

## News of the Service.

NOTE.—Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Without we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the doings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, so long as not enclosed in an envelope, for one cent. At any rate, forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades. Address,

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### St. John, N.B.

Yesterday was a field day for the Artillery in this city, it being the first occasion on which they have been required to perform the rare ceremony of presenting the colors of a regiment to a church in order that they may be laid to rest in the sacred edifice. It is a rare event for many reasons, the principal of which are that none of our militia corps formed since confederation have gone out of existence, and also that the colors of the old provincial organizations are in most cases lost. The Artillery, as is well known, do not carry colors, their guns standing in the same relation to them that colors do to an infantry regiment. Because of this they do not practice the ceremony of trooping the colors, and it was not therefore attempted on this occasion, though the general verdict was, that had they made any preparation they would undoubtedly have performed that difficult movement well.

At about half-past two yesterday when the battalion assembled in the drill shed there was the best of weather—a little hot and dusty, perhaps, but tempered now and again with a cool breeze. The battalion fell in with Lieut.-Col. Armstrong in command, and Major Jones appeared for the first time in his new rank. In the absence, through illness, of Capt. Crawford, Capt. White took charge of No. 1 Co. with Lieut. Armstrong as subaltern. No. 2 Co. (Carleton) was under command of Capt. Baxter with Lieuts. Tilley and Scovil; No. 3, under Capt. Gordon with Lieut. Foster; and No. 4, under Capt. Armstrong with Lieuts. Jones and Skinner. On the staff were Quartermaster Gordon, Surgeon Andrews and a number of the retired officers of the City Light Infantry whose colors were to be presented, and also retired officers of the artillery. Among them were: A. A. Stockton, M.P.P., Charles Campbell, Lieut. W. Roxborough, Capt. J. Alfred Ring, Lieut. McKinney and Capt. A. W. Levitt, Major Markham of the 8th Cavalry and Major A. J. Armstrong of the district staff, and Major Sturdee, Hartt and Magee, with Surgeon Walker, Rev. Fr. Davenport, chaplain, and Lieut. Macmichael of the 62nd, also attended on the staff.

On the Barrack square the battalion was drawn up in line in two ranks, and at 3 o'clock the color party, from No. 3 Co., appeared with the colors guarded by fixed bayonets. They were received with a general salute and the colors taken over by Lieuts. Tilley and Foster, the senior

subalterns on parade. The band played Auld Lang Syne and the national anthem.

The battalion then marched in fours from the left of companies, No. 2 company, with fixed bayonets and arms sloped, being the escort. At King street on Charlotte, Lieut.-Col. Irwin, inspector of artillery, was received with a salute as he joined the staff. At the church, line was formed facing the edifice and the colors again saluted, after which column of half companies was formed to the left, and the column retiring formed quarter column on No. 1, which was in rear. They then marched past in column of half companies by the right, and afterwards in quarter column by the left, with changed ranks. Line was again formed facing the church, and after a general salute the companies entered and took their places in the church, the officers occupying seats in the east side of the south transept.

No. 3 company, with bayonets fixed, then entered the church and was stationed in the centre isle with shouldered arms. The color party passed through the main entrance, and were received with presented arms, after which the company formed up, facing the chancel. Thomas W. Peters then stepped forward and, addressing the rector, said that the ceremony took place at the request of old officers of the battalion, and that he presented the flags for that purpose, they having coming into his possession through his father, who, as colonel, had the custody of them. The battalion was the first of the city militia corps under the old system, and had been in existence for many years, but the loss of the old files of newspapers from 1838 to 1843 rendered it impossible to fix the date of the presentation of the colors with precision. Among its officers had been Sir Leonard Tilley, the ex-governor of the province, and W. O. Smith, once mayor of the city. The colors had never seen active service, but he had no doubt that those who bore them would have stood by them manfully had they been called on to do so, and he was equally sure that those who laid them to rest in the sacred edifice where imbued with the loyal spirit and determination of their forefathers.

Mr. Peters then took the colors from Lieuts. Tilley and Foster and handed them to Rev. Mr. Dicker, the rector, who in turn passed them to Canon DeVeber, by whom they were placed in the chancel.

Rev. Mr. Dicker then read a formal acceptance of the colors for the purpose of repose, after which a short evening service was conducted.

Rev. Archdeacon Brigstock then delivered an address referring to the presentation on 15th August, 1890, of the colors of the 2nd battalion to Trinity Church. He looked upon these ceremonies as emblematic of the patriotic spirit which imbued our ancestors and gave us our land and its institutions. The Christian church deprecated warfare, but did not teach mere passive resistance. Terrible as war was, there were things which, and there were times when, the Christian soldier was bound to fight. He

dwelt on the great peace of her majesty's reign, which might be said, within her dominions, to have been broken only by the Indian mutiny. It behooved each soldier to remember that, as a citizen and an individual, this great fabric rested upon him.

The escort again saluted the colors, while the national anthem was played, after which and the recessional the troops left church and formed again on the street. They marched back to the drill shed, where, after an expression of thanks from Lt.-Col. Armstrong to the retired and visiting officers who had so kindly assisted in the ceremony and a few words of encouragement to the officers and men under his command for the way in which their work had been performed, the battalion dispersed.

The parade slates showed 205 officers and men on parade, and judging from the enthusiastic comments from the crowds which lined the streets it was their most successful. The march past was particularly fine, and the subalterns handled their half companies in good style. This is work which devolves on them under the new drill, and it was well performed.

In the church No. 3 Co.; acting as the escort, under command of Capt. Gordon, reflected the greatest possible credit upon themselves, their officers and the corps. They were as steady as old soldiers during quite a length of time that they were required to stand in the ceremony. There was not a single break in their movements, which were executed with promptness and precision. It is interesting to note that one of the bearers of the colors yesterday was the son of the ex-lieutenant governor, who, as stated by ex-Mayor Peters, was once an officer of the corps himself.

The following were officers of the first battalion St. John's city militia in 1841.

Lieutenant-Colonel—B. Lester Peters.

Major—G. D. Robinson.

Captains—M. Hennigar, E. L. Jarvis, Charles Drury, jr., T. McMackin, N. Disbrow, jr., H. N. H. Lugrin, W. Hutchinson, John Robertson, Peter Duff, Brazillai Ansley, W. D. W. Hubbard, G. Hutchinson, T. W. Peters, adjutant.

First Lieutenants—W. O. Smith, Douglas Clarke, W. H. Scovil, A. Robertson, Wm. Hagarty, E. Ketchum, John Sandall, E. L. Thorne, Simon W. Cook, Thos. S. Estey, T. Nisbet, jr., John W. Smith, George Wheeler.

Second Lieutenants—J. W. McLeod (rifles), Wm. Robertson, J. Cudlip, E. A. Price, Edmund Kaye, George Thomas, G. Hutchinson, jr., Wm. E. Moore, Wm. Howard, Wm. F. Smith, Samuel L. Tilley, D. M. Robertson, T. W. Robertson, R. S. Hutchinson, T. A. Paddock, James Robertson.

Paymaster, James Kirk, capt; adjutant, T. W. Peters, capt; surgeon, J. Boyd, M.D.; quarler-master, E. J. Budd, enrolling officer, T. Baldwin, capt.—St. John Sun, July 30th.

The Barrack Square is now quite a centre of attraction on fine evenings when the city militia are drilling and