

Having so often levied upon that brightest of the English service papers the *United Service Gazette* for material with which to interest the readers of this paper, we are pleased to have now the opportunity of making a quotation showing the prosperity our contemporary enjoys. This is from the issue of the 5th January:

"On the 9th of next month the UNITED SERVICES GAZETTE will complete its fifty-sixth year of existence, having been started on February 9, 1833. We are thus the senior of the oldest of the existing Service papers by twenty-seven years.

"In our 2,922nd number, the first of the year 1889, we wish our readers the compliments of the season, and at the same time draw their attention to a very slight but important addition to our title.

"In future we shall be known as the UNITED SERVICES GAZETTE. The addition of the letter "S" makes a vast difference, for it causes to be included the *whole* of Her Majesty's land and sea forces, Regular and Auxiliary. * * *

"At the present moment there is undoubtedly existent among a large and influential section of our Citizen Army the conviction that the Volunteers are not *efficiently* represented in the Press devoted to the Services, and it will be our aim to supply the want in a very practical and efficient manner."

The Drill of the Garrison Artillery.

The ponderous volume recently issued containing the report of the Committee on the Organization of the British Royal Artillery, has many passages bristling with pointers for the artillery branch of our Canadian force. The committee report, for instance, upon "The want of a proper system of instruction for Garrison Artillery, and the absence of modern *materiel* for carrying out such instruction," and they say:

"The suggestions of the committee with respect to the establishment of auxiliary schools of instruction at the great centres, separate from, but affiliated to, the School of Gunnery at Shoeburyness, meet with the warmest approval of the present committee, and they most cordially recommend them.

"The absence of *materiel* of recent pattern the committee feel to be a great misfortune, and they strongly urge its supply, not only at home, but abroad, and in India, where, as it has been represented to them, the obsolete nature of the armament in the inland forts is a fruitful source of deterioration to the garrison artillery.

"Another point connected with this subject has attracted the attention of the committee. They are informed that garrison artillery in addition to their peculiar work, are constantly called upon to take part as infantry in the movement of field days, &c., and that, further, in order that they may creditably discharge these duties it is found necessary to practice them in battalion drill during hours which would otherwise have been devoted to their special exercises.

"They learn, moreover, that even at this cost, it is impossible for a corps of which the duties are so numerous and so onerous, to find sufficient opportunities to achieve perfection in infantry movements, and that both officers and men feel bitterly the fact that they are called upon, on the only occasions on which they appear before the eyes of the public, to invite comparison between themselves and the more practised regiments of the line.

"Without desiring to enter into details of drill, which more closely concern the administrative authorities, the committee desire to enter a forcible protest against this use of a specially important arm, and to record their unanimous opinion that nothing beyond what is necessary for their inspection by batteries on parade, should be demanded from garrison artillery save such knowledge as they are likely to use in time of war. The garrison artillery should be trained only in their own duties, be inspected only in the discharge of them, and be judged only by their efficiency in them."

Military College Ex-Cadets.

The annual meeting of the Royal Military College Ex-Cadet Club was held at Montreal on Friday last. There were present: Mr. W. M. Davis, Woodstock, president; Mr. Fred. W. White, Ottawa, secretary-treasurer; Capt. Wise, A.D.C., Ottawa; Capt. E. T. Taylor, Royal Cheshire Regiment; A. K. Kirkpatrick, Kingston; Capt. G. H. Ogilvie, "C" Battery, Victoria, B.C.; H. H. Hogan, G. R. Hooper, D. Macpherson, Montreal; Dr. F. Powell, N. W. M. Police, Regina; B. W. Yates, Detroit; W. R. Leonard, Springhill, N.S.; R. B. Jack, Moncton; A. E. Hodgins, Toronto; Capt. E. F. Wurtele, Quebec; E. H. Drury, St. John; C. R. Coutlee, Aylmer.

