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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.

EDITOR, CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE
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Halifax, N. S.

Drafts to the number of 280 officers, warrant officers, N. C. O.'s and men, to complete the establishment of the regular troops at this station and the 49th Royal Berkshire Regt. expected from Bermuda next month, arrived here on the 23rd inst. Amongst the arrivals was Sergt. Major Mullane V. C., Royal Artillery. He was awarded the much coveted Victoria cross for valour during the Afghan campaign 1881.

The O. C. Halifax Garrison Artillery has arranged for a series of lectures on artillery subjects to be given by himself and his officers on Monday evenings during the winter months. Major and Adjt. Oxley faces the blackboard on the 2nd proximo with the opening lecture "Modern Ordnance," its construction etc.

I was sorry to see so many typographical errors creep into my letter in your last issue, it was copied here by some of the local papers, and each error was faithfully reproduced.

Militia and Mobilization.

The following is an extract from a letter from the commander of the Canadian militia forwarded to Colonel Irving, D. A. G.

"The major-general notices with much pleasure the appreciation expressed by the lieutenant-general commanding H. M. troops of the work done by the militia, an appreciation which he himself after a careful perusal of the detailed reports fully shares.

"He has read with interest the very clear accounts of their field operations sent in by Lieut.-Colonel Egan, 63rd rifles, and Majors Weston and Menger, 66th

Fusillers, who commanded the local infantry on the occasion, and he especially notices the admirable sketch with which Lieut. Col. Egan illustrates his report.

"He feels every reason to be satisfied with the work performed by those members of the Halifax Garrison artillery who attended the parade.

"The major-general, while regretting that the turnout was not as large as last year, desires to express his thanks to all those members of the militia force who were present under arms, no doubt in many cases at the expense of considerable inconvenience, or possibly even at pecuniary loss to themselves. He entertains the hope that before the next mobilization takes place it may be found possible to perfect arrangements by which those drawbacks may be minimized, with a result of a much larger attendance."

GRAVELCRUSHER.

Hamilton.

Lieut.-Col. Gibson's Farewell.

There was quite an affecting scene at the muster parade of the Thirteenth regiment on Friday evening, Nov. 22nd, when Lieut.-Col. Gibson formally took his leave of the corps, which he has commanded for the past seven years. As it was the last parade of the fall drill of 1895 the regiment was out in full strength, and the galleries were filled with spectators, many of whom were ex-members of the Thirteenth who had come to hear their former commanding officer deliver his valedictory.

After the business of the evening was concluded, the regiment was drawn up in a hollow square by Lieut.-Col. Moore, with the officers in front of their companies, and then amid a silence that allowed every word to be heard throughout the big armory, Lieut.-Col. Gibson addressed the regiment for the last time as its commander. He said:

"Thirteenth.—I am no longer your commanding officer. After nearly thirty-five years of service in the militia, over thirty-two of which have been spent in the Thirteenth as private, non-commissioned officer, or officer, the command of this corps has been by me most reluctantly resigned. The reasons for taking this step need not be dwelt upon by me. All will admit that my numerous other duties and responsibilities would have justified me in asking to be relieved of the command long ago. Strong reasons

exist for my desiring to continue with you. All of you, from the senior major down, have been loyal and true to me, and I think none of you want me to leave. When I took command we had no drill hall and no arms or equipment; some of the companies were very weak and our position was in many respects most discouraging. We have improved year by year, not so rapidly as I sometimes thought we should, but always sufficiently to be approvingly observed by Col. Otter on his annual inspections as deputy adjutant-general, and we have now the reputation of being a smart and, in a general sense, very efficient battalion, and just such a battalion as any officer might feel proud to command. We have a good drill hall and well furnished and comfortable quarters. The staff of officers is complete and nearly all of them are well qualified. A better lot of sergeants the battalion never has had. All the companies are now over the required strength and completely equipped. The band has a continental reputation, and is composed almost entirely of home-trained Hamilton young men. Our record in rifle practice and shooting has not been surpassed by any other corps in the Dominion. We are proud of having the Queen's prizeman for the year, and have no less cause for congratulation in the fact that efficiency in shooting is general all through the battalion. There was, in short, every inducement to remain with you. Let me not, however, be understood as taking more than my share of credit for all this. While I have done the best I could, you have co-operated zealously and faithfully. The citizens of Hamilton have also done well by us, and I take this last opportunity of thanking all those who have so cheerfully and liberally, year after year, contributed to our rifle fund, and those, too, who at different times, under inconvenience, allowed many of you to be away from ordinary duties to do your work on the ranges. Lieut.-Col. Moore will succeed to the command, and no one could be more deserving of promotion. The late Lt.-Col. Skinner, during his long period of command, owed much to Col. Moore, and but for the assistance he has always readily and cheerfully given me, I could not have continued nearly so long in the position of your commanding officer. I ask all ranks to be as faithful and true to him as you have been to me. He is entitled in every sense to your loyal and generous support. Let it never be forgotten that it is your Queen and country you are voluntarily serving when, by drilling and acquiring experience in the use of the rifle, you qualify yourselves for active service, and that even the simple act of signing the service roll is a much more reliable expression of loyalty than anything that may be gathered from eloquent flights of oratory or windy pro-