

THE SHOEBOURNESS TEAM.



STILL another victory for the Canadian Militia. This time the artillerymen have been winning laurels on the other side of the pond. They were competing with the flower of Britain's artillery, and it is all the more gratifying to know that they more than held their own, notwithstanding the fact that before they left this country the team were utter strangers to each other, and the guns with which they were accustomed to work were very much old-timers as compared with the modern armament with which the same body was armed in England.

It is to be hoped that the Government and the people generally of the Dominion will awaken to the fact that Canada can hold her own with the world when it comes down to skill in arms. It cannot be said that the Government that has gone over to the great majority in any way helped to bring this about. Rather the reverse. They ignored them to such an extent that if trouble had in any way arisen the force would have been found completely demoralized so far as they were concerned. It is public spirited gentlemen that we have to thank for bringing the representatives of the militia so prominently before the world. Let us hope that the new Government will recognize the force as it should be recognized, and with the combined efforts that have sustained it in the past there is no reason why we should not be able to do still greater deeds in the interest of the land of the maple leaf and instil into the minds of the people on the other side that this land of ours can produce worthy sons of worthy sires.

When the teams return it is to be hoped that they will get a right royal welcome, for the winning of the Londonderry and Queen's Cups are no small trophies.

Lieut.-Col. Cole, commandant of the team, has sent a long and interesting account of the movements of the team since leaving Canada to his brother, Lieut. Cole, who has handed THE GAZETTE the notes, so that the artillerymen and others alike may know something of their doings. Col. Cole, in his letter, which is dated from Camp, July 26, says: "On landing at Liverpool they were received by the officers and band of the Royal Navy Reserve, and the Customs authorities courteously passed the baggage without examination. A special train conveyed them to London, at which place they arrived four hours later. On their arrival there they were met by the officers of the National Artillery Association, and arrangements had been made for the transport of the baggage, which was looked after by the quartermaster sergeant of the volunteer artillery. After being welcomed by Major Vane Stowe, secretary of the N. A.A., Col. Clay and Capt. Horncastle, of the 3rd Middlesex Artillery, the camp adjutant, they were driven to the Mansion House, where the whole team was received by the Lord Mayor, who was wearing his robes and chains of office. He shook hands with each member individually. Col. Cole sat to the right of the Mayor at the luncheon, and Hon. Mr. Collier to the left. Col. Cole was greatly surprised when the Mayor handed him a permit to march through the city of London with fixed bayonets, a permission which is seldom granted. In handing over the permit, the Lord Mayor remarked that the Queen herself required his permission before entering the city, and it was customary to meet her at the gates with the keys. There is only one regiment in the Imperial service, the Third Buffs, which can march through the city without permission,

but this also applies to the Royal Marines. The reason that this privilege is accorded the Buffs is that during the Netherlands war the Buffs were formed by a number of gentlemen who volunteered for active service, and afterwards became a permanent corps, and this privilege was accorded them in perpetuity. The extending of this honor to the Canadians was a graceful act indeed. After luncheon the team in full marching order marched from the Mansion House to Fenchurch Street depot, and embarked for Shoeburyness. They were provided with a police escort despite their fixed bayonets, and the London 'gamin' had his remark to pass about the fixed bayonets. They reached camp at 6.15, and were marched in by the Royal Artillery band and found supper waiting them. The mess equipment was supplied by the Royal Artillery. On Sunday the team attended church, and afterwards the commandant of the camp, Col. Stewart, inspected the team and tents and said a few words of welcome to the men."

The meet finished on Thursday of last week, and Lord Wolseley addressed the men, and said very complimentary things about Canada. The team are going in for a week of sight-seeing, and will be quartered at St. George's Barracks, London. Col. Cole states that they intend going to Windsor, where Her Majesty has given orders to show the team everything that is worth seeing. They intend also to take in Woolwich.

In the big gun competitions the team dismounted and removed a 64-pounder to a new carriage in 14 minutes 49 seconds, the time allowance being 15 minutes. The Canadians were heartily cheered for their work. They withdrew from the Repository competition on account of the stores and implements being different to what they had been accustomed. They also retired from another competition for a cup, valued at 50 guineas, owing to being unfamiliar with the conditions. The Queen's Prize, won by the Canadians, consists of a silver cup, badges and £110 in money, to be divided amongst the men. This prize is awarded for the highest score in the stationary and moving target competition, and was won with 237 points. The Canadians received quite an ovation, and Col. Cole and Capt. Myles were carried shoulder high around the camp, followed by officers and men, with the Third Kent Volunteers' band playing "See the Conquering Hero Comes." They captured seventh place, with a score of 74, in the Harcourt Challenge Cup, only four points below the highest score, and third place in the Garrison Artillery moving target competition. A British team won the Governor-General of Canada's Cup, with a score of 226, the Canadians coming next with 223. The umpire in the disputed competition admits Sergt.-Instructor Bridgeford's interpretation of the drill rules to be correct. The decision affects the conditions governing the competition for the Governor-General's Cup. The winnings of the team from Canada, consisting of 25 men, are very gratifying, indeed, as they have not the same opportunity for team work as the Britishers. It may be stated that the team did not see a 64-pounder until the week previous to the competition, and the only work they had together was the three weeks spent at Quebec previous to their departure. On the voyage over Col. Cole had the men drilled in physical and other exercises to keep them in trim. The team is expected back about the 1st of September.

On the 10th the team were entertained by the National Artillery Association. About 250 attended. Sir Donald Smith, Canadian Commissioner, London; Major-Gen. Herbert, Grenadier Guards, and Col. Middleton were present. Gen. Herbert, in proposing "The Colonies," said the Montreal Garrison was the best in the Dominion. Sir Donald Smith was awarded a great reception, and at the conclusion of his remarks invited an English team to go to Canada.

Lieut. A. Leonard Forbes, G.G.F.G., has taken a special course grade "A" certificate and is confirmed in his rank.