

would be invaluable on those outlook and other light detached duties for which the only parallel formation in Europe—the Swiss Mounted Guides—is understood to be especially trained.

“There will be two sets of blanks in the printed pages to be added to the Army List. One of these affects the staff to be named. But this need obviously not be filled up. It is sufficient that each officer selected should have a letter of service available only for mobilization. This would, of course, name his brigade or division, and he would at the signal be ready to hand over his ordinary functions to some one not concerned in the scheme, and depart for his new duty at once. The other blanks in the list, marked in asterisks, betoken the non existence of certain units required to make each of the eight corps complete according to our own regulation standard for field service. As might be expected by all who remember the composition of our Militia, which is to form so large a part of these corps, they show deficiencies in field batteries, engineer companies, and pontoon and telegraph trains, services which we do not at present possess in complete proportion, according to modern ideas, to our sabres and bayonets. The question how the deficiencies thus manifest could be filled up without heavy cost is, of course, one that cannot escape notice, though it does not of itself touch the merits of the scheme, which, as we said at the beginning, avowedly utilises that which we have, so far as it will go.”

We have always agreed that the *company* was the true tactical Infantry unit, and that it should not exceed *one hundred* men, such a body being easily handled by the usual complement of a captain and two subalterns.

The fancy of the new school of military men has run on the Prussian system of 240 men with three to five officers, one of which should be mounted. *Solomon* says “there is nothing new under the sun”—and this idea is a proof of his wisdom—the very same being tried in the British Army about one hundred and twenty years ago—company one hundred strong, captain, a mounted officer, and the total results were not illustrated by singular efficiency.

It is certainly a strange idea to mount the *leader* of a company, when the conditions enforced by the range of modern small arms and precision of artillery fire is that of absolute cover at over 1,000 yards.

The following paragraph from *Broad Arrow* of 11th December shews the absurdity of the proposal, and conclusively points out that the smaller body must be the unit:

“The idea which is being worked out in Paris of testing proposed alterations in the formation and manœuvring of infantry by practising them with a battalion made up to a war strength, would seem to be a good one, and one which might be introduced by ourselves with advantage at Aldershot, thus rendering the camp a real school of instruction even in the piping times when autumn manœuvres and summer drills have ceased. From exercises recently carried out on the Champs de Mars, with a battalion made up to a strength of 960 rank-and-file by drafting into it detachments from other regiments, and from the Marine Infantry, the following deductions have been arrived at:—That it is extremely difficult, if not absolutely im-

possible, for the officer commanding the battalion to manœuvre by his voice so large a body of men; that a captain on foot cannot properly control and direct a company of 120 files; that when manœuvring in the present formations the adjutant is of very little use, and that it is difficult to deploy a column of four large companies into line by the diagonal march, while it is found that the extra length of time required to deploy by rectangular movements is hardly appreciable, and the men arrive in their place in the alignment in a much more orderly manner.”

Amongst the many instances of the statesmanlike common sense which has governed the organization of the Prussian Army, none is more conspicuous than the fact that the natural leaders of the people—the aristocracy—are also the leaders of the soldiers—that office is not left to the kind of *natural selection* Lord Cardwell imposed on the British Army—the following paragraph will illustrate our meaning:

“How closely the interests of the aristocracy are allied with those of the Army in Prussia is evident from the following statistics gathered from the Prussian ‘Army List’ (*Rang und Quartier Liste*) for 1875, published at Berlin on the 30th of last month. The royal family of Prussia counts fourteen of its members in the Army, the Armin family has forty-six, the Bismarck nineteen, the Alvensleben twenty-four, the Blücher fifteen, the Blumenthal fifteen, the Bülow thirty-two, the Kleish thirty-three, the Manteuffel thirteen, the Puttkammer twenty-four, the Schwerin fifteen, the Sankendorff twelve, the Treskow twenty-three the Wedell thirty-two, the Winterfeldt twenty-eight, the Wulf sen eleven, and the Zastrow family ten. From the same publication we learn that there are nine field marshals in the Prussian Army—namely, the King of Saxony, the Crown Prince of Prussia, Prince Frederic Charles, the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg, Prince August of Wurtemberg, Counts Wrangel, Moltke, Steinmetz, Roon Herwarth von Bittenfeld, and Baron Manteuffel. The senior and oldest field marshal is Count Wrangel, who is ninety-two years of age, and has been in the Army for eighty years, and was raised to the rank of field marshal in 1856. There are also in addition in the Prussian Army fifty-three generals, sixty-six lieutenant generals, and one hundred and fifty-one major generals. The youngest officer in the Army is apparently Prince Frederic Leopold, son of Prince Frederic Charles, and who, although only ten years of age, is shown in the ‘Army List’ as second lieutenant in the First Regiment of the Guards.”

We have to acknowledge the receipt of No. LXXXIII. Vol. XIX of the “Journal of the Royal United Service Institution.” It contains the following articles:

Manco's Heliograph or Sun Telegraph; The Armed Strength of Europe; The Company as a Military Body; Upper Burma, its Defences and Warlike Resources; Seamen of the Fleet, their Training, &c.; On the Progress of Breech loading Small Arms; Proposed Alterations in the Martini Henry Rifle; Deliniations of some Minute Sea Surface Animals; On the Proposed Enclosure of Dover Bay; Preservation of Biscuit and

other Faniaceous; Diet from Weevils, Maggots and other Insects in H. M. Navy.

The articles are of the usual order to be found in the Journal which has always maintained the highest character as the best text book published in modern days. Indeed we can hardly conceive the idea of any officer of either services attaining a thorough practical knowledge of the science or duties of his profession without being a constant reader of this valuable Military and Naval Journal, and we wish to see it in the hands of every officer of the Canadian Militia.

A FRIEND has sent us a copy of the *Manitoba Free Press*, which by the way is a very neat and artistically got up eight page paper, directing our attention to the account of the annual meeting of the Manitoba Rifle Association, with a request that we would publish it for the benefit of our Manitoba readers, as well as the Force generally, with which we gladly comply.

Our subscribers in the following places will receive with this number their accounts for subscription to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW. Some are of long standing, and we respectfully request immediate payment of them:—

#### ONTARIO.

Ainsleyville, Bowmanville, Barrie, Caledonia, Clinton, Chatham, Collingwood, Delaware, Ingersoll, Pembroke, Port Rowan, Point Edward, Sarnia, Stratford, St. Catharines, St. Thomas and St. Marys.

#### QUEBEC.

Cookshire, Sherbrooke, St. Hyacinthe, and Waterloo.

#### The Aldershot Manœuvres.

The following Horse Guards letter, signed by Sir C. H. Ellice, Quartermaster General, has been issued by Lieutenant General Sir Thomas Steele, commanding at Aldershot. It relates to the summer manœuvres of this year:—

“I am directed by His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief to inform you that the reports of the general officers who held commands during the late summer drills at Aldershot on matters affecting transport, supply, camp equipage, &c., have been carefully perused by his royal highness, and that most of the suggestions contained therein have been strongly recommended for adoption on occasions of future manœuvres.

“The journals of the officers of the Quartermaster General's Staff employed during the summer drills are returned herewith, with separate comments attached to them. His royal highness considers that these journals have for the most part been well kept; but there would appear to be a tendency on the part of all the officers to confine themselves too much to an account of the operations on the several days, and not to enter sufficiently into details connected with the duties of the Quartermaster General's Department, such as the arrangements made as to encampments, marches, transport,