

more satisfactory. To the officers in command he had much pleasure in complimenting them for the clear and precise tones in which the words of command were given. Another year he hoped to see the battalion under more favourable auspices, so far as accommodation and comfort were concerned. He would urge his recommendation that every city regiment should go to camp every third year, that they might have a better opportunity of perfecting themselves in field movements than was possible in the confined space of a drill hall. He closed by saying that they must not from anything he had said run away with the idea that they were perfect, but that with a little more attention to drill the 13th would again be, as they had been in the past, one of the crack regiments of the Dominion. The annual muster parade then took place before the district paymaster, after which the battalion was marched to the temporary quarters on James street south, where Col. Gibson made a short congratulatory address to the officers and men, complimenting them on the high praise that had been bestowed on them by the Deputy Adjutant-General, and said that they deserved credit for the attention and interest they had taken in their drill under the most adverse circumstances. There was not much pleasure in drilling through the slush of the public streets, and without a proper armoury, but a brighter day was dawning, and if the men would only stick properly to their companies and hold their own this winter, they would begin the spring drill in such a shape as to be made perfect in half the time that would be required if the battalion was again allowed to fall back, and when the next inspection came around they would give even greater satisfaction to the inspecting officer than they had done now. The battalion was then dismissed. So terminated the most successful inspection that the regiment have had for fifteen years.

THE MOST EFFICIENT BATTERY.

Major VanWagner has received the following letter from Ottawa:

INSPECTOR OF ARTILLERY'S OFFICE,
OTTAWA, Dec. 13, 1887.

Major VanWagner, Com. H.F.B.:

DEAR SIR,—I am very pleased to be able to inform you that your battery has gained the highest place in the efficiency list for this year by a majority of seven points over the Quebec F. B. You and your officers worked hard, and deserved the success which I am glad to be able to congratulate you upon.—Sincerely yours,

D. T. IRWIN.

To say that the Major is pleased would be drawing it mild. Through his untiring exertions his battery obtained third place in the Gzowski prize competitions this year, and for the past two years has come within twelve points of winning the prize that has just been awarded his command. The officers, non-com. officers and gunners, all of whom worked diligently to attain their present standing, also Instructor Kerley, for the proficient manner in which he has worked drilling the men, and the patience shown in instructing the recruits, are worthy of praise. Certainly with such a record the H.F.B. deserves the highest praise, and the citizens of the Ambitious City should not withhold any assistance that they could give in order to maintain this corps in its present state of efficiency. The present officers of the battery are Major H. P. VanWagner, Capt. J. S. Hendrie, Lieuts. P. M. Bankier and A. T. Duncan. Non-Com. Officers—Sergt.-Instructor Kerley, Sergts. Fernside, Coombs, Trumbull, Omand, Homer, Sergt.-Major Wholton and Quarter-Master Sergt. Madgwick. The inspection was a very rigid one and the battery had seventeen competitors. They get Lord Lansdowne's cup besides money prizes.—*Hamilton Times*.

Toronto.

THE third annual meeting of the Ontario Artillery Association will be held, so I am told, on Tuesday the 7th February, 1888.

The Governor-General's Body Guard are following in the footsteps of the Queen's Own and Grenadiers in establishing a sergeants' mess. I hope it will be a lasting affair and not a case of "to-day we blossom, to-morrow we die."

Mr. A. E. Gooderham intends severing his connection with the Grenadiers. He has had charge of "E" company during the absence of Capt. Greville-Harstone in England.

"E" Company R.G. held their third annual dinner on the 13th inst., at Hughes' restaurant. Mr. Gooderham occupied the chair. An enjoyable evening was spent in smoke, song and speech—in fact in the 3 "S's."

Capt. McMurrich and his retired officers of the Toronto Garrison Battery I hear are going to give the men a supper sometime during the Xmas holidays.

The same faults that I found with the tournament of the Queen's Own were noticeable in that of the Grenadiers, which was held in the Metropolitan rink on the 16th instant. The quarter-mile race was won by Sergt. Creighton, Q.O.R. The potato race by Corpl. Watts, Q.O.R. The tug-of-war between the Q.O.R. and Grenadiers team was won after a good pull by the latter. Taylor's Safe Works' team won the tug open to any organization.

