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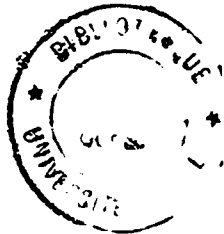
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Vol. I. No. 6.

KINGSTON, 15TH JULY, 1880.

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* Defence of Great and Greater Britain.

There is no portion of political administration which treats of a subject of greater importance to Britain and her Colonies, or more essential to the commercial and civil well-being of Englishmen scattered throughout the world, than the one now under the consideration of the "Royal Commission," which is, at this moment, sitting by command of Her Majesty. How to defend our empire.

England decided, some time ago, that her colonies should be self-supporting, and withdrew her troops from most of them. The judiciousness of the act has been established, and individual colonies have indeed done something for themselves, but the time has arrived when a general systematic plan of combined Colonial and Imperial action must be inaugurated, which alone can give that "security of peace," by uniting the naval and military powers of Greater Britain into one unity of force, and directed by one guiding hand.

Captain Colomb has laid before the British public and the inhabitants of the colonies, most valuable food for reflection;

* The Defence of Great and Greater Britain. Sketches of its Naval, Military and Political aspect.—Captain J. C. R. Colomb, F. R. G. S., Edward Stanford, London.

the fruits of years of careful study and research, comprising, as it does, the opinions and sentiments expressed by the leading newspapers of the principal cities throughout our possessions.

Captain Colomb divides his work into four parts, viz:—"The Navy and the Colonies," "Colonial Defence," "Imperial and Colonial Responsibilities in War," "Naval and Military Resources of the Colonies," and which we will treat separately in our future numbers, having to postpone the articles in this issue; through want of space.

Commissions in the Imperial Service to Officers of the Active Militia.

The subject of holding out some inducement to the officers of our Militia, to perfect themselves in military knowledge is a matter worthy of the serious consideration of the authorities at Ottawa. We have expatiated at length before in the columns of this paper how deep a study the art of war has become, and for the safety and welfare of our Dominion it is expedient, that, our service should be made as efficient as possible and a stimulus to scientific military attainments given to those in whom we have to trust, in the hour of need.

The militia of this country is indirectly the actual creation of its officers, it is they who recruit the men, and it is they who altogether contribute to their efficiency as soldiers, both by the money and time they devote to this end. Many are gentlemen that have sacrificed private ends to go through courses of instruction at the Royal Schools of Gunnery, so that they may be better able to be of service to their country. In justice, these gentlemen should receive some recognition at the hands of the Government, and at least be afforded an opportunity of obtaining, by competition, any appointments in the permanent Militia or staff of our service, which might become vacant. The "long course" of instruction in "B" Battery is of no light study, and of no insignificant a test as to military ability, comprising as it does, being able to instruct in gun drills, mortar drill, and practice with projectiles, gym drill, shifting ordnance infantry drill, also thoroughly efficient in riding drill and stable duties, field artillery movements and positions, artillery material and stores, examination and sighting ordnance, laboratory operations, construction of siege batteries, rafts and bridges, gunnery and applied mathematics, fortification and sieges, military surveying and reconnaissance, tactics of all arms, strategy and military history of one campaign, interior economy, regimental duty and charge of armament of the fortress, Queen's and militia regulations, and articles of war as applied to Canadian Militia.

It is somewhat painful to think that officers, after having devoted between one and two years to the study of these subjects, and passing an examination to the entire satisfaction of the Commandant of the School, should, under the present regulations of the Militia Department, be debarred from ever obtaining a commission in the permanent establishment of the force, as all appointments in the "A" and "B" Batteries, and, for all we know, any other batteries that may be formed are to be given, in the future, to the cadets from the Royal Military College.

The workman is worthy of his hire, and those who create an establishment have, at least, the first claim to its command. The Royal Schools of Gunnery and Royal Military College are instructional institutions which have grown up, as a matter of necessity, when once our colonial army became a reality; but it is impolitic and unwise to ignore the position and rights of those who have been, and are the main stay to its actual existence, for without their zeal, influence and money, our Militia would sink into a phantom to-morrow. What the Militia officers want and require are, as in every other worldly organization, prizes to work for. Let them be ever so few and hard to win, thus putting earnest life into the study of military science; without this the whole command will drift into a sham, and simply to be able to swagger in a military uniform become the sole ambition of those who call themselves officers.

The visible effects of the teaching of the R. S. G. are conspicuously apparent in those corps who are fortunate in having officers holding certificates from these schools. It is thus that the laborer is worthy of his hire, and it is rather an unjust matter that the fruits of their work should be given to and monopolized by those who have no claim to its growth.

In the event of England engaging in a foreign war, the militia of this country is ready and eager to bear its share of fighting for Britain's honour, as is already known to the

War Office at home, and as they would surely prove a most valuable auxiliary to the Imperial arm, might not the Horse Guards place our service on the same footing as its sister at home, by granting two or three commissions annually in Her Majesty's Army, to be competed for by officers attached to the Royal Schools of Gunnery at Kingston and Quebec, the standard of examination to be that by which Militia officers at home obtain such appointments.

We appeal directly to His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief, and to Mr. Childers to take the subject into their favorable consideration, an act which, if granted, would at once raise the whole tone of the service, and it is to be sincerely trusted that should General Sir Selby Smyth be fortunate enough to bring his scheme for an Imperial Colonial Reserve to a successful issue, that all commissions and appointments in same be the actual selection of open competition, in which political interest has no say.

Royal Military College.

The closing exercises and graduation of the first class took place on the 30th ult., at the Royal Military College, which has now been in operation since 1876, in the presence of Sir Alexander Campbell, Minister of Militia, who came from Ottawa specially for the occasion, and a large attendance of officers of the permanent and Active Militia, and many of the leading citizens of Kingston.

After the cadets had gone through the artillery, infantry, manual firing and sword-exercises, all of which were performed with a precision and skill hardly to be excelled by regular soldiers, speaking highly of the great care, attention and ability bestowed upon the military part of their training by Major Bidout, 90th Regiment, and Major Jones, R. A., and after an inspection of the various military engineering works which have been executed by the cadets during their course of study under the instruction of Major Walker, R. E.; the proceedings began by the Commandant expressing regret that the senior prize man of the College, Company Sergeant-Major Perry had met with a serious accident, which would prevent his receiving his prizes in person. The medical officer of the College had reported, however, that the injury would not be permanent, and that he was fairly on the way to recovery.

The annual report was read by Lieut.-Col. Hewitt, Commandant. The term commenced on the 5th of February, and terminated that day. The total number of cadets was 93, divided into four classes. Seventeen candidates having passed the entrance examination in December, joined the College at the commencement of this term, the standard of education of these gentlemen continuing to show general improvement. Three cadets having failed to come up to the required standard of education of their respective terms, were withdrawn from the College, and two cadets had voluntarily retired on payment of the exemption fee of \$100. The first of the annual instead of semi-annual competitive examinations had been held during the present month of June, when 26 candidates presented themselves, and the successful ones will join the College in September next.

THE PRIZE LIST.

- A. B. Perry—Gold medal, general proficiency.
- D. McPherson—Silver medal, general proficiency.
- J. Spelman—Bronze medal, general proficiency.
- H. W. Keefer—Sword, conduct and discipline.

Company Sergeant-Major Perry was first in mathematics, fortification, military history, military topography, chemistry, physics and drill and exercises.

Corporal Freer was first in French.

