

is the only method of acquiring a knowledge of those duties required of an officer when called out for service. An effort will be made next year, to hold all the brigade camps at an earlier season, the latter part of September is too late for camping out in the Province of Quebec.

CITY CORPS.

The City Corps,—with the exception of the Montreal Troop of Cavalry which marched to the Franklin Camp—were prevented by circumstances beyond the control of officers and men, from going to camp, and consequently the annual drill was performed by each corps separately in such drill rooms and rinks, as the officers could get the use of, but in this way of drilling, no opportunity is afforded the officers and men of learning *brigade* duties and drill. If the same system is to be followed in future, I would earnestly recommend that it be made imperative for the City corps to muster in brigade by daylight, twice at least during the year, at a seasonable time, for *brigade drill*, in a suitable place, when field movements, skirmishing and flank firing in every position could be practised.

The City corps are all full, the drills have been well attended. At the annual inspections by the Deputy Adjutant General, all the corps were well up in Battalion drill, manual and firing exercises, and the men looked clean and soldierlike. When the General commanding H. M. Forces passed through Montreal on the 14th October, an opportunity was given the General of inspecting the 5th Battalion under Lt. Colonel Martin. He expressed himself highly pleased with the appearance and efficiency of the battalion.

On the 11th May the 3rd Batt. Victoria Rifles furnished a guard of honor to His Excellency the Governor General on his arrival at the Railway Station en route to England. On the 21st May, the 5th Batt. gave a guard of honor to His Excellency Sir Wm. O Grady Baly, K. C. B., General Commanding H. M. Forces, upon his return from Ottawa after being sworn in as Administrator of the Government. His Excellency complimented the guard on its fine appearance. On the 23rd Oct. the 3rd Batt. Victoria Rifles furnished a guard of honor to His Excellency the Governor General at the wharf on his arrival from England, and on the same day, the 1st Batt. Prince of Wales Rifles furnished a guard of honor to His Excellency at the Railway Station. His Excellency inspected the guards and was pleased to compliment them on their fine appearance.

On the 16th November the City Brigade was called out in aid of the Civil Power, and mustered on very short notice 1081 of all ranks, the steadiness of the corps on parade and on the long line of march through mud and under a pelting rain, showed an excellent state of discipline in the Brigade.

City Artillery Inspections.

The Montreal Field Battery, and the Brigade of Garrison Artillery, were inspected by Lieut. Colonel Strang, Inspector of Artillery, both corps passed a strict and searching inspection in gun drill in all its details, and acquitted themselves to the satisfaction of the Inspecting Officer.

New Corps.

Two new companies have been added to the 6th Battalion lately. These companies have performed the annual drill with the other companies of the Battalion. This corps has had its designation changed from "Light Infantry" to "Fusiliers."

The 5th Battalion has been reorganized lately under the designation of the 5th Fusiliers. At the preliminary inspection by the Deputy Adjutant General, the six companies mustered in full strength, a fine body of active young men. This corps will no doubt prove a valuable addition to the Montreal Brigade.

The strength of City Corps at annual drill at Head Quarters is as follows:—

Field Battery Artillery, officers 3, non-commissioned officers and men 72.

Brigade Garrison Artillery, officers 20, non-commissioned officers and men 230.

No. 1 Company Engineers, officers 2, non-commissioned officers and men 33.

1st Battalion, P. W. R., officers 19 non-commissioned officers and men 252.

3rd Battalion, V. V. R., officers 18, non-commissioned officers and men 252.

6th Battalion, Fusiliers, officers 17, non-commissioned officers and men 247.

Total, officers 79, non-commissioned officers and men 1036.

The target practice of the City Corps was performed by squads during the summer months, but not in as regular a manner as it could have been done in camp, some of the practice returns are missing, and others of them shew that some men have fired more than their share of ammunition. Every man was afforded an opportunity—if he would have availed himself of it—of learning the use of his rifle, and some of them have made good use of the opportunity. Two of the men selected for the Wimbledon team are from the 1st Battalion, P. W. R. I would here state that the 5th District has the honor of furnishing the four competitors for the Province for Wimbledon 1876, the fourth being Ensign Wright of the 50th Battalion, who goes for the second time.

