

French Republican soldier was, who, bad clad and bevoucing never thinking of camping, lived on the country he passed through, obliged to disperse to find food, but prompt to agglomerate at the first signal of attack, requisitioning the country as he advanced. Napoleon fell in with that element, and instead of leaving aside the system of requisition improved it and made it serve to replenish intermediate magazines established on his lines of communication, regularizing that method of supply. The Prussians using that system also have perfected the transport, by organizing trains; thus they have the Proviant column, composed of 30 waggons and four horses carrying four days' provision and following in rear of the division they belong to; from these troops are supplied a second line of transport called the Flour Park column, consisting of 80 waggons, 2-horsed, carrying eight days' provision, and transporting provisions from line of transport; and if the magazines are still too far a third line of hired transport is established to furnish the second line. Each soldier carries a part of three days' rations for use as required; two other days' packed up in tin knapsack not to be opened except by special order. (a)

Question 7.—Compare Sherman's march through Georgia with an expedition of the English Black Prince in the 14th century.

Answer to Question 7.—Sherman's march through Georgia offers many differences with that of the Prince of Wales in France in 1356. The Black Prince passed through the territory with no other object than destroying and ruining an enemy's country, and possibly fighting his army if it seemed to him advantageous. Sherman besides ravaging the country had a strategical object in view which was to change his base to the sea. The Prince of Wales subsisting on the country he crossed made no provision, so on the battle field of Poitiers, the English host was starving because they were obliged to remain in a temporarily fortified position which they could not leave to forage. Sherman though he subsisted on and devastated the country he crossed, had also a large train of provisions and supplies to fall back on in case he was obliged to concentrate, and was stopped by unforeseen obstacles, and then his movement was to be of short duration; and as soon as he reached the sea shore he had a secure base from which he could draw all supplies necessary. Whilst in the case of the Black Prince, if strategy had not been in its infancy, he would have had cause, in case of defeat, to regret his improvident and imprudent advance in the centre of an enemy's country with no base nor line of retreat—but being victorious he could supply himself.

Question 8.—Why do armies generally operate on several lines? and state General McClellan's comments on operating by a single road, when censured for using several.

Answer to Question 8.—If Napoleon, advancing towards Fleures with 70,000 men, had not directed his army towards Fleures by different roads the head of his column could have been engaged and defeated by the allies before being properly supported, as the rear of the column would have been at least two days from the battle field when the engagement would have taken place. Then the transport and artillery of an army are so cumbersome that no road could sustain such traffic, whilst if the trains pass on different roads the wear and tare are considerably re-

duced. That disposition facilitates the supplying of provisions—the distance between intermediate magazines and the troops to be supplied being considerably reduced. And another reason is the facility with which an army can deploy.

The rapidity of march of troops is inversely proportional to their length of columns—thus infantry marching by battalions may march $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles per hour, 2 miles per hour if in divisions &c.; artillery marches $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and cavalry 5 miles in small columns, and rate decreases in same proportion as other arms. General McClellan being censured for using several roads instead of one, gave as his reasons, that the head of his column (100,000) would be defeated before the rear could support it, if it was attacked by an active enemy—whilst advancing along a single road it would have extended to 50 miles.

A. PREVOST, Lieut. B.B.

An excellent Paper.

F. B. STRANGE Lieut.-Col.
Commandant S. G., Quebec.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—As a general rule your paper tries to put the best face on militia matters, I consider that is not a wise course: How can faults be corrected if they are not pointed out? It is said the Canadian Force has degenerated of late years; some add because it has been made to serve political end: be that opinion correct or not, what is its real condition?

Give us facts, point out faults, don't be afraid of giving offence; the active working man won't object and if those over them fear criticism, they'll deserve all they can get.

Take one specimen, look at your statements about the Dominion Rifle Association, is it a perfect model?

I have been examining their reports (as you advised) and find that in their chief match—"The Dominion Match"—at the first meeting there were 424 entries, each year since the number has dwindled, till this year there were barely 100 competitors. Why has the number of competitors fallen off, there is surely more interest taken in rifle shooting to-day than there was half-a-dozen years ago?

Look at your own report of that meeting in Ottawa, was everything satisfactory and in proper order; were the competitors pleased with the arrangements?

Were there no protests; what about the London Merchants' Cup; what about Dr. Vail of the New Brunswick Team? You have been hard on my "flippancy and ignorance," look to your own facts; at present it is really not worth while discussing your replies to my queries.

Yours &c.

R.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR,—I have read with much pleasure the able pamphlet by Lieut. Colonel Fletcher on the Militia Organization and perhaps with the exception of Major General MacDougall's scheme nothing better could be attempted with the limited means at the disposal of our Canadian Government. The Brigade School at Halifax I think might be considerably modified; as of course the Imperial Troops there, perform all the duties which devolve upon the garrisons of Kingston and Quebec; so that an amount of \$50,000 would more than suffice, for the instruction of the permanent staff of the local militia.

Some new standard of efficiency, besides the present 16 days; should be adopted before any corps or individual, could claim pay for after all, it must be remembered we are nothing more than volunteers.

I would suggest a standard height and chest measurement—a certificate of efficiency in drill and physical training besides an occasional hit at his annual target practice of forty rounds.

An extra inducement too, might be offered to 1st class militiamen, after three years' service, say a free grant of land, &c. upon condition of settlement.

A CONSTANT READER.

Quebec, 12th January, 1874.

A FEMALE SOLDIER.—The military annals of most European countries, says the London *Echo*, record a few instances of women, who, having succeeded in entering the ranks of the army, having highly distinguished themselves in the apparently incongruous profession of arms. Such a fact has, however, according to the *Opinione*, been hitherto unprecedented in the Italian Army. It was discovered however, the other day, that a young soldier named Marcotti, who was to receive his discharge on the 1st of next month, having enlisted in 1866, is one of those heroines. Julia Marcotti, the Amazon in question, belonged to a numerous and poor family, living at San Ambrazio, near Turin, and worked in the mines of Upper Piedmont, to which latter circumstances her extraordinary physical strength may, probably be attributed. She enlisted in 1866, at the time when Italy was about to engage in the struggles with Austria, her motive being to save her brother, who was married and had six children, from being obliged to serve. Not only did Julia perform all a soldier's duties as well as her comrades; but she fought in the first rank at the battle of Custoza, and obtained the medal of military valor. On hearing of the case, King Victor Emmanuel sent for the woman, bestowed upon her the Cross of the Order of the Crown, and desired that she should be sent home with a pension of 300 lire.

A decree has been issued at Madrid, calling out for active service the entire reserve force of 1873.

(a) The ancient Scotch seizing the cattle of the enemy's country drove it along and cooked in the skin of the animal, used as a boiler. They also each carried a small bag of oatmeal.