Company Sergeant-Major McPherson first in German and civil engineering.

Company Sergeant-Major Wise first in freehand drawing.

All prizes were given to Company Sergeant-Major Perry, Corporal R. Laurio, Sergeant Campbell, Sergeant H. McKay, Lance-Corporal G. Duffus, Cadets D. Skinner, J. Long and W. Stewart.

The medalists, Company Sergeant-Major Perry (whose medals were received by Sergeant Ross as proxy), MacPherson and Spelman were loudly applauded. They received the gold, silver and bronze medals respectively, the former being a Dufferin medal, and the two latter presented by the present Governor-General. The sword of honour, which was awarded to the cadets with the best record for conduct during his term, was won by Battalion Sergeant-Major Keefer, who was loudly cheered. The certificates were then handed to the graduating class by Sir Alexander Campbell. The following are the names of the graduates:

	Marks.
Co. Sgt. Major A. B. Perry.....	42,285
" " " Y. McPherson.....	39,789
" " " J. Spelman.....	36,520
" " " H. E. Wise.....	30,256
Sergt. C. O. Fairbanks.....	29,662
Sergt. W. M. Davis.....	29,542
Corpl. C. Desbrisay.....	29,356
Corpl. A. G. Wurtele.....	28,077
Sergt. J. Cochrane.....	27,257
Corpl. H. C. Freer.....	26,896
Batt. Sergt. Major W. Keefer.....	25,740
Sergt. V. Rivers.....	24,320
Corpl. F. Dixon.....	20,022
Sergt. F. Davis.....	17,510
Corpl. T. Reid.....	8,904

The first eleven received first class certificates, the other four second class.

The four commissions in Her Majesty's regular army, viz., one in the Royal Engineers, one in the Royal Artillery, and two in the cavalry or infantry, which are available annually to the cadets in the Military College of Canada, who prove themselves qualified for the honour, have been accepted as follows:

- Royal Engineers—Co. Sergeant-Major A. B. Perry.
- Royal Artillery—Co. Sergeant-Major D. McPherson.
- The two commissions in the Infantry lay between Messrs. Wise, Fairbanks and Freer.

MINISTER OF MILITIA'S SPEECH.

The Minister of Militia then delivered the prizes. He said that success which they had just witnessed must have interested all. He hoped the cadets would forget the fatigues of the day, for the pleasant fatigue which he understood would come at night, while he spoke a few words in the interest of the cadets of the College. With the Commandant he regretted the absence of Sergeant-Major Perry, whose name had been made so familiar to-day and on previous occasions by the large number of prizes he had carried away. He congratulated all connected with the College on the successful year of which they had heard from the reports, and with which he had been made acquainted by the Commandant. All had done well, and even better than well. This could not be more gratifying to them than to him. He spoke thus as Minister of Militia for the time being, and as representing the Government, and as one who was proud of their success. This was a period interesting to those who were leaving the College. The honour and credit of Canada and of the College were in their hands, and those who went into the army will have every chance of keeping up their good name. He hoped that from year to

year the Ministers of Militia would be able to congratulate them as he had been. There were several outside players on which he desired to say a few words. The medals presented by Lord Dufferin were renewed by the present Governor-General. The Princess Louise also took a warm interest in the College, and had it been at all possible His Excellency and the Princess would have been present on the occasion. He spoke of the interest displayed by the Imperial authorities by the granting of commissions to the cadets. This proposal had been well received in the country. The cadets would thus have an opportunity of serving in the defence of the Empire, and by this would the Colony and the Mother Country be more closely knit together, which he was sure they all desired. He (Sir Alexander) was desired to say a few words as to the College itself. The staff was composed of gentlemen who had given their services, not at their own instance, but at the instance of Canada. They have not sought for service in Canada, but Canada sought them. They were asked to come here, and give the cadets the education they received, and the success they had achieved must be gratifying indeed. He desired to point out that the remuneration given to these gentlemen was not so large as that paid to professors in the Imperial Colleges, nor so large as that at West Point. They were asked to come here and build up the school, and he thought everything should be judged by results. The education given was national in its character, not only military, and tending to help in civil life as well as military. The cadets who graduate at West Point do not all go into the army. Only about 45 cadets per annum do so, and the rest of them go into civil life. Yet when the day of trouble arose, these men showed themselves the bulwarks of the country, as their record in the late war showed, when they led the armies of both North and South. These men were not taken direct from West Point, but had joined the army after spending years in civil life. It might be said there was no danger in the same way for Canada. Who could assure them of this? He could recollect when considerable bodies of troops were called out, as in 1837, and in more recent Indian raids. Their troubles might arise at any moment among the Indians in the North-west or elsewhere, for which they would want large bodies of soldiers. All these things should be looked at generally, instead of particularly, as in the case of the four commissions granted. Sir Alexander concluded by expressing regret at the absence of the Hon. Mr. Masson, who was present last year, and who took a very warm interest in the College.

The Royal Military College of Canada stands out pre-eminent as an educational beacon to England's colonial possessions; from whose lamp the rays of wisdom, culture and refinement, being transmitted to the four quarters of the globe, dissipating the mist which so often hangs over new countries as to the necessity of a high standard of education, and lighting up the pathways to future knowledge, are sure to be caught and reflected back ere long by a people whose political rust, grown in the race for individual wealth, after all lies but lightly upon a surface which will become quickly polished when patriotic emulation leads the way, giving to the scattered sons of Britain, that wise perception of judgment that will enable them to see, at this, the most critical period of England's history, the strength of union, and the absolute necessity of Britain and her Colonies being bound strongly together by one common policy of defence, and one common unity of spirit to resist the growing jealousies of ambitious nations! Canada as the pioneer of so great an event should indeed feel proud of her position.

NOTE.—Officers of the Militia are requested to kindly forward to the Editor, for insertion in the "Militia Item" column, any information respecting their own regiments which they think might be of interest to their brother officers.

Exchange of "A" and "B" Batteries. Royal Gunnery Schools.

During last month, "A" Battery quartered at Kingston and "B" Battery at Quebec, exchanged stations. These corps which have now been organized some nine years, have gathered round their respective messes, many sincere and attached friends, and the separation or association of so long a standing was naturally and deeply felt by all, and although it was perhaps advisable in a military point of view, that a change of stations should take place, as far as the batteries were concerned it is somewhat questionable whether a judicious act was performed in also changing the instructional staff, of Schools of Gunnery, but as the Schools of Gunnery and the Batteries are indifferently the same organization, under different titles, the difficulties of considering them separately, are insuperable.

Before leaving Kingston, the officers of "A" Battery were presented with a handsome service of silver plate, by the honorary members of their mess, (the particulars of which we regret are not to hand.) The officers of "B" Battery also before leaving Quebec were the recipients of a like friendly gift both accompanied with sentiments of the deepest regrets at parting, the following are the particulars of the presentation to "B" Battery:—

For some time the honorary members of B Battery mess and some of our other citizens have been preparing to present the officers of B Battery, on their departure, with an address and a testimonial. This was done yesterday at noon, at the Garrison Club, where the subscribers to the fund were requested to assemble. Hon. Mr. Joly read the address on behalf of the meeting, and accompanied it with the following appropriate remarks:—

Old Quebec like every old stronghold has been accustomed for centuries to see soldiers come and soldiers go, but never since a flag has waved over our rock; whether the white flag of France with the golden lilies or the brave old flag of England has there been such hearty regret at the departure of any soldiers as there is to-day, at the departure of B Battery.

