

and no doubt it was on this account that on Friday night the Highlanders' band played in the shed while the regiment drilled outside. The Highlanders are great friends with the ladies, and endeavor to keep in their good graces.

The Grenadiers' annual rifle match takes place next Saturday, and the Rifle Committee are hoping for a little better treatment at the hands of the weather clerk than their brothers-in-arms, the Queen's Own, got. The prize list is as usual very valuable and varied.

On 26th Sept. the Highlanders shot their 5th annual rifle match. The weather, though rainy in the morning, turned out fine in the afternoon when the most important matches were shot and many good scores were made. They had 225 competitors, and only those who were good shots managed to get into the prize list. The range officers, who were supplied by the Q.O.R. and R.G., did their duty well and much credit is due them for the way in which the match was kept in hand. It was noticed that very few of the subaltern officers were present, and it does not speak well for the battalion when the officers cannot even give up enough time to go to their annual rifle match.

The Grenadiers have a church parade on the 4th October. The other regiments do not intend to have separate parades, but are content with the garrison parade held later in the season.

Some of the city officers were congratulating each other on their quick rise to brevet rank when they read the orders as printed in the dailies, but their hearts dropped when they saw the original order and the little asterisks following each class, stating that it referred only to the permanent corps. There is much dissatisfaction about the order, as officers of the permanent corps are not entitled to any such distinction. What is wanted in the permanent corps is not young officers with high rank, but officers of experience who would be entitled to the rank on account of services rendered to the militia, and who would know the needs of the corps the officers of which come to the school of infantry for instruction.

The district officer commanding has issued his orders for the efficiency competition :

	Points.
Squad drill.....	25
Company.....	25
Manual exercise.....	10
Firing.....	20
Clothing.....	10
Arms and armories.....	10
Books and records.....	10
Officers' questions.....	12
Battalion drill.....	30
Target practice.....	"

This change will please those who objected to officers gaining 24 points by answering questions while a company obtained only 20 points by its company drill. The addition of 30 points for battalion drill will serve to make the regiment that comes out first more satisfied than if the award were made solely on company work.

MULVANEY.

AFFAIRS AT HEADQUARTERS.

OTTAWA, Sept. 28.—Militia matters at headquarters are not particularly rushing just now ; in fact, it may be said that, pending the end of the present session of Parliament, the period of anticipation has been reached. It would be useless to deny that there are officials of the Militia Department, not only at Ottawa, but from one end of Canada to the other, who have had feelings the reverse of pleasant as they contemplated the ease with which some of the new Ministers have been swinging the headsman's axe. So far the department has been spared to a marked extent and the Hon. Dr. Borden, in his new capacity of War Lord to this great and glorious Dominion, has seen fit to temper justice with mercy. Yet, if all reports be true, there remain parlous days ahead. It is very certain that with the close of the session the Minister will go thoroughly into the administration of his department and from a hint that I received it may be said that not only the civil but the

military branch as well will receive a shaking up that will do it good. This is sufficiently vague, of course, to cover nearly everything.

The motion of Lieut.-Col. Domville, M.P.—the first on this session's order paper—for a royal commission to enquire into the administration of the militia, has gone the way of many another slaughtered innocent. The poor child seems to have been prematurely born and it was too delicate to stand the rude rebuffs of a Parliamentary session. After its first joyous squeak, it never smiled again, but its intentions were good and it was beautiful even in death. Seriously, though, the appointment of such a commission, even if it had been within the range of practical politics, would have been a serious blunder. Witness the result of the deliberations of the royal commission on the prohibition question ! It sat long and often at so much per diem—and how much is the country's knowledge enriched on the matter of prohibition ? No, the militia does not need anything of the sort. With all the material at hand for the making of a fine force it needs the exercise of brains at headquarters, together with the control of a firm hand, and a wonderful change must be wrought for the better.

Fortunately, the militia, the long-suffering militia, is placed in such a position now that it has brains and tact at the head of both its branches, and it is a consummation devoutly to be wished that the friction which has notoriously existed in the past, and which still exists in some subordinate positions, will soon become but an unpleasant memory.

Military men on all sides speak of the courtesy of Hon. Dr. Borden and of the obvious interest he takes in the work of the high office he has been called to fill. It would be interesting to note how he is going to treat himself in his own case, however, and with a view to getting a decision on this burning question I approached him with a leading question this afternoon.

"Is it true, sir," I asked, "that the Hon. the Minister of Militia has requested Surgeon Lieut.-Col. Borden to send in his resignation ?"

"Well, no, it isn't," replied the Minister, laughing. "I can authorize you to deny any such rumor, but I have his case under consideration."

There was a query from a Montreal "Youngster" in this journal an issue or so ago, enquiring if a match was fired at the D.R.A. meeting at Ottawa in 1884 or 1885 in which the conditions were : Standing at 200 yards, in marching order, and which was won with a score of 34; prize, a silver tankard and \$50 cash. With a view to enlightening "Youngster," I interviewed Lieut.-Col. Bacon, secretary of the D.R.A. We went carefully over the records of both years, but were unable to find any mention whatever of such a match having been fired.

Several enquiries have been made at headquarters regarding tests made at the recent camps as to the penetrating powers of the Lee-Enfield rifle. The returns of these tests have not yet been made, but in this connection it may be interesting to quote from a return made by Major H. F. Perley in 1892 to the director of stores on the penetrating powers of the Lee-Metford. His deductions were made from practical tests by Mr. Ogilvie, who found that a Lee-Metford bullet fired at a distance of 50 yards penetrated 21 inches of hemlock and 15½ inches of dirty pine planks, or equivalent to 45 inches of dry pine. The penetration into clay was 30 inches. He appends the following table for comparison with the Martini-Henry :

Materials.	M.-H. Rifle.	Lee-M. Rifle.
Earth.....	24 inches	36 inches
Fir log.....	12 "	36 "
Three-inch fir planks.....	18 "	35½ "
Hardwood log.....	6 "	15 to 18 "
Hardwood planks.....	6 "	

The penetration of the Lee-Enfield will, it is to be presumed,