

The result of the recent competition in No. 2 district is not exciting a great deal of interest, certainly not as much as one would like to see. This is only the natural result of the way some of the details were carried out last year, such as one regiment being penalized for the absence of keepers on the slung, while another seemed to profit amazingly by the interior work of their armouries and the extra amount of burnishing on their arms. The more these things were discussed the firmer the opinion became that too much attention was paid to details and too little to the actual work that would go to make up an efficient regiment, and if the same plan was carried out this year as seemed to be the success of one last year, the continuation of the competition would prove more of a curse than a blessing. Without a doubt the original intention of the competition was towards raising the efficiency of the regiments of the district, but it is the opinion of many that the results are not as promising as one would like to see. The competition has revealed in a very apparent manner that all the regiments are weak in certain points, and I question if a dozen competitions would make any different showing. In a majority of cases the work of some of the subalterns was very weak and showed an alarming want of practise, but as many rightly state, the actual drilling time, on a parade once a week, really gives little or no chance for an officer getting that practise so necessary to inspire confidence or to find out his weak points in the details of company drill. Again, when the whole season is taken up with company drill and the greater part of it only fitted for ceremonial work, the work that that regiment should be trained to do in the field is totally neglected and when a field day comes and the nature of the work it entails has to be undertaken, almost without practise, the results cannot be beneficial nor inspire the men with confidence in themselves or their officers. Why not let the competition narrow down to efficiency of the company, both at the butts and its knowledge of outpost or attack work, guard duty, etc.; the results would certainly be more satisfactory and the time spent prove of untold benefit to all ranks.

The military column of the Empire is the best conducted of any paper in the Dominion, and the many articles contained therein are always interesting and instructive, and show how thoroughly conversant the author is with the strong points as well as the weak, the benefits as well as the wants of the militia force. The report of the last field day of the Toronto Garrison is an exception and the result of the same as shown by the Empire, compared with the verdict contained in all the other papers, only goes to show that when the military editor is a sufferer at the feet of his all prevailing majesty "La Grippe," the market or society reporter is hardly the best one to do efficient service as a substitute.

The resignation of Lt. Col. Dawson

from the command of the Grenadiers and the appointment of Major Mason to the vacancy, will deprive one of our Ottawa correspondents of one of his stock in trade specials, unless indeed he continues forecasting the probable results to the regiment, by his ill-timed remarks as to that officer's religion. With all due respect to the late C. O. the lease of life to the Grenadiers is renewed and their prospects of attaining their old position and efficiency were never brighter than they are at present. The appointment is as popular as well as a deserved one and at the same time amply provides against a repetition of the rot that has for some time past been appearing in papers that should know better of matters concerning the interior workings of this gallant regiment.

The showing made by the Queen's Own on the occasion of their last roll call is one that well deserves mention. It was such as cannot be approached, much less beaten, by any regiment in the Dominion, and despite the result of a dozen competitions, they can honestly wear the laurels which have never been yet, and I very much doubt if they can have wrested from them as the premier corps of the Dominion. With a parade state which during the year will average about 600 of all ranks, they paraded on that night 645 strong, including their full staff of officers, 38 all told and all qualified, and 52 sergeants, of whom only about 29 are allowed pay. They are complete in pioneer, ambulance and signal corps have an average parade of 45 in the brass band and 30 in the bugle, besides having an efficient bicycle corps of 22 men. Under the present strength of the militia this regiment only draws pay for 458 men, and despite the severe handicap they labor under as regards the quality and quantity of the clothing issued them they have not yet paraded as low as their official strength. The Queen's Own have more ex-members holding commissions in the militia than perhaps all the other regiments put together and cases are not uncommon where no less than three generations have paraded in the ranks.

The 48th Highlanders' buglers will during the winter give smoking concerts to the different companies of the regiment. The first will be held on Friday, Dec. 15th, to "A" Company. The committee are Buglers Russell, Stewart and Selby.

Buglers Ford and Kerr, of the 48th, are taking a course at No. 2 R.C.I.

The first assembly of the Grenadiers on the evening of December 7th will probably hold its own with any dance that may be given this season. Everything seemed to combine to make it a success—the variety of handsome uniforms, the excellent music, the well planned programme, the dresses of the ladies, and the excellent supper, all contributed to the success of the occasion. The ball was the first of a series of three to be given during the winter months, the proceeds to be

donated to the band fund of the regiment. The first intention was, had the Governor General been able to be present, to hold the ball at the Pavilion, but an answer was received to the invitation extended to him, expressing his regret at his inability to attend. One thing is certain, namely, that Lord Aberdeen missed a good time by being absent, for a more pleasant affair could not be imagined. The music was furnished by the band of the regiment, under Bandmaster Waldron, and both the selections chosen and the manner in which they were played were perfect for dancing. The floor was all that could be desired, and the pleasant sitting-room at the head of the stairs was well patronized by those who preferred "sitting it out" to dancing. The programme, too, was a good one.

The scene in the large room was a very pretty one when the band struck up the first extra. There was a large proportion of military uniforms, the dark green of the Queen's Own, the red uniforms of the Grenadiers, and the picturesque costumes of the officers of the Highlanders blending with the many coloured dresses of the ladies, and the black dress suits of the civilians. The supper was served upstairs, and was supplied by Harry Webb, the claret being furnished by Mr. William Mara. The room in which the dancing took place was decorated with plants and ferns, and was divided into ten divisions, one for each company in the regiment. The programme was arranged so that a place was left on which to enter the place of rendezvous of the high contracting parties to each dance. The air was heavy with the perfume of flowers, and the room echoed with the hum of conversation and the rippling of laughter, to an accompaniment of rustling dresses and the rushing of feet over the floor. Among those present were Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Captain Arthur and Miss Kirkpatrick, and Lt. Col. and Mrs. Otter.

The committee in charge of the arrangements was as follows: Captain Tassie, chairman; Capt. Irving, honorary secretary; Major Bruce, Capt. Cameron, Capt. McLean, Assistant Surgeon King, Lt. Sweatman, Lt. Willis and Lt. Chadwick.

Yesterday Lt. Col. Mason issued the 1st regimental orders to the Royal Grenadiers since he took over the command. In the orders Lt. Col. Dawson takes leave of the regiment. The leavetaking is expressive, brief, and soldierly, just such as could be expected from the gallant officer who has held the command for six years. Following are the orders and the valedictory:—

Royal Grenadiers' detail for week ending December 10th: Orderly officer, Lt. Sweatman; orderly sergeant, Sgt. Farley.

The following extract from the Canada Gazette, dated Ottawa, 2nd December, 1893, is published for information of the Royal Grenadiers: "To be lieutenant colonel, Major James Mason, R.S.L. vice George Dudley Dawson, who is permitted to retire, retaining rank."

Leave of absence has been granted to Capt. and Adjutant McLean from Decem-