

BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM TORONTO.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Last Wednesday another batch of fourteen passed the School of Gunnery, in presence of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, Colonel Anderson, C.B., R.A., Commandant of the School, Lieutenant Colonel Durie, A.A.G., Brigade Major Denison and Captain Moorson, A.D.C., making a total of twenty-six artillery graduates from this school since its formation. The Military School has seventy one names on the list, and certificates are being obtained every few days. The hours at present are from 9 to 12, a.m., and from 3 to 5, p.m. In a letter to the *Montreal Witness*, a certain Volunteer writes under the impression that there are no Volunteers in Canada, as they have not been sworn in to the Dominion. If he had read the British North American Act, he would have discovered his error, as it is there stated that all powers heretofore held by Act of Parliament in any of the Provinces are vested in the Governor General, subject to alteration by the Parliament of Canada.

It is to be hoped that the estimates to be submitted shortly will contain a liberal sum for rifle ranges, and prizes for shooting as well as drill. The company scoring the highest in class firing is surely entitled to reward as well as the best drilled company; for are we not taught the importance of good shooting when the British Government state that a soldier who cannot shoot is *useless*, and an *encumbrance* to the battalion? Some parties here appear to be more than ordinarily impressed with the importance of rifle practice, as on the coldest days they are to be seen pegging away at small targets stuck up on the ice. "Practice is everything."

Sir Henry Smith's Game Laws are more stringent than most would have desired, — in fact, some of the gunsmiths in this city regard them as a severe blow against their trade, in consequence of the small inducements offered to would be sportsmen to procure expensive material, the killing season being now so limited.

Last Saturday I had the pleasure of seeing the troops in garrison, including the Royal Artillery with their guns, marching out with their bands. As we have had a heavy snow-storm since then, "marching out" for some time to come will have to be on snowshoes.

FROM HAMILTON.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The 13th Battalion and the Hamilton Volunteer Field Battery were inspected this evening by Assistant Adjutant General Durie, the Field Battery being inspected in the Gun Shed, on Nelson street, at about 7:30 o'clock, and the inspecting officer expressed himself as feeling very much pleased

with the appearance of the men of that force, and with the state in which he found their guns. In the meantime, the 13th Battalion had assembled in the Drill Shed, on James street, and was drawn up in line to receive Colonel Durie, who, accompanied by Colonel Villiers, Brigade Major of this district, and several other officers, was received with a general salute, after which he inspected the arms and accoutrements of the men. Having finished a minute inspection of them, and having declared himself pleased therewith, the battalion was proved in the manual and platoon exercises by Captain Henery, and was then marched past in quick and double quick time, in open and in close column, deployed on the leading company and reformed into quarter distance column, from which position the rear company was marched to the front by fours to the left, reformed as a quarter distance column right in front, and then drawn up in close column, in order that all might hear a short address from the inspecting officer, who said that he was well pleased with the manner in which the battalion had performed the various movements. He said that none knew better than he, the difficulties under which the officers as well as the men of a volunteer corps laboured in attaining excellence in the science of war, and that it therefore reflected the greater credit upon those who by their attendance and attention to their drill had brought the battalion to its present condition, and he felt assured that if the battalion should be called out to-morrow they were in readiness to take the field. He concluded by saying that the city of Hamilton might well be proud of such a battalion. In the absence of Lieutenant Colonel Skinner, the battalion was commanded by Major H. E. Irving. On account of the very stormy weather and the absence of many of the members of the Force from the city, the parade was not so large as it might otherwise have been, there being only about 170 or 180 present. The companies from Dundas and Waterdown, Nos. 7 and companies of the 13th Battalion, were to have been present at the inspection, but were unable to do so, in consequence of the difficulty of getting the men together at this season of the year.

There is a good deal of speculation here as to whether the force will be called out for service during the coming spring; and although some say that they would like it, and very few seem inclined to leave for fear of it, yet the majority prefer the life of civilians; for, as they very truthfully say, it entails a great deal of loss upon them, while those who have the greatest stake in the country seem to feel no interest in its protection, and even discourage by every means in their power those who are willing to devote a portion of their time to the employment of learning the use of the rifle. However, there is no reason to fear that the 13th will ever belie its motto, *Semper paratus*.

February 24th, 1868.

FROM ST. CATHARINES.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The following are scores made by members of Company No. 3, 19th Battalion, on the 5th instant. I would say that the cup was given by ex-Captain Yale, to be fired for by those who had never taken part in any previous match; and also that both medal and cup must be won twice (whether successively or otherwise) before they will become private property. There were other prizes, given by the officers of the company to those making the second best scores in each squad.

The following are the scores made by those competing for the medal—10 shots, at 400, 500 and 600 yards.

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|----------------------------|----|
| Sergeant A. Mills..... | 33 |
| Q. M. Sergeant Cawker..... | 27 |
| Sergeant Swayzie..... | 25 |
| Private May..... | 22 |
| " Beattie..... | 21 |
| Sergeant Major Gumm..... | 17 |
| Ensign Carlisle..... | 16 |
| Captain Wilkins..... | 7 |

Scores made by the Competitors for the Cup, at 200 and 400 yards—five shots at each range.

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Private S. Boyle..... | 23 |
| " Hallett..... | 21 |
| Corporal Kane..... | 21 |
| " Sword..... | 20 |
| Private Cudney..... | 19 |
| " John Boyle..... | 17 |
| Sergeant C. Mills..... | 14 |
| Private Eccles..... | 14 |
| " Allen..... | 13 |
| " Leeper..... | 11 |
| " Towers..... | 11 |
| " McCormick..... | 9 |
| " Cunningham..... | 8 |

FROM NEW HAMBURGII.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

On the 21st instant, this company underwent the usual routine of inspection by Lieutenant Colonel Barretto and Adjutant McGachen. It mustered three officers and forty rank and file upon parade, and was put through several evolutions by Captain Campbell and Lieutenant Smith. The gallant Colonel expressing himself highly satisfied with the smart, clean, soldier-like bearing of the men, and their marked efficiency in drill.

FROM BROCKVILLE.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

During the past three weeks, Lieut. Col. Jackson, Brigade Major, (who is also a first class Musketry Instructor) has been engaged giving a course of lectures to the Grammar School Cadets, on the theoretical principles of Musketry, which will doubtless assist the boys very much when they commence regular target practice.

Musketry instruction in the army is rightly looked upon as one of the most essential