

camp were, Lt.-Col. Wm. White (in command), Majors Walsh and Anderson, Capt. and Adjutant Evans, Surgeon Powell and Assistant Surgeon Scott, Paymaster Parker, Quartermaster Rance.

The seven companies and band of the 56th Battalion numbered upon arrival 297 all told. The band was from Burrill's Rapids. Many men of this battalion had to come into camp in part or wholly clothed in civilian garb, on account, it was explained, of failure to have orders for uniform filled by the department. The following were the staff officers present: Lt.-Col. R. G. Campbell, Major Carmichael, Major Hollingsworth, of the 42nd (attached for camp); Adjutant, Capt. Burrill; Surgeon, Dr. McCammon, Gananoque; Assistant Surgeon, Dr. Jones, of Kemptonville; Paymaster Snyder, Quartermaster Tripp. Capt. Baker, of the 59th, was attached to No. 6 company of the 56th, as lieutenant.

Wednesday and Thursday of last week were largely occupied in imparting instruction in position and aiming drill, and on Friday the first detachment went to the rifle range to put away the twenty rounds of ball cartridge allowed for class firing. The practice at the range was concluded yesterday. The results were much as usual. Squad, company and battalion drill has been industriously carried out since the camp opened. Yesterday there was a brigade parade, when marching past was practised, and also *feu de joie* firing, in preparation for the jubilee review in Ottawa to-day.

On Sunday morning the Roman Catholics in camp marched up to the Basilica for mass. The rest of the brigade attended an open air service, held on the camp ground at 9:30, conducted by Rev. E. A. W. Hanington, of St. Bartholomew's, New Edinburgh, who read the morning prayer of the Church of England and preached an appropriate sermon. In the evening the 43rd Battalion, in response to an invitation, attended in a body at the special jubilee service in Knox church.

The camp has not been without its luxuries and festivities. Visitors could not fail to note the luxurious grandeur of the interior of the little group of staff tents, situated by themselves at the front of the camp, and also of the first row in the rifle brigade, while the Ottawa Field Battery had a marquee eclipsing all the rest in splendour. It was quite evident that these were not intended for habitation by Tommy Atkins and his chums. In place of the carpeting of turf upon which those long-suffering private members of the militia force lay their packs for pillows and spread the one blanket each which serves for bed and bedding, these quarters of the gay officers are elegantly fitted up with flooring, carpeting and rugs, camp beds and chairs, mirrors, and numerous other accessories to promote the comfort of the occupants. The officers are by no means feather-bed soldiers, but apparently believe in preserving themselves, that they may the better serve their country. Every evening numerous visitors from the city were entertained at camp. On Monday the officers of the 43rd gave an "at home," a really swell affair, at which about two hundred ladies and gentlemen were entertained. On Tuesday Mrs. T. M. Clark, wife of the gentleman upon whose grounds the camp was situated, gave an "at home," to which the officers were invited. On Wednesday the brigade staff had a state dinner, at which they entertained the officers commanding corps, leading officials of the Militia Department, the Mayor of Ottawa, and others.

On Monday Major Stewart and Lieut. Gordon left with a detachment of sixteen men from the Field Battery, to proceed to Kingston, where the annual gun practice was performed on Tuesday, the Battery squad returning yesterday.

There have, happily, been no fatalities attendant upon the camp, but some narrow escapes have occurred. When waiting for the train at Spencerville, on the 21st, to embark for Ottawa, Corp. Geo. Sturton, of No. 6 company of the 56th, attempted to turn a somersault on the station platform. His bayonet fell out of his scabbard, and as he came to the ground the point entered his body, to the depth of about an inch, in the region of the kidneys. He was removed home and his injuries there attended to. Pte. Jas. Perault, of No. 1 company of the 56th, was found, on Wednesday evening of last week, lying on the camp ground, apparently helplessly drunk. Dr. Moore, the P. M. O., passing that way stopped to look at him, and pronounced him dying. He was removed to the hospital tent, where some four or five doctors were soon in attendance, making strenuous efforts to revive him. From the symptoms which developed, they came to the conclusion that it was not a case of drunkenness, as at first supposed, but one rather of poisoning from belladonna, the fumes of which they detected, while the appearance of the man's eyes confirmed them in this belief. He was very far gone his pulse beating very feebly, and would assuredly have died had assistance not been rendered when it was. It was many hours before the doctors were able to leave him, but, thanks to their efforts, he is now all right again. How he came to be poisoned promises to remain a mystery. Two members of the battalion, with whom he had left camp a couple of hours before he was found in his helpless condition, were separately examined before a board of officers, and each told a totally different story about the events of that time, one of them conjuring up quite a romance, the appearance of which in the daily papers has caused no end of fun in camp. Perault himself professes to be unable to state how he came to be in the precarious condition in which he was found. It seems to be the general opinion, now, that the poison was taken by inadvertence, mixed with something of a more wholesome nature.

