

Fort Saskatchewan is the headquarters of "G" Division of N.W.M.P., under Supt. Griesbach. Extensive improvements have been made here this autumn. New buildings have been erected, the square enlarged, etc. Outposts are stationed at Edmonton and Red Deer City, on the Calgary trail.

Portage la Prairie.—The annual target matches at the Portage la Prairie rifle range began on the 19th, under the most unfavorable circumstances. In the morning it was impossible to shoot, in consequence of heavy rain and wind. The afternoon was a little better, but a heavy north-west wind, accompanied by mist and drizzling rain with an overcast lowering sky, made it impossible to do good shooting, and affected the attendance, but the best of humor prevailed among the dampened crowd of riflemen. The 200 and 500 yard ranges had been shot over and part of the 600 yard when it became too dark to continue. So far the prize winners stand: 200 yards—1st H. J. Woodside, 2nd Capt. Hunter, 3rd W. Treleaven, 4th A. L. Ashdown; 500 yards—1st J. J. McKenzie, 2nd A. L. Ashdown, 3rd Capt. Hunter, 4th Dr. Keele; Association gold medal, for best aggregate, M. McKenzie, with 68 points out of 105. The association offers about forty prizes in all. The consolation and a match at 600 yards have been postponed until Friday next.

Winnipeg.—The 91st Battalion will be reorganized in a few days. The new uniforms have arrived. The appointments made a few months ago have not yet been gazetted, and this has had much to do with retarding the progress of the corps. It has not yet been decided who is to have the junior majority of the battalion. Capt. Ferron has raised for this battalion a company of Icelanders, Norwegians and Swedes, and says they are going to make tip-top soldiers.

The orchestra of the 90th has been secured for the approaching ball to be given under the auspices of St. Andrew's Society in Trinity Hall. The band is sparing no efforts to make the musical portion of the programme a success.

Capt. Cout'ee, commanding the Winnipeg Field Battery, has been notified that Gunner Frank Wright has been awarded the first-class badge, silver cross guns, and Sergt. R. M. Thomson a second-class badge, embroidered bullion cross guns, for scores made by them at competitive shell practice, and that cross-whip badges have been awarded to Bombardier Alex. Norquay and Driver Enoch Knowlton for good driving.

Toronto.—The Queen's Own had a large turn out on Wednesday evening, Lieut.-Col. Miller in command. The regiment marched to the Moss Park rink and after putting in some good drill, returned to the sheds, where a hollow square was formed and the prizes won at the annual rifle matches were presented by the commanding officer. The band played a few selections during the presentation.

The regiment also paraded for divine service on Sunday afternoon and marched to All Saints' Church, where the service was conducted by the Rev. A. H. Baldwin.

On Wednesday evening next there will be a parade for roll call by the D. A. G., when a large muster is expected.

The prizes won by the Grenadiers at their annual rifle matches were presented on Tuesday evening by Mrs. Bruce, (wife of Capt. Bruce, president of the rifle committee.) The corps also had their usual parade on Thursday evening, and on Sunday afternoon had their last church parade of this season, marching to the Church of the Redeemer.

Hamilton.—The following letter appears in the *Spectator* of the 20th:—

TO THE EDITOR: I shall take it as a great favor to be allowed to say a few words in your columns regarding the present state of the Thirteenth battalion, stating some few facts and making suggestions to the citizens of Hamilton with a view to the welfare of the corps I have now the honor to command. All will recognize in the destruction of the drill shed a serious misfortune to the battalion; but very few, outside the force, can appreciate the disadvantages we labor under, the extra work that has been thrown on us and the generally discouraging effects of our present circumstances. Though up to the present time nothing has been done towards the erection of a new shed, we look forward with confidence to what next year will produce in the shape of a structure on the former site, of larger dimensions, more permanent in its nature, less inflammable in material and much more ornamental in design than the building which was destroyed. In the meantime we are drilling by companies, five out of the six evenings of the week, in the old Canada Life building, re-enrolling, all the service rolls of the battalion having been burnt, and generally endeavoring to get into shape. I do not think that on the whole the battalion has ever been more efficiently officered. Nearly all of the company officers are well up in drill, quite qualified to handle their men, creditable and zealous, and punctual in the performance of duty. We have the best band in the Dominion, a fact which I am satisfied the citizens of Hamilton are proud; while as a shooting regiment we are recognized as one of the strongest corps in the force. But we want men. The battalion is not by any means up to what should be its full strength, and it is to this discouraging fact that I desire especially to call attention. In a city like Hamilton, with a population of 42,000, there should not be any difficulty in maintaining an eight company battalion in full force. But there is a difficulty; there has been a difficulty for some years past, and there always will be the same difficulty if the general tendency of citizens' efforts is not with instead of somewhat, or perhaps decidedly, against us. To make myself better understood, I ask how many employers in Hamilton actually encourage those over whom they have authority to join the force and qualify themselves for an efficient performance of patriotic duty in the hour of their country's danger? I almost answer the question by asking how many instances have been known of even the employer's consent being freely and approvingly given when asked for, as contrasted with a begrudging acquiescence or perhaps a muttered disapproval, or, worse still, a threat of dismissal. I do not wish to lay myself open to a charge of wholesale libel; but while freely admitting that noble exceptions are found, I am convinced that I have not overstated the general pull against us on the part of those whose influence should be with us. And yet all would like to see a good regiment of the active militia in Hamilton. All would desire to see the Thirteenth well to the fore in an emergency. And all would feel a degree of shame, if when the call comes, and other corps are clamoring to be first selected for duty, this city could not send out a battalion able at least to hold its own with the rest of them. I do not lose sight of the fact that volunteering like other things comes into and goes out of fashion—that amusements of various kinds form strong counter attractions to young men of the soldiering age—and that the gay uniforms and plumes of numerous corps of knights seem to have a depreciatory effect upon the honor of wearing the Queen's uniform. But what we want is a little more general encouragement in the way of permitting and favorably influencing, the recruiting of our ranks. We want about 75 able-bodied, robust men, and we want them now, while we are busily engaged in the annual setting up drill. Very seldom are men taken from their daily avocations, but should an occasional half day be required for parade or rifle practice I ask that men be freely allowed to turn out with their companies and no pay stopped.

