

By the way it is sincerely to be hoped that the rural corps of the Province of Quebec will make earnest efforts to secure representation at the matches this year. The decrease in the number of entries from the provincial corps of recent years has been simply disgraceful and the disgrace must rest upon the corps themselves, for the P. Q. R. A. programme has always been very inviting for young shots. The association must necessarily suffer from the half-hearted support it receives from the country regiments, but they are themselves after all the principal losers. Under our present system of a paltry ten days drill in twenty-four months it is hard to keep up the interests of all ranks in their battalion, but there is nothing so well calculated to keep up the flame of esprit de corps as the maintenance of an efficient rifle team. Had regimental pride been better kept up in some of our provincial regiments the inspecting officers would have had better reports to make.

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In the way of clothing the band should always be an example to the rest of the regiment. The bandsmen's uniforms are generally more elaborate than the rest of the rank and file, and slovenliness on their part is more conspicuous than with the men in the ranks. In Montreal regiments, at any rate, the men of the brass bands are anything but models of cleanliness and smartness of dress. The brass bands of the Victoria Rifles and Sixth Fusiliers have been the most conspicuous offenders in this respect. The "Vics" band has for some time worn uniforms far from being of regulation pattern, while the Fusiliers' bandsmen have turned out for years in forage caps while the file and drum band and the rest of the regiment were in full dress uniform, with busbies, and the forage caps were generally of three or four patterns.

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The necessary change is to be made in both cases. The Victorias have got regulation uniforms for their band and the Fusiliers in their order for new busbies for the regiment have not forgotten the brass band.

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The Militia department is again advertising for tenders for supplies and as usual the tenders are to cover a period

of three years, supplies to be delivered and paid for each year as required. It is to this plan of obtaining supplies that the militia owes the variety of shades of color which it receives in each issue of clothing, for the contractors appear to get cloth of a different shade of color each year. There were found to be three different shades of blue in the trousers issued to the infantry corps in the Montreal district this year and as many shades of black or green or whatever else they call it, in the uniforms issued to the Prince of Wales Rifles. Why does not the department insist on the contractors observing standard colors in the uniforms, and if our infant industries are not capable of producing standard colored cloths, make sure of uniformity by purchasing supplies for three years at once or else get the uniforms from England.

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The National Policy as an essentially Canadian policy is all very well, but there is really no reason why the institution which has done more than any other agency to preserve the Canadian nationality, the militia, should be made to suffer for it. It really appears ridiculous for the government to insist upon all militia supplies being of a Canadian production when they know that uniforms at any rate can be bought much cheaper in England, yes, and of better quality, too. Any who dispute the latter contention have only to go down to the Drill Hall and compare the recently imported clothing of the Royal Scots with the uniforms supplied the other corps by the government contractors to speedily change their minds.

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Some of the daily newspapers have expressed surprise that the birthday "Gazette" did not include knighthood for the energetic young officer commanding the militia. An honor of this kind conferred upon Major General Herbert would of course be appreciated by the force, and so would knighthood conferred upon Colonel Powell, the veteran and genial Adjutant General of the militia, an officer who not only has been intimately connected with the force since its start, but is much admired for the able manner in which he has always performed his arduous and highly important duties at headquarters as he is esteemed and beloved in the force for his admirable social qualities.

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

TORONTO.

The idea of holding a combined church parade of the city regiments both in the spring and fall has turned out to be a very successful one and gives evident satisfaction on all sides. Despite the threatening state of the weather and the muddy condition of some of the streets, the church parade of the three regiments on Sunday the 14th ult. was the most successful parade ever held in this city. In point of numbers both the Grenadiers and 48th Highlanders had the largest parade in the history of these regiments, and while the Q. O. R. did not equal its last year's record, it came very close to it. The rain which interfered with rifle practice on Saturday continued almost without intermission until about 11 o'clock Sunday morning. For a brief space of time Old Sol tried hard to make his appearance, but did not succeed until the service was over and the regiments reforming for the march home. Thanks to the order issued by the chief of police, regarding the keeping of the streets through which the parade took place, free from vehicles, and the admirable manner in which the police discharged their duties, the brigade marched almost the entire distance in column, and the unpleasant crowding of last autumn was notable by its absence.

The different regiments paraded at their armories at 2.30 p. m., moving on the brigade markers at 2.50 p. m. A few minutes after 3 o'clock the brigade, numbering 1591 of all ranks, moved off, headed by the Queen's Own, under the command of Lt. Col. R. B. Hamilton, and numbering 625 of all ranks. Following them came the 10th Royal Grenadiers under Lt. Col. G. D. Dawson, 533 strong, to whom were attached the Upper Canada College Cadets under Lieuts. Upper and Waldie. The 48th Highlanders, led by their new brass band, followed, 400 strong, under command of Lt. Col. Davidson.

The brigade staff consisted of Lt. Col. Otter, D. A. G., in command; Major Gray, Major Mead, T. F. B.; Capt. Macdougall, No. 2 Co., C. R.

The line of march was taken along Jarvis and Gerrard to the Gardens, where the services were held.

In the Pavilion the Highlanders occupied the galleries at either side, and the bands of the Queen's Own were stationed in those opposite the platform. The rank and file of the Queen's Own were seated on the right half of the ground floor, and the Grenadiers on the left half. The officers and staff occupied the front seats, and the band of the Grenadiers, stationed on the platform, provided the music. The service, which was conducted by Rev. Mr. O'Meara, began with the hymn, "Soldiers of Christ, Arise," followed by appropriate prayers and psalms. The hymn, "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus," preceded the sermon, and during the offertory the band, under Mr. Waldron, played "Kyrie," from Mozart's 12th