

WAR CORRESPONDENTS.

Notes on the Changes in Their Position—In the Crimea—The British Regulations

Michael MacDonagh in the fortnightly. The custom of newspapers having representatives with armies in the field dates only from the Crimean War, in the early fifties. Before that period the public gained its information of the progress and varying fortunes of a campaign from selected official dispatches, supplemented occasionally by extracts from private letters from officers engaged in the war, which were sent to the newspapers. The first war correspondent was Mr. (now Sir) Henry Howard Russell, who represented "The Times" in the Crimea. His position with the troops was unrecognised by the military authorities, and he was consequently attended by many discomforts and inconveniences. His movements were not in the slightest degree restricted; he had perfect freedom of action; he could go where he pleased, and what he wrote was subject to no censorship; but he was unable to procure rations for himself or forage for his horse from the provisioning department of the army. On the formation of the British contingents of "The Times" office of his unpleasant position, he received a letter to the effect that the government had ordered that facilities should be afforded him in the field. He accordingly proceeded to interview Lord Raglan, the commander of the army. "I sent in my card," he writes, "and Lord Raglan was very much engaged; but I was received by a lieutenant, who listened to my request for transport and rations with an expression on his face half of annoyance, half of amusement, and in the end informed me most courteously that there was not the smallest chance of my obtaining what I desired." Throughout the campaign, therefore, Sir Howard Russell had to victual and clothe himself and forage his horse as best he could from other sources. A ham cost him £5, a turkey £5, a pair of boots 25—but the difficulty with him was not the high prices of provisions and clothing, but that he had to buy them himself, and, as he tells us himself, he presented a strange and rather ludicrous figure, mounted on a saddle-headed, ewe-necked horse, dressed in all sorts of odds and ends, including a commissary's cap with a broad gold band, Blucher boots with huge brass spurs, as he rode here and there, as he pleased, over the fields of battle.

THE BRITISH REGULATIONS.

But the position as war correspondent has since been entirely changed. He is now recognized by the war office, thanks to the pressure of public opinion, as an essential auxiliary to the army in the field. He is regularly attached to the army with which he is acting; he takes rank as an officer for the purpose of drawing food for himself and a servant and forage for one horse; from the commissariat department; he is bound to obey the orders of superior officers; he is under military law; and, finally, his conduct is controlled by a vigorous military censorship. The change is perhaps for the better, so far as the personal comfort of the war correspondent is concerned. Still, he is not supplied with his provisions and his transport from his own resources, and when he is compelled by circumstances to fall back on the army commissariat department, pays for what he receives, but it is undoubted that he is immediately restricted in his freedom of action in the field, his zeal, energy and enterprise in the interests of his newspaper and his independence in describing the scenes and incidents which come under his notice in the progress of the campaign.

Here is a copy of the English rules for newspaper correspondents at the seat of war.

- First—All newspaper correspondents accompanying the army in the field must be furnished with a license granted under the authority of the commander-in-chief at home. In this license the paper or papers for which the correspondent is agent will be stated.
Second—A correspondent may not write for papers other than those mentioned in his license. If he desires to do so he must get a license for each paper which he is to be registered on his license.
Third—Licenses will not be granted to those whom it is considered undesirable to have as correspondents in the field.
Fourth—All correspondents in the field will be under the Mutiny act during their stay with the army.
Fifth—Correspondents will not be allowed to go to the outposts without special permission, to be granted in writing each time a correspondent may wish to visit them.
Sixth—The use of any cipher is forbidden to correspondents. French and German are the only foreign languages permitted.
Seventh—A staff officer will be named to act as press censor. He will register licenses granted under the authority of the commander-in-chief at home, and will grant licenses to local correspondents not accompanying the army in the field. These licenses

will be issued under similar conditions to those granted to correspondents accompanying the army. He will also grant passes when necessary to all correspondents at the seat of war. He will be the channel of communication between the general officer commanding in the field and the correspondents. Each newspaper having a correspondent in the field or at the seat of war will send him a copy of every issue of the paper, so that he may be examining their contents, be assured that the press rules in the field are strictly adhered to.

