

whole length of the southern side of the island the fleet would necessarily be seen which would give an opportunity to send for reinforcements to the French squadron at Port St. Francois, to whom the old Bahama channel would be open and who could effect a junction with the Spanish fleet off Havana long before the arrival of the British—the effects of an naval action would be to imperil or render abortive the expedition.

(To be Continued.)

**BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE**

**FROM ST. CATHARINES.**

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The 19th "Lincoln" Battalion of Infantry has just completed the sixteen days' drill for the ensuing year. The different companies arrived at headquarters on Friday, the 26th ult, and on the various muster rolls being returned it was found that the strength of the battalion was over four hundred of all ranks. The orders received were to drill six hours *per diem*, thus putting the sixteen days into eight, a good arrangement, as a large majority of the battalion are farmers, whose time is precious at present, and Col. Currie wisely selected the hours for parade to be from five to eight a.m., and again from five to eight p.m.; by this means, avoiding the hottest part of the day, when it would have been almost impossible to have done anything with the thermometer ranging as it has done for the last week between 90° and 100° in the shade.

On Dominion Day the volunteer force of the county was entertained to a dinner in the drill shed by the corporation of St. Catharines, to which ample justice was done by the volunteers. The battalion has improved wonderfully during the present eight days it has been together, and it is very gratifying to notice the steadiness with which some movements are executed. Companies No. 1 and 2 (Niagara and St. Catharines) deserve special mention, being the crack companies of the battalion; both numbering over 50 men, and officers and men all being well up in their drill. I may mention here that almost all the officers of the battalion now hold either Board or School certificates, and are consequently well up to their duty. At 12 o'clock to-day, just before dismissing the battalion, Lieut. Col. Currie drew the men up in close column and addressing them in a short speech said, "That it afforded him great satisfaction to see the manner in which the 19th had conducted itself while at headquarters, he having found it necessary in no case to inflict punishment on any man under his command. The manner in which the battalion had gone through with its drill was highly creditable, and every man had done his best to learn his drill and become acquainted with his duty, and he was well satisfied with the progress made by the battalion during the eight days, and although the 19th might not make so good a show as some city battalions with their splendid colors and regimental bands, yet he had every confidence that in the field every man of the battalion would do his duty, and do it well. He hoped on the next meeting of the different companies for drill that the battalion would be supplied with tents, and thus be enabled

to go into camp when the officers and men could have a better chance to learn their duty as soldiers." Three cheers were given for the Queen, and three for Col. Currie, Adjt. Spillot, and Sergt. Major Gunn. After which the battalion was dismissed.

**FROM MONTREAL.**

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The "Prince of Wales Rifles" at their regular battalion drill on Thursday afternoon, mustered 20 men! What a lamentable show! and this one of the crack regiments here; only 20 men! Surely the mere mention and conspicuity of this announcement will shame them into better behaviour. The men should learn that they are not engaged in mere "child's play," and that their duties can be evaded at pleasure. Such an unanimous lack of attention to duty, as that evinced on Thursday afternoon merits the highest condemnation, displaying as it does nothing more or less than contempt for the service. It is high time that more authority be vested in the officers than now is, as at present they have little or no authority with their men, as they now are, the officers are powerless, and any assumption of authority on their part is treated with indifference if not with ridicule. The discipline of the force demands a change in that respect, and *that only* will command obedience from the men, and enact their thorough attention to the rules, regulations and requirements of the force.

The inspections are now about over, and the different regiments have shown a very fair state of efficiency, though their numbers have fallen off very much. Several of the companies are in a much more forward state than others, however it would hardly be just to particularize from *my own* observation. It is to be hoped the speeches of the Assistant Adjutant General, Col. Smith, will be well borne in mind by the various corps. Col. Smith is a gentleman evidently well suited for his duties, and his inspections have not been mere cursory examinations, but thorough and minute, and I hope that many a valuable piece of advice from him will not be lost in the force. In general platoon exercises were fairly gone through, a little more steadiness and precision however is wanting in the manual exercises. The rifle is an important feature in these days, and a powerful weapon in the hands of a skillful man; a little more practice will prevent the show of awkwardness that pervades many handling this weapon. The uniforms were in good condition, with the exception of one regiment, of which I have before spoken. Altogether, we have not to lament so much the decadence of this important branch of the service, and if the several regiments will pull up a little more, we will still have a respectable and efficient volunteer force. This I know, that what has been done to keep the men together, has been mainly through the individual exertions of the officers, and I trust their efforts will culminate to their own satisfaction and the country's good.

Your Montreal correspondent is fond of fresh air and country rambles and has been out again, somehow or other he always

manages to stumble in some volunteer camp or at least to pick up some volunteer news, which when he gets to town he makes the most of. On Dominion Day he joined the happy throng of pleasure seekers bent on leaving the city and its dust far behind, and took a trip on the Ottawa River as far as Carillon, while there in wandering about during his short stay he came upon the Argenteuil Rangers in camp at St. Andrews, and this is what he saw and heard. At the time your correspondent arrived the battalion was drawn up in line, and was undergoing an inspection by Lieut. Col. McPherson, D. A. A. G., and the few battalion movements I saw executed were really well done. The corps was handled by Lieut. Col. Hanson in a thorough soldierly manner. Several of the movements were rather difficult, but there seemed to be little or no hesitation in performing them, and thoroughly too. The men have a fine appearance and are a sturdy lot. I believe the battalion showed its full numbers. The commanding officers are well supported by their subordinates, and the present efficient state of the regiment is due greatly to their exertions.

Capt. Barwash's troop of Cavalry are a fine body, and performed squadron movements with ease and precision. The horses are well trained, several of the men owning the horses they rode. A friend from the city pronounced them "the finest body of cavalry in Canada," and perhaps the compliment was well deserved.

Captain Beaudry has set a good example in bringing before the Recorder four of his men who refused to obey orders. The worthy Recorder read them a severe lesson on the strict obedience due to their officers, and the obligation of attending drill, after which they were discharged from custody. I trust it will be a lesson to all loiterers and absentees, who are apt to imagine they can do as they like. Captain Beaudry has shown himself to be a fearless man, and the lesson will not be lost.

The following having perfected themselves in the theory and practice of gunnery, another arm of the service, than that to which they are themselves attached, have obtained first class certificates, and deserve great credit for their perseverance: Lt. Col. Bacon, Brigade Major; Brigade Major D'Orsennes, Capt. Smythe, Capt. N. Labranche, Sergeants Peacock, Smart and Yeoman, and Messrs. Driscoll and Lawlor, Advocates.

Mr. Donagani, an old resident of this city, is dead, and was buried on Wednesday morning.

The life and drum band of the Hochelagas was out last night, marching through some of the principal streets. The band is improving and plays well considering the small amount of practice it has had lately.

No volunteer parade took place on Dominion Day; the military in garrison however turned out on Logan's Farm, and went through several movements. At an early hour the city awakened from its slumber by salutes from the Montreal Field Battery. They must have rammed home their guns very heavy, as the reports were very loud; perhaps an extra charge was used to try both the metal of the guns and the temper of the citizens. However the Field Battery is a favorite corps here, and business is business.

Five deaths from sunstroke last Saturday, and if this hot weather lasts much longer your correspondent will be in a liquid state, which will force him to the Arctic regions to solidify. Highest temperature yet, 98° in the shade.