Those who come to take their place will find that we have warm hearts and that we are ready to welcome them, but must not take it amiss, if they find that we can never forget B Battery, and I think too well of them to think that they will expect that.

B Battery belongs to us—belongs to Quebec. We saw its birth. We watched it step by step, from the day when Colonel Strango, bringing with him the military experience so dearly bought in the fiercest war of modern times, met for the first time the first officer of B Battery, one of ourselves, brought up amongst us; the man who was to help him so powerfully to build up this noble work, his right hand, Colonel Montizambert; when they paraded for the first time, half a dozen lads without uniforms, without arms, we watched them day by day, until we learn to be proud of them as, headed by their splendid band, they marched through our streets with the precision and discipline of old regulars.

Do you know that the best men in this country are praying—are working to accomplish one object, to found a nation, the Canadian nation, where all differences of origin, creed and feelings will all be merged into one grand feeling of Canadian nationality.

This is not an idle dream; this can be accomplished with B Battery, and it is there among its ranks that future generations will look for the germ of our national life. As officers and men of French and Irish, English and Scotch descent marched

together through our streets, their martial tramp resounding like the tramp of one man, it was but a feeble image of the unity of purpose that made their hearts beat and keep time with the tramp of their feet; only one purpose, one aim among all those men, to serve Canada.

And they did serve their country well. When the dark days came for old Quebec; when the Battery had to march down from its eagle's nest to protect life and property among us, how did the men of the Battery do their duty? Like mercenaries, paid to spill blood, and eager to earn their blood money? No.

Remember June, 1878. I defy any painter, the greatest painter who ever immortalized his name by leaving on the canvas a material and bodily shape of the noblest conception of his genius, I defy him to invent a more noble picture of military discipline than was shown by B Battery on that day.

I cannot conclude without saying that the Battery does not only leave good friends behind it, but it leaves a good name too. Look at the good conduct of the men. How richly they have rewarded the efforts of Colonel Strango and his friends in suppressing drunkenness, introducing temperance and substituting healthy and cheerful recreation for the debasing indulgence of vice! Never did any military corps show so much self-respect as our Battery. We are proud of them, officers and men, and they leave a good name behind them.

Shall I say anything about the social relations between the officers of the Battery and the citizens of Quebec? Their officers have nobly kept up the traditions of hospitality handed down to them through generations of large-hearted gentlemen who have held the Citadel before them; we shall never forget their graceful open-hearted hospitality.

They are going to Kingston now; by and by they may be sent to the Far West, and to the shores of the Pacific, but wherever they go they will always leave warm friends behind them but never such friends as they leave here to-day in old Quebec.

A Naval School of Gunnery at St. John.

Some few numbers back a letter appeared in our columns, elucidating the great want of a "school of gunnery" at St. John, N B, for the instruction of the Militia of the Maritime Provinces generally, and for which an Act of Parliament has already been passed. Since then, Mr. Thomas Brassey, M.P., Civil Lord of the Admiralty, has drawn attention to the necessity of forming a "naval reserve," and the *Toronto Globe* of the 4th ult., under this heading, says:—

The proposition to form a volunteer naval reserve in Canada has everything to commend it except its necessary cost. That might be reduced to a minimum by drilling in winter men drawn from the ranks of the fishermen and sailors of the Maritime and lake districts. As the benefit to Great Britain of such a reserve in the Dominion would be very great, it is probable that the Imperial authorities might be induced to furnish the necessary training-ships, arms and clothing. Merchant sailors and fishermen were in former days fitted by their employments to become man-of-war's men in a very short time, but the introduction of steam and armour plating has so much increased the differences of war ships from other vessels, that men bred to the sea want much preparation before they can be useful in the regular navy. Canadians are by no means unwilling to bear a fair share of the cost necessary to provide for their defence and that of the Empire, and public opinion would therefore support the Government in seeking to arrange a feasible scheme for the organization of a naval reserve.

Could not a school of gunnery at St. John be established for the double purpose, viz., naval and military? Such a proposal has everything to commend it to the authorities at Ottawa, and we hope the Government will give the suggestion their favorable consideration.

Notice.

The issue of this number of the *Military Review*, was delayed, in consequence of the Printing Office being moved from Quebec to Kingston, during the past month.

Sir A. T. Galt at the Canada Club Banquet.

Sir A. T. Galt was entertained at a banquet in the city of London by the Canada Club on the evening of Wednesday the 2nd of June. On that occasion, in response to the toast "The prosperity of the Dominion, the honourable gentleman in the course of his first speech in England in his new capacity, made the following weighty remarks—of the greatest significance at the present moment—which will be heartily appreciated by all loyal subjects of "Greater Britain"—

He said, I have been asked what particular object is to be gained in having an official like myself here. My mission is to alter that policy, to alter the feeling which permits a British subject to leave this country and wander west north and south. My business is to show that Canada offers special advantages to British emigrants. I desire that my influence may be such that we may secure as subjects of the Queen, those who from necessity or choice seek for a home across the Atlantic. I cannot help referring to this as

A PROBLEM WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION AND SOLUTION

by British statesmen. England spent in one hundred and fifty years countless thousands of lives and not less millions of money in creating the greatest colonial empire the world ever saw. With a degree of wisdom and sagacity never surpassed they have provided constitutional government in the different sections of the great empire. They raised self-governing communities in Canada, in Australia, in New Zealand and at the Cape of Good Hope. Yet strange to say, having completed their work to the point that it apparently ceases to be a burden to the country, the inventive genius of British statesmen fails. They say, "Let them go." Is not that a reproach? To conclude in one word: Let it be remembered that the whole world never can again offer an opportunity of creating such an Empire as owns the sway of Queen Victoria to-day. If we allow the present moment to pass, if the colonies flit away from the Mother Country, never again by any possibility can the present position come back where you are to-day. I trust that the able men who rule England, their sagacity and their abilities, will be employed in endeavoring to see whether the interests of this country, not by itself, but as a part of the British Empire, cannot be better served by bringing about a closer union of the colonies with the Mother Country than by looking upon it in a selfish interest, be it of Canada or of England.

Militia Items.

"A" and "B" Batteries, C. A., have exchanged stations, the former left Kingston on Monday, the 14th ult., by steamer *Magnet*, and arrived in Quebec, on Wednesday morning following, the latter embarked on the evening of the same day, and arrived at Kingston on the morning of Saturday the 19th ult., the *Magnet* having been delayed a considerable time whilst passing through the canals.

The Royal Scots, Montreal have been compelled to give up their contemplated trip to Toronto and Niagara Falls this summer on account of the explosion, and are now preparing for their camp on St. Helen's Island.

—Three Batteries of the Quebec Garrison Artillery were inspected by Lieut.-Col. Strange, R. A., I. of A., in the drill shed, Quebec, on the evening of the 3rd ult. The brigade is commanded by Major Hamel, and although two of the batteries have only just been raised, the appearance of the men and the manner in which the evolutions were performed were highly creditable.

—On Saturday the 19th ult., the annual inspection of the Governor General's Body Guard, took place on the garrison common, Toronto. The men went through their field and parade movements in good form, and especially did themselves credit in marching past. They were highly complimented by Col. Durie, and after a march out, prizes were distributed to the smartest soldiers, Serjeant Rawbone of B troop taking the first and Trooper Bury the second. In sword exercise Corpl. McQuillan took the squadron prize, and Trooper McGregor and Sergt. Rawbone, those of their respective troops.