The *Mail* says: "The presentation of prizes won at the annual rifle match of the Q.O.R. buglers took place on Saturday evening at their rooms, 50 Adelaide street east. Lieut.-Col. Miller presented the prizes, after which refreshments, speeches and music were the order of the evening. A very pleasing feature of the entertainment was the presentation of a gold-headed walking stick to Lieut.-Col. Miller by the buglers, as a slight token of the esteem in which he was held by them during his service in the regiment."

QUEEN'S OWN EX-MEMBERS' DINNER.

Had you been present at the inaugural dinner of the ex-members of the Queen's Own at Victoria Hall on, the 15th instant, you would have had the pleasure of seeing "The Boar's Head" carried in state by four Heralds. The banquetting hall was tastefully decorated, the chief motto being "The Boys of the Old Brigade, 1863, 1866, 1875, 1885,"—1863 being the year in which the present regiment was organized; 1866, the affair at Limestone Ridge; 1875, the Engine Drivers' Strike and riot at Belleville, and 1885, the Relief of Battleford and the engagement with Poundmaker,—not the bull, mind you. The chair was ably filled by Major Dixon. Other ex-members present were Lt.-Cols. Gillmor, Jarvis and Miller, Majors Chadwick, Lee and Ellis, Capts. Douglas, Miller and Fahey (the secretary of the association), Messrs. McCormack, Piper and Adams. Amongst those present now serving in the regiment were Col. Allan, Capt. Mutton, Lieuts. Knifton and Nelson. The opening toasts were "The Queen" and "The Army, Navy and Militia," the latter responded to in a humorous speech by Capt. Mutton.

The toast of the evening was, of course, "Our Old Regiment," and brought Col. Allan, the present c.o., to his feet. Col. Gillmor who responded to the toast "Our Honorary President," was received with enthusiastic applause. "The Colonel" touched upon Commercial Union, which in his estimation meant annexation and should be opposed. Colour-Sergt. McCormack and Capt. Adams made suitable replies to the toast "The Original members of the Regiment."

Take it all through the dinner was a great success, and the ex-members are to be complimented upon it.

ENLISTMENT AND TRAINING OF CITY CORPS.

The sergeants of the Queen's Own having arranged for a series of lectures on military subjects to be delivered during the present winter, the first of the series was delivered on the 13th instant by Lieut.-Colonel H. Smith, Commandant of "D" School of Infantry. The subject he selected was, "Hints as to the best mode of enlisting and training a city corps under existing conditions." The lecturer, who was listened to throughout with great interest, after suggesting that a paid staff should be attached to each city corps; that the period for training should be extended; that there should be an increase in pay, and that if we did not have enthusiastic men to come forward and serve, the country would be compelled to support a force at greater expense; launched into his lecture proper. He spoke of the present system of recruiting men *for companies*, not *for the regiment*. He said that as the commanding officer of the corps was the person directly responsible to the country, the enlisting and approving of recruits should not be left in the hands of company officers, but that the men should be approved of and enlisted by the c. o., after a careful examination by the surgeon. That under the present company system the c. o. has no choice as to the rank and file. Another point Col. Smith laid emphasis upon was the insufficient training of recruits; this matter is also in the hands of the company officers, who are compelled from force of necessity to put men in the ranks without any, or at best, a small knowledge of drill, in order to keep their ranks up to the proper strength. The necessity of a thorough instruction in the principal sections of squad drill, arm drill, extended order and theoretical musketry practice was also pointed out. The recruits should at least, according to the lecturer, each fire 20 rounds of ball ammunition before being posted to a company. They should be trained by the very best instructors obtainable, but as Col. Smith said, a good instructor is a very rare article; the officers, in his opinion, should be the best drilled men in the regiment, the c. o. especially so. He next referred to the time wasted on battalion drill in teaching officers and markers their proper duties; he strongly advocated skeleton drill in order to avoid this. Col. Smith pointed out the objectionable element of any civil organization creeping into a corps, such as electing n. c. o., etc.

ENGINEER STRENGTH AND EQUIPMENT.

