

## FROM THE BRIGADE CAMPS.

### Some Interesting Additional Information from Sherbrooke, Gananoque and Chatham.

The *Montreal Star* says of the Sherbrooke camp that it "has been a very successful one in spite of rather unpropitious weather for the first few days, and the nature of the ground, which is not at all favourable for either drill or camping purposes. The 5th Cavalry make a very fine show, as do also the Shefford and Richmond batteries. The 11th, 54th, 58th and 79th battalions are the regiments of infantry in camp. The 58th turns out the strongest, but for neatness and steadiness the palm goes to the Richmond battalion, the 54th. On Thursday, the 5th inst., all the corps were inspected by the Adjutant-General, Sir Fred. Middleton, who appeared much pleased by the turn out. The behaviour of the men in camp has been excellent, which is in a great deal due to the many conveniences and amusements supplied by the Y. M. C. Association, keeping the men from town and the canteen. On Wednesday evening, the 4th inst., an address conveying the thanks of the brigade was presented by Capt. Blackwell of the 54th Battalion." The closing festivity was a ball given on Friday evening, 6th inst., by the officers of the 53rd Battalion, Sherbrooke, for the entertainment of the officers of the camp.

#### The Gananoque Camp.

(Communicated.)

With your permission, Mr. Editor, I will endeavour to outline some of the interesting events of the brigade camp of Nos. 3 and 4 districts, held at Gananoque, Ont., commencing the 19th and terminating on the 30th June. The O. F. B., commanded by Major Stewart, with whom I left Ottawa on the 19th, at 10.45 a.m., by special train, had a very good run to Carleton Place, where they were delayed an hour, awaiting the arrival of two companies of the 42nd Battalion under command of Major Hollingsworth. These companies were not long in getting on board, and after another good run Brockville was reached about 3 p.m. We changed cars at that point and on the G. T. Railway took two hours to run to Gananoque Junction, a distance of 32 miles, arriving there about 5 p.m. Here an awkward event occurred, the engine that drew the cars from the Junction to the village—a distance of three miles—ran off the track, and before our train arrived at its destination it was one o'clock the next morning. I do not know what the men would have done for something to eat had not Major Stewart, with his usual foresight, brought a barrel of sandwiches along. As for water, there was none to be had on the cars, and I fancy that the horses of the battery must have suffered considerably; however, we soon got waggons and had our baggage taken to camp, a distance of half a mile or so, and you may be sure we were not sorry to see that our tents were pitched.

The next morning at 5 o'clock camp life, *en militaire*, commenced. The following were the hours for daily parades, etc.: 5 a.m., reveille; 6 to 8, early morning parade; 10 to 12, morning parade; 2 to 4, afternoon parade; 10 o'clock a.m., guard mounting; 7.45 p.m., retreat and piquet parade; 9 o'clock, tattoo; 9.30, last post; 10, lights out. Before proceeding any further in camp detail, I will endeavour to describe the location of the camp. Situated about 200 yards north of the River St. Lawrence on a beautiful flat, and a quarter of a mile from the village of Gananoque, nothing better could be desired. The camp faced the north. On the right were two guns of A Battery, then came the Ottawa, Durham, Gananoque, and Kingston Field Batteries in that order, then the 3rd Regt. of Cavalry, 4th Regt. of Cavalry, Prescott Troop of Cavalry, staff tents, etc., etc., then the infantry brigade, 16th, 47th, 49th, 42nd and 59th Battalions. The total number of men in camp was about 2,200. In front of each line of tents was a large parade ground, smooth as a billiard table, where the different battalions, under their respective commanders, performed daily parades.