—The 12th Battalion of York Rangers went into camp at Aurora, on the 24th ult., where they put in their eight days drill.

—Lt.-Col. Kerr commanding the 14th P. O. W. Rifles, (Kingston,) gave a supper to the battalion band, at the Windsor Hotel, on the evening of the 19th ult.—The repast was prepared with the intention of entertaining the musicians after having welcomed "B" Battery upon their arrival from Quebec, to take up their quarters at Kingston, but unfortunately the *Magnet* did not arrive at the time expected, so that the original programme was not carried out, however, Col. Kerr and his officers were not to be defrauded, by mere time, out of their kind and friendly intentions, and after spending a most agreeable and pleasant evening, met the steamer at the wharf and played in the battery, at the small hours of two in the morning. The extreme kindness of this act of camaraderie on the part of Col. Kerr, the officers and the band of the 14th is to be greatly applauded, and was highly appreciated by the officers and men of "B" Battery. This may be taken as a sample of the open heartedness of "Kingstonians."

—Ottawa Field Battery.—This fine field battery has been encamped during the past month at Tara Hall, near Ottawa, undergoing their annual course of training. The battery is commanded by Major Stewart, who has for his officers Lieutenants Coutlee and Evans, Surgeon Bentley and Veterinary Surgeon Harris. Major Stewart, is determined to have his corps the best in the field. The gallant Major had the company out on Monday the 28th ult., for field drill and blank firing, all through the drenching rain. The men responded to their commander with true military zeal, and presented a fine martial appearance. On Wednesday the 30th, they had target and shell practice at Borthwick's springs (Mer Bleu); and made the magnificent score of 513 points; Lt. Cole, R.S.G., Umpire, Staff-Sergeant Howard, B.B., range duty. On Friday the 2nd inst., they were inspected by Lieut.-Col. Montzambert, "B" Battery, C. A., for Lt.-Col. Strange, I. of A., who expressed himself as very much pleased at what he had seen, and from the manner in which the drills and evolutions had been carried out, it not only spoke well of the efficiency of both officers and men, but likewise of the pains the former must, evidently, have taken in imparting such knowledge to those under their command. The Battery was also inspected by Lt.-Col. Jackson, D.A.G. Major Stewart and officers entertained at dinner, at their camp on the evening of the 29th ult., a large party of Ottawa gentlemen in a most hospitable manner. The militia is to be congratulated upon having such officers in its service.

—Kingston Field Battery commanded by Major Wilnot, has been quartered, at Artillery Park, Kingston, during the past month, for the annual training of the same. The men had their rifle practice on the 29th ult., and made the splendid score of five hundred points. The Battery was inspected by Col. Strange, R. A., D. I. of A., who expressed himself to the Commanding officer as pleased with the working of the corps.

—London Field Battery.—This battery was inspected by Colonel Strange, R. A., on the 26th ult. The target practice had to be postponed until the fall, owing the difficulty of obtaining a range.

—The Gananoque Field Battery has been encamped near the village bearing that name, and was inspected on the 7th inst., by Lt.-Col. Strange, I. of A. The gun practice, which was very fair, was carried out on the 8th Capt. Short, C.A., range officer.

—The inspection of the 14 P. W. O. Rifles, Col. Kerr, took place on the 7th inst. Col. Kerr and the officers of this regiment, afterwards give a dinner at the Windsor Hotel, Kingston, to which the officers of "B" Battery and Royal School of Gunnery and the local volunteer corps were invited. This Battalion is highly efficient

—Light Col. Straubenzie and Brigade Major Worsley inspected the 40th Battalion at Cobourg, on the 35th ult.

—The 4th Cavalry, Col. Duff consisting of four troops, one hundred and forty horses are in in camp at Bath, the inspection takes place at an early date this month.

—The Princess Louise Dragoon Guard most hospitably entertained the Ottawa Rifles at their camp on the evening of the 20th ult., when a most enjoyable evening was passed.

—The Ottawa Rifles go into camp in August As soon as their Captain returns from the North-West.

—The troops quartered at Kingston, including the gentlemen cadets of the R. M. C., had a church parade on the 27th ult. They numbered altogether about four hundred strong and were under the command of Colonel Van Straubenzie. The band of "B" Battery played them to church.

—The Montreal and Toronto Engineers the former under the command of Major Kennedy and the latter Col. Scoble have been in camp near the Royal Military Collège, Kingston, from the 21st ult. to the 1st inst., undergoing instruction in military engineering, under the direction of Lt.-Col. Hewitt, R. E. The Toronto division had with them their pontoon and telegraph troop.

—The gentlemen cadets, R.M.C., "B" Battery, the Kingston Field Battery, and the Montreal and Toronto Engineers paraded on Barrieffield Common under the command of Lt.-Col. Strange, R.A., Commandant R.S.G., in honor of Dominion Day. The troops went through an extended series of manoeuvres in the attack of Barrieffield village, and marched and trotted past. The following was the programme of manoeuvres carried out — 1. The force will march past in column. 2. Artillery will trot and gallop past. 3. Resume original position, fire a Royal salute and *feu-de-joie*, general salute. 4. Force will form mass of quarter columns at head of bridge, facing north, artillery in front. 5. The force will represent a convoy advancing in the direction of Barrieffield met by an enemy, a small party of Engineers, under direction of Lt.-Col. Scoble, will advance on scouts, and signal an enemy in the village. they will then retire quickly or get under cover, so as not to impede the general attack. 6. The Artillery will take up

position on the left, close to the bank of Rideau Canal and open fire on the village at Barrieffield. 7. The Gentlemen Cadet Battalion under Major Ridout will be extended for attack to the right of the road leading to Barrieffield and occupy the high ground commanding the village, where the field guns of "B" Battery, under Captain Short, will join them and open fire. 8. "B" Battery, Garrison Division, under Lt.-Col. Montzambert, will extend for attack on the left of the road. 9. The Engineer Battalion and train, under Lt.-Col. Scoble will represent the convoy with its immediate guard. They will advance along the road towards Barrieffield, and finally when arriving near the village be deployed and open fire by volleys to resist close attack from the village; before this period the train carts may be formed under cover in the hollow to the left of the road. 10. The whole force will retire, covered by the Gentlemen Cadets Battalion and "B" Battery, R.S.G., the convoy and its escort retiring along the road. 11. The force dismissed to private parades.

