

Doyle as having taken place on the 8th; it was on the 28th. We of St. John returned home on the 29th by steamer. I think those are the dates, if my memory serves me. I was senior sergeant of No. 1 company (the artillery) drilling as a company of infantry under Captain, late Lieut.-Col. M. H. Peters, whose recent death you refer to in the same column of your paper of the 24th. The deceased colonel was a most thorough and painstaking officer, and died respected and beloved by those over whom he had command for so many years. Our company in 1865 was composed of one detachment each from the following field batteries, viz., Capt. Pick (the Prince of Wales, my battery); Capt. Peters, Carleton; Capt. Farmer, Portland; Capt. Thompson, St. John; and Lieut. Allan, Fredericton. I think the artillerymen who drilled in this company in the enclosed racecourse of the ancient capital of New Brunswick will not soon forget the time or place, nor what they suffered with the forage caps in that July sun.

J. DALEY,
Captain D.B.G.A.

Digby, N.S., March 10, 1887.

PAID ADJUTANTS FOR RURAL CORPS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

DEAR SIR,—During the past few months I have read with much interest the various suggestions and criticisms made by correspondents in your columns, upon the subject of paid adjutants for city battalions, but so far have found no one coming forward to advocate the claims of our rural corps in the same direction. If paid adjutants would be of great advantage to city regiments, they would be immeasurably more so to those of the country districts. In cities it is not a difficult matter to secure the services of men of leisure and enthusiasm who are ready to accept the post of adjutant for the love of soldiering and who, knowing that any inefficiency on their part is sure to arouse the ridicule not only of members of the regiment but also of the spectators who are usually present to witness the drills, take advantage of a military school course with as little delay as possible. As a rule city adjutants are men of standing, energetic, and fairly efficient, and it is an open question whether the improvement in city corps under the proposed new plan would be substantial, or even perceptible enough to justify the annual extra expense. Would the game be worth the candle?

Let us now look at our rural battalions, which form the great bulk of the active militia, and contain too much shooting and fighting material to be easily ignored.

Why not appoint paid adjutants, thoroughly qualified, a portion of whose duties would be to take each company of the regiment, at company headquarters, and during the slack winter months put it through a course of four or five weeks drill, and also see that the arms and accoutrements were properly cared for. If this were done the annual brigade camps, instead of being a struggle to get the men into passably decent shape for inspection, would be a valuable and intelligent twelve days drill in battalion and brigade movements, with sufficient time to impart a fair knowledge of interior economy and the general duties of a soldier on active service.

The work during the winter would make a pleasant break in the monotony of that long season, and I ask your readers to imagine the effect a training of this kind would have upon the appearance and discipline of our rural troops when they assembled for the summer camps.

In addition to this; I would also mention the palpable, advantages of an interim brushing up of rusty officers and non-coms., and the impetus given to the *esprit de corps* of rural regiments at a period of the year when to all intents and purposes they are either dead or at best in a peculiarly torpid condition.

Which offers the better investment to the country at large, paid adjutants for city regiments or paid adjutants for rural regiments?

I should like to see the question fully discussed by members of the force, whether dwellers in cities or fields, so that in the multitude of our counsellors we may find much wisdom and the cause will profit thereby.

RUS T.

Ottawa, 22nd March, 1887.

Queries and Replies.

THE PRECEDENCE OF COMPANIES ON PARADE.

Q. Will you kindly say in your next issue if there is any regulation by which the two senior captains of a battalion can claim by right the flanks with their companies on regimental parade? This question applies equally to the Imperial army and our own force.

FRED LYDON, Captain, R. S. of C.

A. Par. 22, Sec. vii., Q. R. & O., 1883, says: "In a battalion of infantry two field officers only, in addition to the commanding officer, will be mounted on parade, excepting on the line of march, when all Majors will be mounted. The companies of a battalion of infantry are to be equally sized. They will form on parade according to the seniority of the Majors and Captains from flanks to centre, viz., the senior Major on the right, next senior on the left, and so on; but for the purposes of drill and exercises their positions may, in accordance with the 'Field Exercises,' be varied at the discretion of commanding officers." It is to be borne in mind that the Imperial army has four majors to a battalion, the two juniors, or "mud majors," commanding companies, whereas in our force there are only two, so that the two senior captains of our force would be the same as the senior and junior major who take the right and left of the battalion according to the above paragraph.—Ed.

Regimental Notes.

Fredericton, N.B.—New uniform clothing for No. 7 Company, 71st "York" battalion (Capt. Cropley's) is on its way to Fredericton from Ottawa. This company will meet every Monday evening after this date, for drill, at the Drill Hall.

The fine regimental band of the 71st "York" battalion is steadily keeping up practice and is making commendable progress. The new bandmaster is well qualified for his position, coming as he does from a musical stock. He is the son of Bandmaster Offen of the 22nd regiment, whose band often delighted Frederictonians by the excellence of their performances.

Peterborough.—The officers of the 57th battalion held a meeting in the drill shed on Friday evening to take into consideration business of importance to the regiment. Among other matters of interest was a proposed visit to Peterborough of the Queen's Own of Toronto. A good deal of correspondence has already passed in connection with the visit. It was decided by the 57th officers to send the Queen's Own an invitation, and a committee was appointed to select a favorable location for camp grounds and other details required for the comfort of the regiment while under canvas there. The visit, if it comes off, will be an experience of great benefit to the youngest of the city battalions.

THE N. B. B. G. A. ANNUAL MEETING.