At 7 a.m. on the morning of the 20th we were brigaded, and the Brigade Major (Lieut.-Col. Lewis), under the supervision of the Commandant, read us the standing orders and portions of the Militia Act. The parades for that day and the next were for squad and company drills. It was astonishing to see how quickly the men learned to perform the various turnings, etc., although I must confess there were a few notable exceptions. The drill was of the most practical character, purely parade movements being noticeable only by their absence. Unless men are well up in squad and company drill, it is only a waste of time putting them through battalion movements, and if a man knows his company drill it rests with his officers whether he performs his battalion move-

ments properly. Musketry instruction and target practice was taken in hand after the second day and well looked after by Col. Gravely, of the 40th. Capt. Galloway and Sergt. Peters instructed the men in aiming drill and volley firing. Sergt. Peters, a C School man, is a capital instructor. The firing at the targets was not very good. Each man was required to fire 20 rounds, 5 at each of the following ranges: 100, 200, 300, and 400 yds. In the 59th Bn., with which I served, we found it a very good plan to offer prizes to create an additional interest in the shooting.

On the afternoon of the 23rd we had our first brigade drill.

On Sunday the different denominations paraded for Divine service, and were marched by the senior officer present to their respective churches, the Commandant taking command of the Episcopalians.

On Monday and Tuesday we had the usual parades, etc., the marching of the men improving wonderfully. Tuesday evening, Mr. Taylor, M.P., gave an excursion down the river (on the steamer Geneva) for the officers in camp. Of course only a limited number could go, and it was decided that seven out of each battalion should represent their brother officers. At 7.30 p.m. the boat left the wharf, having on board about 150. Among the visitors present were the Hon. Sir Adolphe Caron, Major-General Sir Fred. Middleton, Capt. Wise, A.D.C., Hon. G. A. Kirkpatrick, and a great many prominent people of Gananoque, not forgetting a host of pretty young ladies. Music was supplied by the splendid band of the 47th Bn.

On Wednesday we had an inspection by the Major-General, who expressed himself well satisfied with the progress made. He visited the different battalions on their private parades, as well as the rifle ranges, etc. Thursday we had muster parade, which brought the cooks and orderlies to the front. Friday a grand march out, through the village and about a mile into the country, there we parted with A Battery, which proceeded by road to Kingston, a distance of 18 miles. On Friday evening a slight disturbance took place in the village, owing, I believe, to a hotel-keeper throwing some dirty water on the heads of a few soldiers the night previous. It, however, was soon quelled by the inlying piquet, and a few well-spoken words by our D. A. G., who, I might take the liberty to state, is a thorough soldier and gentleman, a strict disciplinarian, well liked and respected by all who served under him. On Saturday morning early tents were struck, and by noon Gananoque remained the quiet little village it was previous to the camp. From all asked how they liked the locality, the answer invariably was, "splendid," "cannot be beat." The residents of Gananoque were exceedingly kind, and did everything in their power to provide comfort and amusement for the troops.

No casualties occurred of any account, except a few cases of prostration by heat.

A great number of recruits filled the battalions.

Officers and men occasionally paid a visit to Clayton and were well received.

The 59th Glengarry boys on Friday evening indulged in races, jumping, etc., for which prizes were offered by the officers.

After the first few days, excursions arrived daily from east and west bringing lots of young ladies.

MARS.

#### Military District No. 8.

(From the St. John Globe.)

The *Advance* devotes a good deal of its space this week to the brigade camp at Chatham, under command of Lieut.-Col. Maunsell, D.A.G. Our contemporary has published maps and diagrams of the camp and its surroundings, with interestingly written descriptive letterpress; and displays for the time quite a martial spirit. The camp is a great source of attraction and has been very popular. Chatham is a most hospitable place, and the people there have tried to lighten the labour of camp life with courtesies of many kinds, but despite the blandishments of pretty girls and the invitations of older citizens, no officer in any position of responsibility connected with the active duties of the camp allows himself to be called from his duties by any of the social attractions which abound in the Miramichi region. The close attention of the officers has a good effect upon the men, with the result that duty is well performed, and the visitor everywhere finds regularity, and neatness, as well as watchful superintendence, and good discipline, excellent order, cleanliness of camp precincts, and much more to please the eye and to interest the spectators. Our contemporary gives a variety of information respecting the movements, marching, massing, deploying, skirmishing, firing, wheeling. But not only does the material part of the mimic war arrangements command attention, but also the moral and religious, as the following paragraph will show:—

On Sunday there was a general church parade at 9 a.m. when service was held on the ground, just outside of the park enclosure and west of the brigade staff tents. Rev. Dean Forsyth, rector of Chatham,