The battalion can be maintained in spite of the adverse influences I have referred

to, because young men will, in their patriotic enthusiasm, find their way into the ranks, let the consequences be what they may; but our officers and non-commissioned officers' duties will be much lighter, and the general condition and state of the regiment will be much improved, by our having the hearty and pronounced co-operation of all citizens in the way I have suggested.

J. M. GIBSON, Lieut.-Col.

Militia General Orders of 22nd October.

No. 1.—REGULATIONS AND ORDERS FOR THE MILITIA, 1883.

Organization.—Officers.

The following is added as sub-section (4) of paragraph 75, regulations and orders, 1883:—

"(4.) No officer or person having attained the limit of age fixed for holding a certain rank is to be recommended for promotion or appointment to that rank."

NOTE.—The limit of age for promotion or appointment to rank of lieut.-colonel is 60 years. See paragraph 94, regulations and orders, 1883.

The following is added as sub-section 2 of paragraph 85 of the regulations and orders, 1883:—

"(2.) Any such officers employed on the staff of the Royal Military College, without at same time holding rank in the militia, come under the provisions of paragraph 82."

No. 2.—FUEL AND LIGHT FOR BARRACKS.

Adverting to No. 1 of General Orders (17), 17th September, 1886, the following additions are made thereto, viz:—

"Articles for fuel and light will not be issued to any person living out of barracks."

And at foot of "*Scale of Rations*,"—"Captains of Infantry School companies will have the same rations of fuel and light as field officers."

No. 3.—ACTIVE MILITIA.

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA.

Brevet Major Sydenham Clitherow McGill, staff adjutant, (formerly captain in H.M.'s 22nd Regiment) to have the rank of lieut.-col. in the militia.

Lieut. Alfred George Godfrey Wurtele, R.M.C., assistant instructor in mathematics, &c.; and Lieut. John Bray Cochrane, R.M.C., assistant instructor in surveying, &c.; to have respectively the rank of captain in the militia, from 30th June, 1885.

The following graduate is appointed a lieut. in the militia, from 29th June, 1886:—Company Sergt.-Major Edouard Percy Cranwill Girouard, R.M.C.

PERMANENT CORPS—INFANTRY SCHOOL CORPS.

Surgeon Francis Wayland Campbell, M.D., to have the rank of surgeon-major, from 5th October, 1886.

ACTIVE FORCE.

8th Cavalry.—A Troop.—Adverting to No. 3 of General Orders (17) 17th September, 1886, the appointment "to be 2nd lieut. prov., of Trooper Whelpley is hereby cancelled.

To be lieut. prov., Trooper Frederic Ernest Whelpley, vice Maunsell transferred to and promoted in F Troop.

Errata.—In No. 4 of General Orders (13) 18th June, 1886, read "Robert Chillis McMonagle, instead of "Charles Chillis McMonagle."

C Troop.—To be 2nd lieut., 2nd Lieut. Alfred John Markham, S.C., from F Troop, vice Sears, promoted.

F Troop.—To be capt., Lieut. George Stopford Maunsell, S.C., from A Troop, vice Wedderburn appointed adjutant.

To be lieut. prov., Sergt. John Hannington Murray, vice Fowler, appointed quartermaster.

To be quartermaster, with the rank of honorary capt., Lieut. Joshua Upham Fowler, from F Troop, vice hon. Major Henry Hallett, who retires retaining his honorary rank.

Montreal B. G. A.—To be lieut., 2nd Lieut. Charles Sandwith Campbell, R.S.A., vice Levin, promoted.

To be 2nd lieut. prov., George Ross Robertson, vice Campbell, promoted.

N. B. B. G. A.—To be major, Capt. and Brevet Major Andrew J. Armstrong, R.S.A., from No. 4 battery, vice Peters, retired.

No. 4 Battery.—To be capt., 2nd Lieut. George West Jones, R.S.A., vice Armstrong, promoted.

71st Batt.—No. 1 Co.—To be 2nd lieut., Sergt. Samuel Hanford McFane, S.I., (1st B) vice Johnston, promoted.

1st. Halifax B. G. A.—To be 2nd lieut. prov., John Charles DeWolf, vice Boggs, promoted.

Lunenburg B. G. A.—To be 2nd lieut. prov., Gr. Andrew Silver, vice Charles William Harris Kaulbach, deceased.

B. C. B. G. A.—No. 4 Bat.—To be lieut., Bombardier Frederick William Robson, R.S.A., (1st B.) vice Snowden, appointed adjutant.

Victoria Rifle Co.—Capt. Rowland Edward Green retires retaining rank.

Gov.-General's Body Guard for Ontario.—To be 2nd lieut., prov., Trooper Robert Casimir Dickson, vice Fleming, promoted.

2nd Batt.—Capt. Henry Edmund Kersteman retires retaining rank.

To be lieut. 2nd Lieut. John Knifton, M.S., vice Scott, resigned.

2nd Lieut. Harry Oliver Morphy, S.I., vice Richard Scougall Cassells, who retires retaining rank.