

ments of infantry from the counties of York, Simcoe, Peel, Ontario, Wentworth and Haldimand, may be held to fairly represent the active militia of the 2nd Military District, the largest and most important in the Dominion.

And first, as to the elements of which this force is composed, it is essentially national and representative. Its officers include men of every class, nationality and calling. Several members of the House of Commons are found among them, all regularly trained for the positions they hold; one distinguished member of the Provincial Legislature is at the head of the medical staff, and in various ranks are men from the different counties who occupy leading positions in social life, in political affairs, and in the different branches of trade, commerce and agriculture. Mingled with them are young farmers, students and mechanics, whose love for a military life has induced them to make the sacrifices of time and money necessary to qualify them to hold their commissions. All of them, by virtue of their commissions, stand upon that footing of perfect equality, tempered by the necessary subordination of rank, which is a characteristic feature of Her Majesty's forces. Of the body of officers thus constituted the great majority are regularly qualified for their respective ranks, and can be depended upon to take a force of recruits in hand, and, without any assistance from outside, prepare them for the duties of the field. Nor are the non-com. officers in their relative rank in any way inferior. Many of them have been taught in the military schools, others have been trained by long service in the force, and all are remarkable for good conduct, steadiness and general efficiency. Nor are the rank and file the mob of raw recruits brought casually together to fill up the ranks for the time being, of which the rural battalions are often supposed to consist. In a force brought together only once in two years, and having but few opportunities of drill in the meantime, there must necessarily be a large proportion of recruits and undrilled men. There are, however, in every company, a number of men who, from pure love of soldiering, stick to it from year to year, who are thoroughly drilled, who are up to all the duties of the camp and the field, and who leaven the whole regiment, and enable it to enter at once upon its work in a manner that is a surprise to all beholders.

Thus, with its trained officers and non-com. officers, and with this nucleus of drilled and disciplined men, a rural corps assembles at its headquarters, is moved to camp, pitches its tents, lights its fires, mounts its guards, and takes up all the routine of duty with readiness and regularity, and, what is more surprising, these men, to most of whom any species of restraint is new, obey orders and submit to rules of discipline, not only without a murmur but with the instinctive feeling that it is proper and soldierlike to do so. These men are largely farmers, farmers' sons and mechanics who make a pecuniary sacrifice in attending drill—labourers, also, who leave good wages for the half dollar a day and rations that a grateful country affords them—and, it must be said, a proportion of idlers, who nevertheless do not always make the worst soldiers. A regiment so composed is, I say, national and representative. It is also serviceable and in a surprisingly short time becomes smart and soldierlike. Its physique is good, its discipline is good, and it may be relied upon for any service the country requires.

Such, I say, was the force that assembled at Niagara under Col. Otter on the 17th of this month. Of course, in such a force, a great deal may be found to laugh at. There is plenty of room for criticism. Sentinels may be ignorant and do absurd things, belts and accoutrements may at first be worn in a slovenly fashion, coats may be badly folded, and, in short, no end of faults may be found; but where can be seen such a smart, efficient and soldierlike body of men, all things considered, as those who left camp after such a ridiculously short period of drill as twelve days! The Canadian is apt at warlike exercises. He adopts them readily and learns them quickly. Properly handled, he is docile and obedient; when he thinks respect and obedience is due, he yields it cheerfully. But he is quick to notice any error on the part of his officers. He will not long tolerate incompetence or laziness; when he finds those qualities he will be first sullen, then probably mutinous. His officers must be his pattern. They must set him an example of self-denial, endurance and hardihood. They must fully accept the motto "*Noblesse oblige*," and be ready to lead, and to share, as well as able to command. With such elements properly combined a force may be defeated but never be subdued, and the destinies of the country may safely be left in its hands.

The course of instruction at the camp was as comprehensive and thorough as the circumstances would admit. Squad drill (omitting the physical exercises) and manual and firing exercises occupied most of the time. Next came the application of squad to battalion drill in such simple movements as are necessary for the movement of a battalion in brigade. And last, but not least, practice of the new mode of attack, to which the men took very readily.

A field day occupying one afternoon, in which a march past and

sham fight between the two brigades gave an opportunity of showing how far the force had benefited by its ten days of actual drill, closed this course.

