

CHAPTER I.

INTERIOR ECONOMY.

SECTION I.

BATTALION ORGANIZATION.

A Regiment, the best known and most common designation of a large body of foot soldiers or Infantry, is composed of one or more Battalions.

A Battalion is the recognized unit for Infantry and may consist of four, six or eight companies, each of a strength fixed, from time to time, as the exigencies of peace or war dictate.

In the British army eight was until recently the rule, but is now four, a change which does not however affect the total strength as the former establishment per company is doubled, thus practically maintaining the original complement of officers, non-commissioned officers and men.

In the corresponding arm of the Canadian Militia, this change has not yet been adopted throughout, but is voluntary, being left to the choice of units; the result being that while most corps recruited in cities are adopting the four company system, those drawn from rural districts adhere to the eight company as in the meantime best answering their organization.

Under these conditions some difficulty may be found in this book later on by the beginner, when the duties or functions of certain non-commissioned officers are defined, such as the Company sergeant-major, the Company quarter-master sergeant, and the Colour sergeant; again the division of the company into Platoons or into Sections, although in both instances, the confusion should be only temporary and soon mastered.

The command and administration of a battalion is exercised by an officer with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and to assist him are appointed :--

1. Administrative Staff.
2. Special Staff.
3. Company Officers.