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SUMMER READING

The Prince Edward Island Magazine for August is out and for sale at usual places. It's a first rate number and the contents, which are as follows are of a high order of merit:

- H. M. S. Crescent Frontispiece
- The Star Hill Survey Katherine Hughes
- The Broken Spectre J. M. Adversity, a Day Dream J. Edward Rendle
- Boetique and its People—117
- Henry H. Hooper, Detroit, Mich
- Newspaper Life and Newspaper Men—117
- J. H. Fletcher
- Mr. Albion Reminiscences Robert Jenkins
- In Swamp Land Lawrence W. Watson
- Land o' Nowhere Bert Marie Cleveland
- The River Plate and the Argentine Republic Joseph R. J. S. B.

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South Africa and the East

GOOD OUT OF EVIL.

The first practical effect of the lessons of the Boer war on British Army training has just appeared in a circular letter addressed by Sir Power Palmer, the acting Commander-in-Chief in India, to the commander of the four military divisions into which India is divided. Three schemes for tactical training are proposed in the circular, and the Lieutenant-Generals commanding are left to make their choice of these.

Recent events in South Africa have shown in a striking manner the value of cavalry in a reconnaissance on a broad front, the enormous importance to columns of having the country thoroughly reconnoitred in advance, and the disastrous results of troops coming under breech-loading fire where such reconnaissance has not been thoroughly carried out. The intelligent use of cavalry especially in reconnoitring is, under present conditions, a more pronounced factor of success than ever. Where formerly troops could approach to within 1,000 or 2,000 yards of infantry fire and extricate themselves with trifling loss, this is no longer possible, and troops coming within 2,000 yards of infantry must suffer heavily in any close formation.

The main lessons which Sir Power Palmer thinks are to be drawn from the Boer war are laid down in fourteen paragraphs which seem important to reproduce. They are:

First—The great value of entrenchment; the change in their character, which will be introduced, and in the accepted views as regards the position in which they will be placed.

Second—The enormous distance, up to 2,500 yards, at which long range rifle fire can be used with effect, especially against masses.

Third—The power of acting on the defensive on a broader front than heretofore recognized, owing to the containing power of the magazine rifle and the great importance of this to the defence.

Fourth—The importance of great mobility on the part of the defence, so that a comparatively small force can be rapidly moved to threatened points. This necessitates high physical training or the use of mounted infantry when available.

Fifth—The impossibility of successfully carrying out frontal attacks on anything like open ground unless the defenders have been drawn off or weakened by flank attacks.

Sixth—The difficulty of locating the enemy's fire and consequently of replying to it, due to long range and smokeless powder, and the well-selected position of intrenchments.

Seventh—The necessity of a longer preparatory artillery fire. This is not always recognized in peace manoeuvres; and that artillery fire is required at much longer ranges than heretofore accepted.

Eighth—The great value of independent fire at all ranges as compared with volleys, and the importance of individual marksmanship.

Ninth—The importance of intrenchments on the offensive on positions won (e. g., Spion Kop) as a base for further advance.

Tenth—The great difficulty of reconnoitring the enemy's position before committing troops to the attack, and consequently (given plenty of ammunition) the difficulty of estimating the strength of the defence, as magazine rifles and long-range fire.

Eleventh—The necessity in the teaching officers and non-commissioned officers the value of cover, and not to expose themselves as they do, especially on the sky line in hill warfare.

Twelfth—The necessity in the cavalry and artillery for learning to spare their horses as much as possible; this is especially applicable to cavalry at manoeuvres, when every man should dismount, if halted for even a few

minutes; and occasionally horses should be led.

Fourteenth—That no real success, but only temporary checks, can be obtained without counter-attacks and the following up successes; this was conspicuously absent on the Boer side.

The general experience gained proves that far from laying down any special system of tactics for general use, it is absolutely necessary to adapt organization and tactics to those of the enemy. Sir Power Palmer then makes a reflection which any knowing the British army will appreciate. It is that the responsible authorities are very prone to run into extremes and copy too servilely or change tactics after each war, small or great. "It would," he says, "be in the highest degree dangerous to induce any special system of infantry tactics from the Boer war beyond the fact that looser formations are imperative, and light infantry and skirmishing training a sine qua non against the magazine rifle."

The rest of the circular is an enlargement on the points enumerated, which are so succinct that even the non-professional reader can understand them, while the professional reader will seize their meaning and significance at once. The admissions they tacitly make are practically an acknowledgment of British defeat from the technical point of view, a defeat which would have been materially complete had the Boer been in anything like equal numbers with the British, and been able to throw large bodies of troops on the decimated and broken British battalions in such affairs as Colenso, Spion Kop, Vaal Krantz, Magersfontein and elsewhere. But the most important deduction is in that paragraph in which the value of individual marksmanship and independent firing is dwelt upon. It may be said to sum up the whole question—it is on the intelligent and training of the individual soldier that the value of an army depends.

A PROBABLE REASON.

