

"The discipline of the force is, on the whole, of a very high order, and while several of the non-commissioned officers have behaved badly, and have been promptly punished, generally I have received their hearty support. Drunkenness has, in almost every instance, been the cause of trouble. I think the nature of the duties the police are called upon to perform is not generally known, even by otherwise well informed men, who take a prominent interest in Canadian affairs, and the occasional lapse from duty of an unfortunate is immediately commented upon on all sides. The country occupied by the police is now, including part of Manitoba, 700 miles long by over 350 miles wide, and until lately we also occupied the Kootenay country, in British Columbia. Over the whole of this enormous country the force is scattered, being divided into ten divisions, and each division having many outposts, at which the men do duty in twos and threes. Some of these outposts are 150 miles, and many are over 100 miles from the nearest officer, and with, generally, no railway communication. Up to date the men have had no future to look forward to, and have really only the discipline instilled into them and their own high character to keep them straight; they are under enormous temptation to misbehave and shield whiskey offenders, and are constantly in danger of getting into trouble by exceeding their duties. There are less punishments inflicted in the police than in any other force I know of, and remarkably few cases of over zeal. Discipline is impartially maintained, and although very strict indeed, but few cases, beyond slight indiscretions, have arisen during the year.

"The force is well drilled, but from the numerous different avocations in which the men are employed, although individually drilled men they naturally require some days together before they are in a condition to do justice to themselves on parade. As the general public are unaware of our multifarious duties, and, as when we make mistakes as police proper, they make no allowance for our other qualifications, I may be allowed to name a few of the different things we do for ourselves, outside ordinary police duties and patrols. We are trained soldiers, both mounted and dismounted, and squads in nearly every division thoroughly understand gun drill; we do our own carpenter work, painting, alterations of clothing, blacksmithing, most of our freighting and teaming, plough when required, put out prairie fires, act as customs and quarantine officers, do most of our own waggon repairing and tinsmithing, mend all and make a great deal of saddlery and harness, act as gaolers and keepers of the insane sometimes for weeks, and there is not a division in the force that can not go into any country and put up a complete barracks, either of logs or frame. "D" Division, under Superintendent Steele, erected first-class barracks at Kootenay, B. C., last year, the division being comfortably housed before winter set in.

"In physique we are second to no force in existence; our men are well set up, young, active, good looking, stout and tall, with good constitutions, our average height being over 5 feet 9 inches, and chest measurement over 37¼ inches, and we have very few men who cannot ride day in and day out their fifty miles. Every recruit passes a surgeon below and our senior surgeon here, and useless and unsound men are immediately got rid of. Our physique is improving all the time; only first class men can stand a five year term in the police.

In target practice great strides have been made this year, and considering that many of our carbines are old, and the fact that Winchesters of any pattern, at their best, are not good range rifles, I consider the scores made to be very good. Our Winchesters are undersighted and in my opinion, and in that of my officers, have seen their day. I would strongly recommend for favourable consideration, that extra pay be allowed to the best shot in each division and to the best shot in the force. I would also strongly recommend that the price of ammunition be placed at the lowest cost, so that every facility may be given the men to purchase it for practice.

A drill book for the force is now being printed on our own press at Regina, and a copy will soon be submitted to you for approval. The drill is of the simplest kind, and conflicts in no way with the Mounted Infantry Regulation, but contains much information respecting details and movements absolutely required in the force, which are not laid down in the Mounted Infantry Manual.

THE ARTILLERY BRANCH.

Concerning the artillery branch, the Inspecting Superintendent, Major John Cotton, says:—

Our armament consist of 9-pounder and 7-pounder mountain guns. I last year pointed out that the 9-pounder M. L. R. guns; though a suitable arm for ordinary field batteries are certainly not what we require. In the first place, any division to which 9-pounder guns were attached would require to be largely augmented in horses. One of these guns in travelling any distance requires six horses and harness. We are without ammunition waggons, which on active service would have to be supplied. For this purpose I have no doubt we could improvise some of our heavy waggons. For each waggon a four-horse team would be necessary. The 9-pounder guns weigh 8 cwt. (English standard.)

