

THE PRUSSIAN NEEDLE-GUN.

Major Von Hagen, commanding the 24th Battalion of the 1st division which was following the Jagers on the first sound of the firing, had put his troops into double-quick time, and was soon up to reinforce the riflemen. It was now nearly dark, and the flashes of the rifles, the reports of the shots, and the shouts of the combatants were almost the only indications of the positions of the troops; yet it could be seen that the rapid fire of the needle-gun was telling on the Austrian line in the road, and the advancing cheers of the Prussians showed that they were gaining ground.

Then while the exchange of shots was still proceeding rapidly between the window-riflemen of the farmhouse and the Prussian firing parties who had extended into a cornfield on the right of the highway, the Prussians were seen to be firing on the road, for the Jagers, supported by the 31st, had made a dash and were bearing the Austrians back beyond the farmhouse to where the cottages of the village closed on each side of the road, and where the defenders had hastily thrown up a breast-work of logs and trees as a barricade across the way.

Then the tumult of the fight increased. Darkness had completely closed in, and the moon had not yet risen; the Prussians pressed up to the barricade, the Austrians stoutly stood their ground behind it, and the spaces distant, assailants and defenders poured their fire into each other's ranks. Little could be seen, though the flashes of the discharges cast a titanic light over the struggling masses, but in the pauses of the firing the voices of the officers were heard encouraging their men, and the bullets were truly aimed. This was too severe to endure. The Prussians firing much more quickly, and in the narrow street, where neither side could show their whole strength, not feeling the inferiority of their position, they pressed up to the barricade, and slowly pressed their adversaries back along the village street.

The Prussian infantry, from first to last it is the needle-gun that has appeared as the savior of the day. The needle-gun is simply a breech-loading rifle of very indifferent quality. In principle, as well as in construction, it is not to be compared with several breech-loading rifles manufactured by English makers; but, perfect as it is, it has proved quite inadequate to the requirements of the Prussians in almost every encounter. If we refer to the letter of our correspondent at the headquarters of the First Prussian army, we find ample proofs of its extraordinary effect. It was this which, in the assault on the village of Podoli, between Turnau and Munchengrätz, the Austrians had occupied the village through which the road passes towards the bridge, and commanded all the approaches to the windows and barricades thrown up across the street. But the Prussian riflemen fired about three times before the Austrians, armed only with muzzle-loading rifles, were able to reply. This more than compensated for any disadvantages of nature or position.

When the war began in Europe was only a probability of its occurrence. It was said that Bismarck was determined to precipitate hostilities, because he believed that in her own exclusive possession of the needle-gun Prussia had the power to remodel the map of Europe at her will, and that she would be able to do so in a very short time, the rifled guns in her arsenals could be adapted to the new system.

It is wrong to believe that the French Government had for a long time had its attention directed to the needle-gun. The substitution of this gun for the common ordnance musket was actually decided upon immediately after the war in Denmark. But as this would entail an expense of several millions of francs, it was decided to make a measure of economy, to proceed with the change only gradually. The experiments at the camp of Chalons have shown, in fact, that three or four days are enough to familiarize our soldiers completely with the handling of this new gun.

THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH.—PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, JULY 23, 1866.

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Without experience, however, no reform involving considerable expense is likely to find favor with heads of departments in this country. It is on this ground that we have witnessed the experiments which have lately been tried on the largest scale in real warfare, and we now most earnestly represent the urgent necessity of providing for it.

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Another drawback.—A man named McGinnis was shot in the chest at Harrisburg, and brought to the jail in this place on Tuesday, charged with the murder of the Squibb family. We are told that he is a resident of the vicinity of Harrisburg, and that he confessed that he had murdered three persons, and that he expected to be hung for the crime. Upon making this confession that it was supposed that it was the murder of the Squibb family he alluded to, and was accordingly arrested as being the perpetrator of that horrid deed. It is said the confession was made on Monday, the day of the murder.—York Express.

Proceeding in Parliament.—Report of the Special Trade Commission in Relation to their Visit to the West Indies, Brazil, and South America.—Charges of Bribery and Corruption Against the Government Party, &c.

Charges of Bribery and Corruption.—Another scene has just occurred in the House of Assembly. Mr. J. P. McDonald charged the Government with bribing members of the Opposition. An instance was called for, and Mr. McDonald said that the purchase of the Slides on the Ottawa river, from the member for Pontiac, was an example of obtaining his support as well as the Slides. The member for Pontiac indignantly denied this, and returned that when Mr. McDonald was at the head of the Government he wanted to buy his Slides if he would sustain the Government, of which he was then head. This Mr. McDonald emphatically denied, and Mr. Holt called for the name of the member. Mr. Holt called for the name of the member, and Mr. McDonald said it was not only not true, but that he had never spoken ten words to the gentleman since he had been in the Government. The member for Pontiac said that this was not true. Mr. Holt pronounced the whole scene incredible, and said that such a story charged should not be made as those made against Mr. McDonald, of which he did not remember a word. The member for Pontiac returned the charge, and Mr. Wright gave what he alleged to be some of the words of the conversation, all of which Mr. McDonald emphatically contradicted.

Philadelphia, Germantown, and North-Western Railroad.—On and after Monday, July 23, 1866. Leave Philadelphia 7:30 A. M., 12:15 P. M., 3:30 P. M., 6:15 P. M., 8:15 P. M., 10:15 P. M. Leave Germantown 8:15 A. M., 1:00 P. M., 4:15 P. M., 7:00 P. M., 9:00 P. M. Leave North-Western 9:00 A. M., 1:15 P. M., 4:30 P. M., 7:15 P. M., 9:30 P. M.

Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad.—On and after Monday, July 23, 1866. Leave Philadelphia 7:30 A. M., 12:15 P. M., 3:30 P. M., 6:15 P. M., 8:15 P. M., 10:15 P. M. Leave Wilmington 8:15 A. M., 1:00 P. M., 4:15 P. M., 7:00 P. M., 9:00 P. M. Leave Baltimore 9:00 A. M., 1:15 P. M., 4:30 P. M., 7:15 P. M., 9:30 P. M.

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