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NOTE AND COMMENT.

A great railway corporation is being held up for public censure in England, for conduct towards volunteering very much on a par with that recently attributed to a Canadian Cabinet Minister. The English case is stated by Sir John Burgoyne, in a letter to the press. It appears that recently a man in Sir John's regiment, the 3rd Bedfordshire, applied for work in Derby, and was offered employment by the Midland Railway Company, upon condition that he left the Militia; and, though the man's time would have expired in a few months, this patriotic Company refused to engage him until he produced his discharge from that force, which cost him the sum of £2, as he belonged to the Militia Reserve also.

The *Broad Arrow* thus comments on the case:

"The officials of this company either have never heard of, or decline to recognize until they are compelled, the ordinary duties which a State can demand from every member of society, without trenching on individual liberty. 'The very existence of a nation as an organized community,' says Professor Cairnes, 'is founded upon the recognition of duties obligatory upon all, and which the State may at need enforce.' And this means no more or less than personal service; an obligation which is not at present enforced, simply because the Government tries to maintain a successful voluntary system of recruiting, in lieu. If this voluntary system fails, the fault will rest, for the most part, with the large employers of labour. In no other country but in that of a 'nation of shopkeepers' could such a disgraceful imposition have been made as that put upon this particular militiaman, which is only one of a thousand cases occurring annually. The patriotic appeal made by the Duke of Cambridge to the employers of labour, only last year, to assist the authorities by employing Militiamen, has resulted, therefore, in nothing better than a refusal, on the part of one of the wealthiest of British railway companies, to employ a man because he was serving his country as a militiaman. And it is with a feeling of regret we note that the chairman of the company was at one time in the Royal Horse Guards, and afterwards a Major in the Yeomanry.

The sentiments of indignation expressed above we commend to the attention of our Government, who as a whole must bear the brunt of the hostility shown by any one member to volunteering, so long as they leave him armed with a weapon of offence against the Militia such as the Order-in-Council under recently enacted.

The "professional" soldiers of the mother country are not at all times as complimentary—not to say polite—to their "amateur" brethren-in-arms as they might be, and one result is the occasional appearance in the press devoted to the regular, or professional service, of paragraphs like the following:—

"Three things were noteworthy amongst the guests of the Lord Mayor at the dinner in connexion with the reception of the Elcho Shield. First, an officer in Highland uniform topped, by some inches, everybody else. Secondly, the smart and soldierlike appearance of Lieutenant-General Lyon-Fremantle and Major-General Philip Smith;

and thirdly, the slovenly gait, the hirsute appendages (of sorts), dirty uniforms, round backs, and prominent stomachs of the Volunteer Colonels."

The press of the Volunteer service promptly resented the insulting description of the "thirdly's," and the *Broad Arrow*, which published the alleged slander, thereupon explained that the author was a Volunteer Colonel, who never intended the remarks in question to be taken in such a sense of seriousness. Another Volunteer C. O. is, however, alleged to have written to the *Arrow* endorsing "the well-deserved paragraph" in question, and censuring generally unkempt appearance" of his brother officers, and continues:—

"The C. O.s in question evidently glory in an utter disregard of dress regulations, Queen's regulations, and, indeed, every other regulation except their own sweet will, which produced, on the Saturday evening in question, a very motley collection. If these officers were generally imitated by the various corps they command, a grave would soon be dug for the 'Citizen Army.'"

There is not so much heard of late about the cadet movement in this country, but the drill of the boys, we believe, steadily progressing, with little loss of popularity or enthusiasm. In England, the cadet battalions took a prominent part in the recent Lord Mayor's "Show," upon which the *Broad Arrow* remarked:—"These corps are an excellent means of encouraging a taste for military life amongst the future manhood of England, and of counteracting the sedentary tendencies of the day, whereby the health and physique of our town boys are so often totally ruined. There are now three battalions in London, one of which, the 1st Cadet Battalion Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment, is composed of *bonâ fide* working boys, and has already supplied many good recruits to the Army. We trust that their appearance on this occasion will give an impetus to their cause throughout the country, and induce many to take up this truly beneficial and patriotic idea."

The *Journal of the Royal United Service Institution* contains an interesting but alarming paper by Surgeon-Captain Perry-Mason, A. M. S., on the effect of the new Lee-Burton bullet in war. Notwithstanding the conclusions to which the Small Arms Committee came to on the subject, his experience and experiments lead him to believe that the modern hardened projectile of small diameter will be very much wanting, under certain circumstances, in "stopping" power. He admits, however, that we *must* have a small bore magazine rifle, and that "military considerations, such as facility for supply of ammunition in the field, and the great increase of effective range, will far outweigh any minor deficiencies in the new weapon as a wound producer."

THE NEW DRILL BOOK.