Eighth—This press censor will have the power of insisting that all communications from correspondents to their newspapers must be sent through him, and he may detain or alter the communications should he deem them injurious to the interests of the army.
Ninth—The general officer commanding will, through his staff officer, give as much information as he may consider desirable and consistent with his duty to correspondents. The press censor will fix at what hour correspondents may call upon him daily for information, and he will be authorized to tell them everything that can be published with safety to the army.

Tenth—The military authorities will facilitate so far as they can the dispatch of the messages of correspondents.
Eleventh—Should the means of communication at the disposal of the general officer commanding in the field not be sufficient to convey the messages of correspondents, the latter may, by special arrangement, be allowed special means of transmitting their messages. It is, however, to be clearly understood that such arrangements are to be entirely under the control of the press censor.

Twelfth—The general officer commanding in the field has the power to revoke at any time any license granted under the authority of the Commander-in-Chief at home, or consider it advisable in the interests of the army to do so.

Thirteenth—Editors of newspapers desirous of sending agents to the seat of war, and the correspondents whom they propose for that purpose, will be required to sign the following declaration:
I, the undersigned, have read the rules for the guidance of newspaper correspondents and of correspondents with an army in the field, and hereby agree to abide by the same.

(Signature)
Proposed correspondent to "The Times" to accompany the army.

IN THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR.

No foreign newspaper correspondent was permitted to accompany the French army in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870. Permission was given to a certain number of gentlemen connected with the journals of Paris to proceed to the various quarters occupied by the French army, and these were not allowed to give any information, and had to confine their letters strictly to glorifying the achievements of the troops. The result was that the French army was not reported in any way, and the French nation was kept in ignorance of the disasters which befell its armies. The Germans, on the other hand, allowed newspaper correspondents of all countries to accompany their armies, and imposed no censorship upon them. The field post was placed at their service for the conveyance of letters to Belgium and Germany, and thence to the various destinations abroad. The field telegraph was, as a rule, blocked for newspaper messages by the pressure of army work, but whenever the lines were clear the correspondents were at liberty to utilize them in their brief messages, which had first received official approval, to their newspapers. The correspondents, however, sent their long telegraphic dispatches from offices in neutral countries, or outside the zone of military jurisdiction, and therefore under no censorship. But it will be observed that the British regulations give the press censor control over the organization of special means of communication by a correspondent outside the sphere of military authority, and the power to prohibit altogether the dispatch of news by such agencies. If that rule was imposed by the German war authorities during the Franco-German war, the insatiable appetites of the British public for news from the theatre of operations would not have been appeased, as it frequently was, by the publication of vivid descriptions of engagements a day after they had been fought. Again in the Russo-Turkish war, the Russians accepted every correspondent who presented credentials from a respectable newspaper and a recommendation from any Russian Ambassador. The permit to accompany the army was written on the back of a photograph of the correspondent to whom it was granted, and a duplicate of the photograph was kept in an album at the headquarters of the army. Each correspondent was supplied with a badge, bearing the double eagles of Russia, to wear on his breast. There was no censorship in the sense that letters or telegrams had first to be submitted for official approval; but a copy of each newspaper had to be sent to a certain police officer for perusal, and he had power to order the removal of any correspondent to the rear for indiscretions in description or criticism.

QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES.