—The *Canada Gazette* of the 5th ult. contains the following — General Orders, No. 1.—The attack in extended order, instruction in. Staff and regimental officers are requested to study and instruct their corps in the duties of soldiers as explained in part 3, pages 209 to 242 of the "Field Exercise and Evolutions of Infantry, of 1877," having special reference to the attack in extended order, the necessity of taking advantage of cover, and of advancing by rushes, according to the nature of the ground and the position and formation of the enemy in front. The want of sufficient instruction on these points was noticeable at the Quebec review on the 24th of May last. In respect to the above remarks it may be said. In part 2, page 91, of the "Field Exercise," it says, in reference to the general principles applied to formations and manoeuvres — "It must be carefully explained that extended order is applicable both to the formation for attack and for skirmishing, but with this general difference, that in the attack the object is gradually to bring up the battalion with as little loss as possible to a point sufficiently near the position of the enemy, whence the hottest fire can be poured in, and the final assault by the battalion, as a compact body, can be made; whereas, in skirmishing, the object is either to cover a body of troops not formed for attack, or to feel for an enemy when advancing through an enclosed or wooded country. In the attack, therefore, men must not be permitted to seek cover during the advance, when by so doing they lose their interval and fail to move directly to the front, further, when exposed to artillery fire alone, they must not take advantage of cover, except by word of command. In skirmishing, as such cohesion of the portions of the battalion is not necessary, greater latitude in its formations and manoeuvres are to be allowed." This was precisely what was followed out in the Quebec sham fight. The line advanced to the attack in extended order, and it was absolutely necessary that its formation and the interval between the men should be strictly kept, so that the final rush could be made in a compact body. In a line advancing to the attack in extended formation, the men composing it will invariably and naturally edge away from the centre, where the fire is the hottest towards the flanks, and if not kept well in hand by those in command; and allowed to lose all formation, when the objective point is reached, not a single man would be found directly in front to carry it by assault. Skirmishing and advancing to the attack are very different manoeuvres, and the manner in which the line advanced to the attack, over the Plains of Abraham on the 24th of May last, is, in our opinion, strictly in accordance with the latest system of military tactics.

The 5th regiment of provisional cavalry commanded by Lt. Col. T. H. Taylor, forming part of the forces in the Sherbrooke brigade camp, which assembled for six clear days drill in the Eastern Townships, on the 25th ult., is the largest body of mounted men ever brought together in that part of the Dominion, and were ably manoeuvred in the field by their commanding officer, assisted in his duties by Major Wood in charge of the right wing, and Lt. Col. Lovelace, acting Major in charge of the left. This regiment consists of five full troops. The men are uniformed as Hussars, and are particularly well mounted, nearly every man owning the horse he rides. The N. C. officers and troopers are generally speaking young and well to do farmers and a fine specimen of the stalwart yeomanry of the Eastern Townships. The time allowed this year for the drill of cavalry is far too short to permit the force to be brought into a proper state of discipline even with the best exertion on the part of the officers. The appearance, steady conduct of the men, and the manner in which the various evolutions were performed was very creditable.

Tactical Lessons Suggested by the Past Sham Fight.

The practice of dividing a force into two bodies on a field day, which is the plan now generally adopted on such occasions, possesses a great advantage for instructional purposes over the old idea of manoeuvring the whole force in one body, against an imaginary enemy. In the latter case the divisional commanders and brigadiers were the only ones who benefited by the operations, and that only in a limited sense, namely in the mechanical manipulation of large masses of troops, certainly a most important feature in the art of war, but deceptive in such peace manoeuvres, it being impossible to see mistakes of handling, with no enemy in front to dictate tactical consideration of movements in the advance or retreat; but by dividing the troops into two hostile bodies, every one engaged, derives instruction, the slightest mistakes are at once visible, whilst the interest generally taken in the course of the battle by those engaged lightens the toil, and gives energy to the movements, movements which now under the new system of extended formation, require as much ability, judgment and decision from individual commanders of companies as was demanded from brigadiers of old,—rapidity of movement being at the present day a most important consideration, whilst manoeuvring under the fire of the deadly breech-loader.

The operations upon the Plains of Abraham were conducted under the idea that an infantry force having landed and taken possession of the plain at its lower end (where Wolfe landed) were to advance to the Citadel in extended order, supported by cavalry and field guns, which, driving in the pickets and skirmishers of the defenders was at last to be met by a superior force, posted under the wall of the Citadel, and would retire before the same, leaving the latter victors of the field. A prodigious amount of the operation will be found in the number for May.

Before considering in detail the tactics carried out by the hostile divisions on this occasion, it might be as well to take a cursory glance back at the various changes which have taken place in the system of warfare during the last century, so as to be better able to judge and appreciate movements which are so directly at variance with the rules and precepts of by-gone days, and the reasons which led to a great change upon the introduction of rifle fire and breech-loading arms.

TACTICS OF NAPOLEON.

Napoleon Bonaparte made a great change in the established rules and principles of war. Indeed, the same had been the case with the leaders of the first armies of the republic. It was by celerity of action, rapid marches, sudden attacks, precision of formation and deployment, and promptitude of execution, unencumbered with tents, camp, baggage, military hospitals, and commissariat stores, that those splendid and decisive victories were won, and that too, as a general measure, in the absence of magazines, of all sorts of stores, and munitions of war,—that astonished and astounded the world, and preceded in the art of war. Bold in the strength that freedom gave, the republicans sans-culottes required no other tactics but "Coira," and no strategy but "en avant." The French generals of the infant republic availing themselves of

this exalted feeling, and aware that their raw levies were sadly inferior in discipline to their veteran opponents, formed them into masses or columns, that they might by their weight break an extended line, and cutting or separating it into parts, might thus crush and attack it in detail. From those masses, in the first efforts of the republican soldiers, as the columns advanced to the assault, the boldest and most enterprising of the men started forward to act as trailblazers, or, as the light troops were latterly called, *volligeurs*. In the more improved state of French military science, the French generals, thinking that some great physical force was inherent and mysteriously concealed in their column attacks, reduced the formation and mode of attack into an apparently scientific form. The evolution received its full development in the hands of Napoleon Bonaparte; by him, the system of attack in mass or column was adopted; but not, however, as it is universally, but mistakenly supposed, as more effective and decisive than that in line, but in order to make up for the deficiency of discipline and steadiness to which new levies are necessarily subject, troops in column, (especially young soldiers) deriving a confidence and mutual dependence from its density and compactness; if the head of the column consists of steady and tried soldiers, the momentum and impetus derived from the inexperienced and unsteady in its other parts contribute to its effects. The notion entertained from the success of the column attacks of the French on the armies of Austria, Prussia, &c., that that mode of formation is the most conducive to victory, was absolutely disproved, when attempted to be put in execution against the British. At Talavera, Busaco, and Waterloo, the column attacks were completely frustrated. At Talavera, the British line kept up an incessant rolling fire on the head of the column, while the flanks inclining forwards, directing their fire both sides of the column, overthrew it. At Busaco, the head of the French column fired; when the English line, overlapping both its flanks, drove it back, after three discharges, with prodigious slaughter. At Waterloo, the whole French army advanced to the charge in column formations, the guard being formed into three distinct bodies, each having a battalion in line and another in column on each of its flanks; when the English line, converging its extremities on the flanks of the enemy, poured in so steady and well-directed a fire, as to stagger and overthrow the foe. The same skillful and high-minded men adopted, and put into force their tactics, the first great principle of the science of war—(and, indeed, of mechanical and mathematical science, which constitute the principles and basis of military science)—that victory is generally dependent on the greatest quantity of effective force brought into action, on the decisive point or points of the field of battle at the same moment. Napoleon Bonaparte adopted and developed the same system, and was favoured with the same results. He deemed that the best formation or manoeuvre was that which produced those effects, and he was successful. His practice was to bring the greatest force that he possibly could against a weak, a detached, or an isolated point of his adversary's army; and having become victorious there, the dependent parts fell into his hands as a necessary consequence. He was, however, highly skilled in statical operations,—was eminently endowed with the power of combination of masses to execute those decisive manoeuvres that decide the fortune of battles,—and possessed the military coup d'oeil in a manner almost infallible. No general who has ever appeared on the theatre of warfare was endowed with the power of calculation (by which the precise moment at which his columns of infantry could attack the disordered lines of his enemy, with all but certainty of success) in a more eminent degree than he. In more abstract language, it may be said that his system of tactics consisted in concentrating his forces on important points, instead of extending them in long lines of posts and detached bodies—in making his preliminary movements by vast swarms of *volligeurs*, or light troops, when drawing near his enemy's position, in order to conceal the direction of the attack; and in attacking promptly and vigorously when the moment for action arrived. But great as Napoleon Bonaparte's military talent was, it must be admitted that he committed many great errors. Let us investigate the cause; and for the sake of brevity confine ourselves to his two last displays of "consummate military genius"—the battles of Fleurus and Waterloo.

