

News of the Service.

NOTE.—Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Without we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the doings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, so long as not enclosed in an envelope, for one cent. At any rate, forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades. Address,

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Kingston.

KINGSTON, March, 9th.—A local daily paper makes the statement that "several desertions from 'A' Battery have occurred during the past week, and several more are to take place."

Mr. C. Price, a member of the chorus of the "Gaiety Girl" Comedy Company, which played here a few nights ago, is an ex-officer of the Imperial army. He went to the Soudan, as a lieutenant in a Lancer regiment, and was severely wounded at one of the bloody engagements in that memorable campaign. So severely did his regiment suffer that when it returned to England, Mr. Price was the senior officer, all his superiors having been killed. He was compelled to resign his commission, as his wound incapacitated him for military duties.

The band of the 14th Batt. is in a most flourishing and efficient condition. At the quarterly meeting the other evening, six new members were received. A number of new instruments, and a large quantity of the latest music will be received from England in a few days. The band earned over \$800 during the quarter last past. Another concert is being talked of, in which only members of the band will take part. An excursion to Rochester is one of the coming events to which the musicians will invite their friends.

The Staff-Sergeants and Sergeants of the 14th, claim that they are at a disadvantage, each time they desire to attend any social function given by the Sergeants of the other corps in the city, because they are compelled to turn their uniforms into stores, at the close of the autumn drill season, and during the winter, they cannot get possession of them for the purpose mentioned without considerable trouble. They ask that they may be allowed to retain possession of the uniforms during the "close season" for drill.

The 14th Batt. may this year forgo their regular Queen's Birthday excursion, and may go picnicking instead.

A few days ago, Driver Stamp of "A" Field Battery R. C. A. wrote to the *Daily News*, complaining that the men of the corps were looked down upon, and socially ostracised. This state of affairs, he claimed, was in great measure due to the neglect of the city clergymen to minister

to the spiritual necessities of the men, as they should. He pleaded for more attention for his comrades from the clergymen, and stood up for the respectability of the great majority of the soldiers.

When the paper containing the letter appeared, and the complaint was read at Tete du Pont barracks, Stamp was at once relieved from duty and spent some hours as a prisoner-at-large, until he was taken before Major Drury, next morning. He consented to write to the *News* stating that he had done the clergy of the Church of England an injustice, by including them among the number of those he accused of neglecting the men of the battery, and stating also that the clergymen of that church were commendably attentive to the men who professed their creed.

Upon sending this letter to the *News* for publication, Stamp was cautioned and allowed to go. Many of the citizens looked at the matter in the light in which he treated it in his first letter.

VEDETTE.

British Columbia.

An inspection of the British Columbia Battalion of Garrison Artillery was to have been held in September last, but a few days before the date fixed the order was countermanded and a school was opened, under the skilled direction of the officers and sergeants of the Royal Marine Artillery. The success of the school was evidenced by the long list of "certificates granted" appearing in last Militia General Orders, and the array of qualified instructors resulting from it did such good work in the month allotted for drill for the postponed inspections of the head master companies, that when this came off on Saturday, February 23, they acquitted themselves very creditably. Such at least was to be inferred from the incidental remarks of the Deputy Adjutant-General, Lt.-Col. Peters, who deferred giving a formal expression of opinion until after the company inspections, in infantry drill and with the 64-pounder, fixed to take place on the first three evenings of the succeeding week. The battalion inspection on the 23rd took place on Beacon Hill park, a delightful spot with a covering of velvet green such as is enjoyed in Canada only in this favored province at this season of the year. The weather was beautiful, and a crowd numbering thousands witnessed the inspection. It was not an elaborate one, but the several movements ordered by Lieut.-Col. E. G. Prior, the officer commanding, were performed with a ready confidence on the part of all ranks which showed gratifying familiarity with their respective duties.

The combatant officers of the three companies at Victoria (strength 325) consist of a lieutenant-colonel and ten lieutenants,—the excessive supply of subalterns being the natural and inevitable result of the ironbound rule forbidding promotions or appointments above that rank without the possession of a certifi-

cate such as it has been an absolute impossibility to obtain since the regular school here was closed in 1893. The special school held recently extended its course only far enough to give those who passed grade B certificates, and another month's instruction has yet to be taken before the lieutenants will be eligible for promotion. Pending appointments will if made increase the supply of subalterns to sixteen in Victoria.

Lieut.-Col. Rawstone, the officer commanding the Royal Marine Artillery here, attended at the commanding officers' parade of the B.C.G.A. on the 21st February and kindly presented the certificates well earned by the non-commissioned officers and men at the school recently held under his direction. He complimented the battalion on the large number who had taken the course, and the faithful manner in which all had attended to their work and he promised them a treat in artillery instruction when in a few months they are called upon to visit the Esquimaux fortifications and make themselves familiar with the modern guns—on disappearing platforms—being mounted there. This additional course will have to be taken to make the present certificates permanent. Col. Rawstone said it would demonstrate the work already done with the old 64-pounder muzzle loaders to be but the ABC of artillery drill. Needless to say the holders of certificates appreciate the promised opportunity of visiting the "fortifications," which are kept jealously guarded from the public.

Brantford.

The Dufferin Rifles are shaking off their winter quiet and are preparing for their spring drills, which will start about April 1st, in preparation for a field day to be held about the 24th May.

At a recent meeting of the Sergeants' Mess, the following were elected to fill the various offices of the mess for the coming year: President, Staff Sgt. Ritchie; Vice-President, Col. Sgt. J. Leask; Secretary, Sgt. F. J. Fisher; Treasurer, Staff-Sgt. L. Walker; Sup. of Ref., Quarter-Master Sgt. Sharpe; Room Committee, Sgts. Turner, Muir, Bugle Sgt. Oxtaby. The annual dinner of the mess will be held on Good Friday.

Toronto.

It has been definitely settled that Sergt Instr. Page of the R.C.D. and Cr. Sergt. Galloway of No. 26 will form part of the contingent leaving for Aldershot next month.

A very enjoyable lantern slide exhibition of local and other military slides was tendered by the Q.O.R. Sergeants Mess to the officers of the Garrison, on Tuesday evening, the 19th inst. The exhibition consisted of views of the different sham fights and inspections company and regimental outings, regimental games, exterior and interior of Gibraltar and some very gruesome pictures of the late Chilean war.