

INSPECTION OF THE 49TH BATTALION.

From the Belleville Intelligencer.

The Inspection of the 49th Battalion, previous to its breaking up Camp, took place on Saturday the 18th inst., commencing shortly after eleven o'clock. The Inspecting Officer was Lt.-Col. McPherson, Deputy Adjutant General; he was accompanied by Lt.-Col. Shaw, Brigade Major, and Col. M. W. Strange, District Pay-Master, from Kingston. The Staff of the Inspecting Officer which presented rather an imposing appearance, was chiefly furnished from the 15th Battalion and Grand Trunk Brigade. Composing the Staff, in addition to the officers from Kingston were Lt.-Col. A. A. Campbell, Major Smith Stephens, Captain and Adjutant R. C. Hulme, Surgeon Jas. Lister, M. D.; Pay-master S. C. Holden, of the 15th Battalion; Major John Bell, Grand Trunk Artillery, and Captain W. C. Nunn, of the Grand Trunk Rifles.

On arriving upon the ground, the Battalion which was drawn up in line in open order, gave the Inspecting officer a general salute, after which the line broke into open column right in front, and was inspected by companies. The Inspection was most minute and thorough, nothing, however trivial, connected with the state of the uniform, condition of the rifles, or appearance of the men, escaping his attention.—After performing this part of the Inspection the Battalion was put through a number of evolutions, such as marching past, advancing and retiring in review order, changing front by throwing forward and throwing back wings, manual exercise and skirmishing. There is scarcely a movement in which the Battalion was not exercised in, and the very creditable manner in which these movements were executed, was a matter of very general congratulation, not only by civilians, but by those who had experience in military matters. The time occupied in the Inspection was about two hours and a half, which gave ample time for the Inspecting officer to have a pretty accurate knowledge of the drill, state of discipline, and efficiency of the Battalion, and which enabled him at the close of the Inspection to speak with some degree of certainty as to its condition. After the Inspection was concluded, the officers were called to the front, and Col. McPherson addressed the Battalion as follows:—

LT.-COLONEL BROWN, OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 49TH BATTALION.—I have great pleasure in conveying to you the great satisfaction which I have had in inspecting so fine a Battalion. I may safely say without making any invidious distinction it is the finest Battalion I have inspected in my present tour. The men were soldier like in their appearance, steady in parade, well up in their drill, and appear thoroughly to understand their duties. Several of the companies are as fine as I have ever seen and indeed take the whole Battalion I would not wish to see a finer body of men. They reflect great credit upon the Commanding Officer.—Anything I can do to promote the wishes of the officers with a view to make the Battalion more efficient I will take great pleasure in doing. I had the pleasure yesterday of inspecting a Brigade of 800 strong, and I felt proud of their appearance, and feel proud of the appearance of the volunteer force which Canada has to day. Men in our position do not profess to make speeches—it is out of our line, but when volunteers turn out as I see them to-day, making sacrifices in order to place the country in a defensive condition, and exhibiting as they have done such

marked evidences of their efficiency I do not overstep the bounds of propriety in expressing to you my opinion.—I have much pleasure, Volunteers, in hearing from your Commanding Officer such a good account of your conduct while in camp. It redounds much to your credit, and in making my report to the Department I shall take great satisfaction in mentioning this matter. Volunteers, the arms you have are the best used in Her Majesty's army, and it behooves you all not only to take care of them, but to become familiar with their use. It is most essential to know how to handle a rifle, and I trust you will take particular pains to acquire a perfect knowledge of this weapon. It will be my duty to make a report to head quarters, and in that report I shall recommend that increased facilities may be furnished Battalions so that every company's head-quarters there may be facilities for target practice. And I would say further, if the Department intends to continue this annual drill in camp, I will recommend that the drill be made sometime in June, between seed time and harvest, instead of putting it off to this time of the year. If, Col. Brown or Officers, you have anything to communicate by which your Battalion can be rendered more efficient, I shall be most happy to represent it to head quarters.

LT. COLONEL BROWN returned thanks for the very flattering terms in which the Inspecting Officer had alluded to the Battalion. It had been the first inspection Lt. Col. McPherson had made of this Battalion, and he trusted when he came next year on a similar duty he would have the same cause for congratulation.