The following is the completion of the digest of the changes in contemplation as reported by *The Broad Arrow* and reprinted in our recent issues:—

Sec. 7. *Formation to meet a cavalry attack.*—The immediate presence of bodies of cavalry will demand a closer formation than that of the extended line. In such cases the men of the fire unit may be ordered to form round their leader. At drill, this will be signified by the command cavalry, when the men will double to their leader, form round him, fix swords, and turn outwards. If ordered to do so, they will practise receiving cavalry as directed in the Firing Exercises.

Unfix Swords. Extend. Reforming.—The squad will be ordered to unfix swords, and the men will resume their former order, moving by the shortest line.

Sec. 8. (No change.) The squad will be dispersed, and the men taught to assemble on the leader on the word assemble, forming at the double in two ranks in their original positions on his right or left as ordered.

Sec. 9. *The Charge.*—(No change.)

Sec. 10. *Field calls, signals, and use of the whistle. Field calls.*—(Very little change.)

THE COMPANY.—GENERAL RULES.

1. The company will be practised in movements in extended order, on the principles laid down for the squad.

2. *Extensions.*—Extensions may be made by one or more sections, not in excess of half the number of the company; the remainder being kept in support. During an extension, section commanders will see that the men take their proper intervals, and preserve the general alignment. Before any part of a company is extended the object and general direction of the advance should be clearly explained, and a man named to direct. The commander of the section to which this man belongs will see that he keeps the true direction. It must be impressed on all, that those who boldly advance generally win the fight, and that though the loss may be great in attacking a position, the loss of a force retiring after having been once committed to an attack is immeasurably greater.

3. *Officers and section commanders.*—Half company and section commanders will be in rear of their respective commands when extended in the firing line, in such a position as will enable them to superintend their men; when in support they will lead their commands in front. They must be constantly on the look out for, and comply at once with, the signals or orders of the captain, who will be in rear of the extended line. When three officers are present with a company, one will always be with the firing line.

4. *Cover.*

5. *Reinforcements.*—Gaps in the firing line will be filled by pushing forward sections. Commanders of sections in the firing line, as casualties occur, will see that the men of their command incline toward the directing man of the section; who, if he becomes a casualty, must be immediately replaced.

6. *Remarks on firing.*—Fire, whether the firing line is extended as a screen, or is in denser formation for attack, will be under the supervision of section commanders, subject to the general directions of the captain. The attacking force should always try to get as close to the enemy as possible before opening fire, consistent with its not suffering undue losses. Volley firing will be maintained during the development of an attack, until the captain orders independent firing. The number of rounds to be fired every time the extended line makes a halt will depend very much upon the ground and actual conditions. The advance must not be delayed by halting of men or for longer than is absolutely necessary to rest the men, for it must ever be borne in mind that the actual occupation of the enemy's position is the object of the fight.

7. *Range-taking.*—In addition to the use of instruments for range-finding, ranges during the advance will be estimated by selected non-commissioned officers or men.

8. *Remarks on the Attack.*—The normal front on which a company should attack may be considered as equal to half the number of men in it, i.e., company of 100 men about 50 paces, but this is only given as a general rule. The attack may be made, according to circumstances, on a front of greater or less extent, subject in the latter case to the invariable rule, that no more men shall be placed in the firing line than is consistent with the free use of their weapon, i.e., about 30 inches per man. That portion of the enemy's position which it is intended to attack should be clearly pointed out, and the manner in which it is proposed to carry out the attack should be clearly explained by the captain to all the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates trained as leaders of sections. In training, blank ammunition should be sufficiently used, and the enemy represented by a force, skeleton or otherwise, according to circumstances. Without a visible enemy, such instructions are comparatively useless.

1st Zone.—3,000 to about 1,500 yards. In this zone in open country the company would probably find it most convenient to move with a fourth of its strength in an extended line, occupying the full front of the company in line, with the remainder in support 200 to 300 yds. in rear.

2nd Zone.—About 1,500 to about 800 yards. During the advance over this zone, as opportunities offer for fire, and the firing line begins to suffer from the fire of the enemy, it should be strengthened by the addition of one or more sections, so that on reaching medium ranges (about 800 yards from the enemy) it should stand with half its sections in the firing line and half in support. The supports should be in single rank.

3rd Zone.—About 800 yards to position. In this zone the advance must be carried out without hesitation, either by a general advance of the firing line or by separate advances of sections, as may be best with reference to the intensity of the enemy's fire. The supports will be pushed closer to the firing line, quite close if the ground permits, and as casualties occur in the latter, they must be replaced by an immediate advance of sections or sub-sections from the supports. With the magazine rifle the fixed sight will be used from 500 yards, and at 350 yards from the position swords will be fixed. On the arrival at say 200 yards from the position, magazine fire will be ordered by the captain, and any portion of the supports not used up will run forward and join the firing line. On a long shrill whistle from the captain the men will cease fire, and led by their officers and section commanders charge the position.