In those contests, was the skill displayed with which popular and even military opinion gave him the credit for preparing his plans of operation? There, most assuredly, he did not display that consummate and unequalled military genius for which he had been so much lauded. What was the mode of his operations? Was it on the field of Fleurus, by repeated and successive attacks, and repulses on and from the villages of Ligny and St. Amand; and on the field of Waterloo, on Hougomont and La Haye Sainte, that he gave proofs of his great military capacity? Without wasting time in the inquiry respecting the Prussian positions of Ligny, we will confine ourselves to the English one of Hougomont. The attack on Hougomont was erroneous for two reasons: first, though it was the key of the position, and captured the right wing of the British army, and that its capture would have compelled the Duke of Wellington to assume a new disposition of his forces, yet its loss would not have so seriously compromised the safety of the army as is generally supposed, particularly as it stood low; and, therefore, had it been taken, its capture would have had no commanding influence on the British army, and could have decided nothing; and thus the undo of which it was of importance to Napoleon Bonaparte to avail himself before the Duke of Wellington could receive any co-operation from the Prussian army, was fatally wasted; secondly, that those columns which were slung forward before its defences would have been of the highest importance, and might possibly have decided the fortune of the day when he made the grand attack. A consummate knowledge of military science would, therefore, have suggested the judicious flanking of that post. On the other hand, the obstinate defence of that position by Wellington, proved his knowledge of the art of war. His object was to gain time until he gained the co-operation of Blucher, and the retention of this position enabled him to protract the contest until he was able to make the grand assault which was to decide the battle. The three and entire divisions which contended against the ten battalions in and about Hougomont, and the six battalions that disputed the place with the few hundred men stationed there, were occupied for the interests of the British army; but most unprofitably for those of the French army. Napoleon Bonaparte's grand or general attack with the columns composed of the old and young guard, was also erroneous, as they advanced to the attack without their flanks having any support

or protection. His attacks during the battle were ill-planned:—Infantry alone in one part of the line, and cavalry alone in another part, were sent to attack infantry, cavalry and artillery combined.

Nor were these the entire of Napoleon Buonaparte's military errors:—At the battle of Marengo, he committed the following great error:—When Melas contracted his front upon his centre, Napoleon Buonaparte, instead of manœuvring in mass upon his adversary's centre, weakened his own centre to strengthen his wings, with the intention of surrounding the Austrian army. As soon as Melas observed this movement, he advanced his centre rapidly in mass on the weakened centre of the French, and dispersing it, divided his victorious columns into two parts, and rapidly wheeling to the right and left, advanced on both the French which, seeing their centre in flight, followed its example. The battle was alone saved by the advance of the divisions of Lemonnier and Dessaix at the critical moment, and Napoleon Buonaparte, having been joined by the fugitives, he formed the whole into two close columns, and rushed impetuously on the victorious Austrians before they could again form in mass, or assume any available attitude of defence. In his Russian campaign also he committed a series of errors and blunders which were at variance with the great principles of military science. His inaction after the battle of Borodino was reprehensible in the highest degree, and may be considered one of the principle causes of his discomfiture.

But the errors which prevailed in Napoleon's system of tactics were not confined to himself; they extended to his generals. The plan of attacking posts and positions which might safely be turned or passed, and which would have followed the fate of the day, was, instead of making one well-combined simultaneous effort, put into execution at Fuentes d'Onor and Albuera. Had the troops employed in obtaining possession of the first mentioned village been called into action on that part of the field on which the fuller brigade determined the fortune of the day, the issue of the battle of Albuera might have been otherwise than it was.

The impolicy of his system of modern tactics, especially where it is not possible to arrest the progress of the attack on the main body of the army, as was the case at Waterloo, Fuentes d'Onor, and Albuera, is self-evident. You need not uselessly sacrifice your men, but you waste time, and present your adversary with the chance of availing himself of the occurrence of some of those freaks of fortune which occur in the course of battles, and often frustrate the best and wisest plans and combinations. To assailants, therefore, partial actions and the capture of particular points are not of so much importance as to him who acts on the defensive. The defence of posts and positions, situated on his front or flank, is, to a weak or dispirited enemy, of the highest importance. To him the advantages of walls and barricades are great, he is enabled to resist the heavy columns of his adversary with a small number of his forces, and the loss of the enemy must be great before those positions, if they be well and obstinately defended can be carried.

But for the errors just stated, Napoleon Buonaparte made large compensation in his deviations from the routine methods of warfare. In his invasion of Italy, he not only deviated from the established rules of tactics, and disregarded the practice of supplying his army with the usual *matériel* and equipments of war—with stores, a commissariat and a military chest—but he even deviated from all his predecessors in his method of invasion. Instead of penetrating the country by some of the passes of the Alpine range, and encountering the difficulties which would thereby have presented themselves to his ill-provided army, he made his irruption by the comparatively level country—namely the narrow pass, called the Boscchetta.

Another inducement to adopt this line of invasion was the probability of enabling him to intercept and separate the Austrian and Sardinian forces; as from the point he intended to debouch, it would be as practicable to march upon Milan, which the Austrians were interested to defend, as on Turin. In the execution of these operations, the Italian campaign commenced, of which the battle of Montenotte was the precursor.—*General Williams' British Battles.*

Military Items.

—A lately published return of the strength and composition of the Austrian army on the 1st of January of the present year shows that on that day there were in its ranks 229,947 German-speaking officers and men, and, classified according to the language spoken by them, 149,694 Hungarians, 157,865 Czechs and Moravians, 64,916 Poles, 31,458 Croats, 24,526 Serbs, 1,011 Bulgarians, 48,483 Wallachians, and 5,846 Italians. The heterogeneous character of the material which thus fills the ranks of the Austrian army has always been a source of weakness.

—It is to be regretted that the department of officers is not more studied in the British army as a concomitant of instruction in drill. How strange and varied are the attitudes of officers "fallen out" to drill a company, battery, or battalion on foot! Not unfrequently we see the officer with his sword held in both hands across his body. Why should it be deemed less essential to stand erect and in the posture laid down in the Field Exercise, &c., when exercising supreme command than it is when in the ranks, or rather acting as a guide or "captain"? How rarely is the saluting of officers marching past, that most difficult of performances, satisfactorily

got through, and how rarely is fault found! These points need but a little attention on the part of commanding officers, but it would appear that custom with some other obstruction stands in the way, so rarely do we see attention paid to the matter.

