

not only organized a team but took a leading place in each of the two seasons. Col. Wilkinson has had twenty-seven years' connection with the force, and saw active service on the Frontier during the Fenian raids of 1866-70. He was amongst those who volunteered for service in the Soudan campaign. His old comrades and command will wish him success in his new home in the great North-West.

In connection with the prominence so suddenly gained, as noted above, by the Twenty-first Fusiliers in the matter of rifle shooting, it is interesting to note their record in the recent D. R. A. matches. On account of the long distance to be travelled, only five of their men attended, but four of these took places in the first hundred, a really remarkable achievement, and one that shows that their high League scoring was not merely the fortunate result of an easy range and favouring weather, as many supposed when this unknown team came so prominently to the front.

A new book of Infantry drill is about to be issued, and from the preliminary announcement of its contents which we reprint in another place in this issue, it will be seen that the changes are numerous and interesting. Should the new drill be sanctioned for use in Canada, our city corps will have no lack of employment during the winter months, in mastering its details.

Toronto's riflemen receive substantial encouragement from the public, although their practice ground is likely to be taken away from them by the same many-sided body. Witness the prize list of the York Rangers' annual meeting, given elsewhere. Shooting once at 200, 400 and 500 yards, seven shots at each, the top scorer won a cup, a medal and \$57 in cash! If the accommodation were better perhaps the money might have been laid out to better advantage than in such lavish reward for so little shooting.

THE FORTHCOMING INFANTRY DRILL.

(Correspondence of Volunteer Service Gazette.)

On Sunday, September, 13th, an instalment of the new "Infantry Drill" was issued to the troops at Petersfield; and the new Regulations were put in practice at the Autumn Manœuvres on the following days. Earlier in the drill season, some of the battalions at Aldershot had got wind of, and adopted certain of the changes.

The portion that has been issued of the new book consists of:

1. Company Drill. (Part II.)
 2. General Principles and Rules for movements in presence of the enemy, and battle formation in attack. (Part V.)
- There are two changes of the greatest importance:—First, the thorough-going recognition of the group system; secondly, the omission of any normal formation for attack.

With regard to the first of these changes—the groups are called fire units. "The object of this organization is to assist the onward and cohesive movement of the company during the critical period of the attack, that is, from 500 yards up to the assault of the position. Experience shows that when men's nerves are severely tried, much greater results are obtainable from men of ordinary courage, who have gained confidence in each other through being accustomed to work together, than from even the bravest who have not been so trained.....The recruit, on the day

that he joins his company, will be told off to his fire unit, be quartered with it, and when dismissed drill, will perform with it all guards, fatigues, and other duties as far as can be arranged." The fire unit will be under the command of a N.C.O., and in each a "selected private soldier will be trained as leader, and will take command in the absence of N.C.O's."

"The most effective number for a fire unit is from eight to ten men." In no case is it to be larger than fourteen, and "if there are less than four men of a fire unit present they should be joined to a larger body."

This new organisation is fitted into the old organisation of a Company in sections as follows:—

If the section consists of not more than fourteen men it will form the fire unit; when, however, the section consists of more than fourteen men it is to be divided into two sub-sections, and these sub-sections are the fire units.

The Company will fall in on parade in column of fire units—*i.e.*, sections or sub-sections. The fire units will be numbered from right to left and told off in fours. This is to prevent any inter-mixture of neighbouring units when the company is in fours.

When the fire units are moved into line to form the Company, the same important object is secured by the rule that "an interval of two paces will always be preserved between the fire units in line, or when moving to a flank."

It is obvious that this organisation does away with all sizing of anything larger than a fire unit. On this point nothing is said, but a good deal is implied. In battalion drill "No equalising or mixing of Companies, except for ceremonial purposes is on any account to be permitted." (Poor Sergeant-Major!) If, however, a company consists of less than twenty men it is to be joined to another company, but retains its own organisation of fire units.

It may be remarked that in the Volunteer Force the organization of a Company in permanent fire units will, under ordinary circumstances, present difficulties, though in camp it will be easy enough. But, on the other hand, it offers a great opportunity for arranging streets, groups of houses, outlying villages, trades, or professions, each in its own unit and under its own N.C.O. A certain *esprit de corps* will grow up in units so composed, which will turn them into valuable recruiting agencies during peace, and, in case of war, into invaluable fighting units.

In Company drill the following minor changes may be noticed:—

Of Infantry Drill 1889—Part II., S. 4 (a Company in line taking open order), S. 20 (marching past) are omitted; also S. 19 (forming square), to meet a Cavalry attack "the fire units will feel to the centre, the Company will fix bayonets, and the flanks will dress back. The flanks can be further dressed back to form a circle if necessary."

S. 18 (Diminishing and increasing front) is also omitted, but if a front greater than fours can be used column of fire units is formed. Markers will never give points unless especially ordered.

The Captain will now take his post in front instead of behind his Company, "but his duties require that he be allowed great independence as regards his position. When the Company is extended in a firing line he will be in the best position for command."

"Officers will draw swords only when men fix bayonets, when compliments have to be paid, and on occasions of ceremony."

In words of command we find *form* omitted before *fours* and *quack* omitted before *march*.

Though "squad drill" is not out, it appears probable that the order *right about* has been shortened to *about*.

Among the battalions which seem to be correctly anticipating the changes "manœuvre interval" is constantly used; the dressing is taken up as by the French by raising