

Gleanings.

It is announced that, in future, revised editions of the principal books of Regulations, including the Queen's Regulations and the Volunteer Regulations, will be issued once a year.

It is stated that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has consented to again take up the Captain Generality of the Honourable Artillery Company, a post which he resigned when a cloud came between the corps and the horizon some time ago.

The Army and Navy Gazette says: "The men who join the army (British) may be divided roughly into three classes--first and largest, those who, through their own fault or accident, are hopelessly destitute; secondly, men who have got into some trouble at home and want to get away for a time; thirdly, men who wish to see the world and become soldiers. If more men are wanted, more advantages must be offered."

M. Merrillon the President of the "Sociétés de Tir" of France, who is also Mayor of Lyons, has announced recently his intention to ask the riflemen of the world to revisit his country. At a dinner given to the notables of his district command, by General Berge, the Military Governor of Lyons, M. Merrillon mentioned that a grand international shooting competition, to be held at Lyons, in 1891, had been decided upon by the heads of the great association he presided over, and under the same conditions and rules as at Paris. The expenditure and costs entailed by the meeting will be met by subventions from the State, the city, and the united "Sociétés de Tir" of France.

Owing to the intended substitution of machine made horse shoes for the hand made ones hitherto used, the whole system of shoeing in the army is undergoing a gradual change. Certain batteries of artillery, the whole of the companies of the army service corps at Woolwich and some elsewhere, with other mounted corps, have recently commenced shoeing under the new régime. The farriers' tools, previously their own property, purchased by them on promotion to that rank, now pass over at a valuation to become Government property; the contract system, which allowed one half-penny per horse per diem to the farrier for supplying iron and shoes to the horses entrusted to his charge, is abolished, and the farrier works for the ordinary pay of his rank, merely supervising and assisting in the shoeing of the horses with the machine made shoes. The farrier will probably eventually disappear from the muster roll, the whole of the work being entrusted to shoeing smiths. The loss to farriers due to the removal of the contract is considerable; where a profit of £15 to £20 was annually made, the adaptation of machine made shoes affords no margin for profit. Whether a sufficient supply of these shoes will be forthcoming on service is dubious, and although the farriers and shoeing smiths will still be practiced in the process of turning shoes, it is not improbable that they will lose some of their skill in that craft. The profit on the contract formed an inducement to men of skill and ability to qualify themselves for the post of farrier. The withdrawal of this inducement will not conduce to a maintenance of the standard, by no means too high, hitherto attained. In many instances unfavourable reports have been made on the quality, and especially the durability of the machine made shoes.

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E. HAWKEN, Post Office Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office, Ottawa, 26th Jan., 1891.

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