War correspondence is now a regular branch of journalism. There is never any lack of eager claimants for admission to its ranks—men of daring, resource, and ability, who are attracted by the fascination of war, and by a desire to play a part, however humble, in the most awful, grim and tragic drama enacted on the human stage. They are handsomely paid for their services. There is no restriction on them in the matter of expense, for newspapers are only too ready and willing to spend enormous sums of money for fresh and important news from the seat of war. The chief qualifications for this hard and adventurous work are physical strength, an endurance to subsist for days on a meagre supply of inferior food, and to sleep at night in the open; iron nerves and mental vigor; sound sense and rapid judgment; a quick and servant eye, capable of taking in the ever-shifting scenes and changing incidents of a field of battle, and a ready vivid pen to convey one's impressions to paper. The war correspondent has often, in the discharge of his duty, to run as great a risk of being killed or wounded as an ordinary soldier in the fighting line. It has fallen to him often, also, to render a great service to the army which he accompanies in the field. A recent libel action between two war correspondents who went through the Sudan campaign of 1898, attracted considerable public attention, and was charged with cowardice at the battle of Firket was made by the defendant against the plaintiff which happily was completely disproved. Both the defendant and the extraordinary theory that it was the duty of a war correspondent to keep well in the front in order to give a good example of bravery to the fighting line. Of course, the duty of a war correspondent is to look after the interests of his paper, and he could not do his journal a greater dis-service than to get killed or disabled in action. He might have avoided that catastrophe by the display of a reasonable precaution. The general in command could, with as much reason, be accused of cowardice for keeping at such a distance outside the line of fire as enabled him, without running any unnecessary risk, to observe the varying fortunes of the fight and control the movements of his troops. The large number of war correspondents who have been killed in recent campaigns is evidence of the fact that these journalists carry their lives in their hands, even in the ordinary discharge of their duties on the field of battle.

Before far-reaching rifled firearms were brought into use," writes Dr. Archibald Forbes, "it was quite easy to see a battle without getting into the range of fire. But this is no longer possible, and the chance of being still more impossible. With guns of precision that carry six miles, with mobile artillery having a range of more than three miles, and with rifles that kill, without benefit of clergy, three miles, the war correspondent may as well stay at home with his mother unless he has hard-ened his heart to take his full share of the carnage. He must look narrowly into the turbulent heart of each successive paroxysm of the bloody struggle—and it is only by doing this that he can make for himself a genuine and abiding reputation—he must lay his account with enduring more risks than fall to the lot of the average soldier."

THE HERO.

One who never turned his back, but marched breast forward! Never doubted clouds would break; Never dreamed, though right was worsted, wrong would triumph; Held, we fell to rise; we bled, to fight better; Sleep to wake, Not at noonday, in the bustle of men's worktime; Greet the unseemly with cheer! Bid him forward, breast and back, as either should be; Strive and thrive; cry "Speed! fight on! forever, There, as here," [Robert Browning.

NOT MATRIMONIAL PRIZES.

Woman Who Should Never Marry. The Minnesota Times thus expresses itself: "The woman who proudly declares that she cannot even hem a pocket-handkerchief; never made up a bed in her life, and adds, with a sneer, that she's been in society ever since she was fifteen, should not marry. And there are others. The woman who would rather nurse a pug than a baby. The woman who does not know how many cents, halves, quarters, dimes and nickels there are in a dollar. The woman who thinks that men are angels and demigods. The woman who would rather die than buy a pair of shoes. The woman who thinks that the cook and the nurse can keep house. The woman who thinks it is cheaper to buy bread than to make it. The woman who buys a brace for the parlor and borrows kitchen utensils from her neighbors. The woman who thinks she is an ornament to her sex if she wins a progressive euchre prize."

SOUTHERN PACIFIC.

Morgan Line. "SUNSET ROUTE." The Morgan Sunset Southern Pacific steamers will continue to run between New York and New Orleans, and war risk will be assumed until further notice, by the steamship company, at no expense to shippers. Should hostilities make it necessary to discontinue the steamship line, arrangements have been perfected with the Louisville & Nashville and Pennsylvania companies to handle by special service, east and west bound freight between originating points west of New Orleans and New York and seaboard points, and the service will be unbroken, cars running through without transfer where practicable, thus insuring fast time. The Mallory steamship line has discontinued for present plying between New York and Galveston. Shippers will please instruct C. H. Mallory & Co., New York, to deliver to Sunset Morgan line any freight in their possession, or subsequently received. Also, route future shipments via Morgan line. T. E. HUNT, Commercial Agent. "SUNSET ROUTE." Morgan Line, El Paso, Texas.

