

receive practical benefit from a month or two's course with the expedition.

R. M. C.

THE RIFLES' INSPECTION.



ST. JOHN, N.B., Aug. 12, 1896.—Military interest the other week centred in the St. John Rifle Company, who were preparing for their inspection, and having extra drills for the purpose. On Monday evening, 20th ult., a competition among the non-commissioned officers was held, for a silver medal offered by their commanding officer, Capt. Smith. The judges were Major Sturdee and Major Magee of the 62nd Fusiliers, who handed in their report of the examination, and the result will be announced at the next parade of the company. Those who competed for the

medal were Sergts. Craigie, Frost and Merritt, and Corpls. Wetmore, Doig and Rowe. It is understood that a medal for the best drilled private has been offered by Lieut. Tilley, and this will be decided next week. The inspection of the company took place on Tuesday evening, 21st ult., at the drill shed before Lieut.-Col. Maunsell, inspector of infantry. The company paraded in marching order, and the following report from The St. John Sun is a good description of the event :

"The Rifles paraded last evening at the drill shed and passed their annual inspection and muster before the D.A.G. and Major Armstrong, district paymaster. After receiving Col. Maunsell with a general salute they were closely inspected by him as to dress and accoutrements. The men mustered forty-four, all ranks, and made a fine appearance. After ranks were closed the company was formed into line and put through the manual and firing exercises by Capt. Smith, in which they showed great proficiency. They then marched past showing to great advantage as they passed the saluting point, their marching being most admirable. After this they were exercised in company, half-company and section movements under Lieut. Tilley. Lieut. Perley then took charge and drilled the company in column and line, also a section in extended order. They were put through bayonet exercise by the captain, a performance highly appreciated by the large number of spectators present. Before dismissing, Pte. Oliver Howard was called to the front and presented by Col. Maunsell with the Parks Cup for the highest score made at target practice.

In making the presentation Col. Maunsell took occasion to compliment the company and its officers on the excellent inspection which they had passed, a matter with which all who had witnessed it agreed.

Cannot we have a law passed in Canada to prevent the indiscriminate use of the Queen's uniform? In England a few years ago a law was passed making it a misdemeanor and punishable with a fine, for any unauthorized person to wear a uniform of any branch of the Service. This was rendered necessary as uniforms were bought at Jews' stores by private bands, who masqueraded as military, and by sandwichmen, who were thus dressed up for advertising purposes. In Canada it is getting nearly as bad. We see our uniforms worn at fancy dress carnivals, and by polymorphians, while the writer once saw a man in the country wearing a scarlet tunic during a heavy rain, as a waterproof!!! The new Minister of Militia might take this matter up.

The excursion of the band of the 62nd Fusiliers to the Halifax Carnival was spoiled on account of an accident to the ss. Prince Rupert, so the band, numbering 28 men, went by railway at their

own expense. They will lose considerable money by the unfortunate accident, as, of course, all tickets sold were unavailable for passage.

8th "Princess Louise's New Brunswick Hussars."—To be 2nd Lieutenants, provisionally: Charles James Milligan, gentleman, and Isaac Burpee, gentleman, to complete establishment. 20th July, 1896.

THOMAS ATKINS.

HALIFAX MILITARY GOSSIP.



AUGUST 10.—The three city corps have been paid the four days' pay held over from last year. On the 30th ult. the troops in garrison, in conjunction with the Royal Navy, held a review on the common and made an attack on the Citadel. The turnout was given as part of the carnival programme. At 10.30 a.m. the parade, consisting of four companies of bluejackets, about 400 strong; three companies Royal Artillery, 250 strong; two companies Royal Engineers, 150 strong; eight companies Royal Berkshire Regiment, 600 strong; two companies Royal Marines, 100 strong, and detachments from the departmental corps in garrison were drawn up in two lines, Col. North, chief staff officer, in command, the R.N. and Marines in front, the garrison troops in rear. At 11 o'clock sharp Admiral Erskine and General Montgomery Moore, accompanied by their staffs, arrived at the saluting point, and were received with a general salute. Column was then formed and the "march past" began, three field gun detachments manned by sailors leading, the massed bands of the Crescent and the Berkshire Regiment playing "A Life on the Ocean Wave" as the sailor boys went by; the "British Grenadiers" found the R.A. and R.E. going past like stone walls, whilst the boys from Berkshire looked well going by at a cadence of 120 per minute to their regimental march, "The Dashing White Sergeant." Ranks were then changed, when the whole re-passed in quarter column at the double. This ended the ceremonial part of the parade. The R.A. and R.E. were then marched to the Citadel to defend it against the combined attacks of the R.N., Berkshires and Royal Marines. The R.N. and Marines then repaired to camp hill, the Berks remaining on their ground; the whole extended and advanced in skirmishing order by half companies, the three field guns of the navy covering the advance of the skirmishers. The Citadel all the time kept up a heavy fire from its guns on the advancing foe (?). When about 200 yards from the boundary fence of the Citadel, the order, "Charge," was given, on came the Bluejackets, Berkshires and Marines with bayonets and swords fixed and arms at the "port," cheering lustily; the fence was reached, and thus terminated the "assault."

The thousands of visitors from across the border, and from all parts of the Dominion, present had a chance of seeing what a "British charge and cheer" was like. The troops and sailors then re-formed and marched back to their quarters, looking very thirsty indeed. The only casualties reported were the upsetting of a couple of baby carriages, with their occupants, during the "charge." Smokeless powder was used, and to my mind it had a decided disadvantage when used on open ground, for there was the blue and white of the sailors and the "thin red line" of the infantry showing out as excellent targets for the gunlayers in the Citadel. There was no public holiday declared by the civic authorities, therefore the militia were not asked to participate; but in justice to the militia be it said that, even without a public holiday, they were prepared to give a good account of themselves were they asked to turn out.

On the second day of the regatta the Royal Engineers, in their cutter "Bendigo" (12 oars), tied the 10-oared cutter of the "Mac-