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No. 4

Winter Work.

Capt. Boileau's lecture on *Modern Garrison Artillery* which we reproduce in full in this issue is the first of a series of lectures on military subjects to be delivered during the present winter to the members of the Montreal Brigade of Garrison Artillery. This corps is one of the very few in Canada which has undertaken this most useful branch of winter work. By reference to the "Regimental Notes" column of this and recent issues it will be seen that sport and amusement of almost every description is being indulged in by the members of the force; hockey, curling, dinners and suppers, *ad lib*, are all being enjoyed; but with the exception of a very moderate amount of company and half-battalion drill, no efforts whatever are being made by the senior regimental officers to instruct and interest the members of their battalions in military work, and to show them that there are in the service, other and higher features than the *minutiae* of squad and company drill. In Britain there are few volunteer corps of any standing who do not, during the winter months, include lectures on practical military subjects, or exercises on tactics, in the regular programme of work. In the United States this branch of training is carried out to a still greater degree. In comparatively small and unimportant army posts, some most interesting and valuable lectures are being delivered during the present winter. For instance, at Fort Macpherson, Georgia, the following papers will be read during the current season and it will be seen at a glance what a valuable series they will constitute: Bake House and Bakery Funds; Battle of Cedar Creek; Military Education of the Enlisted Artilleryman; Artillery—Origin and History; Training of State Guards; Field and Siege Artillery in the Wars of 1790, 1815; Various methods of Inculcating Patriotism in Foreign Armies; The Militia; A Study on the Law of Recruitment in France; Notes upon Foreign Military Service; Military Education in Colleges; Artillery in the Thirty Years' War; Derricagaix and the Art of War; Electricity in War; The Post Mess compared with the Company Mess; American Invention and Progress (industrial and mechanical) in the U.S., with their effects upon Military Science; Advantages to the Officer of studies other

than professional, with notes on a journey to South America; Civil Jurisdiction over Military reservations; Notes on Military Topography.

This is but one case cited; there are many other garrison towns there where an equally attractive and useful programme is offered. In Canada, the only instruction of this sort which is being given, so far as announced, is in the series of lectures before the Montreal Garrison Artillery, the Halifax Garrison Artillery, and the Canadian Military Institute in Toronto. We would strongly urge on commanding officers the advisability of arranging next summer for a similar course of lectures or essays to be given before their battalions during the winter of '93-4. There are plenty of officers, on both active and retired lists, who are thoroughly capable of giving most valuable instruction in this way, and who, we are confident, would willingly agree to thus aid their comrades. Especially, we presume, would those holding commissions on the Staff, or in the Permanent Corps, be willing to assist in this work, from the deep interest they naturally take in their profession and the ample facilities at their command for obtaining the necessary *data*.

FORTIFICATIONS AT PORT HOPE.

The following is a copy of a letter written by J. F. Williams, late commander R. N. and member for Durham, from Montreal, April 9, 1845, to Earl Cathcart:—My Lord. In the event of the British Government having it in anticipation to erect fortifications in positions best calculated to defend this colony from the assaults of an enemy, I crave permission to bring under your Lordship's consideration the position of Port Hope on Lake Ontario. Firstly the great capabilities that present themselves for constructing a safe and commodious harbour capable of sheltering the larger portion of the vessels navigating the lakes, of easy access and departure at periods when other harbours are frozen up; capacity for the construction of dry-docks, and an ample supply of the immediate requisite material for ship-building in the vicinity; and in corroboration of the statement I beg to refer to the petitions of the shipowners and mariners on Lake Ontario, and presented by me to the Executive Government in February, 1845, and also to the report of Captain Boxer, of the Royal Navy, to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. Secondly, the commanding position of the surrounding country, flanked by eminences not easily accessible and well adapted for the erection of fortifications, and ranging the whole sweep of the harbour and country in the rear. On this subject I respectfully refer to the excavations made by Col. Hallman, of the Royal Engineers, and beg further to state that the contemplated military works at the north of the Genesee river, on the opposite side of the lake, would seem to render necessary precautionary measures on this side and afford a rendezvous for any naval or military armament. Thirdly, the town of Port Hope is the first to which leading roads of an extensive and flourishing country converge, affording at all times an ample supply of commissariat material and the means of storing them in perfect security.—*Mail*.

CANADIAN MILITARY INSTITUTE.

The Canadian Military Institute announce the following lectures to be delivered in the Institute, King street West, Toronto:

Monday, 20th Feb.—Lt.-Col. W. D. Otter, D.A.G. Subject: "The Administrative System of a British Regiment, and the Adaptation of the Principles of that system to the Active Militia of Canada."

Monday, 27th Feb.—Lt.-Col. A. H. Macdonald, 1st B.F.A. Subject: "Fire Discipline." Lt.-Col. T. C. Scoble, "The Strategic Value of Canadian Railways." (Paper on.)

Monday, 6th March.—Lt.-Col. H. Smith, D.A.G. Subject: "The best Mode of Enlisting and Training a City Corps of the Active Militia."