LT. COL. McPHERSON reminded Col. Brown that they were all Volunteers, and that while the Government acknowledge the services which the Volunteers had rendered, volunteers had other duties to perform, that they frequently made great sacrifices, and it was to be hoped that the Government would see that all the requirements to sustain an efficient volunteer force were furnished. The country looks to its representatives in Parliament for whatever is desired, and as Lt. Col. Brown occupied that position, he thought he would call his attention to this matter.

Cheers were then given for the Queen, Lt. Col. McPherson, Lt. Col. Brown, when the Battalion was dismissed.

After luncheon, the tents, blankets, &c., were examined and were returned to the officer appointed to receive them. It was found that a number of the tent poles were broken. The report from Lt. Col. Brown, respecting these poles will be very similar to that made by Lt.-Col. Campbell, that they are perfectly worthless.

It was about five o'clock before the Battalion finally broke up. Teams were on the ground to convey the various companies to their respective destination, the Belleville Rifle Company, alone excepted. This company remained on the ground until all the others had left, when they marched down about seven o'clock, and after being briefly addressed on the corner of Front and Bridge streets by Lt. Col. Brown, and Lt. Col. Shaw, Brigade Major, they went to the Armory, where after receiving their pay, were dismissed. Thus ended the week's camping out of the 49th Battalion. The Battalion was fortunate in having exceptionally fine weather; they had a pleasant situation, and taking it altogether they had a very pleasant time of it. We must not forget a little incident that occurred on Friday, on the ground, which is worthy of being placed on record. During the drill, an old soldier, who was in India and Spain, the hero of fifty battles made his appearance on the ground,

when he was greeted with rousing cheers, and the band struck up a lively tune. The old soldier is named Wm. Johnson, who lives on the Front of Salvey, and is one hundred and three years of age. He appears hale and hearty, and looks as if he might live yet a number of years.

38TH UNDER CANVAS.

The weather is most beautiful for camp life, and the Volunteers have an excellent time for their drill. Judging from appearance and experience, this period of annual devotion to military life and duties is much enjoyed by both officers and men. The arrangements for the encampment are very good, and are being well carried out. The men are making great proficiency in their exercises, and present a most creditable appearance. Their behaviour in camp is most creditable, and is well worthy of the yeomanry and inhabitants of Brant. Officers and men mutually respect each other, and are bent on self-improvement and careful attention to the requirements of the service. The beneficial results of this wise arrangement will be seen at our next review.—*Brantford Courier.*

THE CAMP AT DRUMMONDVILLE.—On Tuesday we visited the camp ground occupied by the 44th Battalion of Welland, under command of Col. Barnett, near Niagara Falls. The beautiful site chosen was kindly granted by that prince of good fellows Mr. J. T. Bush, whose enterprise has done so much to infuse life and thrift into the people of that vicinity. The Battalion numbered about 400 rank and file, all of whom were under canvas, and seemed to enjoy their military duties as well as the picturesque location to which they were called to perform their eight days' drill. Every branch of a soldier's duty was clearly impressed upon the men, who were drilled on an average of eight hours each day while in camp, in all the elements that could render them proficient as marksmen and evolutionists. Col. Durie, Deputy Adjutant General, inspected the Battalion on Monday afternoon, when they were put through the manual and platoon exercises, and marched past the inspecting officer in a very creditable manner, upon which he complimented them. On Wednesday the camp was broke up, and the men returned to their homes, thanking their stars that the drill was over. A large number of spectators visited the camp while the Battalion formed, and to each and all some thing more than the humble fare of a soldier was extended, in the way of hospitality. We augur excellent results from this turn out to the 44th which is a fine looking body of men, commanded by gentlemanly officers.—*St. Cath. Constitutional.*

A terrible accident is reported from Malta. Some officers of the garrison thinking to compliment the inhabitants of the island on one of their grand festivals, that of the Madonna of Mount Carmel, added to the illumination provided by the Roman Catholic authorities by fixing a number of lights from the stores which were always understood to be kept for the purpose of lighting up the port in the case of a night attack. The pieces were pear-shaped and about two feet in length, but as soon as they were fired, they delivered a storm of grape shot. Fortunately, although they were crowds of spectators, little or no harm was done. The officers, seeing the mistake they had made, rushed forward, at the risk of annihilation, and threw several of the infernal machines into the sea, when they exploded under the water with a tremendous noise.