

BRANTFORD.

The plans of the new drill hall reached here last night and gave general satisfaction to all who have seen them. They show a handsome brick structure on a stone foundation with the legend "Dufferin Rifle Armory" in the front. The main hall will face Mr. W. S. Wisner's house, and the side runs along Brant avenue. The internal arrangements show a main hall 180 feet by 150, a little larger than the present shed. There will be a lecture room, six armories, commanding officers room, orderly rooms, band room, store room, also two large rooms for the officers mess. In addition there are the caretakers and officers quarters. The latter will include an ante room, mess room and billiard room. There is also a gallery opening from the mess room to the big hall. There is also room left at the south end of the hall for a big gallery for the general public so that spectators will not crowd on the floor when the men are drilling. Sewerage and waterworks connections are provided for all the quarters, and the arrangements throughout will be most complete.

The whole matter now rests in the hands of the building committee of the Dufferin Rifles, and they will consider the plans Saturday night, Lieut.-Col. Jones coming up for that purpose. It is probable that tenders will be called for inside of a week.

In the meantime a practical builder has been engaged to look over the plans, and to suggest any possible economies.

The regiment assumes the charge of construction, getting \$10,000 in cash from the Government.—*Courier*, 6th Dec.

PICTON.

The 16th Battalion Band unfortunately lost all their instruments and uniforms, both private as well as military, and the whole of its equipments, by the fire which consumed the Picton Rink Company's building on Friday morning, 3rd Dec. This is a serious loss, more especially to a rural battalion, as bands of these battalions are very difficult to keep up; now that they have lost everything, it will be very difficult work to replace the instruments. The instruments cost about \$800. Only a few were saved, and there was no insurance. This band has been in existence as an organization for over 30 years, and went to the front in the Fenian raid. There is a full list of members and they are all sworn in. The loss is a serious one, and the many friends of the band are anxious that it should again be placed on an efficient footing, and suggest that grants from the Government and from the town and county councils would be an appropriate recognition of an old and valued public institution which has been in the field in the country's defence and is prepared to be there again.

VICTORIA, B.C.

The three headquarter batteries of the British Columbia Brigade of Garrison Artillery paraded on 3rd inst., for their annual inspection. The assembly was at the improvised drill hall in the public market. Shortly before three o'clock a start was made for the parade ground at Beacon Hill park. The officer in command, Lieut.-Col. Prior, M. P., had the satisfaction of finding himself at the head of one of the largest parades on record. The band of C Battery, R.C.A., headed the column, playing several popular marches in excellent time. There were two mounted officers, Lieut.-Col. Prior and Major Nicolles; the acting Adjutant was Captain P. Æ. Irving, and the battery officers were: No. 2, Lieut. Sargison, in command; No. 3, Capt. Quinlan and Lieut. Williams; No. 4, Capt. Smallfield and Lieut. Pierce; Sergt.-Major Munro in the lead, and Staff-Sergeants Williams and McConnan bringing up the rear, were the staff non-commissioned officers present.

The route from the Market hall was along Douglas and Humboldt streets to the Park road. At the start the march was by half-company front, in which line was well kept, and en route the formation was changed to fours. The men marched in a very soldier-like manner, and the comments of the onlookers on the trim appearance of the uniform and equipment showed that the efforts made to secure this satisfactory result were not without appreciation. The music supplied by C Battery band was satisfactory, not only in the selection but in the liberality of the musicians, whose intermissions en route were few and brief.

At the parade ground the three batteries were drawn up in line to await the arrival of the inspecting officer, Lieut.-Col. Holmes, D.A.G., who came attended by Lieut. Ogilvie, of C battery, R.C.A., as Aide, and by the district paymaster, Capt. A. W. Jones. These having taken up their position by the flag planted at the saluting point, Col. Prior ordered the general salute, and the ranks having presented arms the band played the customary strains of the national anthem. The parade then marched past the saluting point, first in column of companies then in quarter column, and finally at the double, the march in each instance being splendidly done. In going past at the double, the Colonel's mount came in for a good share of admiration, for the graceful manner in which the beast picked up the step given by the band, and its evident satisfaction at its share in the performance.

Major Nicholles was next called on, and directed the execution of this programme: Advance in fours from the right of companies; retire in fours from the left of companies; change front on a flank company, remainder forward; change front on a flank company, remainder back; change front on central company; column to the right.

Capt. Irving gave the words of command for the manual and firing exercise, which were performed with satisfactory precision.

Col. Holmes then made a minute inspection of each battery separately, beginning with No. 2, Lieut. Sargison being called upon to execute a great number of movements in company drill. Darkness coming on, the parade was marched back to the market hall. There Nos. 3 and 4 batteries were submitted to a similar test, being put through company drill by their officers and their arms being inspected by the D. A. G.

At the conclusion of the inspection Col. Holmes expressed himself as well pleased with what he had seen, and Col. Prior dismissed the parade after thanking all present for their assistance in keeping up the good credit of the brigade.—*Colonist*.

NANAIMO.

On the afternoon of 9th inst., the Nanaimo Infantry Company paraded in full strength at the Caledonian Rooms, preparatory to passing the second annual inspection; preceded by the Nanaimo Silver Cornet Band they marched to the green, where the inspection was held. Lieut.-Col. Holmes, D.A.G., Capt. H. W. Jones, District-Paymaster, Col. E. G. Prior, B.C.G.A., and Lieut. Pierce, B.C.G.A., were present from Victoria.

The inspection did not last long. After the march past, the corps was then put through a short musketry drill, followed by a few minutes skirmishing. The men appeared to go through their exercises in good form, and they evidently gave satisfaction to Col. Holmes. Capt. McGregor was in command. Next year a longer and more severe test of the efficiency of the company will be looked for.

There is a movement on foot, which should be encouraged among the officers and men of the Infantry Company at this place for the building of a large drill shed, 80 feet by 132. At present there is no suitable place in which the corps can go through their drill. A large shed is a necessity if the men are ever to attain to any high standard of efficiency. The drill shed when built will be arranged as to be conveniently used as a skating rink or a ball room, so that by renting it out from time to time for these purposes a certain source of revenue may be guaranteed. The scheme merits success, and no doubt the efforts of the military will be practically assisted by the citizens generally.

MONTREAL.

The armory of the 6th Fusiliers was crowded on the evening of 2nd inst., on the occasion of the second of the series of complimentary smoking concerts by members of the regiment and their friends. Color Sergeant B. Howard of B Company, presided, and a long and varied programme, consisting of instrumental solos and duets, and patriotic and comic songs was gone through. Those who contributed to the programme were Bugler Thomas Pibe, Private Slowly, Bandsman G. Hastie, Captain E. J. Chambers, Drummer Graham, Mr. E. E. Etherington, Bandsman Wigley, Corpl. H. Jelly, Pte. H. Porteous, Mr. Lennox Mattice, Mr. Geo.