



TORONTO ITEMS.

TORONTO, Nov. 13—All members of the various city corps are now busy calculating who is to have the honor of heading the list in the comparative efficiency competition now drawing to a close and the pros and cons are weighed very minutely by the calculators. There is a great deal of rivalry among the corps, but it is rivalry and not bad feeling, as someone suggested, in one of the dailies the other day. No doubt feeling does run strong at times such as this, and opinions are expressed on all sides not calculated to any increase of brotherly love and affection, but when the excitement of competition dies any ill-feeling which has arisen dies also and the winter will see the corps harmonizing one with the other just as if nothing had happened. Any bad feeling that does exist is in the minds of a few who have left one of the corps through fancied wrong, and who carries the same in his inside pocket so that it will keep warm, and brings it forth only when the atmosphere is propitious, which is the case when he meets some other disgruntled being with whom he can exchange his vaporings without their vanishing altogether. Of course there are always those who are looking for trouble, and, as usual, they find or imagine it and make the most of it. If such talk as this were discouraged by those in authority there would soon be an end of it.

THE four companies of the Highlanders inspected on Friday, October 30, did not come up to the expectations of their friends. The remaining four companies were inspected on Monday, the 9th inst., and did much better as a whole than the others, although some points will be lost by reason of absences. The 13th Batt. has heretofore, since the organization of the Highlanders, put off their inspection to another night to oblige the latter, and now the compliment is being returned. The 48th paraded for inspection in white jackets and kilts, and certainly they bear the palm for neatness of dress when in this order. The commanding officer thinks that he has the advantage of the inspecting officer in this, but he lays himself open to loose points on account and of the numerous articles of apparel which have to be pipecleaned. A class of instruction should be formed to teach the members of all the corps, both officers and men, the meaning of the various bugle calls. Judging from the way many of them are responded to, but few must know them.

IT is about time the commandant of the Bisley team was chosen from Toronto, which has some claim to it. Major Delamere, of the Q.O.R., would be an acceptable man, as would also Major Cosby, of the 48th, who was a defeated candidate for the position last year.

THE city is practically owned by the cavalry officers who are attached for a special course of instruction at Stanley Barracks. The course ends to-day, and these officers, who come from all quarters, will return to their various corps with the new

cavalry drill made clear and plain to them by Major Lessard and his staff. The officers have been looked after by the local cavalry, and many a jolly night has been spent with them, and many happy remembrances of their short stay in our city will be retained.

THE Grenadiers are coming up well this inspection. Four companies were inspected on Thursday, the 5th inst., and four more last night. The remaining two companies will be inspected next Thursday evening. They have taken more time than the others to get ready, and it should be a great advantage to them, as they have seen about all there is to be seen in those who have been inspected already, and have had time to brush up those points in which they noticed a weakness. Some of the other officers are sorry that they did not take an extra week as offered, as, besides giving them more time, they would have had the advantage of seeing for themselves what would be expected of them.

THE orders for the field day to be held on 26th inst. were issued on Wednesday, and many heads are now busy calculating and figuring. Lieut.-Col. Mason will command a force consisting of the Q.O.R., 10th R.G., and No. 2 Company R.R.C.I., assisted by one squadron R.C.D. and one section No. 9 Field Battery. This force advances from a point north and east of the city, which is to be protected by the 13th Batt., of Hamilton, and the 48th Highlanders, assisted by a half squadron G.G.B.G. and one section of No. 9 Field Battery, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Davidson. All arms of the service are thus taken in, and it remains to be seen how these two forces will come out of the fight. The territory to be covered is large and very rugged, and flanking parties will be of great service, and no doubt many remarkable things will happen to these parties. The southern force is supposed to retire, but the commanding officer of the Highlanders says that such a thing is impossible, as the Highlanders never retire before an enemy, and he does not propose to set the example.

THE orders issued give merely a general idea of the manoeuvres and "special ideas" will be issued later on. If the weather proves favorable Toronto will have the opportunity of witnessing a sight worth seeing, as if the movements are carried out well the Don valley will be the scene of a bloody hand-to-hand conflict between the most bloodthirsty of foes. The forces pass two cemeteries, and arrangements have been made with the authorities for the burial of the slain at once. Some of those who will take part, though unasked, are the farmers and residents of the territory to be covered, and many a conflict will be waged around the farm yards of these unlucky individuals whose very subsistence is like to be driven away by a hostile foe. Twenty-five rounds of ammunition per man will enable the most timid of recruits to become acquainted with the smell of gunpowder and the noise and confusion of warfare, as well as afford the small boy infinite delight. Lieut.-Col. Otter will be umpire-in-chief, and has surrounded himself with a good number of assistants, who will receive instructions to stop any undue slaughter.

SOME of the visitors at the Armory wonder what a certain non-commissioned officer of one of the city corps would do if the end galleries had been built overhanging as the others and without posts, and also what the buglers of the same corps would do if their bugle-major happened to be lame in the right arm, thus disabling him from beating time for the calls.

THE Queen's Own Rifles finished their inspection on the 4th inst., and on Wednesday night practised battalion drill on the University campus preparatory to their inspection. The parade was small, owing to the reaction after inspection setting in, as it always does. Many complaints are made at the undue protraction of the drill season this year, and the company officers are not inclined to ask too much of their men. Muster parade will see a full turn-