—Considerable hilarity has recently been excited in Austro-Hungarian military circles by an incident quaintly illustrating the rigid strictness with which Magyar non-commissioned officers are wont to carry out to the very letter the instructions contained in the Imperial Royal Military Code. A few days ago a private soldier died in the barrack infirmary at Kaschau, and his body in due course was consigned to the grave with the customary military honors. It was observed, however, by a superior officer present at the ceremony of interment that the firing party following the coffin marched into the cemetery with fixed bayonets, contrary to the established military usage in similar cases. As soon as the burial rites had been concluded, he sent for the sergeant commanding the party, and asked him, with some asperity, "Whether he did not know it was contrary to regulations for a funeral escort to march with fixed bayonets?" Standing stiffly at the salute, the conscientious sergeant replied: "Yes, sir; I am quite aware of that. But I beg respectfully to report that the deceased during his illness and at the time of his death, was under arrest. It was therefore the duty of his escort to fix bayonets?" "Very well, you may go, was the rejoinder, and the model disciplinarian retired with the proud consciousness that he had triumphantly proved his case.

—From returns lately prepared in the German Ministry of War it appears that the class of recruits of the year 1878, who were incorporated in the army in October last, numbered 295,924, being 9,817 men more than were inscribed on the lists of 1877, or some 25,000 more than the average strength of a class before the late Franco-German war. On the revision of the lists 33,545 of the men inscribed were declared unfit for military service; 141,797, or 47 per cent. of the whole number of names, were directed to be drafted into the Army or Navy, and formed the year's contingent of recruits, 45,410, or 15 per cent., were excused actual service with the colours for various reasons, as being the only support for families and so forth; 26,906, or 9 per cent. were found to already entered the service by voluntary enlistment, or as one year volunteers, or by having had their names placed in the maritime inscription; and 27,955, or 8 per cent., were put back for one year. In addition to the 141,797 men of the class of 1877, who had been previously put back, were also in October last drafted into the ranks, so that the total strength of the contingent of 1879 amounted to 151,620 men, and of these 5,827 were allotted to the Navy. Of the 295,924 recruits, 11,067, or 12 per cent., could neither read nor write, 52,679, or 18 per cent., could read and write, 167,352, or 61 per cent., had received more advanced elementary instruction; 947, or 0.32 per cent., had obtained a diploma in the higher elementary classes, and 3,385, or 1.14 per cent., had completed their college course. The proportion of those who can neither read nor write has, it may be added, decreased by 47 per cent. since 1869.

—The reports of the general officers commanding corps and divisions, and of the officers commanding the artillery, which took part in the volunteer review at Brighton on Easter Monday, have been issued. Prince Edward of Saxo-Weimar, the general commanding the Southern Division, in forwarding the reports to the Duke of Cambridge, states that he has every reason to be satisfied with the manner in which the "general idea" was carried out. He notices most favourably the "extraordinary punctuality" of the whole proceedings, the steadiness of the volunteers, their great improvement in order and discipline and their deliberation in firing. The mistakes of the officers, noticeable in moving their men in too close order under fire, and in the confusion which prevailed when the op-

posing forces came into close contact, were such, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar is convinced, as could be speedily corrected if the officers could be accustomed to drill with larger bodies and with regular troops. The advance in general efficiency was most marked. The Prince adds that he cannot omit mentioning "the cheerful submission of all ranks to the severe hardships which most of the corps had to endure during a long and tedious day's work"—some of the regiments having paraded as early as 2 A.M., while they could not reach home before midnight. The conduct of the volunteers was most excellent. In forwarding Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar's report the Duke of Cambridge says he has much pleasure in bearing the most favorable testimony, from his personal observations, to the marked improvement that has taken place in the volunteer force during the last few years. His Royal Highness, The Duke of Cambridge having noted the "splendid physique and soldierlike bearing of the men" confirms the opinions of Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, and concludes:—"I cannot refrain from expressing my entire conviction, resulting from a careful observation of the recent military display at Brighton, that the nation possesses in the volunteer force a substantial and trustworthy reserve for the defence of the country."

—The numerical weakness of the force which paraded before the Queen at Aldershot the other day has attracted attention to the difference which exists between the paper strength of an English battalion and the number of men who actually fall in in its ranks when it is assembled for drill or for the practice of minor tactics. The total strength of the division at Aldershot is 10,644 of all ranks; and yet at the late review the number on parade was only 6,728. The sick of the division numbered 560, the men left on guard duty in the camp 217, while no fewer than 1,644 were employed on other duties. Altogether, therefore, it may be said that more than a third of the division was absent from the parade; and although all officers and mess servants, cooks, tailors, and shoe-makers, orderlies, and so forth, who are as a rule excused from ordinary regimental drills, had been ordered to fall in for the occasion. When the number of these and also of the men usually employed in every regiment on different fatigue duties is remembered some notion may be formed of the number who actually undergo military instruction day by day. The matter is in fact a very important one, and demands the serious attention of the higher authorities of the army, since experience has shown that it is their decisive interference only that can restrict within reasonable limits the baneful practice of employing a large number of men on duties which take them away from the drill instructor and from the practice of military exercises. Under the existing system of short service men remain only a comparatively short time with the colours; and if during this brief period they are continually employed on other than purely military duties, they cannot be accounted thoroughly trained soldiers when dismissed into the reserve. In France it has been found necessary to issue an order that no soldier shall be excused from drill or parade.

—An interesting history of the development of the Russian army during the last quarter of a century has been lately published in St. Petersburg. On the 1st of January, 1853, the Russian army comprised 27,716 officers and 968,382 men (including reserve, local, and auxiliary troops), besides 78,144 Cossacks. During the Crimean war the strength of the armed forces of the empire was of course largely increased and according to official returns included on the 1st of January, 1856 no fewer than 41,817 officers and 2,275,454 men. How many of these were, however, actually present with the colours, or were available for service in the field cannot be even approximately ascertained. The active army numbered, it is stated, 24,664 officers and 1,170,184 men, the reserve troops 7,876 officers and 572,158 men; the irregular forces, 3,640 officers and 168,691 men; the opoltschenie, or militia,

5,647 officers and 364,421 men, and the Cossack troops 3,441 officers and 156,726 men, but very large deductions would probably have to be made to arrive at the actual strength of each of these several bodies. In 1863, for instance, when, according to the returns of the Minister of War, the Russian army numbered 858,907 regular troops, it was calculated, after a careful examination of the strength of the several units of the army, that the probable real strength of the regular troops did not exceed 385,050 men. On the 25th of November, 1879, the Russian army comprised 908 generals, 31,414 officers, and 886,426 men, while on the same date the reserves numbered 742,144 men, and the Cossack troops 1,972 officers and 51,359 men, with 105,046 men more on furlough; but whether anything like the above-mentioned number of men are serving with the colours at the present moment is again very doubtful. It was, in fact, lately shown by a German military writer that the revenue annually devoted to military purposes in Russia would not, even if the army was administered in the most economical manner, suffice to maintain such large forces.

Military.

The following paragraph from the *Army and Navy Gazette*, of the 5th instant, may be of interest:—"The appointment of aide-de-camp to Major-General Louard in Canada has not yet been filled. Indeed, it seems probable that some difficulty will be experienced in getting any officer to accept the appointment, for the Canadian Government refuse to grant any regimental pay, which has to be abandoned from the date of embarkation; and as the total sum allowed is only £200 per annum, as against £317 and regimental pay, the pay of aides-de-camp in all other colonies, it is scarcely likely that any officer will voluntarily undertake the responsibilities of a staff appointment on such terms."

Major-General Louard will probably find little difficulty in getting an aide-de-camp in Canada that will suit him, for the "only £200 salary," paltry as "such terms" are. The General had better apply for one to the Commandants of the Royal Schools of Gunnery. It is surely time that the Dominion was capable of furnishing her own staff and other officers.

Modern Fire.

