

News of the Service.

NOTE.—Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Without we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the doings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, so long as not enclosed in an envelope, for one cent. At any rate, forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades. Address,

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British Columbia.

VICTORIA, June 1.—The New Westminster Garrison Artillery will again this year have two good teams entered for the league matches, but there will be none from the head-quarter companies, which last season put in eight. The reason for this is that the use of Clover Point range, at Victoria, has been forbidden for league shooting on Saturdays, with the idea of using all those days for class firing. Last year and year before great interest was taken in the league shooting here, and it brought to the range many new men who are now giving good accounts of themselves.

A militia general order of three weeks ago made Lieutenant C. St. A. Pearce a Major in the B. C. G. A., but at his own request this has been changed and he takes the rank of Captain on accepting appointment to the Adjutancy, which office he has been temporarily filling for several months. Surgeon Hasell having resigned has been succeeded by Dr. Geo. H. Duncan, who for three years has been in practice here with his brother Dr. John A. Duncan, formerly Surgeon to C. Battery R. C. A. Surgeon Duncan hails from Ottawa, where he belonged to the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards.

The Provincial Rifle Association has made a grant to Gunner John C. Chamberlain, of New Westminster, to cover the expense of his long journey from here to Montreal to join the Bisley team.

The Queen's Birthday.

The loyal city gave up three days of last week to the celebration of Her Majesty's birthday. On Thursday, the 23rd, yacht racing was the feature, a large fleet taking part, mainly consisting of visiting craft from the ports of Puget Sound. On account of the number and diversity of size of the yachts the races were in four classes. The feature of the second day—the 24th—was a rowing and paddling regatta on Victoria Arm, a beautiful canal-like waterstretch reaching from the sea two or three miles inland. On the Arm as usual the most interesting craft from a spectacular point of view were those of the Navy—not the regulation ships' boats supplied by Her Majesty's government, but the improvised fancies of the jolly sailors themselves, who had once more gone to no end of trouble with very striking results. Their fleet consisted of a fac simile in miniature of the Royal Arthur, which while passing along under slow steam with

smoke liberally pouring from the funnels did not disdain a tow, as coal shovels make but indifferent paddles. Then there were two awfully devised punts sent from H. M. S. Nympe and Hyacinth respectively, which were an unceasing source of astonishment because of the persistency with which they kept afloat; and—most wonderful triumph of patient industry—a full-rigged ship in miniature, which in the absence of wind was towed up with all sails set. The crews of the first three were even more grotesque than the crafts they manned, and all who saw them enjoyed several hearty laughs at their antics. While the men of the warships were thus preparing amusement for the holiday public, they were also giving more than the usual attention to the training of crews for the serious work, with the result that the Naval races were again contested with wonderful spirit throughout, though the number of entries was unusually large.

A splendid spectacle was provided on Saturday morning, May 25th, for the many thousand spectators at Beacon Hill to witness the mimic engagement and review of Her Majesty's Imperial naval and military forces on this station, and their Canadian auxiliaries. The forethought of Lt.-Col. Rawstorne, R.M.A., in giving to the public through the press the general idea of the programme helped materially, for with this information in their possession the spectators were able to take up the positions of greatest advantage to themselves and least obstruction to the troops, who occupied the base of the hill while the public were massed on the gently sloping sides and terraces, whence a splendid view of the movements was obtainable. The crowd was an immense one, worthy of a holiday display in a great city, and that expressions of admiration and praise were heard on all hands, from citizens and visitors alike, speaks well for the steadiness and appearance of the troops.

The attacking force consisted of six companies of bluejackets under command of Lieutenant Stileman, R.N. They did not come round from Esquimalt by water, but took advantage of the more convenient transport afforded by the electric trams, which delivered them at the power house, whence headed by the Royal Arthur Band they marched to the attack. They approached the scene of operations from Moss street.

The Royal Marine Artillery, from the barracks and the fleet, under Lieut.-Col. Burrowes; and a company of Royal Marine Light Infantry under Lieutenant Collard, who were to act with the B. C. G. A. as the defending force, later passed through centre town to the cheerful music of the R. M. A. fife and drum band, and proceeding to the park by the shortest route, took position as the advanced line and piquets of the defence, the piquets being well towards the bush through which the enemy were to make their appearance.

In the meantime the British Columbia

Battalion of Garrison Artillery had been forming up in their drill hall. For various reasons the parade was not a large one, and the Vancouver company (No. 5), who numbered about fifty all told, were rather above the average strength of the local companies. The visitors were given the post of honor on the right of the line, and led the march to the hill, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 companies following in that order. Lieut.-Col. Peters, D.A.G., was in command of the battalion, in the absence of Lieut.-Col. Prior, M.P. Sergeant-Major Mulcahy, by the careful instruction he has imparted earned a great share of the credit for the fine appearance of the men on parade. The battalion having marched to the hill, duly reported to Lieut.-Col. Rawstorne, R.M.A., who was in charge of the defence, and were by him stationed on the front slope of the hill, near the crest, facing the direction whence the enemy were to approach.

Very soon the sharp rattle of musketry told of the approach of the invaders, who were warmly received by a succession of well-timed volleys from the Royal Marines forming the defenders' outposts. As the bluejackets advanced, the outposts, according to the plan, retired in sections, moving around by the flanks of their supports, who as soon as the ground was clear opened fire by volleys. The enemy made splendid use of their Martinis, and the effect of their rapid independent firing was so much like that of a machine gun that many of the spectators got the impression that a Gatling or Nordenfolt formed part of the equipment. On the other hand they were met with a rapid succession of well-timed and controlled volleys, succeeded by smart independent firing as by nimble rushes from cover to cover the sailors swarmed the hillside. The B. C. B. G. A. were not ordered to retreat as had been expected, but when only about fifty yards separated the opposing parties the cease fire and halt sounded, and the bluejackets as a final demonstration gave a tremendous British cheer and wildly waved their straw hats in an ecstasy of excited joy.

Both forces were then marched to the other slope of the hill, facing the sea and the handsome residences of the James Bay quarter, and prepared for the march past which was to close the proceedings. Admiral Stephenson took the general command, and the Canadian flag which had flown as usual from the lofty pole at the crown of the hill was pulled down and replaced by the Admiral's flag of white bearing the red St. George's cross—the very flag which a few weeks ago was fanned by the tropical breezes of Corinto.

An immense square had been roped off as a parade ground, and the host of spectators around its sides had from the superior height of their station an uninterrupted view of the proceedings on the level. The Admiral took position at the saluting base on the upper side, with him His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Dewd-