

viding pensions for employees of the company when they eventually retire from work. Similar funds have been brought into existence in the other Marconi companies, and it is thought that it is highly desirable, now that this company has been placed on a sound profit-earning basis, to commence to make provision for employees upon their reaching the age of well-earned rest. The company and its employees will contribute jointly and in equal proportions to the fund, and your directors are of opinion that such a scheme is due to its staff, besides going a long way to encourage them to remain in the company's employ, and materially assisting therefore in maintaining the discipline which is of such pre-eminent importance in the responsible work which your company conducts."

## WITH THE SECOND CONTINGENT.

*By a Civil Servant.*

Still at Kingston! That is the only kick that the members of the 21st Battalion have, or can have. Soon, we hope, will come "The Day" of departing for the Old Land, to be nearer to the work for which we have enlisted. We are, we are firmly convinced, the best disciplined and most efficient of all the Overseas Battalions now mobilized in Canada, and we will do our best to retrieve the bad impression made on the English people by some of the First Contingent. We were complimented on our smart appearance by H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught, and also by the Hon. W. T. White, both of whom were greatly pleased with our showing.

The "double company" system is now being adopted, and is being well picked up by all hands; this means that each of the new companies is formed by the merging of two in one (like the shoe polish), and now "G"

and "H" companies form "D" Company. With the new "B" Company is W. J. S. Sharp, of the Timber and Grazing Lands Branch of the Interior, now lieutenant in the battalion.

The seasons of Christmas and the New Year were spent as pleasantly as is possible when away from "oor ain folk." The Department of Militia allowed all ranks 25 cents a head to be used in the purchase of delicacies for the Christmas dinner, the purchasing being done by the company officers, many of whom will be of great assistance to their better halves in days to come from the experience thus gained. There was enough left over to fill—not only 12 baskets, but—the hungry and capacious maws of many at the New Year. Many of the men were on leave during the festive seasons, among them many Ottawans, and several Civil Servants.

The weather in Kingston is rather like the quantity  $x$  in algebraical problems, and we have not yet found its value! Hard drilling has been rather out of the question, at least as far as marching is concerned, but "we should worry"; yet do we manage to beguile (!) the leisure hour with rifle drill, platoon drill and lectures. The newly acquired Pipe Band, known to Ottawans for the most part as the St. Andrew's Pipe Band, is very popular indeed, and helps to inspire us to march in this wintry weather. It is quite putting the really excellent Bugle Band out of it, as far as popularity goes.

Lance-Sergeant Herbert Mainguy is now a full sergeant; I am not speaking alecoholically, but with reference to his now holding the plenary powers and pay appertaining to his rank. He is a most efficient N. C. O., and has a tongue as of men and angels, fitting all occasions. D. H. Maclean, of the Department of Finance, is a lance-corporal, and being a champion boxer he will be able to attend to the corporal part of it, making a few cutting