A lecture upon "Modern Fire: its Influence on Armament, Training, and Tactics," was delivered by Captain W. H. James, R. E., at the Royal United Service Institution last week. General Beauchamp Walker presided. The lecturer said that although in no struggle which had yet taken place had we seen artillery and small arms fire such as would be witnessed in the next great European war, yet recent wars had taught two important lessons, viz., the value of long-range infantry fire, by which alone the true advantages of the modern rifle are gained; and the necessity for increased power and accuracy in our guns, and the need of a powerful shrapnel. In the next war shrapnel will probably be used greatly superior (with the exception of the Penobscot-Henry) to those employed by any nation, and in addition to these would be found powerful guns chiefly for shrapnel shell, the man-killing power of which would be far in excess of anything yet seen in the shape of artillery. Infantry fire would be used up to ranges of 2000 yards against suitable objects, while shrapnel fire would no doubt be efficacious up to 3000 yards, and common shell at 4000 yards. Open order was now universally acknowledged to be a necessary condition of modern fighting, and in modern wars few attempts were made to force by dint of "shock" the enemy out of a position, the only successful means of attack being superiority of fire. The keynote of our tactical training must therefore be the development to the uttermost of the fire power of troops. Deadliness of fire could be increased either by still further flattening the trajectory of the rifle, or by augmenting the number of bullets poured on a certain spot by the use of repeating rifles. If, in future, fire was to be opened in some cases at 1600 yards, instead of 500 yards, it was obvious that more ammunition would be expended. The number of rounds now allowed to each European soldier was—France, 92; England, 160; Germany, 147; Austria, 119; and 420; but, looking to the experience of the Russo-Turkish war, it was fairly open to doubt whether any of these were sufficient. Most Russian military writers said that each man should carry from 50 to 120 rounds, and that a regimental reserve making the total up to about 150 was necessary, and he (the lecturer) was of opinion that it would be well to give each man 100 rounds, and to have a regimental reserve of 40. With regard to the tactical employment of infantry fire, as the effect of fire at long ranges was due to the probability of a certain proportion of bullets fired at a given object hitting the mark, it followed that such fire (at anything over 600 to 700 yards) should not be independent, but should be delivered only at the command of the fighting unit leaders—or, in other words, volleys must be

med. It was difficult to lay down any form from which there should be no deviation, but one thing was a necessity arising out of the fearful intensity of modern fire, i. e., that when once close ranges were reached men must advance firing or suffer enormous losses. Another result of the increased employment of fire in modern warfare was the greatly enhanced value of artificial cover, and on the Continent a provision was made for the carriage of entrenching tools by the soldiers. He would suggest that our infantry should also carry a small pointed spade in the bayonet frog behind the bayonet, and that the pattern proposed by Lord Ely (combining a chopper and a saw) should be substituted for the present form. With the exception of the Boxer cartridge, the Martini-Henry was, he believed, the best infantry weapon introduced into any army, but the rifle of the future would be, in his opinion, of about 0.33 in. bore, and to fire a bullet weighing 30 grains, with a charge of 100 grains of powder. Such a weapon would be as accurate as the Martini at long ranges, and having a muzzle velocity of 1800 ft., would give a much flatter trajectory at short distances, and another gain would be found in the diminished weight of the cartridges. Still, in the future, repeating rifles would be found to possess overwhelming advantages, for by it, a sudden shower of bullets could be poured in at the critical moment of an action, when increased intensity of fire was often decisive. In addition to improved armament, further and more systematic training of our soldiers, especially when formed in such units as companies, squadrons, and batteries was essential. With regard to the artillery portion of the question, the lessons of the last wars had shown the necessity of concentration of fire, the desirability of increasing the man-killing power of the projectiles in order to cope more effectually with rifle fire, and the inefficiency of small common shells against earthworks. With regard to the power of artillery, he feared that we were now behind the other great Powers, although we should, no doubt, overtake them in course of time, and whatever conclusions might be arrived at under this head it was evident that the first steps would have to be the alteration of our common shell, which broke up into so many fewer fragments in comparison with those of other countries. In the conclusion of his paper the lecturer dealt with the armament of cavalry and of engineers, and offered some suggestions with regard to these branches of the Service.—*Broad Arrow.*

—Sir Garnet Wolseley spoke sensibly as well as eloquently at the dinner of the Newspaper Press Fund on the necessity of army reforms, appealing to the press to support him in removing from the path of progress those great boulders of prejudice and superstition which now impede the way. As there is a disposition in some quarters to take for granted that no officer of experience can possibly have a good word to say for Lord Cardwell's reforms, and that the defence of them must be left to civilian doctrinaires, Sir Garnet Wolseley's words are worth noting. He has no sympathy with those who think that to reform we must go back and not go forward, and whose ideal is "the army before the outbreak of the Crimean war." "The time has gone by for an officer to be considered a good soldier because he is a good drill, and able to carry on the ordinary routine of the parade ground and the barrack. To be worthy now to command men can only be attained by study of military science and of the military history of past ages, so as to draw lessons for guidance in the future. I am glad to know that a large portion of our young officers are really efficient in this sense, and able to compare favorably with the officers of any nation in the world. I can gratefully testify to the difference of the state of things now existing in that respect as compared with the time when I entered the service." This ought to silence those partizans who, for political reasons, feel bound to insist that Lord Cardwell ruined the service, for without Lord Cardwell's reforms the change would have been impossible.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

--Recent experiments made at Sir W. Armstrong's proof grounds, near Newcastle-on-Tyne, gave unexpected results—at all events to the general body of the public. Unless we are much mistaken the latest productions of Esbwick will have a potent influence in moulding the decision of any committee which may be appointed according to the promise of the Government. It should be premised that the smallest armour-piercing gun in the Navy is the 7-inch, weighing 6½ tons. This gun is capable of penetrating seven inches of armour at a range of 1000 yards. The projectile weighs 115 lbs., and its muzzle velocity 1525 feet per second. After this comes the 95 cwt. gun—firing a projectile of 64 lbs.—which, only at close distance, is capable of penetrating a 4-inch armor-plate. Such feeble powers scarcely qualify it to be classed with armor-piercers. With the performance of the Service 6½-ton 7-inch muzzle-loading gun, let us compare that of Sir W. Armstrong's 6-inch breech-loading

gun, discharging a steel projectile of 80 lbs. Fired with a charge of 37½ lbs of powder a muzzle velocity of 2058 feet per second was given to the projectile, which penetrated a plate 12 inches thick, so that it went nearly 12½ in. distant from the front of the plate. Several other rounds were fired with varying quantities of powder against a plate of the same thickness, and in each case the projectile went nearly through. A steel shell of 100 lbs. weight fired with 21½ lbs of powder against an 8-inch plate went through the latter to a distance of more than six inches from the rear. Also a shell of 80 lbs. was driven by a charge of 31 lbs. of powder through a 10-inch plate to a distance of 8½ in. beyond its rear.

Other rounds with smaller charges were fired with surprising effect, notably that of an 80 lb. steel shell being propelled by only 17½ lbs of powder, and sent clean through a 6-inch plate, the base of the shell being picked up behind the target.

Such are some of the remarkable results obtained at this recent series of experiments. They show that Sir W. Armstrong's 6 inch breech-loader has a half-greater armour piercing power than the Frazer 7 inch muzzle-loader, the latter being more than fifty per cent heavier. This comparatively little gun of four tons weight is thus a piercer of 11-inch armour.—*Broad Arrow.*

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