9. *Receiving cavalry.*—The company will be practised during any phase of the advance in meeting an attack of cavalry; the extended line will act by sections as described for the Squad, S. 7, the supports as described in Part II, S. 16.

10. *Assembling when dispersed.*—The company will also be practised in rapid assembly when dispersed, as described in Part II, S. 17.

11. *Charge.*—The company will be exercised in delivering the charge on the principles laid down in Squad, S. 9. On the word prepare to charge, officers and section commanders, if not already there, will run to the front of their respective commands and lead them in the charge.

12. *Word of command, bugle sounds, signals, and use of the whistle.*

THE BATTALION.—GENERAL RULES.

1. *Movement in presence of an enemy.*—A battalion will protect its front and, when moving alone, its flanks with an extended screen and supports on the principles already laid down. Distances must depend upon the nature of the

ground, the strength employed, and the objects in view, i.e., prevention of surprise and protection of troops in rear.

2. *Extensions.*

3. *Alteration of extended line to formation for attack*—A battalion moving in this formation may at any time strengthen its extended line for the attack.

4. *Reinforcements.*—All reinforcements should be made from the same unit as long as possible; a primary extension should therefore consist of one or both sections of a half company in an extended line, supported by the remainder of the company, instead of an extended company supported by another company.

5. *Reserves.*—The companies in the firing line and supports should have a reserve from their own battalion.

6. *Intervals.*—Intervals of six paces will be preserved between companies, and of two paces between sections.

7. *Enemy's position to be defined.*

8. *Distribution of command.*

9. *Commanding officers.*

10. *Mounted officers.*—The major will lead the reserves, and the adjutant will assist generally, and see that the mules and ammunition carts are kept close at hand.

11. *Reinforcing by the reserves.*—After the absorption of the supports, gaps in the firing line will be filled by bringing up sections or sub-sections from the reserve. Should there be any admixture of fire units after reinforcement, the men will consider themselves under the command of the nearest officer. Companies in reserve will move in the most suitable formation, and must regulate their advance so as to be at hand to reinforce the firing line after the supports have been absorbed therein.

12. *Mounted officers to dismount.*

13. *Colours.*

14. *Drummers and buglers.*—The drummers, pipers, and buglers, except the buglers with captains of companies, will be with the reserves.

15. *Sergeant-major.*—The sergeant-major will accompany the mules and ammunition carts, see that they keep close up, and will assist in the distribution of ammunition.

16. *Instruction of battalion.*—The battalion will be exercised in moving to the attack from all formations. It will be practised as if acting alone, and also as forming part of a brigade. In brigade the whole of the battalion may be employed in the first line, furnishing its supports and reserves; the first line may also be formed by half battalions. The battalion will also be exercised as if it were exclusively in the second line; in this case a skeleton firing line of a few men would sufficiently represent the advance and action of a checked first line.

17. The companies to form the firing line, with their supports, will divide the front to be occupied between them.

18. *Skeleton enemy.*—The enemy should always be represented by a skeleton or other force, and blank ammunition be used as often as possible.

19. The passing of information by selected men will be practised.

20. *Cavalry.*—The battalion will be practised in receiving cavalry. See the Company General Rule 10.

21. *The assault.*—During the delivery of the assault on the enemy's position, the men will cheer, drums be beaten, the bagles sounded and pipes played.

THE BRIGADE, DIVISION, OR ARMY CORPS.—GENERAL RULES

1. *Company and battalion rules applicable.*

2. *Tactical formation.*

3. *General commanding.*—If he quits this position it is his duty, by leaving a staff officer, to inform those under his command where he may be found. It is equally the duty of commanders of battalions, brigades, and divisions, to keep themselves at all times acquainted with the position of their immediate commanders

4. *Distribution of the attacking force.*—This can only be settled on the ground, but should be governed by the following principles:—Greater strength opposite the point or points where it is intended to drive the attack home. Smaller strength opposite such parts of the enemy's position where it is intended only to hold him to his ground. Strong echelons on the flanks, unless one or both are completely secured by natural obstacles. In a brigade of four battalions, two will be ordinarily in the first line, one in the second, and one in the third line. With a division the two brigades will ordinarily be formed side by side. With an army corps two divisions will ordinarily be formed side by side, the third division forming a general reserve, and being available for employment on a flank movement. With large masses of troops, a reserve in addition to the force detailed for attack is desirable. It may be assumed that a brigade will ordinarily occupy a front of about half a mile, a division about three-quarters of a mile, and an army corps about a mile and a-half.