Trumpeter J. B. Coates, of the Prescott Cavalry, met with a serious accident on Friday last, but luckily escaped much more serious consequences which might easily have followed. Just as the troop were coming off parade, the horse ridden by Sergt. Miller, becoming suddenly frightened, let fly its hind heels high in the air, and kicked Trumpeter Coates, who was mounted at the time, in the chest. The shock of the two horses coming together brought both to the ground. The sergeant managed to obtain control of his and got up again, but the trumpeter fell off. He picked himself up in time to save being trampled by the horses, but found that his left arm had been broken below the elbow. Surgeon Bell, of the Field Battery, who is also surgeon for the cavalry, was promptly summoned and set the fractured limb. Trumpeter Coates is now well on the way to recovery.

## Queries and Replies.

### ORGANIZATION OF RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS.

Q. 1. Will you in next issue give some idea of the best mode of procedure in establishing a rifle club, about one-half the members being in the active militia, so as to obtain a standing with the D. R. A. and other associations in the dominion? 2. Can a non-military club obtain the use of rifles from the authorities? 3. Is there any grant to rifle clubs from the Dominion government?

A. 1. Get your members together and organize your club, electing officers, establishing a code of rules, opening a range, etc. If this is done before the 1st July your association will be eligible for the D. R. matches this year. It can get official recognition through the D. A. G. of your district, with whom you should communicate immediately on organization. Put your association on as broad a basis as possible, making it a district, county or battalion association. The fact of all the members not being militiamen will not militate against it. Read paras. 405 to 409 R. and O.,

1883. A good code of rules for a rifle association will be found in our number for 27th April, 1886, p. 403.

2. Any rifle association can borrow rifles from the Dominion government. The officers of the association have to execute a bond in the value of the rifles before they can get them, and will be made pay for any loss or damage. Of course they can protect themselves by procuring similar bonds from the borrowers. Your D.A.G. will help you in this also.

3. There is no grant to rifle clubs, which are regarded as private enterprises, but to representative associations, such as yours would be, annual grants of from \$75 up are given. The mode of procuring this grant is detailed in R. and O., 1883, par. 407. I think you could not get any grant for this year, but if you can show enough life to get up a respectable prize meeting this season, and so prove that you mean business, you would get it for next year.—ED.

Q. Having seen in the last General Orders "that all the temporary staff should be selected from among the officers of the regiments in camp, thus giving some officers opportunities of learning staff duties and some of learning the duties of the rank above them." You would certainly oblige many officers by telling us in your next issue if the order means the brigade-major, the musketry-instructor, the principal medical officer, etc., etc., with the pay of their rank.

A. Certainly it does. They get the pay of their rank except in the case of the musketry-instructor, who gets \$5 per diem. They get an allowance of \$2.50 per diem for other disbursements.—ED.

## Correspondence.

"RECORDS OF OUR MILITIA CORPS, IX.—THE SIXTH FUSILIERS."