St. John, N.B.—The annual meeting of officers of the N. B. B. G. A. was held last week at the Waverley House. The regimental committee presented the annual financial statement, showing a balance on hand.

The band committee handed in their report, showing the band to be in a most satisfactory condition and its finances prosperous, notwithstanding a large expenditure for new instruments made during the past year.

The following votes of thanks were passed: To Messrs. Manchester, Robertson & Allison, for their kindness in importing the band instruments free of charge.

To Mr. Simeon Jones, Mr. Keltie Jones, Major Markham, Mr. H. D. Everett, Messrs. J. & J. D. Howe, and others for prizes and other help given in connection with the artillery sports held last summer.

To Blair Botsford, Esq., of Dorchester, for the valuable challenge cup presented by him. The meeting decided that the conditions for winning this cup should be that it shall become the property of the battery winning it three times in succession at gun practice in competitions at which all the batteries of the corps take part.

A resolution of condolence on the death of Lieut.-Col. M. H. Peters was passed, extolling his services as an officer.

The members of the regimental committee elected were as follows: Paymaster George F. Smith, Surgeon J. W. Daniel, and Captain Geo. B. Seely.

The band committee elected were Lieut. S. D. Crawford, Capt. Geo. W. Jones and Adj. Langan.

A discussion then ensued as to the proper manner of celebrating the Queen's Jubilee, and on motion, it was decided to leave it to the discretion of the officer commanding the brigade, but it was the wish of all present that they should take their full share in anything that may be determined on.

As usual the officers voted their entire drill pay for the ensuing season to the regimental committee for the purposes of the brigade. Meeting adjourned.

Winnipeg.—Lieut. Stewart is at present on a visit to his brother in Texas.

Quartermaster Sergeant Young left on Wednesday for the East on a short trip.

Captain Worsnop is leaving about the end of the month on a short trip to the Pacific coast.

Lieut. Tulloch has been assigned to duty with his old company "B" and Lieut. Broughall to his old one "D."

The 90th Lacrosse Club will soon re-organize for the season. The banner won last year occupies the place of honor in the 90th club rooms.

The news that clasps are at last to be awarded to those who were under fire is most welcome to the L. B. D's. The boys intend having a jollification when they arrive.

The challenge shield purchased by the 90th club through Capt. Clark, in London, will shortly arrive. It is said to be a magnificent work of art and will be presented to the company having the thirty highest aggregate scores made at class firing.

Just at present there are four officers taking courses of instruction in the School of Mounted Infantry, Fort Osborne: Lieut. Healy, 90th battalion, long course; Lieuts. Broughall and Talbot, 90th battalion, short course, and Lieut. Percival, 95th Manitoba grenadiers, short course.

The 90th battalion is drilling every Monday night at 20 o'clock at the Drill Hall, Broadway. Just at present the various companies are being put through squad drill by their officers and it is amusing to see the old stagers once more practising the mysteries of the drill in single rank. Recruit drill is held in addition to this on Thursday evenings and the non-commissioned officers' class meets at the same time.—*Manitoban*.

The Target.

Lotus.—This village, in East Durham, has made an early start with rifle shooting, a team match having been fired last week by the local gun club, twelve men a side, 5 shots at 200. The team captained by Mr. Nelson beat that of Mr. J. Magill. Central Ontario is waking up in rifle shooting to some purpose.

Gleanings.

A question was lately asked in the Imperial House of Commons relative to the purchase of Canadian horses for the Imperial army remounts, of which we take the following from the *Canadian Gazette* of a late date:—

General Sir William Crossman, one of the members for Portsmouth—who is not altogether unknown in Canada, having been temporarily on the staff of the Quartermaster-General on the march of troops from Halifax to Riviere du Loup in December, 1861, and also having acted in the following year as Secretary to the Royal Commission on Canadian defences—asked the Secretary of State for War whether it was the case, as stated in the *Canadian Gazette*, that Colonel Goldie, Quartermaster-General at Halifax, has been instructed to purchase this year for the Imperial authorities no less than 300 horses in the various provinces of the Dominion, and that in each subsequent year further purchases will be made. If so, whether it was because a sufficient number of horses suitable for the army purposes could not be obtained in the United Kingdom.

In reply, Mr. Stanhope said that it was true that orders had been given for the purchase of horses in Canada for the Imperial authorities, it being considered advisable to ascertain what supply it would be possible to obtain from that part of Her Majesty's dominions in the event of mobilisation. The War Office desired, however, in every possible way to encourage the home breeding of horses of the stamp required.

Speaking on the subject; the *Morning Post* agricultural remarks:—"With the new demand for horses from Canada there is evidence that the Canadians are making efforts to meet it. A fortnight ago Mr. R. R. Ross, a well-known Canadian horse breeder, visited the Orange County Stock Farm at Middleton, New York, and purchased the seventeen-year-old thoroughbred stallion Volunteer Clay, by Harry Clay, dam by Volunteer, the price paid being £1,600. It is expected that this famous sire will do much useful work in improving the stamp of Canadian horses."

Our Trading Column.

The cost of announcements in this column for each insertion will be one cent per word for the first ten words one-half cent for each additional word. Each advertisement will have a register number in our books, and all communications regarding it must be forwarded through the GAZETTE, but it must be distinctly understood that this office incurs no other responsibility or liability in connection therewith. Address, with stamp for return postage, *Canadian Militia Gazette*, Box 316, Ottawa.

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