

the historical records of our force. There are, doubtless, many officers in Canada with more or less antiquarian or historical tastes, and they could all certainly dig up some interesting records of the past services of their corps. Occasionally we are able to secure a fragment of history, such as Mr. Harrington's sketch of Fort Beauséjour, or Col. Oswald's late lecture; but these are not either sufficiently general, or sufficiently in detail to make more than chapters of a most useful and interesting whole.

ONE thing that may have heretofore prevented anyone from attempting any historical essay, is the want of an appreciative audience for such research, but now that the officers of the force are taking so much interest in it, and now that the militia has in the GAZETTE an organ that reaches, at least, all its energetic members, and an organ anxious to serve its interests in every possible way, the time seems opportune for doing good work, and we, consequently, hope to see some progress made in the direction of historical research during the present winter.

LAST week's general orders, reproduced in this issue, contain amended regulations for transfers in the permanent corps, the official appointments of the new staff of the Royal Military College, and regulations for its vacations, a list of military school certificates granted, an appointment in the reserve force, and the organisation of another school drill company, besides the usual changes in the active force, which include nine new appointments, only one of the number being qualified, eight promotions, and seven losses; giving a net gain of two commissions. The only changes affecting field rank, are that Adjutant Hawley, of the 60th battalion, gets his brevet majority, and that S. W. Ray is appointed major provisionally on taking command of a provisional battalion of rifles in Algoma.

THIS organization of a rifle battalion on the north shore of the great lakes is a step that will meet with warm approval on all sides, as forearming the authorities and so ensuing safety to the scattered settlements of Algoma, and gratifying the local demand for militia protection in a district where disturbances by Indians or border roughs are not beyond the bounds of possibility. The disposition of the companies is judicious, and no happier choice of a commander could have been made than has been done in gazetting Major Ray to the command. This officer is young, influential, energetic, and enthusiastic, and has proved his ability not only in command of the Port Arthur rifle company, but in organizing the excellent rifle range of that town. We hope he will soon be able to take his military school course and so perfect himself in his acquaintance with his duties, and meanwhile we wish his battalion every success and congratulate him on his promotion.

Personal.

Major Ballachey will probably succeed to the command, and though regret will be felt at Col. Jones' retirement, his mantle could not fall upon worthier shoulders than upon those of Major Ballachey. So say those who know him. The Major, who does not now live in Brantford, will, it is said, move into town.

The following, referring to the popular commander of the Royal Grenadiers, appeared in the Toronto *Mail* last week:—"Colonel Grasett, the newly appointed Chief of Police, assumed the duties of his office yesterday. After he had been sworn in, Major Draper transferred the official baton to his successor. Chief Grasett reviewed the men at the drill shed yesterday afternoon; and a few parting words were spoken by Major Draper. A large number of congratulatory telegrams have been received by Colonel Grasett from various parts of the Dominion.

We learn with surprise that the popular commander of the Dufferin Rifles proposes to resign. Lt.-Col. Jones has in a great measure made the Dufferin Rifles what they are to-day—one of the best battalions in No. 2 District, and it will be hard to supply his place. Col. Jones' resignation will not go into effect until after the annual meeting in January. The *Expositor* pays him the following deserved tribute:—

"During the five years of his Colonelcy no man could have succeeded better than Col. Jones. Energetic, systematic, a hard worker, and possessing the attributes of a good soldier, he built up, and has educated a battalion which has assumed a flattering place alongside such corps as the Queen's Own Rifles. His fine, soldierly appearance, genial good nature, and disciplinary tact, have won for him the respect and love of every officer, non-com., and private in the regiment, and his retirement will be deeply regretted.

Ontario Artillery Association.

THE meeting of the council of this association, which was held in Toronto on the 1st, and an account of which should have appeared last week, is of sufficient importance to be worth reporting, even at this late date. There were present Major King, of Welland, in the chair, the Lieutenant-Governor, Col. Gzowski, Col. Gwynne, of Dundas; Col. McDonald, Guelph; Col. Peters, London; Col. Gray, Toronto; Major King, Welland; Major Stewart, Ottawa; Capt. McDonald, Guelph; Lieut. Macdougall, Welland; Lieut. McNaughton, Cobourg, and Lieut. Irving, Toronto, secretary.

The secretary's report pointed out that the practice this year at the several ranges showed a great improvement in the average firing of the batteries compared with the preceding year. The work of the association had shown its benefits in the improvement of the firing of the field and garrison batteries. The council had directed the executive committee to make inquiries with the view of getting a range for practice where all the batteries could fire under the same conditions. A report on this matter was submitted. The committee first formulated the conditions, most of which a permanent range should possess to be acceptable. 1. That any chance of interruption to the firing, either from the passing of individuals, cattle, vessels, waggons or railway trains, should be at a minimum. 2. That the ground should be open so that a good view of the adjoining country may be had by both the firing and range parties. 3. That the ground at the firing point should command that at the targets, from whence it should have a rising slope to the rear. 4. That the line of fire should be as near as possible in a north-easterly direction and its prolongation backed up with high hills or water. 5. That it should be easy of access to all batteries, economical as regards the transporting of men, guns, ammunition and camp equipage. 6. That the camping ground should be in a healthy position with a good supply of pure water.

Taking the foregoing as their standard for a range the committee reported as follows:—

Range, Port Hope—Situating about 1½ miles east of the town: very liable to interruption from passing trains; ground at targets objectionable, swampy, etc.; maximum range about 1,300 yards; a longer range could be obtained by retiring the guns to a field 500 yards nearer to Port Hope, when interruptions would be nil and ground for targets better; camping ground good; water, ditto; distance from camp to hotels objectionable; expenses of transporting all batteries great.

Range, Port Colborne—Situating about a mile east of the town: sandy soil; liable to no interruptions; maximum range about 3,000 yards; firing on to water—about 2,200 on to land; camping ground good, but a large number of snakes; water good; distance from camp to hotels objectionable; expense of transporting all batteries very great.

As the distance between camp and hotels is great in both cases, some arrangement might be devised for messing officers and men at camp.

Grimsby—No suitable range near Grimsby. Target would have to be at least 100 yards from steep bank in the lake; depth of water not known. Range would cross several farms.

Cobourg—Range good, but rather short; camping ground excellent.

Col. Cotton, assistant inspector of artillery, reports on these ranges: I consider that all ranges except Port Colborne are too short. The new site at Port Hope, suggested by Lieut. Irving, is worth having surveyed and enquiries made as to right of way. Port Colborne is, however, in my opinion the most suitable artillery range in the Dominion. It is certainly rather inaccessible, but owing to the requirements of an artillery range, this is almost sure to be the case.

Leslie Range—This is similar to the old Woodbine one. Water can be obtained at the corner of Queen and Leslie streets. The cartage from there to Leslie's is a quarter of that to the Woodbine, or water may be taken from the hydrant; officers and men may camp on Leslie's grounds, their messing obtained either at Jones' hotel or in camp, 200 yards away. Medical gentlemen consider the locality healthy, with no fear of malaria. Two guns can be in action at the same time; cost of holding target practice will be less than Woodbine; guns and target on the same level.

This is supposed to refer to proposed range at Toronto, about half mile west of Woodbine. The last fact is very important, as it would be