

It is gratifying to report this labor was voluntarily and cheerfully given, and that this was understood and appreciated by those for whose benefit it was given.

This feeling conduces to unity of purpose of the Royal Military College with the militia generally, and also creates an esprit between the military engineers of Her Majesty's Regular Service and those of the Dominion of Canada.

10. The 2nd District Engineer Corps came into camp practically ineffective as regards officers, two or three having, I believe, resigned very shortly before marching, and one officer only joined the day before coming into camp. This depletion of officers must necessarily have been a great disadvantage to the corps.

In consequence of this, and at the request of the commanding officer, I detailed two gentlemen cadets of the Royal Military College (viz., Company Sergt.-Majors Wise and McPherson) for duty as officers with this (2nd District) corps, which duty the officer commanding the corps reported to me as having been satisfactorily performed.

The 2nd District Corps mustered 1 Lieut.-Colonel, 1 captain, 1 officer (charge of mounted detachment), 1 surgeon, 9 sergeants, 57 rank and file, 20 horses and carriages.

This corps being in possession of certain carriages, harness and apparatus, I beg to recommend that the request of the officer commanding (Lieut.-Colonel Scoble) that his corps be gazetted as a field company, be sanctioned.

This officer has shown great perseverance in providing sufficient material, &c., to justify his corps being recommended for this organization.

11. The 5th District Engineer Corps came into camp with 3 officers, 5 sergeants, and 36 rank and file.

The unremitting zeal and attention to the works, of the officers of this (5th District) corps came under the notice of myself and of the instructing officer, and merit special commendation; their example had an excellent effect on the men.

12. I was much struck with the manner in which the non-commissioned officers and men of both (2nd and 5th District) corps took to work entirely new to, and I fancy almost equally unexpected by them.

I think that many of the men realized for the first time that they were military engineers, and that in order to be able to instruct their comrades of the other branches of the service, and to justly entitle them to bear the distinctive name and uniform of Engineers, a good deal of hard work has to be done, and knowledge and skill (only to be acquired by practice) attained.

This fact may possibly cause the withdrawal of some of the less earnest members, but it will result in the increased efficiency of those who remain and in better men joining; and also, cause among all ranks a greater pride in their corps, and, in the estimation of the public, a higher appreciation of their value.

13. One great fault was apparent, viz.: the few men detailed by the officer commanding the camp for military engineering parades.

The number of men present for what was called 'Commanding Officer's parade' (which consisted of a little infantry drill), was reasonable, but the strictly engineer parades, the number present, especially of the 2nd District Engineer Corps, was not half what it should have been.

A good deal sometimes depends on the use of a word.

There appears to be, especially in the 2nd District Engineer Corps, a confusion of ideas between "Engineer Instruction" and "Fatigue Duties;" the latter term being used alike for engineer instruction and for barrack or camp fatigue parades.

The word "Fatigue" should be strictly limited to barrack and camp routine duties; the engineer instructional parades, whether with or without arms, are a purely military parade as those for infantry drill only.

14. Where only a few days are available for training it is imperative for a corps, but especially for engineers, that camp duties and casualties of all kinds be reduced to a minimum. Camp fatigues, unless strictly watched, are apt to become both numerous and nominal in necessity, and easily pass into lounging in camp and listening to bands.