In a course where all, from the the highest to the lowest, did their best to excel, comparisons would indeed be odious, and I shall not attempt them. I have said but little of the artillery, not being familiar with that branch of the force, but I believe the officer under whose charge they were—and there can be no more competent authority—was well satisfied with the results attained. The march past of the infantry battalions was uniformly good, and I do not think better could have been done by any part of the force, the most highly trained city regiments not excepted. It might have been remarked, that the new front formations seem inevitably to resolve themselves into a wheel of the old-fashioned kind.

The sham fight between the two brigades showed an intelligent appreciation of the methods of attack, but, under the exigencies of their application, involving as occurred in this case, a change of front on the part of the attacking force, and a rapid movement from left to right in consequence of the defending force having first got possession of the ramparts of Fort George, it is evident that a close adherence to technical rules is impossible.

It is needless to say that under the officer who commands the Second Military District the rules of discipline were strict and strictly carried out, and it is the highest compliment that can be paid to all concerned, both officers and men, that they were carried out, and that the cases of their violation were remarkably few.

June 28th, 1890.

MILES.

### The Toronto Summer Carnival

TORONTO, 29th June.—To the Militia falls the honour of having taken the leading part in inaugurating the greatest Summer Carnival ever projected in Canada. On Sunday morning the Governor-General's Body Guard (now in camp on the Garrison Commons) marched to St. James' Cathedral where services were conducted by Canon Dumoulin, and in the afternoon the Queen's Own and the Dufferin Rifles of Brantford held a combined parade to the New Richmond Church where the most practical sermon ever preached to either of the corps was delivered by Rev. J. E. Lancel, who took his text from II. Corinthians, iv., 12. The band of the Queen's Own stationed in the gallery rendered a selection with grand effect during the offertory. Take it on the whole, despite the intense heat, the service was most hearty, the pastor with kind regard to the high temperature limiting the service, so that no one had a chance to catch even a wink of sleep. I might also state that too much praise cannot be given to the churchwardens for their unceasing efforts to overcome all obstacles in the way of the comfort of the men and the members of the Queen's Own look with pleasure to a return visit to the New Richmond. Two well known friends of the regiment occupied seats on the platform, Rev. Manly Benson and Mr. Warring Kennedy. The Queen's Own led the visiting corps down to the foot of York street where they took the boat *en route* to the Exhibition grounds where they are now quartered.

The morning of the 1st July was ushered in by a very heavy rain-storm and it looked as if "Old Probs" was going to vent his spleen upon our brave defenders. Shortly before 11 a.m. the square round the drill shed presented a busy scene as the different regiments took up their respective positions, and at 11.30 the Governor-General's Body Guard swung off along Front street. The Guards' strength was 178 men and they presented a very fine appearance, giving evidence that the few days spent in camp had proved of immense advantage. These officers were in command:—Lieut.-Colonels G. T. Denison and F. C. Denison, M.P., Major Denison, Captains Denison and Bolton, Lieutenants Fleming, Elliott and Dixon, Surgeon Grasett, Quartermaster Sloan, Assistant Surgeon Campbell.

The Field Battery, under command of Major Mead, followed, the other officers being Capt. Beatty, Lieut. Irwin, Q.-M. Sgt. Sprey, Sgt.-Maj. Woodman.

Next came the 15th Battalion Argyle Infantry, under command of Lieut.-Col. Lazier, 350 strong. Their other officers were Majors Henderson and Lazier, Capt. and Adj. Lazier, Surgeon Aikins, Asst. Surgeon Elliott, Capt. Biggar, paymaster; Capt. Pope, quartermaster; Chaplain Rev. M. M. McLean. The regiment was headed by the two bands, brass band numbering 30 and bugle band 11.

The 57th Battalion of Peterboro next swung into view, 275 strong, under Lieut.-Col. Rogers, the new uniforms showing to good advantage. The following were the officers: Capts. Mason, Langford, Hill, Denistoun, Miller, Brennan.

Bringing up the rear of the 1st Brigade came the Royal Grenadiers, under Lieut.-Col. Dawson, headed by both brass and bugle bands. The following officers were in command of the eight companies: A, Capts.