Considerable discussion took place on the subject of appointments to commissions in the permanent corps. The militia regulations promise these appointments to graduates of the Royal Military

College, and the club are going to urge the militia authorities to respect this regulation. The secretary-treasurer's report was very satisfactory, showing an increase in the membership, and the finances were in a prosperous state, showing a good cash balance in hand. The election of officers for the year resulted as follows:—President, W. M. Davis, C.E., Woodstock, re-elected; vice-president, A. K. Kirkpatrick, C.E., Kingston; secretary-treasurer, Fred. W. White, C.E., Ottawa; managing committee, L. H. Irving, Toronto; D. Macpherson, C.E., Montreal; S. W. Leonard, C.E., Springhill, N.S.; B. W. Yates, C.E., Detroit; Capt. S. A. Denison, London. The next annual meeting will be held in Toronto.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

The annual dinner was held at the Windsor in the evening. The chair was occupied by Mr. Davis, president of the club; the vice-chair by Mr. D. Macpherson. Among the guests present were Messrs. R. S. White, M.P.; R. G. Leckie, of Springfield, N.S.; Lieut.-Col. Henshaw, Victoria Rifles; A. D. Taylor, H. B. Yates, and Surgeon Corsan, of Fifth Royal Scots. After dinner the usual loyal toasts were proposed, and with songs and speeches the evening was pleasantly passed. Letters of regret at their inability to attend were read from Sir A. P. Caron, Gen. Sir Frederick Middleton, Col. Panet, Deputy Minister of Militia, and Col. Powell, Adjutant-General.

Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the militia.]

REFERRED TO THE "WARDER."

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Kindly give us a little more information concerning the wonderful scores made at Fenelon Falls on New Year's day.

Was the match shot before or after the banquet? What was the size of the bulls-eye? Do you think the markers were "fixed?" Or do you think the festive season of the year had anything to do with it? Do your best to answer us in the next GAZETTE, and oblige a

DOUBTING THOMAS.

Toronto, 21st January, 1889.

PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR CITY CORPS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—It seems to be the general impression among the members of the corps here that our D. A. G. has not by any means given up the idea of getting the city corps of his district into camp during the coming summer.

Perhaps it may seem presumptuous for one in my humble position to give an opinion, but a long connection with the force as a private and non-commissioned officer, gives one opportunities to judge that some of the officers never get.

Various are the reasons for which a young man joins the militia. As a rule it is because his chums or particular friends belong, or perhaps because he becomes suddenly enthusiastic over a march-out, field-day or such like. A few, very few I am sorry to say, join from the pure love of it. These are the men who make our efficient volunteers, and are ready to break any engagement or put themselves out in any way for the sake of their corps, but the great majority would sooner not take any holidays at all than put them in at camp; besides it would not meet with the approval of the employers, as in a great many cases it would leave them short-handed in their warehouses, offices and workshops at a busy season of the year.

It is well known that for many years the plan adopted of forming company funds out of the men's annual pay has helped the city regiments more than can be imagined. Send them to camp and that source of revenue is done away with, as the men would naturally want their pay.

It would be a long stride in the right direction if the city corps could be got into brigade camp, if only once in three years; but my firm belief is that practically it could not be done. Theoretically it might by inducing as many as possible to go, and filling up the blanks with substitutes, but that would place us in as false a position as the rural corps, who only get about twenty or thirty of their old men for two consecutive camps.

Would it not be well to adopt a plan something after that followed at Aldershot for the volunteers. That is to raise a provisional battalion from the different corps. We have in this district the 2nd, 10th, 13th and 38th Battalions. Take one hundred men from each, with a proportion of officers and non-commissioned officers, and you have an eight company battalion four hundred strong; this would be practically—I wish to emphasize "practically"—a better plan than attempting to get the different regiments separately, and I do not think there would be any trouble in getting one hundred men from each of the regiments mentioned.

MILITIA MAN.

Toronto, 21st January, 1889.