The corps in the City in Military District No. 5 seem to vie with each other as to which will be most efficient. The officers spare no expence in making their several corps complete; each corps has a good band.

Drill sheds.

The corps in the City suffer for want of drill sheds, the City Corporation has kindly granted the use of the Bonsecours Hall, but it is not remote from the west part of the City where the majority of the members of the brigade reside. The officers of the 1st and 3rd Battalions had have to procure the use of the skating rink for drill purposes, the use of which was obtained either at the expence of the officers commanding, or by the liberality of the directors of the rink.

Independent Companies.

No. 1 Company Engineers, Montreal, Capt. Devine, performed the annual drill, and were inspected by the Deputy Adjutant General.

The men were all active, and soldierlike, and appeared well fitted for an Engineer Company. they were well up in company drill. Capt. Devine has had a class in his company that have gone through a course of Engineering.

No. 2 Company Engineers did not drill this year.

The St. John's Battery of Garrison Artillery did not complete the annual drill.

The Drummondville Company went to the Sherbrook Camp and were attached to the 54th Battalion, for drill. The Eardley Company joined the Camp at Carillon and were attached to the 11th Battalion.

The Wakefield and Aylwin Companies joined the Camp at Brockville under Lieut. Colonel Jackson, they mustered:

Wakefield Company, officers 2, non-commissioned officers and men 35.

Aylwin Company, officers 2, non-commissioned officers and men 38.

Total, officers 4, non-commissioned officers and men 73.

Colonel Jackson gives a good report of the appearance and behaviour of these companies at camp.

New Corps.

An offer has been made by the Hon. H. Aylmer, M. P., and accepted by the government, to form a Field Battery of Artillery to be at Melbourne. As soon as the gun shed is ready the Battery will be gazetted.

I would again respectfully recommend, that all the Troops of Cavalry in the District, be formed into a regiment to be designated the 5th District Regiment of Cavalry. The regiment could easily assemble for annual drill at the most convenient Brigade Camp. Drilling together as a Regiment would be of more practical use to officers and men, than by drilling in small detachments.

State of Arms, Accoutrements and Clothing.

The arms and accoutrements are in a fair state, and nearly all in serviceable order, some of the rifles in each of the rural corps are out of repair. If an armourer was sent through the district to repair the rifles, it would not cost as much as it would to gather them up and send them to Montreal for repair.

New clothing has been issued to most of the rural corps in the district; the arms, accoutrements and clothing will be better looked after in future, as strict orders have been given to have every article placed and kept in the armouries, after the completion of the annual drill.

Rifle Associations.

There are ten Rifle Associations in the district, all worked efficiently. These Associations have proved by an experience of some twelve years, to be of real practical use in teaching both officers and men the value of the efficient rifle placed in their hands.

I have much pleasure in reporting for your favourable consideration, the cordial and very efficient support received by me from the Staff Officers of the District, and to express my sincere thanks to them for their aid in carrying on the work of the District, viz: Lieut. Colonel Bacon and Major Hon. M. Aylmer, Brigade Majors, and Major Armyrauld, District Paymaster; I beg also to thank Capt. Pope, Provincial Store Keeper, for his prompt attention to requisitions for camp equipage and stores.

The efficient services of Lieut. Colonel Lovelace, as Instructor of Cavalry Drill at the several camps, is deserving of special mention.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
JOHN FLETCHER,  
Lieut. Colonel,  
Deputy Adjutant General,  
Military District No. 5.

The Adjutant General  
of Militia, Ottawa.  
(To be Continued.)

The *Standard* is informed that the prospects of an attempt being made to recover the *Vanguard* have so far progressed that the preliminaries of a contract between the Admiralty and a civil engineer have been satisfactorily arranged. Should this contract be finally entered into, it is hoped that operations may be commenced not later than May next.