5. *Method of attack.*—The position of an enemy having been ascertained, either by cavalry or infantry scouts, and the intervening ground and the position itself having been reconnoitred, the necessary instructions for the distribution of the attacking force will be given, and the troops detailed will advance in accordance with the general principles already laid down. Flank attacks will be met by the troops upon whom the attack falls, but as a general principle, they should be disposed of by a counter attack from the troops in rear of the second line, to enable that line to fulfil its duty of continuing its support to the first line. Having regard to the increased accuracy of modern weapons, it will generally happen that a frontal attack will not be successful unless combined with a flank attack.

6. *Attacking force assuming the defensive.*

7. *Attack by cavalry.*—Attacks by cavalry will be met on the principles laid down in Battalion General Rule 21.

8. *Retirement.*—Should a retirement become necessary, in order to ensure a continual and steady resistance to the enemy, it must be conducted by the successive retirement of alternate portions of the force, those in rear occupying the strongest positions offered by the ground (entrenching themselves if time permits), and covering by their fire the retirement of those in their front.

THE DEFENCE.—GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE OCCUPATION OF A DEFENSIVE POSITION.

1. *Requirements of a defensive position.*—The chief points to be considered in selecting a position may be taken in the following order:—The extent of the position should be suitable to the strength and composition of the defending force. As a rough estimate, it may be assumed that, including all arms and troops in reserve, about five men per yard are required. In the event of it being necessary to occupy a position too extended for the number available for its defence, it will usually be preferable to occupy the front thinly, and to keep a strong reserve to assist any threatened point, rather than to distribute the force generally throughout the front.

2. *Advanced posts.*—The garrison for such may vary considerably, but it can seldom be desirable to place a large body of troops in close formation in front of a line on which they will eventually have to retire.

3. *Communication.*

4. *Ranges to be noted.*

5. *Distribution.*—The first or firing line. The position should be divided into sections for the purpose of command, each section having its separate local reserve. The supports and reserves should be placed well under cover, but near at hand so as to replace casualties in the firing line, which has to provide for the occupation, both of the front line and of the advanced posts. The second line will provide for the defence of the flanks, the troops detailed

for this duty being placed according to the ground and other conditions, and, as far as practicable, under cover. Troops not required for the flank should be assembled at one or more points from which prompt aid can be sent to support the more exposed positions of the first line, or from which counter attacks can be readily undertaken. The third line should be placed in such a position as will enable it to assume the offensive with the greatest possible effect after the attack has been fully developed. The counter attack will, if practicable, be direct against the flank of the enemy's advance.

R. A. TACTICS VERSUS SHOOTING.

(The Broad Arrow.)

Lieut.-General Sir W. J. Williams, in some very characteristic remarks in the current *Proceedings of the Royal Artillery Institution*, deprecates the neglect of Artillery tactics, for what he regards as an excessive cultivation of knowledge of gunnery, and precision in laying guns. No military writer has ever disputed Wellington's classification of the three first requirements of a military outfit—boots, boots, boots; but Sir William Williams assails, with a temerity worthy of a better cause, Prince Kraft of Hohenlohe's kindred assertion that the first, second and third duty of Artillery is to HIT.

Prince Kraft's success, according to Sir William, "is not wholly due to the undoubted merit of his dissertation. He has gained by his high rank, by his war service, and by an easy style." General Williams's utterances claim several, if not all, of these advantages. Many who best know him as an enthusiast of the drill-ground will hesitate before giving an unqualified assent to his views, which are quite as extreme as those which he calls in question. "It is the duty," he observes, "of Artillery to go into action at a short range, to cover and support the advance and attack of Infantry. For the effective performance of this duty *manœuvre is of more account than gunnery.*" Had the words which we italicise proceeded from any other pen, they might have been dismissed with the remark that an amplification of this principle would greatly conduce to the mobility of Field Artillery, inasmuch as the guns, having lost all value, might be removed from the carriages, and thus great rapidity of manœuvre might be developed with less strain upon the teams!

Viewing the matter dispassionately, it amounts simply to this: the majority of Artillery officers having realized the fact that but little earnest effort has been made towards a full development of the power of field guns in action, and there has therefore been a very remarkable revival with a view to attaining at least a fair amount of accuracy of fire, such as might procure for Artillery in the field a prestige due to its visible fire effect, rather than to that dubious reputation which has so long based itself upon the very insecure pedestal of "moral effect."

In the pursuit of accuracy great efforts have been made to do away with the ornamental and the superfluous in drill. The drill-book used by field and horse batteries—beyond what is requisite to satisfy the bare necessities of display, marching past, and a few parade movements—has been shorn of useless excrescences, and it has been found very convenient to permit batteries to move into action simply and singly; the general principle inculcated being an advance in the most direct possible line, with due regard to cover, at the best possible pace. As a result, accuracy of fire has unquestionably attained a fairly satisfactory standard amongst our field and horse batteries, the progress has been remarkable, but there is ample room for even greater advance in this direction.

