



The Salisbury Plain Manoeuvres

A matter of engrossing interest to the military authorities at the present time is the approaching operations to be carried out on Salisbury Plain, followed by the manoeuvres in the counties of Wiltshire and Dorset. It is doubtful whether operations of so extensive a character have hitherto been attempted. The programme commences on July 1st with cavalry exercises, to be followed by brigade and divisional drills on the newly acquired War Office land on Salisbury Plain. The arrangements are being actively pushed forward. Major Agar, of the Royal Engineers, is for the present quartered at the village of Shrewton, where he has temporary offices. Three camps are to be pitched at Perham Down, Park House and Bulford. Perham Down is within a very short distance of Ludgershall Station, on the Midland and South Western Junction Railway, and should prove a fine camping spot, the down stretching from Shoddesden on the one side to Tedworth on the other. The second camp, at Park House, in the parish of Shipton Bellinger is near the training ground where Captain Bewicke has his racehorse establishment, while a short distance away is the towering Beacon Hill, with its far reaching table-land on one side, probably the most level bit of country now in possession of the War Office, and splendidly situated for cavalry gallops. The third camp is at Bulford, in the locality which was used last year. A source of inconvenience last summer was deficient water supply, but since then wells have been sunk at each of the three places mentioned, and when these are completed there is no doubt that an ample supply will be secured. Tedworth House, which is untenanted, is retained by the War Office, and may possibly be utilised for the military officers. This residence has long been associated with sporting traditions, and previous to coming into the possession of Sir John Kelk, Bart., was occupied by that famous huntsman Assheton Smith. The grounds are wonderfully picturesque, and not far from the house is the mausoleum containing the remains of Assheton Smith. There is also a capital cricket pitch at one side, whereon the Studd family, of Cambridge University and Middlesex County fame, did much of their early cricket when resident at Tedworth. A short distance away are the kennels which house the renowned Tedworth Hounds. Now the War Office has secured this property it is a matter of curiosity what the future of this time-honoured establishment will be.

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