

GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

Renewed Volunteering Activity at the Ancient Capital.

The Toronto corps at Drill—Wanted, some lecturing officers—The Richmond Battalion preparing for camp—Revival of Rifle Shooting at Danville—The Vics' Recreation Rooms.

A PROPOSED amalgamation of the 5th and 6th military districts does not meet with favour by the officers of the former district at all. The 5th is one of the largest districts, comprising two regiments of cavalry, 3 batteries of field artillery, 1 company of engineers, 1 brigade of garrison artillery, and 2 battalions of rifles and 11 battalions of infantry, making, as is claimed by a correspondent of the *Star* "the most complete and efficient brigade in the Dominion, and requires the constant and undivided attention of the D. A. G. and Brigade Major to see that their wants are carefully attended to." The same correspondent suggests that the 6th district be taken over by Lieut.-Col. D'Orsennes, commandant of the St. Johns' School of Infantry, and that if Col. Straubenzie has to be removed that his place be filled by Lieut.-Col. Viliers or Houghton, with which suggestion we are disposed to agree—*Sherbrooke Examiner*.

The different companies of the 57th Battalion are preparing to commence drilling. Since the departure of Captain Burke, for London, No. 5 company has been without a commanding officer. Captain Wes' Miller, at present quartermaster of the battalion, is spoken of favourably for the vacant position and as he is a popular officer with the men, there is no doubt that he would soon bring the company up to a good standard of efficiency.—*Peterboro' Review*.

The 57th Battalion are co-operating with the Amateur Athletic Association of Peterboro', are arranging for a grand Queen's Birthday celebration in that city. The programme outlined is an attractive and interesting one. It is proposed to have a base-ball match in the forenoon on the Association grounds and general athletic sports in the afternoon. The battalion will have a march out in the morning and will proceed to the grounds, where, at twelve o'clock, a *fue de joie* will be fired. In the afternoon the military will again turn out. They are arranging to have other battalions present to join with them.

The Danville correspondent of the *Sherbrooke Examiner* writes as follows:—"Rifle shooting is the prevailing amusement among our young men, this spring, and some of them are exhibiting a good deal of proficiency in it. It is well that this is excellent sport which has been somewhat neglected in this vicinity of late years is again attracting attention and it is to be hoped that before long the Danville company will again be represented on the Wimbledon team as it has been so creditably in the past by Sergt. Alfred Shaw of this village and Quartermaster Cleveland of Lorne, who are still excellent marksmen, though advancing in years. Perhaps it is not generally known that a representative of the 54th Battalion, Capt. L. Thomas, of Melbourne, shares with Lieut. W. Mitchell, of Hamilton, Ont., the honour of having been on the grand aggregate prize list at Ottawa every year since 1880, an honour to the enjoyment of which none but the most reliable of marksmanship could have entitled him.

Toronto.

WE have in the militia an officer who last year celebrated the 50th anniversary of his military service. How flat and stale all so-called reforms, recommendations, faults, complaints, etc., must be to him. Somebody has recommended lately that brown leather belts should be issued to the militia. That is a very old chestnut so old that the cathedral chimes ring upon its reputation. Brown leather belts were recommended by a commission in 1855. Thirty-three years ago. Don't we make strides!

The other day, I picked up some old pamphlets on the militia. The complaints in these are the same as now, and the youngest of the books is probably eighteen years old. If the accoutrements, which we then had, were ancient and bad, what must their condition be to-day.

In the Militia Report, 1878, Colonel Irwin, commandant of School of Gunnery at Kingston says: "I have again to repeat my previous recommendations as to the increase of the field battery establishment of horses." In the same year Col. Strange, commandant at Quebec, draws attention to previous recommendations, and says that his school is crippled by no having enough men, etc., "especially the mounted division which cannot be efficient without the establishment of a complete field battery."

Ten years afterwards we find Col. Irvine, and the two commandants still applying for this same increase—more horses wanted for instructional purposes. Will they ever come? Will a militia officer ever see a complete field battery turned out, with wagons, forge, etc.? Will a permanent corps officer ever have an opportunity of handling something larger than two guns?

That must have been a mistake of "Fougass" when he enquired by what class of officers would the permanent corps be commanded after the present seniors are out of the way? He will make the seniors very vain, they will begin to think terrible things of themselves; and how about the next seniors, Fougass? You are too sweeping. You had far better have called attention to Provisional Permanent Corps officers receiving pay of their rank whilst attending long courses, and at the same course militia officers receiving \$1 a day. You cannot hire a labourer in Toronto for that sum. Probably the authorities want to discourage officers going up for long courses.

THE THEORETICAL PRINCIPLES OF MUSKETRY.

The last of the series of lectures given under the auspices of the Sergeants' Mess of the Queen's Own was delivered on the 16th inst., by Capt. Sankey. The subject he selected was "The Theoretical Principles of Musketry." He explained, "in a clear and concise manner," the forces influencing the flight of the bullet, the reason why elevation is necessary, the necessity of holding the sights upright, the height of trajectory at different ranges, which he illustrated with some very good diagrams, etc. I hope this lecture is not the last; so far the audiences have been interested and the subjects well chosen, but the difficulty seems to be that officers are not anxious to come forward and give us the benefit of their views. However, I trust that in the coming autumn we shall have the pleasure of hearing "the General."

QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES.

