

has always been so—redounds to the enterprise, progressiveness and energy of the town of its citizens. But there is no need for any lengthy introductory remarks in this eulogistic strain. The facts speak for themselves, and facts like figures, never lie. A jealous observer or an indifferent reader might think that the reputation of the battalion was bolstered upon mere newspaper "puffs," but those who turned out yesterday to witness the grand military tournament and drill exhibitions are convinced otherwise, and for those who did not through inability, carelessness or otherwise, take an interest in the matter, the record of Thanksgiving Day's military achievement will, like a very useful and convenient article when put on the market—establish its true worth.

At 8.50 in the morning the battalion was formed up at the drill shed, every man looking his best and brightest. But the holiday spirit and the temptations—not to say evil ones—which come with ten-fold more force on public occasions, doubtless deterred some of the volunteers from presenting an appearance. The missing ones were soon gathered in, however, escorts of pickets being sent out by the commanding officer, in charge of the non-commissioned officers to bring in the absent men of the individual companies. The battalion was as a result soon up to its full strength and perhaps over strength.

Before marching out of the drill shed the parade states were taken and showed the following strength:

A Company, Capt. Dennistoun, Lt. Tebb, 34 N.C.O. and men.

B Company, Capt. Schofield, Lt. Eastwood, 29 N.C.O. and men.

C Company, Capt. Hill, Lt. Stevenson, 31 N.C.O. and men.

D Company, Capt. Lech, Lt. Hayes, 35 N.C.O. and men.

E Company, Capt. Millar, Lt. Matthews, 41 N.C.O. and men.

F Company, Capt. Brennan, Lt. Stevenson, 29 N.C.O. and men.

Staff officers, Col. J. Z. Rogers, commanding, Lt. Col. Bell, Major Edwards, Major Langford, quartermaster; Capt. Mason, adjutant, and Dr. Halliday, surgeon. The band was 28 strong, the bugle and drum corps 17 and the ambulance and pioneer corps 19. The total strength of battalion, 279.

The battalion left the shed shortly after ten o'clock and, headed by the band, which played capital marching music, marched down George street to the exhibition grounds, where the inspection was announced to take place. Every officer and man, to quote the proverbial phrase, "looked as clean as a whistle," and the warriors certainly presented a favourable appearance, as with erect carriage and even, steady, swinging step they marched down George street. The scarlet tunics and sombre pants neatly brushed, the helmets and belts snowy white from a liberal use of pipe clay, every button and brass plate shimmering and glistening, rifles bright and clean, bayonets properly slung, all combined to make companies—the units of the whole battalion—look well and to enkindle in the hearts of their admirers a feeling of

just pride and to cause lips to utter words of approval. The marching had its drawbacks, for the militiamen had to trudge through muddy streets in a deplorable condition from the recent snow and rain. The day was rather cold and stormy, and the west wind chilling and piercing. Old Sol seemed very chary of his light. Arrived at the grounds after the tedium of marching through the sloppy and slushy streets, and the encountering of the frigid atmosphere without overcoats, battalion was drawn up in line with ranks open, by Lt. Col. Rogers. On the arrival of Lt. Col. Cotton, D.A.G., inspecting officer, the volunteers gave a general salute, which was acknowledged by the Deputy Adjutant General. Then the field officers were taken out separately, and under the command of Col. Rogers the battalion was put through several field movements. Afterwards the battalion was handed over to Lt. Col. Bell and then to Major Edwards, for the performance of further evolutions and manoeuvres. Col. Bell was recalled and put them through the manual exercises. The inspecting officer critically eyed all the battalion movements, which were executed with ease, correctness and readiness. The movements were wheeling in quarter column, deployments, manual and firing exercises, and other field movements. After these movements, which lasted nearly two hours, on account of the cold and storm which was severe, the inspecting officer remarked to Col. Rogers that it was too much to expect the men to endure the weather until late in the afternoon without any overcoats and on his advice the regiment was marched back to the drill shed. On leaving the grounds the first advance guard ever formed by the 57th battalion marched ahead. The advance guard consisted of squads of "A" Company, while "B" Company was their support. The remaining four companies composed the reserve. The advance guard were under command of the non-commissioned officers and officers, according to the size of the squads. In this order the drill shed was reached. The battalion, on coming in the drill shed, was formed up on their respective markers and battalion drill resumed.

The inspection of each company was then begun by the inspecting officer. As fast as he completed the inspection of one company another one was called out and it was not until after four o'clock that the company inspection was ended and the service rolls called and answered by the men of each company who were then dismissed. Col. Rogers addressed the men, thanking them for the manner in which they had turned out, and the order they had preserved during the day. He felt proud of their conduct.

Each company was inspected in rotation. Col. Cotton minutely inspected and carefully examined the uniforms, arms and equipments of the men of each company. The subaltern officers were then called out and put the company through manual and firing exercises, after which the captains were required to put their companies through several company movements, and as a company in line and in column. As fast as the inspection of

each company was over the red coats were dismissed for dinner. Mr. John Craig served an appetizing lunch to the men in the drill shed and proved himself an obliging caterer. The service rolls were then called. The men returned their arms and accoutrements to their respective company armouries and will hand over the uniforms to their respective captains. Drill for the season has been finished. In the company inspection yesterday each company did remarkably well and were warmly complimented by their captains for their excellent record and successful performance of the different movements. At the close of the company inspection, the Deputy Adjutant General examined each officer separately, in military discipline, military law and interior economy. The officers answered the questions readily and correctly. The books of each company, the service rolls, etc., were also inspected by the inspecting officer, and, it is understood, found well kept. It was nearly seven o'clock when Col. Cotton had completed his inspection. He had a fatiguing day's work, but he proved equal to the occasion.—Peterborough Examiner, Nov. 24.

THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE AND THE PERMANENT CORPS IN CANADA.

To the Editor, Canadian Military Gazette.

Sir,—I have read with some interest the articles and letters that have recently appeared in the city papers in regard to appointments to the Royal Canadian Artillery. It appears to me that the reasons advanced in defence of the appointments in question are so very weak, that only the credulity or want of knowledge on the part of the public on military matters is the reason of their being advanced. It is a mystery to me how any sane person can contend that a man holding a "Long Course Certificate," obtained after three months' attendance at the Royal Military College, undergoing an elementary course of ten or twelve lectures in three or four subjects, without being required to have any higher education than a knowledge of the three R's, is considered to be the equivalent of a Cadet, who enters the College after a severe matriculation examination, and spends four years exclusively in acquiring what the Act defines as "A complete education in all branches of military tactics, fortification, engineering and general information in subjects connected with, and necessary to, a thorough knowledge of the military profession, and for qualifying officers for command and for staff appointments."

The excuse offered for these appointments is, that the appointees have sufficient knowledge for the Permanent Corps. The fact seems to be lost sight of that the College and its graduates are not the only ones who suffer by these appointments, but it is the Militia. It was to benefit the Militia that the College was established; when it ceases or fails to be a benefit to the Militia it should be abolished.

If untrained gentlemen are better qualified than the technically trained Military graduates of this College to officer the Canadian Permanent Corps, then indeed