

in Canada that he will see the different commands executed in a better manner than they were on this occasion. The M. G. A., Field Battery and Cavalry also did well, which shows that Montreal's soldiers are second to none when put to the test.

THE VICTORIA RIFLES.

Saturday was a gala day for the Victoria Rifles and their friends. It was the day decided on for the Vics' annual inspection, and besides this the inspecting officer was the new Commander-in-Chief of the Canadian forces, Major-General Herbert. It was the first occasion on which he was to see a Montreal corps on parade, and the members wanted to give him a good impression. Although the parade was called for 2.30 it was nearly one hour afterwards before the battalion left the armory on Cathcart street. The streets were lined with people, especially St. James street, and the Vics made a splendid appearance as they marched towards the Champ de Mars. The muster was a strong one. First came the pioneers, one for each company and a sergeant; then the famous Victoria Rifles' band of forty pieces, under Hardy's leadership; then the bugle and drum corps, twenty strong; and then the battalion, under command of Lt.-Col. Henshaw. The musters of the different companies were as follows:—No. 1 Company, captain, two subalterns, four sergeants and thirty-eight men; No. 2 Company, captain, one subaltern, three sergeants and thirty-eight men; No. 3 Company, captain, two subalterns, four sergeants and thirty-eight men; No. 4 Company, senior and junior subalterns, four sergeants and forty-six men; No. 5 Company, captain, one subaltern, four sergeants and thirty-eight men; No. 6 Company, captain, two subalterns, four sergeants and forty-nine men. In the rear marched the ambulance corps, carrying stretchers, ten men, two sergeants and surgeon and assistant surgeon. All the staff sergeants were on parade, making a full muster of 350 of all ranks.

When the Major General and staff had arrived in front of the centre of the line he was received by the general salute. After this the Major General dismounted and, accompanied by Lt.-Col. Henshaw, inspected each company by itself. The uniform inspection through the march past in quarter-column was in order, the corps afterwards marching past at the double. Both commands were well executed, the marching being splendid, every company going past the saluting point in a steady straight line. After the manual and firing exercise the attack drill was gone through, and was even better executed than it was last year, which at the time was commented on as being very fine. The inspection closed with the battalion being formed into line and advancing in review order, saluting the General after coming to a halt.

The two companies on the right and left of line were then turned inwards, forming a three-sided square, and General Herbert rode forward and addressed the battalion. In his remarks he said he was glad to be able to congratulate the corps on its appearance, and thought they were well upholding the illustrious name which they bear. He must also thank them for kindly inviting him to be present that day. The line was then reformed, with No. 6 Company at the head, and the battalion marched back to the armory. Here, after the roll had been called under the supervision of Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D.A.G., of the 5th Military District, who also addressed the men on their inspection, Lieut.-Col. Henshaw made a few remarks, the officers fell out and the battalion was dismissed.

Afterwards No. 4 Company had their photograph taken in a body, and the other companies adjourned to their rooms to talk over the inspection.

QUEBEC.

The 8th Royals were out on Ascension Day for a little practice in the country. Lt.-Col. Prower was in command, and the regiment mustered well.

"B" Company, under Capt. Burstall, proceeded to

Bergerville (a small village about three miles from headquarters), where the men were divided and placed at different points of vantage, representing the outposts of a force defending the approaches to the city *via* the St. Louis and Gomin Road. The remainder of the regiment proceeded to Bellevue Convent, on the St. Foye Road, and after leaving the band to discourse sweet music to the inmates of the Convent school and the many friends of that institution who were assembled in the grounds, Col. Prower advanced to attack Bergerville. The defence was capitally planned, and many a gallant rifleman in the attacking force would have bitten the dust had the ammunition been "ball" instead of "blank." The attack was vigourously pushed however, the piquets driven in, and the village finally taken with a rush. Attackers and attacked then vied with each other in looking after the refreshments which were provided, and, being joined by the band, marched back to the town in capital spirits and very muddled. The men looked and worked well, and although some of them were pretty green, before the afternoon was over they all had a pretty good idea of the sort of work they would have to do in the field. It is a thousand pities they can't have more of this sort of work.

On the 10th the 8th had a church parade to Chalmers' Church. The muster was very large (being over authorized strength), and the men looked well in their new rifle busbies, which they wore for the first time on the streets. I think these are the first busbies of the new pattern which have been worn in Canada. Are they not?

The 9th Voltigners were out on the Plains of Abraham on Ascension Day, under Lt.-Col. Evanturel. They had a good muster, and looked well on the street. I am told their drilling and skirmishing were very good, but I was not fortunate enough to see them on the field. Their bands, both brass and bugle, are splendid.

STADACONA.

THE BADGE OF THE SIXTY-THIRD RIFLES.

In an interesting article on that famous volunteer corps, the 63rd Halifax (N.S.) Rifles, third oldest regiment in the Dominion, Major Egan, in the *Halifax Mercury*, says:—

"Some curious incidents grew out of the decision to adopt a new badge. The design having to be approved by the officer commanding the militia of Canada, quite a voluminous correspondence took place. The first design, a Maltese cross, was rejected by this official on the curious plea that the arms of the cross were intended to be inscribed with the name of the actions the battalion would be engaged in, and as the 63rd were not likely ever to be in action, the design was not suitable. Another design submitted was rejected for an equally weighty reason, and the gallant general intimated that there was not talent enough in the corps to get up a proper design, and that he would himself furnish a badge and motto. This was not very flattering to the 63rd. The design proposed consisted of a mixture of provincial and city arms, with a codfish as the principal ornament, and the motto, *E Maria Mercus* (by the sea we live). It was not considered by the officers quite suitable for a rifle corps, in fact, under ordinary circumstances, it would be supposed the official in question was perpetrating a joke, but it was a matter of notoriety that he was not at all humorous—in fact, quite the reverse. The whole business showed what a large amount of trouble could be made about a trifle, the correspondence extending over six months, when a few moments would have settled the matter. As the general's design for a badge would have made the battalion the laughing stock of the whole force, and as his letter accompanying it intimated that if it was not accepted the Governor General would be called upon to enforce the wishes of the writer, the officers had their design of a badge and motto forwarded to headquarters, with a request to have it