NEW THINGS IN SCIENCE.

NOISELESS GUNS.

While powders are made more or less smokeless, it seems incredible that gasless, but is made noiseless, as well as flameless, and the noiseless gun has been invented. It is expected to further a very material reduction in recoil. His plan consists in screwing to the muzzle a block containing a shutter that ordinarily falls inward to a horizontal position but that the projectile is about to make its exit at full velocity, is forced upward against the opening by the passage of some of the gases under it. This prompt closing of the gun behind the projectile, and the gases—still at high pressure—and prevents the sudden entrance of air that is one of the chief causes of detonation. Small holes in the rear of the block permit the gases to leak out slowly. Experiment shows that a French factory has shown the anticipated great reduction of flash and noise, without much effect on recoil.

NATURAL AMPUTATION.

Several successful cases of amputation by the natural method of allowing the injured or dead part to slough away from the living, saving through bone being the only cutting done, have been reported by M. Reclus. The wound is first injected with water at a pressure of ten sunbet, which arrests bleeding and warms the collapsed patient, when disinfected with a permanganate of potash solution and finally embalmed in a dressing of several antiseptics. The dead part is stated to become entirely separated from the living in three weeks.

ORGANIC AND INORGANIC ACTION.

A French physiologist has noed striking similarities between the healing of a wound and the growth of a crystal in a solution. A Russian investigator has found what he considers more than a change resemblance between the arrangements of cells in sections of wood and those of iron filings under magnetic influence, and he concludes that they are produced by actions that are analogous if not identical.

METALS IN IRON.

Recent spectroscopic research indicates that the rarer metals are very widely distributed. Messrs. W. N. Hartley and Hugh Ramsay having found the extremely rare metal gallium in 31 out of 91 iron ores obtained from the Royal Dublin College of Science, while these ores nearly all contained the constituent, Rubidium was present in most of them, with lithium in the siderites, or iron carbonates. The same chemists have now studied meteorite-ferrous gossans in varying proportions in meteoric iron, but not in all meteorites. A little rubidium also exists in the iron. The chief points of difference between the meteoric and terrestrial iron are found to be that the former contain much nickel and cobalt while only minute traces of manganese while the ordinary iron ores contain manganese with only traces of nickel and cobalt. Sodium and potassium occur in meteoric iron in small proportions. Meteoric iron, like iron ore and manufactured iron, contain copper, lead and silver; meteoric stone, unlike meteoric iron, contain chromium and manganese.

A THREATENED EXPLOSION.

The West Indies are threatened with a physical, as well as a political, convulsion. Prof. Milne has been advised that since the flood of November, 1896, earthquakes have been of daily occurrence in the islands of Montserrat, near Puerto Rico, as many as 30 shocks often being felt in a single day. Cracks have appeared in the stone buildings. It is feared that the disturbances will culminate in a volcanic eruption, and scientific investigation is urged.

A SPECTACULAR CLIMAX.

The sights and sounds of maritime life, as experienced by a French company's fleet, are to be represented on a full scale at the Paris exhibition of 1900 by a combination of the cinematograph and the Dussaud phonograph. A similar reproduction of a modern naval engagement would be an even more striking and sensational novelty.

A new catalogue of the high plants of North America north of Mexico has 14,534 entries, including 15 palms and 210 orchids. A natural bridge, near Moab, in Southern Utah, is estimated to be about 500 feet in span and 150 in height. Dr. Arthur Winslow believes that the most monstrous product of water erosion, as it is in an arid region where the wind-blown sands cut holes very rapidly in the friable sandstones. It is a new found marvel in the Great West.—Denver Republican.

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