

A FIELD BATTERY FOR VICTORIA, B.C.

SINCE the completion of the Macaulay Point fortifications, a new field of usefulness has opened up for the Victoria militia. The latest order from headquarters is that one of the three companies should be told off to take charge of the movable armament of that and the forts generally. That was the special business which brought together Lieut.-Col. Peters, the district officer commanding, and the officers of the 1st Batt. 5th R.C.A., presided over by Major Gregory—who as commander of the 1st Battalion is in due course to be gazetted lieutenant-colonel. The new duties will have the fascination of novelty, and of course individual officers and men alike have preferences between garrison and field artillery work, so that it became a matter of great interest which company should be assigned to the new duties. All having agreed upon this method of choice, lots were drawn, and the duty thus fell to No. 1 Company, Major Sargison's. This company will therefore now proceed to drill as a field battery, being relieved of work on the big guns. For this purpose two of the 13-pounder field guns now at the Point will be brought up to the drill hall at once. Besides the 13-pounders, the company will have to make themselves familiar with the machine and quick-firing guns which are part of the armament.

A most enjoyable picnic was held by the battalion at Pedder Bay on Saturday last. It was held under the patronage of the Lieut.-Governor, the naval, military and civil authorities. It was a great success. The band of the regiment was in attendance and discoursed excellent music.

A WARNING TO FILIBUSTERS.

THE proclamation issued by the Governor General on Tuesday last warns the public of the following provisions of the Foreign Enlistment Act, which they are enjoined not to contravene :

" 11. If any person within the limits of Her Majesty's dominions, and without the license of Her Majesty,

" Prepares or fits out any naval or military expedition to proceed against the dominions of any friendly State the following consequences shall ensue :

" 1. Every person engaged in such preparation, or fitting out, or assisting therein, or employed in any capacity in such expedition, shall be guilty of an offence against this Act, and shall be punishable by fine or imprisonment, or either of such punishments, at the discretion of the court before which the offender is convicted ; and imprisonment, if awarded, may be either with or without hard labor.

" 2. All ships and their equipments, and all arms and munitions of war, used in or forming part of such expedition, shall be forfeited to Her Majesty.

" 12. Any person who aids, abets, counsels or procures the commission of any offence against this Act shall be liable to be tried and punished as a principal offender."

WAR DOGS.

THE training of dogs for military purposes has long been cultivated in the Jager regiments (Chasseurs a pied) of the German army. In the so-called Jager Battalion of the Guard at Potsdam no less than 30 dogs of various kinds are employed for this purpose. The care of the animals, which must be very young, is entrusted to reliable people ; but a change in their attendants is frequently effected so that the dogs may be accustomed more to the uniform than to the individual. The training begins by causing the animals to accompany single patrols on sentinels' walks, the dogs being first led by a string, but later permitted to run free. Having accustomed them to the uniform, the next step is to send them back, and they soon understand that they are entrusted with messages, written on a slip of paper which is exactly so large that it can be

concealed behind the copper-plate on the collar. When the patrol examines the latter the animals can scarcely be held back, and as soon as possible race impetuously to the main body. It is somewhat more difficult when the dogs have to again find the patrol, who has meantime continued his march, but the animals qualified for the performances of war succeed in this also before long. Then the training proceeds step by step. After having learned to take messages, they are taught to search for the wounded, to bring ammunition to companies engaged in battle, and, what is more difficult, to find the enemy without making any noise. Of the animals submitted to the battalion for training, only a few are capable of satisfying the demands made of a real war-dog. As yet German pointers have shown themselves the best for this purpose. English breeds possess a higher intelligence, but go to work too hastily, and consequently tire more quickly.

THE FOSTERING OF A MILITARY SPIRIT.

AT the close of a lecture on the "Moral Influence of War," by Lieut.-Col. P. Neville, before the United Service Institution of India, the Commander-in-Chief of the forces in India paid a high compliment to the lecturer, and said : "We have the high authority of Napoleon for saying that moral forces in war have three times the importance that can be credited to material force, and, therefore, anything that helps us in the study or knowledge of that moral force must be of the highest military value. The first means of encouraging a real military spirit is to invest the profession of arms with all possible social consideration and public distinction. It was to the fostering of military institutions that the Roman Empire owed its grandeur. The army should be considered to be the most enviable calling by the youth and manhood of the nation, and every far-seeing Government ought to encourage this view by every means in its power. The consideration accorded to the defenders of the country should not be of a mere temporary character, which is readily accorded to them in times of great public peril, but should be of a more permanent character, less dependent upon circumstances, and should obtain through the longer intervals of peace in which the true military sentiments must be assimilated. If a nation is to be well and truly served in its system of national education, it should aim at raising the profession of a soldier. It should honor courage, manly endurance, and patriotism, inculcate contempt for weakness and self-indulgence, expose imposture and pretence, and disgrace cowardice. As regards our army and those who are responsible for its efficiency, the highest standard of duty and of honor should be labored for and maintained as the only standard compatible with the traditions and sentiments of a profession, whose banners should bear the device 'death before dishonor.'"

A correspondent writes : Reading in your last edition (Sept. 15th inst.) the proposition to honor Lieut.-Col. F. Minden Cole by tendering him a banquet as a recognition for the many honors he has brought to Canada, the idea occurs to me that, much gratification as there may be if such can be worthily carried out, would this not be the fitting occasion to propose, and by every means possible try to do, the further honor of awarding our worthy representative a promotion in rank, which must stand permanently to attest our appreciation of his noble victory ?

However elaborate the banquet may be, its effects must soon pass away. Are we willing that such national service should be forgotten ? I would think not, and hope this suggestion will be heartily endorsed by his many friends. His admirers include, I am sure, all loyal Canadians, and I sign, as I am ever proud to proclaim myself, A Montrealer.