People are watching with no little interest the clever manoeuvres of De Wet, and asking how it is that, though surrounded so often, he has always managed to break through the cordons which have been reported to be so tightly drawn round him and elude capture.

But listen to the talk of officers of experience and they will tell you it is not at all surprising that De Wet, although so frequently surrounded by the British generals, manages to make good his escape.

Neither his slippiness, his slowness, nor the night marches, to all of which his success has been attributed, can account for it.

It is simply because the Boers ride light and the British ride heavy. English horses cannot go either fast or far carrying the regulation load as it now is. To overtake the flying, unencumbered Boer, except by a fluke, is out of the question.

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I was cured of a terrible sprain by MINARD'S LINIMENT. FRED COULSON, Yarmouth, N. S. Y. A. A. C.
I was cured of black Erysipelas by MINARD'S LINIMENT. Ingleville. J. W. RUGGLES.

E. H. BEER

of which Major O'Brien is president, has tried 272 cases since last June. Fourteen of these were for murder, eight for criminal assault and forty-nine for concealment of arms. In the case of a Kaffir, convicted of assaulting a Boer woman, the death sentence was pronounced. Lord Roberts confirmed the sentence and the man was shot.

A former Zarp (policeman) who was found guilty of breaking his oath of neutrality in collecting parties of burghers, and leading them outside the military lines, where they could join Boer commandos, was sentenced to seven years imprisonment. Another charge against him was that he furnished the Boer commandos with provisions. The military court is rigidly enforcing the law, and the sentences imposed are very severe. One good effect of this is that the illicit liquor trade has been almost entirely extinguished.

SNIPING.

"Sniping" is the favorite pastime of the uncivilized fighter. The Afghan likes it, the hillman likes it—of that the Tirah campaign was proof—and the low-class Boer likes it; but the better-class Boers does not. When Piet de Wet visited General Paget at Lindley, an officer forming part of his escort through the lines pointed out that it was a barbarous adjunct to the hostilities and did not affect the issue, the only result being that some luckless individual was killed or wounded, and that brought reprisals, De Wet admitted that the practice was wrong, but threw the responsibility for it on his young bloods, whom it was difficult to keep in hand. There were three days of freedom from "sniping," but it was then resumed.

All things considered, our men have done admirably with the new type of fighting which has been forced on them. It is a semi-barbarous warfare to which nowadays few armies are accustomed. It reminds the students of history of Braddock's disastrous campaign; of the struggle in the Wilderness with its terrible cost of life; of the ambushes of the franc-tireurs, and of the savage reprisals meted out to them, yet which, in point of ferocity, did not satisfy Bismark's desire for vengeance. It even throws light on Spain's struggle in Cuba with the insurgents, whose field of action was, however, relatively limited. No wonder the Canadians and Australians have up to date shone best in this type of warfare. Their life and surroundings to some extent fit them for it. But surely the thought of pitting the untrained town hand, fired though he be by disregard of death, fidelity to duty, and pipeclay military methods, against a foe who holds perhaps in the entire world the record for tact, skill, and dexterity, is enough to inspire initial uneasiness.—National Review

Klee, a Johannesburg chemist, was arrested at a point about eight miles toward Moselekatz Nek. He was travelling in one of the British ambulances. He told the driver that he belonged to Roberts' Horse, that he had been sick and had just been discharged from the hospital, and that he was anxious to rejoin his regiment. He was dressed in kraki uniform and

thirteen despatches for the Boers were found on his person. He was on his way to see Commandant Grobler when arrested. The affair is regarded as very serious and the police are concealing the details. The prisoner admitted that he bought the British uniform for 40 shillings, and said he would make a clean breast of the whole affair.

A LITTLE LESSON IN CHINESE.

Under the heading "A Little Lesson in Chinese," the Matin publishes some Chinese proverbs and formulae of etiquette. The proverbs are:

"Eleven-tenths of the Chinese soldiery are thieves."

"The edge of the enemy's sword is blunted by passing gold over it."

"Happiness is like a fly on the nose of an opium-intoxicated mandarin who sneezes."

Regarding etiquette, the Matin states that a merchant receiving in his shop his most humble customer addresses him:

"The Great, the Noble, and Revered—has he dined well?" And asks him as to his purchases:

"What is your noble name; that I may send these articles to your noble house?" And perhaps if the customer has purchased goods to an adequate amount, "If you will out of your great kindness do this poor insect the honour of accepting a cup of tea, I will conduct you into my miserable abode."

A Chinaman, speaking of his father, calls him "the venerable old Prince"; speaking of himself, "Your stupid young brother"; speaking of your house, "Your illustrated palace," and speaking of his wife before strangers, "the poor fool inside."

It is reported in Shanghai that Viceroy Chang Chi Tung has executed thirty reformers who were plotting to burn the city of Hankow. They all had a muzzle loading gun and three hundred policemen's whistles. A few thousand placards which they had prepared were seized.

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