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

DEAR SIR,—In your issue of 23rd inst. I notice several omissions in the record of the 6th Fusiliers which I would like to see supplied, so forward you particulars:

On June 4th, 1866, the left wing, comprising three companies, left Montreal and proceeded (as stated by Capt. Pettigrew) one to Isle aux Noirs, and two to Holtville, which latter place was the headquarters of the detachment. At first the men at Holtville were in billets, but afterwards we went into camp. These detachments were on duty till the end of June, 1866, when we returned to Montreal. We (at Holtville) had one night alarm, the night previous to the fight at Pigeon Hill, which turned out to be a false one. Still the men showed great alacrity in turning out, and were eager "for the fray." The battalion up to its reorganization under Confederation was a (7) seven company battalion, and upon reorganizing as a Dominion corps on 1st December, 1868, only reorganized as a (4) four company one, or a provisional battalion, and remained so until August, 1875. The Major-General Smyth referred to, was the major-general commanding the militia, Sir Selby; and the Lieut.-General O'Grady Haly mentioned was Sir O'Grady Haly, commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's forces in British America, by whom the battalion was also inspected and highly complimented for its cleanliness, soldierly qualities and precision on parade.

Capt. Pettigrew omits to mention the battalion is doing duty (under pay) in 1869, March, I think, owing to an expected Fenian raid, and being so kept under pay for a week or thereabouts. In 1866 two officers upon detachment at Holtville, Lieut. (now major, retired) and Paymaster Bates, and Ensign (now major, retired) David were sent out by instructions from the brigade (Imperial) office, Montreal, upon a reconnaissance, and upon their report being forwarded to headquarters, Montreal, a brigade order from Lieut.-Gen. Lindsay, afterwards Sir James, was issued thanking them for their services. The guard of honor furnished to His Excellency Lord Dufferin upon 12th February, 1878, was for the ball given him by the citizens of Montreal upon the opening of the Windsor Hotel. The review mentioned as having taken place on 28th May, 1878, in the presence of the Governor-General and Lady Dufferin, in reality took place upon 24th of May, and the late adjutant of the 6th was one of the extra aides-de-camp that day to the major-general commanding. I might also state that with reference to the campaign of 1870, it was captain (afterwards lieutenant-colonel commanding) Gardner who commanded the battalion in garrison at St. John's for some days, the major commanding having been absent on leave in Europe; he also took the regiment into camp at Laprairie in 1871, the major not having returned from Europe but joining us after being some days in camp. Capt. H. H. Geddes was left in charge of the depot at Montreal in 1870, and only joined the regiment when he brought out a detachment of men to St. John's, after we were there nearly one week. With reference to the force at St. John's in 1870, Capt. Pettigrew is wrong as regards Capt. (now major-general) Carr Glynn. Capt. Glynn was an officer of the Prince Consort's Own Rifles, and was acting brigade-major under Lord Alexander Russell, who, as senior Imperial officer in garrison commanded the whole. Prince Arthur (now Duke of Connaught) was acting as A.D.C. to Lord Russell, and did not do regimental duty whilst at St. John's. I might say that at St. John's in 1870, and at Laprairie camp in 1871 the Monténards, or St. Jean Baptiste village infantry company, now a company of the 85th, was attached for duty to the 6th.

Trusting Capt. Pettigrew will not be annoyed at my setting him right upon some points, and thanking you for your valuable space,

I am, yours truly,

A FORMER ADJUTANT OF 6TH.

June 25th, 1887.

Montreal.—The 6th Fusiliers had a church parade on Sunday last. The regiment turned out creditably. They mustered in the armory at 3.30 o'clock, and, under command of Lieut.-Col. Massey, marched through Notre Dame street, James street, Victoria square and Beaver hall to Christ church cathedral. The corps numbered 250 men. Very few were absent, an evidence of the discipline of the men and the interest which they take in the general good of the regiment. Headed by the regimental band and the five corps—both of which, by the way, have recently been enlarged and improved, so as to entitle the 6th to claim one of the best bands in the service—the men marched in splendid order. Their neat and tidy uniform and soldierly appearance merits the very general praise which greeted them by the large numbers who thronged the sidewalks to see the parade. At the cathedral the sermon, which was eloquent and instructive, was preached by the Rev. J. A. Newham, chaplain of the regiment. In addition to the military, there was a large congregation in the church. The church choir rendered a beautiful musical service. A collection was taken up and a handsome sum realized. After the service the band played the national anthem outside the cathedral. The regiment returned to the armory and was dismissed at 5.30.