Has facility of manœuvre suffered? This is most questionable. There is nothing in the spirit of Artillery to

prevent the manœuvre of several batteries, under any commander fitted to undertake the task. We question if now or at any time any officer could be found possessing the faculty in such a high degree as Sir William Williams. But we further strongly question the necessity or expediency for such manœuvring of guns on the field of battle. The mere elementary consideration that the death of a divisional commander whilst leading his quarter-column of "massed" batteries would lead to dire confusion, whilst the loss of a succession of battery commanders moving their unit independently would but slightly delay its advance, is one which is worthy of the consideration of the advocates of Artillery manœuvres.

Sir William Williams possesses in a very high degree the esteem and respect of his brother officers, which will ensure due consideration being given to his fear that manœuvring may become a lost art in the Artillery; but we do not concur in his opinion that it would be well to check the study of fire effect in order to avoid the possible loss of manœuvring power. If the guns can be used with deadly effect, better the advent of two guns under a subaltern on the line of action, than the skilfully-deployed quarter column of six batteries, accurately dressed, but incapable of producing any effect beyond the moral ill effect resulting from their demolition by the Artillery of an un molested opponent.

THE BRIGHT SIDE OF WAR.

(NATIONAL OBSERVER.)

In all wars there are special occasions for heroism; forlorn hopes, rescues, desperate and fatal charges. These, and not the mechanical forward movements, are what we mean when we talk of courage. Then, faithfulness and devotion are more conspicuous than elsewhere in war. Must we go back to Thermopylae to prove it? Is it not proved by every battle that was fought? On the non-combatant himself the effect is nerving, stimulating, tonic. The spirit and fibre of Scots patriotism are directly due to the War of Independence. With a view to subjecting the land to England, in the time of Elizabeth there were negotiations with some of the Scots nobles; who professed themselves ready enough, but their followers, they said, would turn and rend them were the thing so much as named. Then how admirable the effect of the struggle with Napoleon on the civic spirit and the patriotism of Britain! It is good for men to be made unselfish. You have but to compare French literature now to French literature before the Franco-German fight to see how vastly love of country was deepened and heightened by that pageant of eminent and irreparable misfortunes. So, too, the struggle between North and South imparted to American History and American life the only touch of dignity and romance they have.

War of old was the storm that purified the air. A nation run to seed became a hot-bed of corruption: when some Scourge of God came sword in hand, and purged it back to purity. Warfare is now changed, and we may deride the Barbarian at our ease: at least until some Tartar deluge, some great descent of Hunnishness, occur to show how fatuous men can, and will ever be. But war is still needed outwardly and decidedly to mark the meaning and the progress of internal change and the shifting of the balance of power. No Council of Arbitration could do that. By keeping matters as they were they would stereotype existing forms and maintain things afoot that should long since have been in their graves. In the case of the Second Empire the action of war was as that of Ithuriel's spear. Of course the political economist will have none of war. He will make but scant account of Bacon's profound suggestion: that war is a sort of gymnastic for bodies politic, and should be practiced at certain intervals. Perhaps the simile is infelicitous; yet the absence of the strain of war

induces a condition of lethargy and corpulence, which, to the political economist, is an ideal to be achieved at any cost. He begins, indeed, by comparing his science to mathematics, and so confessing it to be not applicable in itself to life; but he presently forgets his limitation, and lays down his laws as emphatically as if they were the laws of God. A nation's pride and self-respect are as little to him as the common legends of the ages. As regards ourselves, the men and women of Victorian England, the Crimean war conclusively proved to the nations at large that we were vigorous as of old, and herewith enriched our record; while that other crisis, the Indian mutiny, defined our true position, and showed the Hindu exactly where we were strong and ourselves exactly where we were weak—both to our infinite advantage. In time of peace, "only the ledger lives"; but even the basest are roused to valour by the peril of their household gods:

"For I trust if an enemy's fleet came yonder round by the hill,
And the rushing battle-bolt sang from the three-decker out of the foam,
Then the smooth-faced, snub-nosed rogue would leap from his counter and till,
And strike, if he could, were it but with his cheating yard-wand, home."

If you had been a Border farmer three centuries ago, it would have been exasperating enough to have your cattle lifted and your harvests burned. But O the delight of following the "bould Buccleuch" on the return foray! the long ride across the moor, the swimming of the "wan water," the dash forward till Carlisle towers loomed overhead, and your forehammers clanked and rang on Carlisle yett! And at Otterbourne did not the Douglas render thanks to God that his end was not peaceful but on the battle-field? In truth, the fighting instinct is the strongest—save one, perhaps—in all the armoury of human nature; and the nation it departs shall surely perish miserably, even as the man it is known to have departed is ever a byword among women and a reproach to his fellow-men. "With it or upon it," said the Spartan mother when she brought her son his shield; and to say that her words are dead were to say that the race itself is in the throes.

