

proportion to the want of trained non-commissioned officers and men. A detachment consisting of 1 subaltern, 1 veterinary surgeon, 3 staff-sergeants, 1 sergeant, 1 trumpeter and 29 non-commissioned officers and men, with 2 guns and 19 horses, were attached to the artillery brigade camp at Gananoque with much benefit to all concerned. Col. Cotton considers the plan a good one and would be pleased to see it extended as much as possible. The rifle practice had to be discontinued owing to an accident caused by the dangerous condition of the rifle ranges. Some repairs were effected in October, but too late to permit practice being continued. The usual period under canvas did not take place in the year.

Lt.-Col. C. E. Montizambert, the officer commanding "B" Battery, Quebec, is able to report the organization of a rifle association in connection with the battery, and a very successful prize meeting. He notes again that the citadel of Quebec and the Levis forts remain almost unarmed.

#### The British Columbia Battery.

Lt.-Col. J. G. Holmes, commanding "C" Battery, makes a very comprehensive report, from which the following paragraphs are extracted :

"I am sorry to have to state that the Battery is a considerable number of men below the strength, and has never at any time during the year been completely up to its establishment. A number of recruits have been enlisted, but not nearly enough to supply losses by desertion and other causes. I am pleased to be able to say that our percentage of loss from desertion has not been as great as I expected, as at this station, where the price of labour is exceptionally high and the demand great, the temptation is consequently in proportion. This is, I think, attributable to the fact that the men here have not been compelled to undergo the burdensome work required for the short courses of instruction, when the same drills are done by men month after month, not for their own good, but for the instruction of others. The absence of attached men for instruction in any numbers is caused by the smallness of the militia force in the district, and also by the low rate of pay allowed, rendering it impossible for any officer or man in civil employment to leave it for the purpose. The pecuniary loss he would be called upon to make, being too great, and in the case of an officer, the absolute impossibility of his being able to live upon the small sum allowed as his daily pay.

"The established strength of the battery is far too small. The various duties here are quite as great as in "A" or "B" batteries, and greater than in the Infantry companies, which are the same in strength without taking into consideration the attached officers and men, thirty in number, allowed to all corps. Of the latter we have, comparatively speaking, none, whilst in all eastern stations the complement is nearly always filled. The following shows the total strength of the batteries (exclusive of attached):—A, 157; B, 169; C, 107. I would earnestly call attention to my recommendation of last year that "C" battery be allowed one officer and 30 men additional to its present strength. Should this not be practicable at present, I would again suggest that the batteries be equalized in strength, making each battery as follows:—A, 145; B, 145; C, 144 and one officer, 145. I feel quite sure that the cause for discontent among the men will be much lessened by this means, and when it is considered that our men have to be brought from the East at a considerable expense to the public, their loss from a pecuniary point of view is considerable. Should something not be done I fear our present proportion of loss cannot be kept down, as at present complaints are made by the men at the amount of duty they are called upon to perform, although it is kept at the lowest possible point.

#### STATUS AND DISCIPLINE.

"The status of the permanent corps is one deserving of consideration. At present they are regular troops serving under the guise of militia. This does not tend to elevate the *esprit* of the force. Men who are worth having will not knowingly enlist for continuous military service unless they are given the privilege of regular soldiers. To put them in the same list with men who enjoy all the emoluments of civil employment and who devote only a small portion of their time to military duties, does not tend to make them contented, and unless they are the service will not be as it should be.

"I am satisfied that if they are (as are their sister permanent corps in Australia) given the title of regular corps, a vast improvement will shortly be seen, not only in the numbers but in the quality of the recruits, and also in their discipline and interior economy. This need not carry with it any relative seniority as is allowed to officers in the imperial service over all militia officers, but provision certainly should be made that officers in permanent colonial corps should take rank

equally with officers of the imperial regular service. As it is now, a cadet leaving the Royal Military College, Kingston, and entering an imperial regiment immediately becomes senior to a brother cadet, who may have graduated much higher and have served for many years in our permanent service. Not only that, but to make matters still worse, if the cadet who has joined the imperial service (as is sometimes the case) gets employment in his native colony, he is given a step in local rank, thus making him senior to men who have served continuously since he wore short clothes.

"An improvement in the title of the permanent corps would cost nothing, and do much towards advancing this desirable object. There can surely be no reason why we should not have the 'Royal Canadian Hussars,' the 'Royal Canadian Artillery,' the 'Royal Canadian Infantry,' or that the sister corps of militia should have the monopoly of honourable and pleasing titles.

#### PAY AND ALLOWANCES.

"I would respectfully call attention to my remarks last year regarding the allowance to the officers of an increase in their pay of 25 per cent. to meet the increased cost of living in this expensive country. I also beg to state that the money allowance in lieu of quarters is, in the case of married officers, quite insufficient to meet the cost. The position here of the officers, in a pecuniary sense, is so much worse than that of those in eastern stations that I would most earnestly request that the matter may be made the subject of special inquiry, with a view to redress should it be found that this matter is one deserving of consideration, as I am sure it will be.

"Rifle practice has been carried on with energy under the supervision of Major Peters, who has been untiring in his efforts in encouraging the men to become good shots. A grant of money towards the Battery Rifle Association would be of great assistance. The men have done a great deal from their small means in the purchase of ammunition, but it is a question whether it is fair to call upon either officers or men to contribute, as at present, towards what may be fairly called a matter of public necessity.

"The means of artillery instruction are very incomplete; in fact the syllabus cannot be carried out at all at this station. Drill with mortar, siege gun or gun is impracticable, owing to the want of the necessary ordnance and stores. The course has been modified to meet this, but steps should be taken in order to place this school on the same footing in this respect as the others."

#### Regimental News.

The annual drill of the Governor General's Foot Guards, Ottawa, commenced on Monday evening, when there was a good turnout of the regiment. A very interesting programme has been outlined for the drill season, which it is intended shall last until the middle of June. This includes squad, company and battalion drill; manual, firing and bayonet exercise; guard mounting; extended order and attack drill, and a series of lectures by the adjutant, Capt. W. E. Hodgins, on "Military Trifles."

#### NEW BRUNSWICK GARRISON ARTILLERY.

Towards the close of last month St. John, N. B., suddenly determined to emulate Montreal in the holding of a winter carnival drive. The affair was exceedingly creditable, the procession being fully a mile and a half long. The Artillery took a prominent part, and their share is thus described:—

To the Artillery belongs the honor of a fine historic representation. Nos. 1 and 4 Batteries joined in a scene illustrative of the overland wintry journey of the Imperial troops in 1861, when all England and America were excited over the seizure by the latter power of Mason and Slidell, the Confederate commissioners to England, from on board the steamer "Trent." It is fresh in the recollection of many persons how the troops were hurried out to Canada by the "Himalaya" and other transports, the majority being landed at St. John, N. B. From thence they were transported in the depth of winter by ordinary country sleds, the cumbersome sledges brought out from England, constructed with "sufficient iron to build a schooner," being discarded. Every morning saw large detachments of various troops of the Guards, Royal Artillery or other corps start out on their long drive to Quebec.

The transport arrangements of the home authorities were well represented by the N. B. Artillery in the carnival drive. First came their fine band in a large, low box-sled drawn by four horses; then followed a stage sleigh with officers of the brigade, and then six double teams, consisting of rough country sleds, with boards across for seats, filled with n. c. o's and gunners, wrapped in their great coats, seated in the rough-and-ready conveyance; after this came two double sleds containing field guns, wheels and carriages taken apart and lashed for transport.