Which branch of the service shall I take up first—one being as deficient as the other in stores, equipment, etc. I shall tackle the engineers this week, as being the most scientific, as the branch we hear least of, as the branch which the regulations hardly notice, and as the branch which cannot be made in a day, nor after the so-called 12 days' drill.

Before quoting from reports let me say a few words for the engineers. According to the Militia Act, the number of men that can be trained is limited to 45,000. About two per cent. of this number should be engineers. Instead of having say 1,000 engineers we boast of 179. Just about the strength of one R. E. company. We know from experience the great difficulties that even the most favoured of our militia have to contend with, but with the sappers it is perhaps quadrupled. At the best, the engineers consist of three isolated independent companies—promotion extremely slow—a scientific branch with no encouragement, excepting that generously offered by Col. Gzowski—the most intelligent sapper receiving the same pay as the useless gunner, trooper or private—the officers virtually limited in promotion to the rank of captain—and so the thing goes on.

We know that in the cavalry, artillery and infantry, officers and men are constantly putting their hands into their pockets to pay for what the country ought to be doing; but with the engineers, stores are very numerous and expensive, and for three officers to undertake to equip even a company of 42 men is altogether out of the question, unless they are liberally disposed millionaires. Once we had in Toronto an engineer corps which, to the shame of the country it must be said, actually made their pontoons, etc., which with labour cost them about \$2,000.

Supply engineers with *even picks and shovels* and they will give a good account of themselves, but would you be surprised (I never am at things concerning the militia) to hear that *all* that one company could muster in stores were, *1 axe, 1 handsaw, 3 billhooks and 6 gabion knives*. Not even a pick nor a shovel. The above extensive equipment was not new either; they were worn stores received from the New Brunswick engineers. After the inspector had reported on this corps you would have thought that things would have improved; but no—we have a better way of doing things in Canada. We are told that "the greatest difficulty was again experienced in carrying on work for want of the *commonest tools*." A requisition for stores to the amount of \$150 had been put in but was not sanctioned—it may have been by now.

Before going further I might say that the engineers, in addition to company drill and everything else incidental to an infantry corps, have a large amount of work to learn peculiar to themselves, fascine and gabion making, tracing of field works, hasty entrenchments, obstacles, bridging in all shapes and forms, etc., etc. And all this is supposed to be accomplished in 12 days. A 12 days composed of 1 Sunday, 1 day coming to camp, 1 day returning, and 1 day's inspection, leaving 8 days for drill, of say 5 hours each—a total of *forty hours*. I have omitted time laid out for so-called musketry practice. *Forty hours!* I imagine myself employing a lawyer of 40 hours' standing!

The engineers, notwithstanding recommendations to the contrary, are "deficient in even picks and shovels," and "the deficiency of the most necessary tools is simply deplorable."

LINCOLN.

British Columbia.

THE remarks of Sir Adolphe Caron concerning the militia, made by him in his speech at the banquet tendered by the citizens of Victoria on the 1st inst., will doubtless be of interest to the readers of the MILITIA GAZETTE, so I send you a summary: "In 1881," he said, "when I took charge of the department of militia our permanent organization was composed of batteries 'A' and 'B,' or about 350 men. I must tell you that 'A' and 'B' and 'C' (the last of which is installed in your midst) are really the training schools of Canada. Our forces are defensive and not aggressive; we don't want an army in Canada, but wish to be busy building up our future and to avoid those wars which have been so disastrous to other countries. It has been my privilege and good fortune since I have taken charge of this department to be helped by one of the best officers of whom Canada can boast. Adjt.-Gen. Powell, who accompanies me, is, I must remark, a most indispensable adjunct to myself as Minister of Militia—being both a friend and military adviser. And it is by the experience of such as my Adjutant-General (applause) that I have been able to bring the force up to its present standard, and instead of having 350 men forming a permanent force, we have to-day, when the infantry school at London will have been organized, a force of 1,000 men, who, in case of emergency, can be widely distributed and depended upon as pivot men who can drill 10,000 or 12,000 others. 'C' Battery, which is now with you, will become not only the instructors of your excellent volunteer force, but I may express the sincere hope that they will become the men who will aid in forming new ties of friendship between British Columbia and the older provinces and add to the good-fellowship which I am pleased to see exists between this province and the Dominion."