The Queen's Own Rifles assembled at the drillshed on the 18th inst., at eight o'clock, mustering to the number of 467. Major Delamere was in command. Captain Pelatt acted as junior major and Captain Macdonald as adjutant, and most of the officers were also in their places. The regiment marched out to Clarence Square, where they were put through general battalion drill by Major Delamere, while the band, in an altogether different part of the square, played a number of excellent airs, which, as usual, drew around it a very large number of the public.

The orders issued last night were:—Promotions: To be sergeants, Corporal F. J. Laidlaw, vice Robinson, placed on the supernumerary list, and Corporal H. M. George. To be Corporals, Privates J. Agnew and H. T. Wyatt. These promotions are in F Company. The following officers have been posted:—Capt. Green and Lieut. Brock will do duty in K Company until further orders. Lieut. Gunther will do duty in H Company until further orders, and Lieut. Mercer in G Company.

The church parade of the regiment to St. George's church will take place on Sunday, the 26th inst. The regiment will assemble at the drillshed 1.45 p.m.

THE ROYAL GRENADIERS.

The Royal Grenadiers had a good turn out on the 19th at their weekly parade. The *Empire* says: The regiment had a march out, going as far as Clarence square, where a few battalion movements were practised. The brass band continues to show very good improvement. The music and time was excellent. The latter was a little slower than last week's, but much faster than usual.

No conclusion has been arrived at as to where the regiment will spend May 24th. Pressing invitations have been received from Guelph and Barrie and these are under consideration. Other invitations have been received, but as they do not offer special inducements they are not entertained.

Captain Davidson, "A" Company, talks of getting out an injunction to prevent men leaving his company to join the police force. In fact it is becoming a stepping stone to the force. Since he assumed command seventeen men have been transferred to the police. Last night three recruits applied for a discharge, as they were joining the police force. The gallant captain thinks matters are getting serious and wants to know where the end will be.

Lieut. Gibson is to take over charge of "E" Company, until further orders.

A regimental memo. has been issued calling the attention of n. c. officers and men to the adjutant's class, which meets Tuesday evening. Those n. c. officers now holding provisional rank will be given until the 15th October next to qualify, and if by that time they have not obtained the required certificate, their provisional rank will be cancelled, and the substantive rank will be given to those qualified, whether n. c. officers or private soldiers, when recommended by the officers commanding their companies.

LINCHPIN.

Richmond. Q.

THERE is a good deal of activity and stir in the 54th Battalion at present as we are under order for camp this year. It is expected the regiment will turn out in good shape.

A large number of the n. c. o.'s and privates have availed themselves of the advantages of the school. Seven men from the battalion having got certificates, in one course lately.

A movement is on foot to procure helmets before going into camp.

A very successful entertainment was held in the Town Hall, Richmond, on the 19th and 20th, under the auspices of the Ladies' Guild, half the proceeds of which is to be applied to the fund for purchasing colours for the battalion. The operetta of "Trial by Jury" was very well given, Capt. T. L. Prown, 54th, taking the principal part as "The Judge" splendidly. The farce of "Advice Gratis" was very creditably performed, the cast being, Mr. Eventide (Mr. Sutherland), Mr. Odbody (Mr. G. Aylmer Brooke), Edmund (Capt. T. S. Blackwell, 54th), Grimes, (Capt. T. L. Brown, 54th), Mrs. Eventide, (Mrs. Blackwell), Ellen, (Mrs. Brown). A great deal of the success was due to the exertions of the indefatigable Capt. J. W. Harkom, 54th, acted as stage manager. The band of the 54th performed one night, and the Richmond Cornet Band on the other. Close on \$200 was taken.

"LIV."

Montreal.

LAST week was an interesting one in the recreation department of the Victoria Rifles Armoury. A sweepstake bowling match, which has been going on for the two weeks ended with Sergt. E. H. Brown the winner.

A team match in the rifle gallery, six men a side, with the Prince of Wales Rifles, 7 shots each range, 200, 500 and 600 yards, was shot on Friday and resulted in a victory for the Victorias, but with little to spare. The totals by ranges were as follows:—

Vics—200.....	184	P. W. R.—200.....	174
500.....	170	500.....	148
600.....	146	600.....	167
	500		489

Third spoon match in series "B" was won by Pte. Cooke, V. R. C., with 46 points.

On Monday a team from the Montreal Athletic Association made its appearance in the bowling alley to carry out a challenge for 10 men a side with the Victoria Rifles, and won the match by 57 points, total scores being M.A.A.A. 1276, Vics 1219.

The same teams met again 24th inst. in a return match, the net result being still more unfavourable to the Rifles team, total scores being M.A.A.A. 1377, Vics 1237.

BUSBY.

THE BRIGADE MAJORITY.

There are said to be three applications for the brigade majorship of the 6th Military District, vacated by Col. Hughes. The most popular candidate in the Montreal district is Major Prevost, now commanding the 65th regiment in the absence of its commanding officer, the Hon. Mr. Ouimet, Speaker of the House. Major Prevost has never, as has been stated, severed his connection with the 65th. He succeeded in 1887 in being attached to the staff of one of the divisional corps of the French army, but had to give it up as the War Office refused to grant him permission to accept it. He has, therefore, never left the Queen's colours. He was in active service with his regiment in the North-West, has been in the militia for ten years, was second in command of the Wimbledon team in 1886, and has on several occasions acted as Brigade Major at district camps. He also holds a first-class certificate from the St. John's Military School, and is recommended for the position by the military authorities here as well as at Ottawa.—*Star*.