CANADIAN REMOUNTS.

The following letter, addressed from Quebec to the editor of the *Army and Navy Gazette*, London, England, will be read with general interest in Canada:—

Sir,—As a constant reader of your valuable *Gazette*, I am much interested in the many suggestions which appear from time to time in connection with the difficulty of obtaining remounts for the army, whether in peace-time or war. As one who contributed his mite towards the establishment of the present Remount Department, over which Gen. Ravenhill presides, I am amazed to find how the only really practical solution to the question is shirked by every one, in the hope, no doubt, of protecting the depressed agricultural interests of the United Kingdom. I take it as an established fact that the sample of Canadian horses purchased a few years ago were satisfactory; the cost, of course, was increased somewhat, like any other new venture, through the necessary travelling expenses, &c., of the commission visiting the immense territories of the Dominion; but even with this added, the cost per head of a Canadian horse on parade in the ranks for a five-year-old was less than what an English troop horse costs, adding his keep until matured and "fit." In 1886 Gen. Ravenhill's commission addressed an open letter and a most valuable address on horse-breeding to the Minister of Agriculture, who had it printed in pamphlet form and distributed throughout the country, causing great interest to be taken in the question. Now, as there is plenty of energy and public enterprise about people in America, who are quick

to seize on any new source of profitable trade, very many thoroughbred horses were at once imported, particularly in Ontario, and the Government of the Province of Quebec established a haras near Montreal. Ranche owners generally followed suit in improving their stocks, and everyone naturally expected that a number of horses would be purchased in Canada annually by the Remount Department of the War Office. All this, however, was suddenly put a stop to in consequence of the alarm caused to the agricultural interests in England. And now various devices are suggested by correspondents in your columns for meeting the difficulty of a supply of reserve war-horses, such as "establishing farms for buying and maturing horses," "stopping the export of horses to the Continent," "purchasing horses and giving them to the yeomanry to keep," "the registration of cab and dray horses," &c., at best only a makeshift sort of policy. I cannot help thinking that it is much better at once to look facts in the face, no matter how unpleasant they may be, and recognise that Canada is the true and natural reserve depot for England's war-horses, such as Australia and the Cape are for India. But in order to create an unlimited supply of this article in reserve, at regulation prices, it is necessary to purchase a few hundred remounts annually in the Dominion. At the present time the United States are the best customers, but their requirements are for fast road horses, or cheap draught ones, and some heavy Clydes or Percherons. Unless the British people learn to view the question from a broader national standpoint than they do at present, there will be little use in Canadian farmers continuing to breed cavalry horses. I have no hesitation in stating that a contract could be entered into with reliable parties, either in Toronto or Montreal, to deliver 500 suitable, well bred, sound five-year-old horses in England this season, at the regulation price—viz, £40 for cavalry, and £45 for artillery horses. But it is not the question of cost so much that should influence the action of the War Office as that of the creation of a reserve. This could have been done readily enough had not political exigencies undone the good that was effected by Gen. Ravenhill and his commissioners.

VIEILLE MOUSTACHE.

Quebec, Sept. 3.

"THE SWORD."

A very interesting lecture on "The Sword" was given by Sir Frederick Pollock in connection with the Inns of Court R. V. school of arms, at the drill hall, Lincoln's-Inn, London, recently.

The lecturer pointed out that the small sword of modern days was a late product of swordsmanship; he traced the development of the weapon through ancient and mediæval times, illustrating the subject at every step by the aid of an interesting and complete collection of swords and daggers of European as well as of Eastern types. Both the straight and the curved types were extremely ancient, and it was impossible to say which was the older; among European nations straight swords had been the most prevalent form, while the curved form generally indicated an Eastern origin, and indeed it was still preferred by Eastern nations. The original European sword was a straight one, and through the middle ages it was straight and double-edged; and, showing the modifications it underwent and the art of fencing itself as time went on, he mentioned that it was impossible to understand the Elizabethan literature without some idea of the rapier play of the 16th century. Out of the rapier play grew the brighter and finer methods of modern fence, the first step in the evolution being the discarding of the dagger which was used in the left hand. In the 17th and the early part of the 18th century there was a series of transition types, and then came in the French three-edged sword, the type of the French duel sword. Dealing with the development of the cut and point play, he

observed that a certain tradition of broad sword exercise in this country had always enabled us to keep up a fair standard of sabre play, although in this regard the French, and probably the Italians too, were our masters. The old Scottish broadsword, which came through a Venetian pattern, had shown great persistence of form, the present Highland regulation sword being of exactly the same pattern as one he exhibited, which was 250 years old. Coming to the modern cavalry sword, he shortly described the processes of manufacture, and spoke in commendatory terms of the weapon in point of balance, strength and quality. With regard to the British bayonet, he stated that, having seen the latest pattern a few days ago, he was able to say that there very soon would be in the hands of British troops 300,000 sword-bayonets made with exactly the same care and subjected to the same tests, only rather more severe, as the very best sword-blades.