"They could not be moved as rapidly as required were an attempt made to have them act in unison with a purely cavalry force. The Royal Artillery gun of the same calibre is lighter than those we have. Even the Royal Horse Artillery gun is heavier than we require. We would never need so formidable an arm in Indian warfare. With a much lighter gun our artillery branch would attain all the efficiency and power desirable. I would recommend that a Nordenfeldt Machine Gun, with galloping carriage, be attached to each division. Of course, what I have said of the 9-pounder M. L. R. guns applies to the difficulties arising in their transport. I have no doubt that in some cases they might be found useful about our posts.

"Now, with regard to the 7-pounder mountain guns, it must be conceded that, as mountain guns we will never require to use them. In all we have six 7-pounder guns; two of them are of the latest pattern (steel) and are furnished with wrought iron carriage and limbers of the field-gun pattern, with side-arms complete. These two guns are thus thoroughly serviceable. The remaining four 7-pounder guns (bronze) are of much older pattern, and came to this country originally on the Red River expedition."

The Dominion Rifle Association.

The twenty-first annual meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association was held yesterday morning, 20th inst., in the Railway Committee Rooms of the House of Commons, Ottawa. The president Lieut.-Col. Geo. A. Kirkpatrick, M.P., occupied the chair. There was a good attendance. His Excellency the Governor-General, patron of the association, honored the meeting with his presence. Amongst the others were Lt.-Gen. Middleton, Lt.-Gen. Laurie, Col. Walker Powell, Col. C. Panet, Senator Carvell, Senator Macdonald, Messers Daily, Watson, McNeill, and Casey, M.P.'s, Lieut.-Col. Tyrwhitt, M.P., Prior M.P., Ouimet M.P., O'Brien, M.P., John Macpherson (treasurer), Bacon (secretary), Smith, Irwin, Ross, White, J. P. Macpherson, Gravely, Macdonald, (Ottawa), Macdonald, (Halifax) Curren, Tilton, Bond, Anderson, Brosseau, Scoble, Cotton, Massey, Caverhill, Turnbull and Henshaw, Majors Walsh, Ward, M.P., Sutherland, M.P., Perley, Blaiklock, Delamere, Bond, Captains McMicking, Sims, Hood, Sherwood, Gray, Toller Macnachten and Waldo.

The first business was the presentation of the annual report, which showed the year to have been a very successful one. The following are excerpts:—

The Canada Club of London again presented to the Wimbledon team a handsome silver cup for the member thereof making the highest aggregate score at the Wimbledon meeting, for which the thanks of the Association are due. Lt.-Col. Frank Bond, commanding the Prince of Wales' Rifles, was appointed to the command of the Wimbledon team, and his report shows that Col. Humphrey, commanding the Cambridge University Rifles, had arranged everything for their comfort in camp at Cambridge, where they had a week's practice before proceeding to Wimbledon. He speaks highly of the kindness and courtesy shown to the team at Cambridge by Col. Humphrey and others, which made the week's sojourn there very pleasant and the association owe a debt of gratitude for the hospitality shown.

The council have pleasure in reporting a very successful prize meeting at the Rideau Range. The attendance was not quite up to the previous year, but was only nine competitors less, namely, 354, as compared with 363 in 1887. The timing of the extra series and Martini matches worked very well and gave general satisfaction. Every province was again represented, and several new corps competed, showing that the interest in the association is extending. Although the matches are so arranged as to be open to H. M. regular forces, both army and navy, those forces are never represented at the annual matches at Ottawa, which is to be regretted, as the associating of the regulars with the militia forces would undoubtedly have a good effect. It is hoped that another annual gathering will see a representation from the garrison and squadron at Halifax.

The balance sheet shows the total receipts from all sources for the year to have been \$18,123.57 which with the balance of \$2,440.34 from last year makes a total on the credit side of \$20,563.91. The expenditure amounted to \$18,120.83, leaving a balance of \$2,443.08 in favour of the association. The net receipts from entry fees including post entries and fines, exclusive of the charge for ammunition, amounted to \$3,746.86 as against \$3,576.01 in 1887, an increase of \$170.85. The expenditure connected with the Wimbledon Team this year amounted to \$5,782.00 as against \$5,811.96 in 1887, a decrease of \$29.96.

THE WIMBLEDON TEAM.

In his report on the Wimbledon Team, the commandant, Lt.-Col. Frank Bond, says: