

Chipman and Brown being inspected. On Wednesday evening the companies under Capt. Davidson, Ritchie and Stairs were inspected, and the remaining two companies, those of Capt. Whitman and Nagle, had their turn on Friday evening. Col. Humphrey is a model C.O.; he has his regiment well in hand, and while he has not the name of being a martinet, a very good state of discipline exists in the corps. Major Weston, the next in command, is well known to the active militia of the Dominion, being a prominent marksman and for some time secretary of our P.R.A. Major Menger is not so well known to his comrades outside Halifax. He is a good officer, who, by his long and painstaking services to his regiment, has made himself worthy of the rank he holds. The adjutant, Major Kenny, is a son of Thos. E. Kenny, late M.P. for Halifax, who was himself, when a young man, an officer in the city volunteers. The result of the inspection will show that the company officers are up in their duties, and, taken all together, the 66th is a regiment that any city in the Dominion might be proud of.

The physical drill proved particularly hard on the elderly men at the inspection and is a very objectionable feature of the inspection. The movements serve no good purpose and are only practised for the inspection. There is little enough time at the evening parades to learn the regular drill. They would be all right for corps in educational institutions, or if practised regularly every week in the year, but as part of the routine for the annual inspection, should have been left out. A man of middle age who has served ten or fifteen years in the ranks, or fifteen or twenty years in the regular army, does no care for this part of the performance and is very reluctant to take off his belt and unbutton his tunic to go through the "three practices."

OUTPOST.

GUN DRILL AT VICTORIA.

The exhibition of field gun drill given by detachments from No. 1 Company of the Fifth Regiment C. A. last evening in connection with the weekly band concert, proved a very interesting feature of the programme, while the good attendance demonstrated that these popular concerts are steadily growing in the public estimation. Lieut.-Col. Peters and Major Irving acted as umpires for the competition, while Major Gregory and Capt. Blanchard were the time-keepers. The guns used were the new 13-pr. R.M.L. field guns of 800 pounds, and the rapidity with which the pieces were dismounted, mounted and fired reflects great credit on the men and their instructor, Sergt.-Major Mulcahy. No 2 detachment, under Corpl. Nevin, won both shifts, the time from the order "Load" till the gun and carriage were dismounted being 1 minute 24 seconds; while the time from the order "Mount gun and carriage" to the completion of "unloading" the gun was 2.00 1-5. The time made by No. 1 detachment under Sergt.-Major Wilson was 1.24 1-5 and 2.06 2-5 respectively. Lieut.-Col. Peters, D.O.C., complimented the men on the way in which they had gone through the drill.—Victoria, B.C., Daily Colonist.

INSPECTION OF THE 38TH.

The absorbing issue in military circles in the Telephone City has been the annual inspection which was held on November 19 and 20. Lieut.-Col. Buchan conducted the inspection, which was satisfactory in most respects to the local interest. Armouries were gone through by the inspecting officer on the afternoon of the 19th, and could not fail to prove satisfactory, as in almost every case they had been neatly fitted up at the expense of the individual companies. "A," "B," "C" and "D" Companies were put through their paces in company drill in the evening. Regarding the movements given these companies considerable criticism has been heard. The local newspapers had representatives on the ground, and the following day one of them published an article which handled Lieut.-Col. Buchan without gloves, alleging that

he had maliciously tangled up the companies in order to make capital for an argument in favor of the usefulness of the permanent corps.

Battalion drill was held the following evening, and the regiment acquitted itself admirably. The turnout was two men over strength, although the establishment is five officers short.

The season thus brought to a close has been a most satisfactory one in every respect. The esprit de corps was much higher than at any former period in the history of the regiment, and the prospects for next year are decidedly bright. Efforts are being put forth to hold the battalion together over the winter months, and it is to be hoped that this can be managed.

SUBALTERN.

A GOOD ENTERTAINMENT AT ST. JOHNS.

The following notice of the first performance of the St. Johns garrison minstrel troupe is condensed from The St. Johns News :

The first performance of the above newly formed troupe took place at Black's Opera House on Tuesday, December 1, 1896. To say that everyone enjoyed himself thoroughly and that nearly all were surprised at the excellence of the entertainment would be to confine criticism strictly within the limit of truth. The house was well filled by the elite of the town, and nearly every seat was taken in advance. All the officers of the depot were present, viz.: Lieut.-Col. D'Orsennens, D.O.C.; Surg. Lieut.-Col. F. W. Campbell, Major Young and Capts. McDougall, Chinic and Fages. A programme was given in which there was not a dull or uninteresting feature.

Sergt.-Bugler Riquette led the orchestra in his accustomed masterly style. The end men, who were simply irrepressible, were Corp. Wilson and Lce.-Corp. Miller (bones), and Hosp.-Sergt. Cotton and Pte. Lincoln (tambourines), while Pte. Pratt was fully up to the mark as interlocutor. Where all did so well, surpassing many professional troupes that have visited St. Johns, it would be insidious to particularize. Still, we cannot refrain from paying tribute to the cultured voice and bearing of Pte. Mullane, a Victoria Cross hero. His rendition of that sweet old ballad, "Come into the Garden, Maud," was deservedly encored, as also the solo on the cornet, by Pte. Lefebvre, who plays this instrument to perfection. Surg. Lieut.-Col. Campbell completely metamorphosed himself in his character as an old southern negro. He was exceedingly droll. The song and dance was encored to the echo, as also was the Irish jig, whilst the tableau, "The Sons of the Empire," which was a fitting finale to Drill-Sergt. Roberts' stirring patriotic song, was in one sense the piece de resistance of the evening. The farce at the close, in which Hosp.-Sergt. Cotton took the principal part, was simply inimitable. Altogether the entertainment was one long to be remembered and would bear repetition at an early date.

The successful launching of the troupe is in a great measure due to the untiring efforts of the manager, Sergt. Cotton, and the stage manager, Pte. Lincoln, assisted by a hard-working committee.

COBOURG G.A.'S GOOD INSPECTION.

On Friday, 4th inst., Col. Cotton, D.O.C., inspected that crack military organization, the Cobourg Battery of Garrison Artillery. The battery paraded in full strength at Victoria Hall, under the command of Capt. W. F. MacNachtan, and were then marched by him to the grounds of Victoria University. Col. Cotton, attended by Lieut. E. A. MacNachtan and Mr. Bowen, the contractor of the C., N. and P. Railroad, then drove upon the grounds, and gave the battery a most minute and critical examination, after which the men were put through the company movements by Capt. MacNachtan, while the manual and firing exercises were taken by Lieut. MacNachtan. Although sadly handicapped by having about