

TORONTO NEWS.



TORONTO, July 31—The annual inspection of the Boys' Brigade by His Honor the Lieut.-Governor, took place at Hanlan's Point, on Wednesday, the 22nd of July, in the presence of a large and appreciative crowd of spectators.

The brigade had been in camp for the preceding 10 days, and through the kindness of the Toronto Ferry Co. in furnishing transportation, were enabled to bring their annual camp to a close under more fitting auspices than in previous years. The brigade was commanded by Major Pellatt, of the Q.O.R., who has been one of the most earnest of workers since its inception, and who presented an exceedingly handsome trophy for competition between the different companies of the brigade. Able assistance was given by several of the N.C.O.'s of the Q.O.R., who filled the chief positions in the young battalion.

The Sergeants' Mess of the 48th Highlanders have reason to congratulate themselves on the success of their annual moonlight, held on Friday, 17th July. The roomy and commodious Chippewa was none too large for the crowd. The mess had undertaken to entertain and the arrangements were of such a nature as to leave nothing to be desired.

The force at Stanley Barracks daily anticipate the arrival of the Lee-Enfields, quite a few of which have already reached Quebec. The opinion has already been expressed that in place of distributing these to the permanent force, it would have been better to have distributed with the greatest possible speed to the different shooting corps, so that representatives from all the military centres could have embraced the opportunity of thoroughly testing the new arm under better conditions than existed, say at the time of the year the Martini-Metfords were tested.

The following was clipped from the Ottawa column of The Globe of the 25th inst., and, despite the fact of its being the Government organ, it will not be easy to find many who agree with the paragraph. Following is the paragraph: "A newspaper statement recently announced that the case of Col. Hamilton, of the Queen's Own, Toronto, would be reopened at headquarters and Col. Hamilton reinstated. The case of Col. Hamilton has never been closed, and, therefore, cannot be reopened. The Queen's Own Regiment was thrown into a commotion by the authorities at Ottawa, who never had the courage to deal with the matter. The General had two cases on his hands at once—the Queen's Own and the 5th Scots at Montreal. He went to Montreal to try and settle matters there, and managed to quell the rebellion of the officers against their colonel, but he never went to Toronto to try and arrange a matter which was not so serious as the open rebellion in the Montreal corps. It should be stated that the General went to Montreal to aid the colonel at the request of a very high personage, who had not the same interest apparently in the colonel of the Queen's Own, so that perhaps General Gascoigne is not to blame for the discrimination, but, although his good offices were requested at Montreal, he was not prohibited from going to Toronto and pursuing there the policy of peace. The fact is that General Gascoigne accepted the dicta of Col. Otter, the D.A.G. at Toronto. The case of Col. Hamilton will not be reopened, because it remains yet to be closed. He is still the colonel of the regiment, and there is no other."

If the approaching matches of the Ontario Rifle Association are not the most successful in its history, the blame can certainly not be placed on the shoulders of its hard-working secretary, who is sparing no pains to make this the banner meeting in the annals of the association. The most attractive programme ever offered has been

completed and distributed, and arrangements have just been completed with Harry Webb to take charge of the dining hall and mess tent, thus preventing a repetition of the dissatisfaction in this respect which was apparent in 1894 and 1895. A guarantee is thus given that the food will be of the best and the wants of the inner rifle shot properly catered to.

Owing to the very unsatisfactory state of the '96 ammunition, the O.R.A. have decided to use the make of an earlier date, possibly 1894. This was decided on after seeing the results of a couple of practice days, and is a step which cannot but give satisfaction to all competitors.

Apart from the pulling off of the cap and making an application of the cleaning rod between shots necessary, some cases of misfires occurred, and the crumpled, battered look of the cases, together with the loose, carelessly-tied packages, would lead one to suppose that it was not only older than 1896, but had travelled considerably.

It is to be hoped that the example of the O.R.A. in changing to other ammunition will be followed both by the Q.R.A. and the D.R.A., as otherwise it is quite safe to prophesy considerable trouble and complaint.

With the greatest amount of sincerity and faith in its article, The Toronto World recently published the following, which I can't say is exciting much interest:

"Military circles here and elsewhere are just now on the quiver in anticipation of certain drastic changes in the administration of the Canadian militia said to be had in mind by the Canadian Government.

"It is stated, for instance, that each province will shortly be placed under the control of one deputy adjutant-general. Inasmuch as Ontario alone now has four D.A.G.'s, one at Toronto, London, Kingston and Ottawa respectively, it will be easily seen that if such an order goes into force a tremendous shaking up of the soldiery of the country will ensue.

"It is likewise stated that whereas the D.A.G.'s are now appointed for life, they will hereafter hold their positions for five years, and then, having risen to the top in their profession, will be dropped and allowed to look after themselves as best they can."

Congratulations are just now being extended to Surgeon-Major E. E. King, of the Royal Grenadiers, and to Capt. (Quartermaster) O. Heron, of the 36th Batt.

THE CHANGES IN THE 7TH FUSILIERS.

THE London, Ont., Daily News publishes rumors of changes in the 7th Fusiliers. It says that the Liberals claim that the battalion has been used for party purposes and that it has been very much disorganized recently. It says that Col. Lindsay, who was transferred from the 25th Elgin Battalion to command the 7th, will retire, and so will Major Beattie, the newly elected Conservative M. P. for London. The News says that Mayor Little, a retired captain, will be brought in to command. There seems to be something wrong with the 7th during the last few years.

It should be one of the best regiments in the Dominion and the D. A. G. of the district should see that it is made so. Everything will depend upon the officers; upon their knowledge of work, their social standing, and their willingness to devote a great deal of time to the regiment. We see no harm in members of a regiment taking part as citizens in election contests when by doing so they are able to secure representatives who can be depended upon to take an intelligent interest in military affairs. The militia has been kicked about from post to pillar long enough. When the politicians recognize that they have votes and will use them we will get what we want. The Hon. Mr. Foster and members of the late Government, as we have already pointed out, were taught that lesson most effectively. It was pointed out to them by officers and ex-officers of the militia that they were not to be trifled with. When Mr. Foster found we had votes at our backs it was surprising how quickly he assured us that he was the best friend the militia ever had.