

you with full hearts, and that ere the train which is to bear you from us has disappeared over the distant horizon a profound silence will have spread itself over this town, broken only by the sighs of the men and the heartrending sobs of the girls you are leaving behind you, for we feel that we are not only parting with good companions but staunch friends. Great as was your valor in the field, we find that since your residence here there have been far more fatal wounds caused by the darts of Cupid among our fair citizens than those caused by your Gatling gun when pouring forth its deadly fire in the face of the insurgents."

Reminiscences.

LIEUT.-COL. MACPHERSON, director of stores, Militia Department, has received from Lieut.-Col. McCulley, commanding the 73rd Batt., Chatham, N.B., an old order book of the Northumberland county militia, which is quite a curiosity in its way.

The book is stated to be the orderly book of Capt. McDonald's company; and from it, it is gathered that towards the latter part of 1812 a portion of the militia in New Brunswick was embodied for active service, placed in barracks at Fredericton under the command of Major J. M. Bliss, and acted with the 104th regiment, which, by the way, was recruited and raised in New Brunswick.

After noting the staff appointments, the first regular duty this embodied force had to perform was to parade with the regular troops and the volunteer militia on the 18th January, 1813, being the anniversary of His Majesty's birthday, and fire a *feu-de-joy*; and the officers were requested to attend the commander-in-chief's levee on that day at one, and a ball at government house in the evening; and a memorandum was issued to the effect that "all officers will appear in their full dress uniform and shoes and stockings, in the same manner as when attending the drawing-room;" and further on the officers were reminded of what they had to do on that day, and were informed "that they will attend the ball at government house, where boots will not be admitted."

For the 18th the militia had to furnish the guards, and the men were ordered to parade clean dressed and fully accoutred at 7 a.m., and the quarter-master was to furnish the whole with flints. The main-guard was furnished on the 24th, when the men were ordered to parade "clean dressed and shaved, with their coats buttoned well over, their arms and accoutrements in the highest order, and the flints fixed in with sheet lead," and the remainder of the force paraded, also, "shaved and as well dressed as their clothes will allow, to attend divine service."

On the 29th January George Nash was tried by court-martial "for neglect of duty and disobedience of orders in absenting himself from his post when on sentry," was found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of five shillings. The major-general commanding approved of the proceedings of the court, and was "satisfied that some favorable circumstances which do not appear in the proceedings must have influenced the court in awarding a punishment so inadequate to the offence," and he remitted the fine, ordered the prisoner to his company, and dissolved the court.

It appears that the militiamen were not very obedient to rule and discipline, as the major-general commanding "is sorry to observe that the orders relative to messing appear to have been almost altogether overlooked, and notices with regret the confusion arising from want of attention to that very material part of military economy, the preservation of proper order and subordination in the barrack rooms; and he directed that the regimental captain, a subaltern officer and the sergeant of the day should see that all men in barracks should rise when the bugles sounded at day-break; that the beds be made up, and the rooms clean swept; that the men of a room be formed into one mess; that breakfast be on the table at 8 sharp, and that the men shall stand at the table with their hats off until directed by the senior officer of the day to sit down, and the same order was to be preserved at dinner."

On the 13th February Asa Cible (Kimball?) was tried by court-martial for "refusing to stand his hour as sentry," and was fined twenty shillings, which was stopped out of his pay; and on the same date Joseph Rockwell and John Shey were fined twenty shillings each for desertion.

It appears that a detachment of the 104th was ordered to proceed to Canada, and it was ordered to parade, every man "completely equipped for marching order, with every appointment, snow-shoes, mauchisons (Qy. moccasins), and provisions," and no individual was to be absent on that occasion.

At a court-martial held on the 4th March five prisoners were tried for desertion, who pleaded guilty to the charge, and that their absence

"was wholly owing to their apprehension of the danger of small-pox," but they were fined nevertheless.

On the 19th March the following order was issued: "The vaccine inoculation being introduced into this garrison, commanding officers of corps and detachments will be pleased to give the necessary instructions to their medical officers to keep the same in a state of activity agreeable to the orders and regulations of His Royal Highness the commander-in-chief on the subject of the kine-pox."

On the 22nd March the three companies of the Northumberland militia were ordered to hold themselves in readiness to march after being mustered on the 24th, for the purpose of being disbanded on the 30th, and they were directed to return their arms and accoutrements into store; and on the 25th his Honor the President upon dismissing these companies took great pleasure in informing them that their conduct had met with his entire approbation, and in expressing the obligation he felt himself under for their zealous attention, and orderly discharge of their duty.

After the dismissal of the companies, this order book appears to have been retained by Capt. McDonald, who in 1823 was a major and the adjutant of the 1st Batt. Northumberland militia, and used by him as a regimental orderly book; and there are many interesting memoranda relative to the formation of that battalion, and its drills, parades, and inspections up to 1862; and from the last entry it would appear that the total strength consisted of 45 officers, 32 sergeants, 877 privates class B, 646 class C, 355 reserve, or a grand total of 1,965, divided into 26 companies.

Common Sense on Parade, or Drill Without Stays.

BY LIEUT.-COLONEL THE RIGHT HON. J. H. A. MACDONALD, M.P.

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BUT the argument is used by some that those in the fighting line tend to close together as casualties occur, and therefore the gaps for reinforcement would make themselves. "There is a singular propensity among men in action to crush together."—(*General Sir Daniel Lysons*). The gallant general was referring to Albuera. But is not this idea based on old experience in the time when musketry fire made, as Marshal Saxe said, "more noise than execution?" Is it not the fact that in the Franco-Prussian war the tendency always was to spread out under fire, the feeling of the danger of crowding together as against breechloading rifle fire being instinctive? "It was impossible to bring up detachments in close order near . . . or to keep them in close order if they were there. The supports in moving up frequently scattered."—(*Von Boguslawski*).

If it was impossible, even with the iron discipline and strongly ingrained obedience of the German soldier to prevent scattering behind the firing line, then is it not plain that there is an instinct higher than discipline, making closing impossible? If supports not firing and not in the strain of the fighting line refused the call of discipline and could not be kept from scattering, where shall officers search for and where find the discipline that would make men not only cease to scatter but actually to close in under the heat of the enemy's fire? They found it by experience absolutely impossible, and the passages already quoted prove this, and are well summed up in these words already quoted: "In no case ought troops, when under anything like effective fire, to move to a flank, even for ten seconds, if it can be avoided."—(*General Macdougall*). They gave up the idea and accepted confused doubling up as the only alternative. Can anyone suppose that such a practical breach of discipline and loss of tactical order would have been suffered in an army so strict in its discipline and order, if by any effort of training it had been possible to avoid it? And if the Germans could not do it then, how shall it be done now, when fire will be more telling than ever, with its improved weapons, repeating rifles and machine guns, and improved musketry training?

One word more as to the idea that men close in voluntarily, as it is still stated as an axiom. When a particular instinctive action is traced to its source, it can sometimes be shown that such action cannot now exist as instinctive, because the cause producing it is gone. There can be no doubt that in the time of Albuera, men when pressed and nervous as to the result of the fight, did crowd together. But why? Only because of the same old oft referred to bug-bear cavalry, which then ruled absolutely the question what was safe in infantry manoeuvring. In those times, if men were pressed, the fear of musketry fire was not so terrible as the fear of the rush of cavalry, which was always expected at the critical stage. Therefore, whenever the instinctive feeling spread through the ranks that things were looking bad, the same instinct which produced this belief tended to cause them to huddle. "We are getting the worst of it, look out for the cavalry," was the idea. But now,