Devonport for the past five years, has proceeded to Halifax, Nova Scotia, on appointment as D.A.A.G. at that station.

The "Saturday Review," in a recent article, says: "If you allow a cavalry soldier to forget the value of cold steel, and rely on fire-action, you destroy the dash and élan which make him formidable, and should be his characteristic." Napoleon has told us that "cavalry cannot reply to fire, and can only fight with the steel," and fully recognizing where lay the weakness of his horsemen, he gave them an auxiliary in the shape of horse artillery, which, so far from hampering their movements, added to their boldness and enterprise when acting independently ahead of his vast armies.

A supplement to the Queen's Regulations orders that at courts of inquiry, surveys, and other similar assemblages of officers, the officer, who, in virtue of his office, would under the regulations take the military command is in all cases to preside, irrespective of the relative rank of the other members, whose precedence on such occasions shall be determined by the existing articles. Subject to certain

exceptions provided, the relative rank of officers in the Navy with each other and with officers of the Army is definitely tabulated, and will in every case take effect according to the dates of the respective commissions or appointments, except when the relative rank is dependent on the attainment of seniority or completion of service, in which case it will take effect from such attainment of seniority, or completion of service in the particular rank, and except as regards retired officers holding honorary rank.

Captain Prince Louis of Battenberg has been selected to take command of the *Naiad*, which will be commissioned at Portsmouth for the summer manoeuvres, and afterwards proceed to the Mediterranean to relieve *Amphion*.

The Queen has fixed May 21 as the date for the formal opening of the Manchester Ship Canal. The *Enchantress*, *Research* and *Triton* have been selected to form the naval escort.

Captain Charles Johnstone, of the *Camperdown*, on the Mediterranean station, is in England on leave, and the ship is temporarily in command of Commander Daniel.

The Spanish Superior Council of War at Madrid has recommended its Government to refuse a request from the British authorities at Gibraltar for the concession of a supply of drinking water from Spanish territory, on the ground that such a concession would be contrary to the Treaty of Utrecht, and, in the event of war with Great Britain, would be of advantage to her.

## Errors in the Army Books.

The Editor "CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE,"  
Montreal, Q.

DEAR SIR,—Permit me to call attention through your columns to some errors in the "Army book for the British Empire." Turning to page 418, I find the following: "After the abolition of the purchase system it was decided that Lieutenants should undergo a professional examination before being considered eligible for promotion to the rank of captain." This is incorrect, as for many years prior to the abolition of the purchase system there were two professional examinations; the 1st for promotion from Ensign to Lieutenant, the 2nd for promotion from Lieutenant to Captain. Turning to page 267 I read that "The Royal Waggon Train was organized in 1812." Another mistake, as this corps was organized in 1803, its first colonel being Digby Hamilton and the date of his *regimental commission* was 5th Nov. 1803.

Yours &c.,  
FLINT LOCK.  
London, Ont., 23rd April 1894.