

Toronto.

E COMPANY of the Queen's Own Rifles had their annual dinner on Thursday evening, 26th January, at Oulcott's hotel, Yonge street. At eight o'clock the party started, in sleighs, from the bugle band room, Adelaide street, and after a very pleasant drive up Yonge street to Eglinton the party, about sixty, sat down to a very nice dinner. The chair was taken by Capt. Mutton; the vice-chair by Col.-Sergt. Ritchie. Among those present were Lieut.-Col. Allan, Lieuts. Brock, Lee, Knifton, Johnson, Greene, Nelson and Sergt.-Major Crean, of the Q. O. R.; Major Foster, R. L.; Major Mead and Lieut. Myles, T. F. B.; Mr. L. H. Irving, late T. G. A., and Mr. T. B. Smith, of the Engineer Corps. "The Queen," the first toast on the list, was honoured by the whole company, accompanied by the orchestra, joining in the National Anthem. The toast of the Army, Navy and Active Militia was responded to by Major Mead and Mr. Irving. "Our Regiment" was duly honoured and responded to by Lieut.-Col. Allan and Sergt.-Major Crean. "Success and prosperity to E. Co." (old number five) was answered by Lieut. Knifton and Col.-Sergt. Ritchie. "The ladies" was proposed by the vice-chair and responded to by Corp. Cauldwell and Private J. Kennedy in a happy manner. Sergt. Bowden, Privates Dent, Thornhill and Kennedy contributed songs, and Lieut. Nelson and Private Downey recitations. After dinner the whole party adjourned to the Town Hall, where athletic sports and tugs of war were practised, the Tories pulling the Grits and the Left-half the Right-half company.

The annual sleighing party of "D" Company, Q. O. R., took place on Wednesday, 28th January, to Hick's Hotel at the Humber. A substantial repast was partaken of. Capt. Mason occupied the chair. After the usual loyal toasts the health of the officer commanding the regiment was proposed and acknowledged by Lieut.-Col. Allan, who complimented the company on its efficiency. The company then adjourned to the hall, where a pleasant evening was spent in songs, dances, choruses, etc. A tug-of-war was pulled between the right and left flanks of the company, in which a great deal of interest was manifested. After an exciting struggle the left flank were declared winners. The services of the bugle band, which played the company out of barrack, were much appreciated.

The annual meeting of the Officers' Mess of the Queen's Own Rifles was held this week in the orderly room of the drill shed. Lieut.-Col. Allan occupied the chair. In the absence of the secretary, Lieut. Brock officiated as secretary *pro tem*. Captain McGee read the annual report of the Band Committee, which was unanimously adopted. The committee on the testimonial to the family of the late Captain Brown reported that the testimonial was ready for presentation. The treasurer, Capt. Macdonald, read the report of the Finance Committee, showing that the annual expenditure in connection with the regiment, not including the stores given by the Government, amounted to \$14,883.96, still leaving a handsome balance to the credit of the regiment. Lieut.-Col. Allan congratulated the officers on this very satisfactory showing. A full and complete report was presented for the Rifle Committee by Lieut. Knifton, secretary, which was eminently satisfactory. The following committees were appointed for the year:—Finance—Major Hamilton, Capt. Thompson and Mutton; Rifle—Major Delamere, Lieuts. Knifton and Rennie; Band—Capt. McGee, Lieuts. Nelson and Mercer; Treasurer, Capt. McDonald; Secretary, Lieut. Brock. The band committee's report was discussed, and it was decided to continue the present arrangements. A special vote of thanks and testimonial were presented to the Quartermaster, Capt. Heakes, for his efficient services during the year. The chairman of the buffalo bull committee, Capt. Mutton, reported that the regimental buffalo was in good health and being well cared for; that he had been successfully ringed during the past year, and that ere long they hoped he would be tractable enough to lead the regiment on its outings.—*Mail*.

RECRUITING FOR RURAL CORPS.

Report after report—year after year—we are told that rural corps are frequently composed of about one half recruits. This shows several things: that some join with the avowed intention of serving for one camp only; that some get so disgusted with their equipment that they do not show up again; some flitting to and fro are enlisted "just to fill up." There is a remedy for all this: Action can be taken against these delinquents. Should that be done everybody would throw up his hands and say, "You will break up the corps, you will never get men to serve." Break up the corps! because forsooth you intend enforcing discipline! That is a nice state of affairs.

