

large number of citizens and military men, among whom were Lieut.-Col. Maunsell, D.A.G.; Lieut.-Col. Blaine, and several officers of the 62nd Fusiliers, and Lieut.-Col. Armstrong and officers of the artillery.

The *Manitoban* publishes a portrait of the late lamented Lt.-Col. MacKeand, who died so suddenly and unexpectedly of hemorrhage of the lungs on Sunday the 13th, and gives some account of his life, which was thus cut short at the early age of 37. He was born in Scotland and early was brought to Hamilton, Ont., where at ten years of age he entered the employ of Messrs. Turner, gradually working up to the posts of book-keeper and confidential clerk.

In 1879 the firm established a branch in Winnipeg, of which Messrs. MacKeand and Jas. Turner, jr., assumed control and later got into their own hands.

In 1869 deceased joined the 13th Hamilton battalion as a private, and was a lieutenant in it when he left that city. After his arrival in Winnipeg he accepted the lieutenancy of the infantry company on the death of Lieut. Lindsay, of which two months later, on the resignation of Capt. Carruthers, he assumed command. When the 90th was organized the infantry went in as A company and Capt. MacKeand was assigned the junior majority.

When the rebellion broke out the c. o. was in Egypt and Major MacKeand took command of the battalion on the field, succeeding to the actual command upon the lamented death of Col. Kennedy. How well he and his corps acquitted themselves on the banks of the Saskatchewan is now matter of history.

Seldom does it fall to the lot of an individual, adds the *Manitoban*, to be more deservedly popular than was Colonel MacKeand. "Stainless man and perfect gentleman" are the words which most accurately characterize him. He was content to be the darling of his regiment because he was its gallant leader. He sought for no false popularity. He despised everything in the way of gratuitous self-advertising. But little was heard of him personally during the progress of the late rebellion campaign, yet no corps gave a braver account of itself than that which he commanded. He did not come back to boast of his prowess. No one ever heard him utter a word of that kind; but whenever work was to be done he was willing to do it. He was an officer and a gentleman.

It is difficult to think of his untimely and most lamentable end without giving utterance to expressions which might seem extravagant. It is safe to say, however, that he cannot be praised too highly because in life he neither sought for, nor desired, praise except from his works. He was content to do his duty in the most faithful yet most unobtrusive manner.

Col. MacKeand's untimely death is a real bereavement to the 90th battalion, and a severe blow to the citizens of Winnipeg generally. His mournfully interrupted career of honor and usefulness will be deeply deplored by all true Canadians. His nearer friends may rest assured that Col. MacKeand's name will long live in the memory of his grateful countrymen.

Drill With a Tactical Object in View.

IN what has been written on the simplification of drill it was suggested that all drill movements should be carried out with a tactical object in view, which should be explained to the men before the movement is made, so that the men can understand the why and wherefore of what they are doing and execute it intelligently.

It is proposed to show how this can be done and for shortness only infantry battalion drill will be referred to, though the same principle can be applied to the drill of cavalry and artillery.

In the first place in modern war, even in savage war, the whole of the eight companies of a battalion would not be placed in line. Two companies at least would be left in reserve, and four at the most. Consequently in every drill movement the tactical object of reserves should be kept in view, and two to four companies should manoeuvre separately in rear of the others.

The mere extension of troops into open order is only an expedient to advance under fire without undue losses, after the troops are placed in position; consequently, each manoeuvre involving such an extension should be first carried out only with the object of placing the different units (still in compact order) in the proper places, i.e., at the proper distances and intervals. If this is done and the reason of it explained to the men then they will soon realize what they are doing and do it intelligently, causing them all to work to one common end. Then the manoeuvre can be repeated, allowing the men to extend as required.

