

ial, Dominion and Bisley prize lists attests to the influence it has had on marksmanship in the 93rd. At the incipency of the Riel rebellion Lieut.-Col. Harrison and Major Black decided to offer the 93rd for active service in the Northwest, and promptly sent a despatch to this effect to headquarters, Ottawa, and were informed with thanks that if more were wanted in addition to the city corps already ordered to the front it would be accepted. When captain of an independent volunteer company at Amherst Major Black on one occasion turned his company out at short notice in aid of the civil power and dispersed a mob of 100 railway navvies which had assembled here to rescue one of their number while he was being taken from jail to court for trial. He has been adjutant of the 93rd for ten years and brevet major and major for thirteen years. The officers of the 93rd, among whom Major Black has been so long known as a painstaking and popular officer, will much regret his retirement from the battalion, though all will be gratified with his well-earned promotion and the knowledge that he is to remain in this district.

We regret, with the brigade-major's host of friends in this town and county, that his duties necessitate his removal to Halifax, the headquarters of the militia district. Major Black started in 1866 the first newspaper in Cumberland County, The Amherst Gazette, and has published and edited it ever since. At the outset it was independent in politics, but by The Sentinel being started by the late Hon. William Annand and leading Liberals in this county, The Gazette became outspoken in defence of Liberal-Conservative principles and has ever been a consistent and an able supporter of the policy of that party. Since 1889 he has also published the tri-weekly Amherst Record, which in future will be conducted by his son, C. De L. Black.

The Imperial troops in garrison celebrated H. M. Birthday by lining the ramparts of the Citadel and firing a feu de joie. The usual royal salute was fired by the Royal Artillery. The militia took no part in the celebration, owing, I suppose, to the day not

being observed as a public holiday. We are holding ourselves in for a big turn-out during carnival week.

The 63rd Rifles were not long behind the Fusiliers in adopting the new pattern forage cap. Like the Fusiliers, they look neat and smart in them.

The new drill shed has at last made its appearance above ground, and is being pushed rapidly forward. It is expected that the walls and roof will be completed ere the winter sets in. Its completion will be a god-send to the city brigade, and let us hope that when it is completed it will be for the use of the militia, and not for badminton, lawn tennis, bazaars, etc., as the present one has been.

The drill season is now in full swing, the three corps are drilling steadily, and filling their ranks after the winter's losses.

The other day in looking over a blank discharge certificate, as supplied by the Militia Department to the active militia, I was surprised to find no space provided for placing on record the man's character during service. He might have been a very good man, or he might have been a very bad one, still the good man must be satisfied with the same character as the bad one. Perhaps the military genius who is the author of the present discharge form is unaware that a "blank discharge" from the army is given to men under very shady circumstances.

GRAVEL CRUSHER.

REGIMENTAL SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION.

The 68th, King's County, N.S., is carrying on regimental schools of instruction at Kentville, Canning and Aylesford, which are doing very thorough work. Lieut. S. S. Naylor is the adjutant and instructor. He was a sergeant in the 2nd West York Rifle Volunteers, Eng., and joined the 68th as a lieutenant in 1894. He took a course that year with the Liverpool Regiment at Halifax, and obtained a first-class Grade "A," with an average of 82 per cent.

COMPARATIVE EFFICIENCY.

THE return of the comparative efficiency of the Canadian infantry which drilled at local headquarters, that is, city corps, this year is issued. The total number of marks which any battalion could earn was 150, and on this basis the credit of being the most efficient corps in Canada is due to 43rd Battalion, Ottawa and Carleton Rifles, with the splendid average of 135. The Queen's Own average is 101; the 10th Royals, 88; the 48th Highlanders, 100; the 7th, London, 57; the 25th, 82; the 13th, Hamilton, 116; 38th, 63; 14th, Kingston, 92; 15th, 71; 57th, 100; the Ottawa Guards, 99. Of the Quebec corps the 3rd Vics. averaged 109; the 5th Royal Scots, 103; the Prince of Wales', 98; the 65th, 91; and the 6th Fusiliers, 84.

That the 13th deserve every mark they obtained goes without saying, but we do not think there should be so wide a difference between the 13th and 43rd. The 48th Highlanders have pushed the Queen's Own very closely, and it must not be forgotten the 48th have only two officers per company. The same will apply to the Grenadiers. The highest company average of the Toronto corps was that of "B" Company of the Highlanders, scoring 110 points; "A" Company Q.O.R. comes next with 107; "C" Company 48th next with 105.

The company averages are as follows:

2nd Battalion Queen's Own Rifles "A" Co. (Capt. Thompson) 107 marks, "B" Co. (Capt. Lloyd) 101, "C" Co. (Capt. Penchen) 94, "D" Co. (Capt. Mason) 106, "E" Co. (Capt. and Batt. Major Mutton) 107, "F" Co. (Capt. and Batt. Major M. McGee) 99, "G" Co. (Lieut. Levesconte) 91, "H" Co. (Capt. Gunther) 103, "I" Co. (Capt. and Batt. Major Murray) 103, "K" Co. (Capt. Rennie) 99.

10th Batt. Royal Grenadiers "A" Co. (Capt. Cameron) 98, "B" Co. (Capt. Boyd) 100, "C" Co. (Capt. Caston) 83, "D" Co. (Capt. Stinson) 87, "E" Co. (Capt. Tassie) 90, "F" Co. (Capt. Sweetman) 80, "G" Co. (Capt. McKay) 83, "H" Co. (Capt. Lehmann) 85, "I" Co. (Lieut. Craig) 83, "K" Co. (Capt. Trotter) 90.

13th Battalion "A" Co. (Capt. and Batt. Major Stoneman) 117, "B" Co. (Capt. Labatt) 118, "C" Co. (Capt. and Batt. Major Zealand) 113, "D" Co. (Capt. Ross) 114, "E" Co. (Capt. Osborne) 122, "F" Co. (Capt. Tidswell) 114, "G" Co. (Capt. Mewburn) 114, "H" Co. (Capt. Moore) 110.

48th Highlanders "A" Co. (Capt. Robertson) 100, "B" Co. (Lieut. Hugh C. MacLean) 110, "C" Co. (Capt. Currie) 105, "D" Co. (Capt. Michie) 94, "E" Co. (Capt. Orchard) 92, "F" Co. (Capt. Hendrie) 89, "G" Co. (Capt. Ramsay) 102, "H" Co. (Capt. and Batt. Major Henderson) 105.

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