

keep them under strict discipline for a period of two years would not involve any material interference with their prospects, least of all among those classes from whom the chief objections might be anticipated. We do not hesitate to say that under the present system of education of our upper classes those years are generally wasted. Young men continue playing the boy when they ought to be learning to play the man. They linger at school or go up to the Universities, making a show of study, but really giving their whole energies to cricketing, boating, or athletic sports. This exuberance of physical energy might just as well be disciplined and utilized for the public service. There is no need whatever that their mental education should be neglected. Tutors might be appointed who would teach the majority of them at least as much as they learn at the Universities; and if proficiency in learning led to certain exemptions, the Pass Lists might be usefully diminished and the Honor Lists augmented. There might also be special corps, so that the education might be assorted to the standard of the young men, while the discipline remained the same in all. We believe, in short, that a great deal of time and energy runs to waste in the youth of all classes; and if the efficiency of our Home Army require a so-called "conscription," we are in no way to regard it as a "bugbear." It will be no doubt wise, as Lord Elcho desires, to allow a certain latitude of choice respecting the kind of military service to be rendered; but we should be prepared to go even further than he does in estimating the degree of obligation to be enforced.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.]

#### FROM BROCKVILLE.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

On the 18th inst. General Doyle, Governor of Nova Scotia, and commander of the forces in Canada, accompanied by Colonel Ansle, Asst. Military Secretary, and Capt. Black, Brigade Major, visited Brockville. The General and Staff are making themselves acquainted with the frontier, in order that a proper distribution of the available forces may be made in case of trouble.

They arrived by Grand Trunk Railway from the west and were entertained at breakfast by Lt. Col. Atcherly, D.A.G., commanding the District, there were also present the District Staff, the commanders of corps in the town and two private gentlemen. The party, after breakfast, drove to the different armories and inspected the stores. The General expressed himself well pleased with the condition of the arms and seemed quite delighted with the taste displayed in the fitting up of the armory of the Brockville and Ottawa Railway Garrison Battery. (This armory, together with the park where the 24 pounder is mounted, are at all times objects of attraction and are doubtless the model ones of the dominion). They also visited the court house and gaol, the Bank of Montreal and the Militia Office, at the latter place they spent about an hour looking over maps, &c., when they went to Prescott

where they were joined on the following morning by Lt. Cols. Atcherly and Jackson from Brockville and Lt. Cols. Jessup and White and Dr. Brouse of Prescott. The party drove to the windmill, which has been noted in Canadian history since Nov., 1838. The General and his staff inquired minutely about the disposition of the troops at that time, and as Col. Jessup was present at the fight, he explained very particularly what took place during the four days' campaign. Fort Wellington and the drill shed and armories were next visited when after a drive through the town the General and Staff started in a private car for Ottawa.

I understand that General Doyle, as well as Colonel Ansle, expressed their belief that in the event of war between England and the United States, this frontier from Brockville to Prescott, would be a most important point, and covering the capital as it does should be placed in a more perfect state of defence than at present.

The weekly concert of the Brockville and Ottawa Railway Artillery Band, for the benefit of the poor, came off as usual on the 18th inst., when there was a respectable audience present. The following programme was performed in a most artistic style:

March—Soldier's Friend.....	Tittle.
Quadrille—Queen's Canadians.....	Prince.
Mazurka—Jenny.....	Horndorf.
Selections—1st Op. Travlata.....	Verdi.
Valse—Mllgrove.....	Stanley.
Galop—Post Horn.....	Keonig.

God Save the Queen.

I would suggest that, if some of the young bandmen were to abstain from the Yankee luxury of gum chewing during these performances, that the audience would be quite as well entertained.

#### BATTALION MUSTER AT TRURO, N.S.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

Our readers, or at any rate those of them who were present at the Dominion competition at Fredericton, will no doubt recollect the question being raised as to whether a team from some independent companies in Nova Scotia, which had been recommended to be formed into a provisional Battalion, should be allowed to compete in the Battalion Match, and how, after all, when the various difficulties and objections were surmounted, it was found that some of the men who had come all the way on purpose to compete in this match, felt so hard at being refused permission to enter that they had left for home and only nine men remained to compete against the ten from other battalions—and then placed themselves fourth on the list among twelve competitors.

On the 15th inst. a parade of this Battalion took place at Truro. Not having been officially accepted as a Battalion, the muster must be described as of the following independent Companies:

1st Truro, Capt. Layton; 2nd Truro, Capt. Crowe; Onslow, Capt. Rayne; Shubenacadie, Capt. Nelson; 1st Pictou Highlanders,

Capt. G. Sutherland; 2nd Pictou Highlanders, Capt. Wm. Sutherland; 3rd Pictou Highlanders, Capt. A. McLeod.

It had been arranged that if the morning was very wet, the companies should not proceed so the point of assembly, but so eager were all the men for a Battalion drill, that in spite of the unfavorable weather, the companies all arrived in due order, the Shubenacadie Company coming up by the mail train from their own station, whilst the three Pictou Companies arrived by the eastern train from West River, at Truro, about the same hour—ten o'clock—two of the companies were without greatcoats, and the rain was falling fast, but it was decided to go on with the drill. The seven companies were placed under the command of Lieut. Col. Campbell, late 4th Colchester regiment, assisted by Major Blair, late 3rd regiment, and Major Yuill, late 1st regiment, whilst Surgeon Page, late 3rd regiment, attended in that capacity, and a more efficient staff of officers for a Battalion could not readily be found.

After some preliminary movements, including an adjournment on the part of the Pictou companies for breakfast, and which companies, headed by their pipers, then proceeded to join the Battalion, the line was formed and Colonel Laurie, the Brigade Major, who had originated the Battalion muster, was received with a general salute; a band had been formed in connection with this Battalion, but owing to the battalion formation not being gazetted, and there being, therefore, no chance of drawing the band allowance, it fell through. The companies then marched past in open column in quick time, and were put through nearly every possible Battalion manoeuvre by Lieut. Col. Campbell, and in this they displayed a most creditable proficiency and showed that in the, to them, novel battalion formations, their steady company drill stood them in good stead. Next—the Battalion was handled as a skirmishing Battalion: two companies skirmishing, two supporting, and three in reserve, Major Blair taking charge of the skirmishers, and Major Yuill of the reserve. In this order skirmishers were advanced and retired, relieved, advancing, halted, and retiring; front was changed on the support, &c. and 15 rounds of blank ammunition were expended in this practice.

The close on the reserve was sounded, and again the Battalion manoeuvred in close formations, this time covered in every movement by skirmishers, a fresh company in each case being called to the front to cover the advance or retreat, the deployment or the change of front to a flank. After about three hours steady drill in sometimes a drizzle, sometimes heavy rain, the Battalion was formed in close columns of wings facing inwards, and Col. Laurie addressed the men. He pointed out the necessity for keeping cool and maintaining strict obedience to orders; that, in that, and the complete