

Queen's University Journal

5th Field Company of Canadian Engineers.

It is characteristic of the way in which things are done at Queen's, that Number Five Field Company of Canadian Engineers, which hopes to surpass in efficiency and smartness anything of its kind in Canada, owes its establishment to the initiative of the undergraduates. In the winter of 1910 a committee was appointed by the Engineering Society to consider the advisability of establishing a field company of engineers in the School of Mining. This committee carefully discussed the establishment of such a company, the service roll, uniforms, arms, and equipment, qualifications of officers, financial allowances from the government, and so on. Its report was received with such enthusiasm by the students, that they immediately took active measures to secure the formation of the company. The Militia Department readily granted permission to proceed with the establishment, although a year passed before all the necessary arrangements could be completed.

The objects of the formation of the company were as follows:

1. The formation of an active unit of the Canadian Militia for national and imperial defence.

2. To secure healthful and pleasant open air physical exercise, as well as some knowledge of military field engineering.

3. To encourage proficiency in rifle practice.

4. To promote social intercourse among the students of this institution by the formation of a students' club.

5. To secure commissions in the permanent force for those desiring them.

6. To secure a course of instruction in military engineering for this school, such as is now given at McGill University.

Active recruiting commenced at the beginning of this session. At the present time the total enrolment is one hundred and sixty. The company has been supplied with uniforms, caps, rifles and bayonets, and all the equipment necessary for carrying on its work. The training taken up consists of infantry drill, rifle drill and rifle practice, signalling, and the various engineering operations such as bridge-building, fortifications, etc.

The Militia Department has also authorized a telegraph section in connection with the company with an establishment of fifty-five men. This section will commence work at the beginning of the next session. It will undertake the ordinary work prescribed by the Militia Department, and will add to its equipment an outfit for carrying on wireless telegraphy.

The company is commanded by Major Macphail, professor of general engineering. Captain Malcolm, professor of surveying and municipal engineering, is next in command, assisted by Lieut. D. S. Ellis, lecturer in mathematics. The company owes its present success largely to the enthusiastic and energetic co-operation, and the executive ability of these members of the staff. It was decided that the commanding officer, the captain, and the first lieutenant should be members of the teaching staff of the school, so that in the yearly change of students, the work of the company should not suffer from lack of continuity. During the