One Major General lays the fault of all this at the feet of officers commanding companies—perhaps because they are too lenient, perhaps to save themselves unpopularity, or perhaps even *politics* come in! I think if, from the Major General downwards, the Regulations were enforced, such things would in time disappear.

THE REGULATIONS AGAIN.

Some time ago, I took in hand the Militia Regulations, 1887. I read there a notice, dated the 1st September, 1887, which says that the Minister of Militia having authorized the publication of the Regulations, they will supersede the Regulations, 1883. The Regulations, 1887, have been distributed to officers. Paragraph 986 says that "all regulations made under the authority of the act shall be published in the *Canada Gazette*." It is now February, 1888, and the "Regulations and Orders for the Militia, Canada, 1887, have not yet appeared in the *Gazette*. What's the hitch?

Para. 174 tells us all about the Adjutant: he is the c.o.'s mouthpiece, etc.; not afraid of responsibility; moderate in social pleasures, yet on cordial terms with his comrades; a good horseman, a fair tactician, an excellent drill, able to impart rifle instruction; a walking dictionary on drill, Canadian and Imperial Regulations, Army List, etc., etc., etc. And a first rate adjutant is as hard to find as the proverbial needle in the haystack. He is also to be everywhere at the same time. Can an officer become all this, drilling once in every two years? Will an officer holding a "V. F. B." certificate answer the above description of an adjutant? Cast your eye around the militia world and count up *on your fingers* how many militia adjutants come near this mark.

One man may be a born adjutant, another may become an adjutant after years of training. Barring our born adjutants, how many of our militia adjutants have had an opportunity of being trained and educated as fair adjutants? An inefficient commanding officer will never train anybody, let alone an adjutant.

With the Adjutant goes the Sergeant-Major—his shadow, in fact. His position is just as hard to fill as the adjutant's. "His duties are so manifold that he should be the smartest and most intelligent man in the regiment." On these two, the Adjutant and Sergeant-Major, one might also say depends the whole regiment. If the Adjutant is indifferent, slovenly and inexperienced so are the officers; if the Sergeant-Major is a know-nothing, with an ill-governed temper, full of oaths, dirty in appearance, the sergeants will follow suit; and so also will the rank and file.

SOME CORPS NEEDING OFFICIAL ATTENTION.

One battalion turned out for annual drill appears to have been in a nice mess. "They had neither majors, nor adjutants, nor staff-sergeants who knew anything of

their work." Is not that a terrible state of affairs in this, the 19th century?

Would you like to see a rural corps turned out equipped (?) as per regulations. This corps of mine—I have left the "Lambskins"—has 8 companies. The colonel holds a M. S. 1st; the only major a V. B. 1st; of the 8 captains 3 are V. B. 2nd, 3 M. S. 2nd, and 2 provisional; the adjutant is duly qualified; the paymaster I keep on because he served in 1812; the surgeon and his assistant I am under obligations to—financially—so cannot get rid of them; the quartermaster and I were at school together in 1790! All told we are only a half dozen, all ranks, under strength.

"A" Company has 10 knapsacks and 5 overcoat straps; "B" Company has 2 knapsacks and 10 overcoat straps; "C" Company has neither knapsacks nor overcoat straps; "D" Company has neither knapsacks nor overcoat straps. I won't go further—it gets worse as it goes on. "The boys" say string does as well as buff straps and gives a pleasing though varied contrast. When a guard is mounted the knapsacks are passed from company to company.

I keep a second corps called "The Rodents." I have been lately bothered with this corps. The colonel "resigned only a few days before the meeting of the camp. This sudden and too late resignation threw the battalion into disorder and the consequence was merely forty men or so, three company officers and five staff officers joined the camp. *This however was very fortunate*, as the company officers and men" were put with the —th, whose companies would have been too weak had not this new addition to their strength been made.

I wrote my D. A. G. that the regulations required that the Colonel should give six months' notice of his intention to withdraw—but it was "no go"—and in addition to this trouble, I had to pay each captain of the "Rodents" \$40 drill instruction money and the colonel who retired \$150 for the same purpose. Then I was called upon to pay the colonel and the captains of the —th the same sums. Whereas, as I told my D. A. G., both these corps being inefficient, nothing should have been paid.