In addition to the exhibition of specimens, the lecture was further enhanced in interest by a display of swordsmanship, in which Captain Egerton Castle and Messrs W. Pollock, H. A. Dann and Blackburn took part.

THE RAVEN.

(Very Latest War Office Version.)

Secretarial Pangloss sings:--

Late, upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, tired but cheery,
Over many an optimistic record of War Office lore;
Whilst I worked, assorting, mapping, suddenly there came a tapping,
As of someone rudely rapping, rapping at my Office-door.
"Some late messenger," I muttered, "tapping at my Office-door--
Only this, but it's a bore."

I remember--being sober-- it was in the chill October,
Light from the electric globe or horseshoe lighted wall and floor;
Also that it was the morrow of the Holborn Banquet; sorrow
From the Blue Books croakers borrow--sorrow for the days of yore,
For the days when "Rule Britannia" sounded far o'er sea and shore.
Ah! it must have been a bore!

But on that let's draw the curtain. I am simply cock-sure certain
That "our splendid little Army" never was so fine before.
It will take a lot of beating! Such remarks I keep repeating;
They come handy--after eating, and are always sure to score--
Dash that rapping chap entreating entrance at my Office-door!
It is an infernal bore!

Presently I grew more placid (Optimists should not be afraid).
"Come in!" I exclaimed--"so found you! Pray stand drumming
there no more."

But the donkey still kept tapping. "Doh!" I muttered, sharply
snapping,
"Why the deuce do you come rapping, rapping at my Office-door?
Yet not 'enter' when you're told to?"--here I opened wide the door--
Darkness there, and nothing more.

Open next I flung the shutter, when, with a prodigious flutter,
In there stepped a bumptious Raven, black as any blackamoor.
Not the least obeisance made he, not a moment stopped or stayed he,
But with scornful look, though shady, perched above my Office-door,
Perched upon BRITANNIA'S bust that stood above my Office-door--
Perched, and sat, and seemed to snore.

"Well," I said, sardonic smiling, "this is really rather ringing;
"It comports not with decorum such as the War Office bore
In old days stiff and clean-shaven. Dub me a Gladstonian craven
If I ever saw a Raven at the W. O. before.
Tell me what your blessed name is. "Rule Britannia" hold of yore,"
Quoth the bird, "Tis so no more!"

Much I marvelled this sophisticated fowl to utter pessimistic
Fustian, which so little meaning--little relevancy bore
To the Rule of me and SOTLEY; but although it may sound folly,
This strange fowl a strange resemblance to "Our Only General" wore
To the W. L. E. V. whose pretensions to sound military lore
Are becoming quite a bore.

But the Raven, sitting lonely on that much-peeled bust, spoke on only,
Of our Army as a makesh-it, small, ill-manned, and precious poor.
Drat the pessimistic bird! he grumbled of "the burdy-gurdy"
Marching-past side of a soldier's life in peace. "We've fought before,
Winning battles with boy-troops," I cried, "We'll do as we've done before--"
Quoth the Raven, "Nevermore!"

"Nonsense!" said I. "After dinner at the Holborn, as a winner
Spake I in the *Pangloss* spirit to the taxpayers. (*Don't snore!*)
Told them of our recruits--who'll must be an unmerciful disaster,

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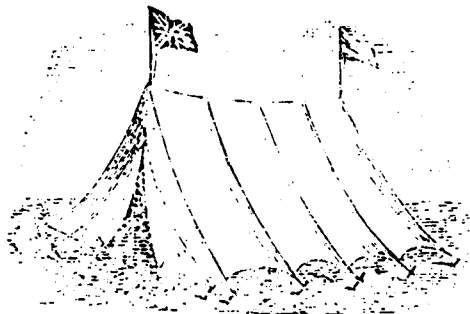
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The following score was made by Staff-Sergeant John Ogg in a match at Guelph on the 13th June, with one of my Special Wadley Martini Henry Rifles at Queen's Ranges and position:

200 yards.....	5 5 5 5 4	} 103
300 yards.....	5 5 5 5 4	
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3134 Prizes, worth \$52,740
S. E. LEFÈVRE, Manager,
71 St. James St., Montreal, Canada.

