

will be remembered that there were three administrative battalions on service, known as the First, or Western; Second, or Central, and Third, or Eastern Administrative Battalions. Several of the survivors recently called upon Lieut.-Col. Frost Wood Gray and expressed themselves as desirous of taking steps to have the matter brought to the notice of the authorities with a view of recognition for services rendered on that occasion, and in order to deal with the question properly and decide upon a line of action, Col. Gray would be pleased to hear from those residing in other parts of Canada, communications to be addressed to that officer at Quebec. Col. Gray at the time served as lieutenant in the Eastern Battalion.

The cup presented by Capt. R. E. W. Turner, of the Queen's Own Canadian Hussars, was on view at Mr. Seifert's and attracted considerable attention. It consists of an inverted cartridge, supported on three crossed rifles, encircled by a wreath of laurel leaves. One side of the cup consists of the figure of a mounted Hussar, and on the other the inscription: "Presented to the Squadron by Capt. R. E. W. Turner, 1896." At the base are two shields, one inscribed, "Queen's Own Canadian Hussars," and the other reserved for the names of the winners in the annual rifle competitions. Sergt. E. Woodley is the first to be placed upon it. The cup has to be won three times before it becomes the property of the winner.

The rifle match in connection with the Torrens Cup, presented to the 8th Royal Rifles for competition among the officers, has had to be postponed twice on account of the inclemency of the weather.

Satisfaction is expressed at the action of the Government in deciding to allow the Lewis equipment to be taken into competition with that of such others as may be brought forward, in lieu of carrying out the decision of the late Government to adopt the Oliver equipment, and which was arrived at without even an attempt being made to compare the merits of the two. Needless to state that such a question is of the greatest importance to the force at large, and every effort should be made to get the best to be obtained. The promoters of the Lewis are prepared to submit to competition and to abide by the decision of competent judges. Doubtless, this question will receive attention in the near future.

PATROL.

TORONTO NEWS.

TORONTO, Oct. 12, 1896.—Anyone passing the armories on a Monday night would think that an institution of quite a different character occupied the building and not that it was the abode of what is perhaps the most orderly and exact profession practised. Half a dozen squads being put through the intricacies of drill, from the goose step to the more elaborate exercises of the rifle, each under a different instructor, who is doing his best for his squad to drown out the commands of the others, will scarcely give an observer a very good idea of discipline and order. But to him who is willing to learn by quiet observation it will be plain that these men who apparently are making themselves foolish are earnestly endeavoring to learn how to be of the most use when the time for usefulness comes. About one hundred eager recruits anxious to do this gives the lie to those who call it all foolish and useless expenditure of time and money. These are they who will bear the brunt of the battle, while their decriers proceed hastily to look after their summer cottages about James' Bay.

The Grenadiers still employ men from Stanley Barracks to bring their recruits up to the mark, and in one way it is a good idea, but I think the good features are overcome by the bad ones. In the first place it gives the recruits a much better setting up than regimental instruction, and they have the advantage of the latest modes in vogue in the permanent corps, and this, I think, is the only advantage. For it must be remembered that a city battalion, which drills for about six-

teen evenings of two hours each is totally different from a permanent corps which has exercise every day, and instruction from such a corps cannot but help imparting instruction in the same way as done in their own corps, a very little at a time. Now, the keeping of a city corps at a strength of one hundred over Government allowance is a difficult task, and it does not do to disgust recruits by worrying them. They join for the love of it, there being no pay, and are willing to learn, and will learn in time. A good groundwork is essential, but it must be remembered that these recruits join companies who are almost recruits themselves, after a summer's or winter's rest, and the placing of a well-drilled man in a company even a little rusty disappoints the man. Why not, then, place the recruit in his company when he understands his position as a soldier and how to obey, and when he has attained a limited proficiency in the art of drill, and let him pick up the rest there with those who are very little, if any, in advance of him? And then, again, no matter how well a man can drill in a squad, he will make mistakes and blunders when he joins his company. The captain and others in command should be able to put the finishing touches to their recruits, and by doing so would keep many from leaving on account of the tedious and uninteresting drills of a recruit class. Besides this, there is the slur which the employment of a permanent corps instructor casts on the N.C.O.'s of the regiment, which in itself is a very important matter.

The Highlanders must be very popular among the other regiments and with the people in general, if one can judge from the frequency with which is heard whistled their regimental march, "Highland Laddie." But, on the other hand, it may be accounted for by the very interesting and instructive words set to the tune by the street urchins.

The Bugle Band of the Q.O.R. is one of the liveliest and most go-ahead adjuncts of any corps in town. They do not limit themselves to the set marches, but are always treating their admirers to something new. On the 30th ult. they rendered one of the best-arranged and inspiring marches that I have ever heard in Toronto, one which would make the most fatigued soldier pick up and step out with new vigor. The other bugle bands have an example which they might well follow with profit to themselves and their regiments.

The usual fall garrison church parade will be held on the 1st November, when Toronto's soldier boys make their thanksgiving in order to leave the day set apart for it free for other things.

All the regiments spent their drill nights last week in hard work—company and squad drill. The time for show is over, and no time can now be afforded for street parades, which, on account of the limited space and many noises, cannot be utilized for instructional purposes. The Highlanders took a long march on the 1st inst., as a last good-bye to pleasure for this season. On all such occasions, and especially on that last mentioned, people remark on the amount of talking that is allowed to go on in the ranks and also between the officers when marching at attention. This is a great fault, and officers should stop it and try and recollect that discipline is necessary and must be enforced as well by example as by reproof. If the order is a route march then let them take it seriously and impress upon their commands the necessity of strict adherence to duty and not look upon it as mere play, which will soon demoralize the best militia corps. There is no play in war, and that is what, in cold blood, they are training for.

Company drill can be made very interesting if the instructor will only allow himself to become thoroughly acquainted with it. The movements in sections and half-companies from column and line admit of many variations, which, besides sharpening the wits of the section and half-company commanders, serve to interest the men, for they feel they are learning something new and are