Then, in addition, the Rodents' senior major bothered me. He was very rusty, but wanted promotion without qualification. I let him go thinking to get rid of him, but he is now colonel with a M. S. 2nd. God speed such regiments—out of the Militia List.

I have a third corps called "Stargazers," for if they had cribbed the decorations, etc., of the Imperial regiment with the same number, they would now be wearing a star on their pouches. This corps (6 companies) has a colonel with V. B. 2nd; the major has the same; two captains have V. B. 2nd; the other four are provisional; five provisional lieutenants, one vacancy; four provisional 2nd lieutenants, two vacancies; no adjutant. The regimental pills, quartermaster, etc., are all there.

Camp time came round. My 6 companies, representing 26 officers and 252 n.c.o. and men, were ordered for drill. It would take "12 hours," I am told in the militia report, "to concentrate this battalion." After a lot of hard work—more than 12 days—I managed to turn out 4 companies—or 16 officers and 161 n.c.o. and men. At inspection "general brigade movements were well performed." At rifle practice 129 men fired. The result was 4 were first class shots, 17 second class shots and 108 third class shots." (I am very proud of this corps—"most efficient corps"!) Some D. A. G. has said that his firing was what might be called bad. I would call the "Stargazers" d— bad.

The drill instruction money I have shown, so far as rural corps are concerned, is squandered. The proof of the pudding is in the eating and the proof of the waste of drill money is in the result. And the proof of ignorance of the "five simple rules" hidden away in a book of Orders and Regulations is found by the nonproduction of even a fair percentage of second class shots. The Canadian Militia Regulations may dismiss Musketry Practice with their "five simple rules," but as the rifle is placed in a man's hands for his own safety and the destruction of his enemy, no matter what degree of proficiency (?) he may attain in his brigade movements nothing can remedy his *want of proficiency* in rifle shooting.

"Five simple rules" and "20 rounds of ball ammunition" once every two years! It reminds me of *all* that is required to teach a learner how to write well: "A piece of paper, a pen and some ink."

Memo for "Driving Band": Look up Morgan's "Handbook of Artillery Materiel" for classification of guns. Thanks for information about six 32's at No. 1 Fort, Levis. Did not mention 40 pr. B. L. R. at Montreal (although knowing it was there) because it is *not given* in "Return of Ordnance"; see page 216 Militia Report, 1886. The 20 pr. B. L. R. was an oversight. Have no complaint against the 15 sec. B. L. R. fuze, but is the 15 sec. M. L. issued for Field Battery gun practice?

LINCH-PIN.

The firm of Krupp has, it is stated, offered two million marks for the secret of the new explosive invented by the Russian engineer, Roucktoschell. Having, however, entered into a previous engagement with the Russian Government, the inventor has refused to sell.

ONTARIO ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Ontario Artillery Association for consideration of Annual Reports and transaction of General Business will be held at the

ROSSIN HOUSE, AT TORONTO,

—ON—

Tuesday, 7th February, prox.,

AT 12 O'CLOCK NOON.

A MEETING OF COUNCIL

Is also called to meet at the same place at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the 7th February prox., to consider Report for presentation to the Annual General Meeting, etc.

L. HOMFRAY IRVING,
Secretary.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,

Toronto, 4th January, 1888.

ONTARIO ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

PROPOSED ALTERATIONS IN CONSTITUTION.

IN accordance with Section 8 of the Constitution of the Ontario Artillery Association, notice to members thereof is hereby given that I have received a notice of motion, in writing, that it is intended to propose the following alterations in the Constitution at the General Meeting to be held at Toronto on the 7th February, 1888:—

"That Section 9 be omitted, the following being substituted therefor: The affairs of the Association shall be managed by an Executive Committee consisting of five members to be annually elected at the General Meeting. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be members of this Committee.

"That Section 10 be omitted, the following being substituted therefor: The officers shall be a President and four Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer, to be elected at the Annual General Meeting. That all words inconsistent with these changes be eliminated from the Constitution."

L. HOMFRAY IRVING,
Toronto, 10th Jan., 1888. Secretary

BANDMASTER WANTED.

BANDMASTER wanted for 7th Fusiliers.—Applications will be received up to the 31st January, 1888; duties to commence 1st April. Salary, \$300 per annum. Applicants will state age, experience, etc., and give references. Apply to MAJOR W. M. GARTSHORE, Pres. Band Com. 7th Fus., LONDON, ONT.