Before leaving the parade ground, the colonel should explain the first manoeuvre, and in what direction he will suppose the enemy to be found when the battalion appears on the parade ground. One company should move on in advance as an advance guard; the colonel should go with this company and personally place it opposite the supposed

direction of the enemy. He can then ride back in time to give the necessary directions for the other companies to take position to the right or left of it. He can then suppose one flank as the most threatened one and place the greater portions of his reserve companies in rear of it. He can then suppose one flank attacked and send out one company or more from his reserves to take position to oppose it. If the other flank is not being seriously opposed he can assume the offensive there by making the flank company on that flank move forward 100 yards; or he may suppose the enemy opposite that flank too strongly entrenched to be attacked successfully and withdraw that company to the reserve. Other combinations can be easily thought of, but before any such movement can be made, or during its execution, he should ride round and explain it to the men so that they may thoroughly understand what is being done. Another plan is for the colonel to previously examine the ground and draw up a scheme for the successive movements, and dictate them to the company leaders, who will then explain them as they occur to the men of their respective companies.

All this should be first done with the companies kept together in close order so that the relative position of each company may be clearly and distinctly seen. Then the manoeuvre can be repeated, carrying out the actual extensions required.

Next day a defensive operation could be carried out, but in this case a "skeleton" enemy should be made to attack according to a pre-arranged plan, but care must be taken that the attacking troops do not advance too quickly, which is a very common fault.

On debouching on to the drill ground in column of route the colonel may say that cavalry are charging down from the left flank suppose. Then he would cause all the battalion, except the two leading companies, to form line to the left on the rear company, and make each company open fire as it gets into position. With such a tactical supposition the men see the object of the manoeuvre and appreciate it. Even in practising the attack, a cavalry charge may be supposed at any moment, and the supports and reserves ordered to take up the most rapidly executed formation in the required direction to meet it.

Drill executed in this way becomes far more interesting, as it gives a "living" interest, so to speak, which appeals to all. In such drill markers are not required, and the whole of it partakes, as nearly as possible, of the nature of reality; but whatever movement is carried out it should be executed with smartness, regularity and order.

A SOLDIER.

Trial of the Nordenfelt Gun.

ON the 14th Captain Douglas, accompanied by Colonel Bacon and Major Anderson, fired some ball cartridge out of his little three barrel Nordenfelt gun on the rifle range, firing at 100 and later at 500 yards. Some very good practice was made; when the gun was fired slowly so as to give pauses between the several rounds all three hits were frequently bulls' eyes. In rapid firing the jar of the lever seemed to be too much for the weight of the piece, and had a tendency to gradually work it round to the left; this was particularly noticeable when the gun was on its wheels on the crust; when it was on the tripod it stood steadier, and possibly on solid ground this defect, if such it can be called, would be entirely overcome. But if firing at the front of a column this gradual travelling across the face of it would be rather an advantage than otherwise. No time was taken in the rapid firing, but there seems no reason to doubt the claim of the inventor that 500 rounds per minute could be discharged.

The gun consists of three barrels like Martini barrels, fixed in an iron framework in a horizontal row. The breech mechanism works in a box about a foot long, 6 inches wide and 3 inches deep, and is operated by a lever moving on a horizontal plane on the right side of the breech, the forward movement loading and discharging the three barrels and the return movement extracting the fired shell and cocking the several plungers. The strong point about the mechanism is its wonderful simplicity, the various parts being removable by hand without any unscrewing or unbolting, with the one exception of the cartridge extractions, which are fastened to the breech bolts with small countersunk screws. Even the nuts on the carriage and trail are provided with levers so that they can be turned without a wrench. The sights are affixed to the iron framework which holds the barrels, and to our mind are too coarse and too close together to permit of nice aiming; this, however, is a point that could easily be changed if found desirable. The back sight has a tangent screw by which it is elevated, and the gun is trained both vertically and horizontally with screws and clamps, the operator sitting upon a small saddle attached to the trail. The gun is mounted on a tripod stand for rocky places, and wheels and axles for ordinary ground; the gun and the tripod weigh about 190 pounds; with the wheels and axle 319 pounds. Two men can readily carry the former, the tripod legs forming a convenient means of transporting it, whilst one man can move