

The Oregonian.

Entered at the Postoffice at Portland, Oregon, as second-class matter.

REVENUE SUBSCRIPTION RATES.
By Mail (postage prepaid in advance).
Daily, with Sunday excepted, per year.....\$2.50
Daily, with Sunday, per year.....\$3.00
Sunday, per year.....\$1.00
The Weekly, per year.....\$1.00
The Weekly, 3 months.....\$0.30
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YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 83; minimum temperature, 56; precipitation, 0.

TODAY'S WEATHER—Showers and cooler; southerly winds.

PORTLAND, SATURDAY, AUGUST 29.

THE PASSING OF CAVALRY.

The last letter of General Miles to the Secretary of War sets forth that the cavalry has become obsolete; that the automobile will take the place of the horse in the next war; that, therefore, our cavalry should be reduced to the minimum, and that military roads of strategic importance should be built throughout the country. General Miles is correct in his view that cavalry has become obsolete. That is the conclusion reached by Dr. Conan Doyle and other English military observers of the Boer campaign. Dr. Doyle believes that the English standard of mounted riflemen, supported by a moderate force of infantry and numerous batteries of field artillery, in our judgment, our own army in case of an invasion by a foreign power would be composed upon this model sketched by Dr. Doyle, viz., two-thirds of it would be mounted infantry, associated with numerous batteries of highly trained field artillery. Of the regular army, no large force would be needed outside the garisons of important posts threatened with attack. For aggressive work in the field, the Boer tactics of mounted riflemen, blended with a powerful force of field artillery, would be our most efficient army.

In the matter of mounted riflemen we have nothing to learn from Europe, for our "cavalry" on both sides in the Civil War was really nothing but mounted riflemen. Moltke told Sheridan that our admirable use of cavalry as mounted riflemen was the only valuable lesson he obtained from reading the military history of our Civil War. So slow and conservative is Europe, however, that neither the Germans nor the French profited by our experience, for the German army under Alvensleben and was horribly slaughtered by the enemy's infantry armed with the Chassepot rifle, and the French cavalry under General Gallifet charged the German infantry at Sedan only to be fearfully repulsed. The Boer tactics were nothing but the tactics of the mounted riflemen of the Civil War. The Boer had a better rifle, and he was a better shot than most of our men, who were armed with carbines. The Boer was more lightly armed, for he carried no sword, but in the matter of tactics our cavalry during the Civil War were merely mounted riflemen, who, when they met the enemy, generally went into action on foot, resorting to their horses for pursuit or retreat. There were occasionally charges of cavalry against cavalry, but these were the exception rather than the rule. In the main the cavalry on both sides fought on foot.

The statistics of the medical and surgical history of the Civil War show a very small percentage of saber wounds or of bayonet wounds, which shows that the infantry seldom came into contact close enough to permit the use of the bayonet, and that when the cavalry did come into contact the sword or the revolver, rather than the saber, was the weapon on both sides. Europe, that refused to be taught by the lesson of our Civil War that cavalry was obsolete; Europe, that persisted in charging as Murat charged, infantry with cavalry, has at last been converted by the Boer War to a clear understanding, not only that cavalry must be replaced by mounted riflemen, but that the mounted riflemen must compose the larger part of an army operating in the open field.

As for the use of automobiles, bicycles and motorcycles in war to replace the use of the horse, it may be practicable in a very old country like Europe, but in a new country like the United States there is a vast deal of territory where neither the bicycle nor the automobile could take the place of the horse. There is some territory where a mounted man could not traverse as swiftly and safely as a man on foot, but over this territory a bicycle could not go, and there are a good many bridle paths over which a bicycle or an automobile could not pass. In a very rough country, if the bicycle and automobile became badly shattered at a critical time, it would be awkward for the army that trusted to their speed as transmitters of intelligence and as a means of transportation. Of course, in an old, level country traversed by fine roads, as are Germany and France, great use could be made of bicycles and automobiles, but in a rough, new country like the United States they could hardly be made to replace the horse.

The British army authorities are so thoroughly glib that they say that it is obsolete that they have already directed the regiments of lancers to discard their swords and swords, and henceforth in

field warfare the officers will not carry swords. The modern idea of an efficient army is one in which the mounted men shall all be able to shoot straight and ride well, and on this quality of mounted men, associated with many batteries of highly trained field artillery, will rest the fate of a field campaign. Of course, in the matter of assault upon strongly entrenched lines, the efforts of the mounted infantry might need further infantry support from regiments of foot soldiers, but in our Civil War Forrest was in the habit of dismounting his men and on foot charging fortified posts defended by considerable artillery. There seems to be no reason why mounted infantry should not be adequate to all the important work of a field campaign. They would be trained in infantry drill when it was necessary to support the cavalry, and in the how to ride well and shoot straight. We have fifteen regiments of cavalry. It would be better if ten of them were armed strictly as mounted infantry, unless the conditions of warfare in the Philippines for the present forbid the change.

CIVILIZATION'S EMINENT DOMAIN.

Turkey's failure to achieve the rudimentary purposes of government, such as protection of life and property, has been even more signal than the similar failure of the Spanish