Come in fast and come in faster, quite as good as those of yore,—
 “Flattering tales of (Stan) Hope!” cried the bird, whose dismal dirges bore,
 One dark burden—“Nevermore!”

“Hang it, Raven, this is riling!” cried I. “Stop your rude reviling!
 Then I wheeled my office chair in front of bird and bust and door;
 And upon its cushion sinking, “I,” I said, “will smash like winking
 This impeachment you are bringing, O you ominous bird of yore,
 O you grim, ungainly, ghastly, grumbling, gruesome feathered bore!”
 Croaked the Raven, “You’ll floor.”

Then methought the bird looked denser, and his cheek became immenser,
 And he twaddled of VOX MOLTKE, and his German Army Corps;
 “Flattering the taxpayers’ vanity,” and much similar insanity,
 In a style that lacked urbanity, till the thing became a bore.
 “Oh, get out of it!” I cried; “our little Army yet will score.”
 Quoth the Raven, “Nevermore!”

“Prophet!” said I, “of all evil, that we’re ‘going to the devil’
 Has been the old croaker’s gospel for a century, and more.
 Red-gilled Colonels this have chaunted in BRITANNIA’S ears undaunted
 By their ghosts you must be haunted. Take a Blue-pill, I implore!
 When our Army meets the foe it’s bound to lick him as of yore!”
 Quoth the Raven, “Nevermore!”

“Prophet!” said I, “that’s unevil. You may go to—well, the devil!
 That Establishments are ‘short,’ and ‘standards’ lowered o’er and o’er.
 That mere ‘weels,’ with chests of maiden, cannot march with knap-
 sack laden;

That the heat of sultry Aden, or the cold of Labrador,
 Such can’t stand, may be the truth; but keep it dark, bird, I implore!
 Quoth the Raven, “Nevermore!”

“Then excuse me, we’ll be parting, doleful fowl,” I cried, upstarting;
 “Get thee back to—the Red River, or the Nile’s sand-cumbered shore!
 Leave me ‘Magazine’ as token of the twaddle you have spoken.
 What? BRITANNIA stoney-broken? Quit her bust above my door.
 Take thy hook from the War Office; take thy beak from off my door!”
 Quoth the Raven, “Nevermore!”

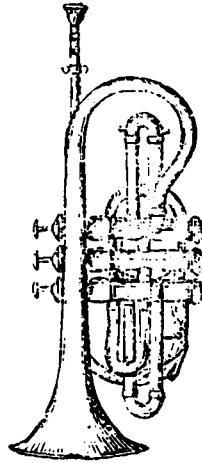
And the Raven still is sitting, croaking statements most unfitting,
 On BRITANNIA’S much peccol bust that’s placed above my Office door,
 And if Pangloss, e’en in seeming, lent an ear to his dark dreaming,
 Useless were official scheming, grants of millions by the score,
 For my soul were like the shadow that he casts up on the floor,
 Dark and dismal evermore!

--From Punch, 31st Oct.

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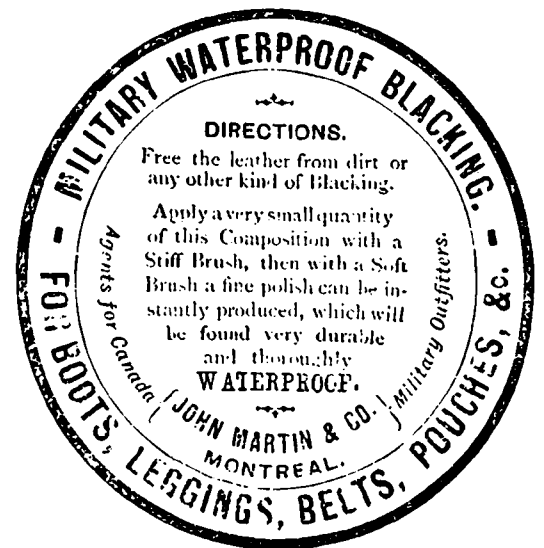
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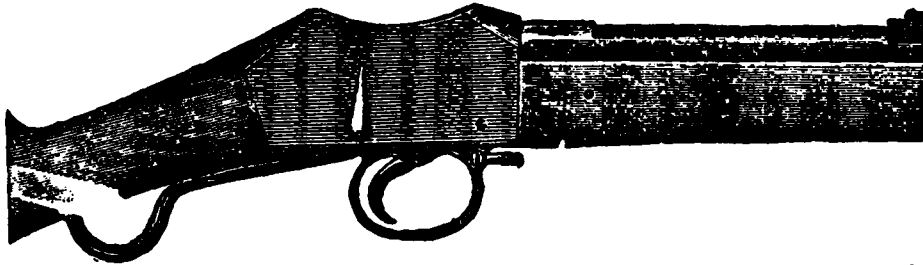
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