

No. 11, District—Lieut.-Colonel J. G. Holmes, D.A.G.

The established strength of this district is 278 officers and men. There were authorized to drill, 270.

I am sorry to say, says Colonel Holmes, that the Rifle Company is in such an inefficient condition that I have been obliged to decline certifying the acquittance roll.

The artillery practice has not yet been completed, as soon as it is I shall forward the practice returns. In this connection I would suggest that the inspection of the Artillery in this district might be made by the Commandant of the Royal school of Artillery here who might be *ex-officio* an Assistant Inspector of Artillery. This would secure all the Artillery corps being inspected similarly and returns made together in the report of the Inspector of this branch. This would be much more satisfactory to the corps here as permitting of comparison with other corps in the Dominion. The returns used by D. A. G.'s are not suited for this purpose.

I would again earnestly press the claim of this district for an increase in the numbers of corps allowed to it. Nanaimo should have a battery of artillery. This could be given without any increase, as this corps would take the place of the rifle company disbanded in 1884. Vancouver, a growing city, has none. I would strongly recommend that a battery of artillery and a company of rifles be sanctioned in that place. The mounted rifles, already often recommended, would prove an effective and useful corps, and its organization, it is hoped, will be sanctioned at an early date.

I would again call attention to the incompleteness of district stores here as regards artillery accoutrements, also to the fact that there are no black haversacks in store for the rifles. A reserve of artillery clothing in district stores is much needed.

The question of re-arming the corps in this district, giving them the Martini-Henry, in lieu of the Snider is again strongly recommended for reasons given in previous reports.

The armament of the battery at New Westminster is badly in need of a change. The 24 pr. smooth bore Howitzers would be of little use for any service this battery would be called upon to perform and should be replaced by rifle guns.

(See also report of Commandant R.S.A.)

On the 14th July last a requisition signed by three magistrates (also members of the Provincial Government) calling for the service of the militia for duty on the Skeena River was received by me. I ordered out "C" battery, R.C.A., which corps proceeded at once on this service. A full report was forwarded to headquarters as soon as this duty was completed.

There is no questioning the fact that with price of labor and consequent cost of living one-third more hire than in the eastern provinces, a corresponding increase should be made in all allowances, that is if the force here is expected to be equally efficient.

The district has, during the year, lost the service of a very efficient officer; Lt.-Col. Wolfenden, B.C.G.A., who has retired retaining rank. This officer has been connected with the militia of the province since its first organization. From my knowledge of this officer, extending over a period of five years, I can safely say that his loss will be felt for some time by the force.

Captain Jones, district paymaster, has performed his duties in a most satisfactory manner. This officer has, in addition to his ordinary work, the pay of "C" Battery, R. C. A. This service is one for which he receives no pay and for which in Eastern stations, I understand, extra pay is allowed. I would strongly recommend that some allowance be made to this officer for this as well as to meet the increased cost of living, as is done in the other departments of the public service.

No. 12 District—Lieut.-Col. P. W. Worsley, D.A.G.

The establishment of the district is 581, and there were authorized to drill 444.

The following is Col. Worsley's report: "The Georgetown and Montague batteries came into camp, Brighton and Charlottetown on the 3rd July, and were then able to drill on the guns, under an excellent instructor. They made rapid progress. The Charlottetown batteries were inspected by the Inspector of artillery, who, I know, found them as usual in excellent condition. No. 2 battery, Captain Longworth, obtaining the proficiency prize given in competition amongst the whole of the garrison artillery. I need not point out the importance of giving the brigade here rifled guns. It was understood they had been ordered.

"The engineer company was inspected during the time the camp was going on by Captain Davidson, R.E., and I had the pleasure of seeing as smart and good-looking a company as need be. I know they will be favourably spoken of by the Inspector."

The 82nd Battalion, under command of Lieut. Col. Doherty, came into camp, Brighton, on the 3rd July; they improved in drill very much,

but I find it very difficult on the Island to get the country companies to put on their equipment properly or to smarten up their belts, dress, &c. This would soon improve if they had the example of others in a large camp. They, however, make excellent soldiers, being obedient, and are exceedingly well behaved. The Guards, I daily noticed, as being very untidy. I trust that at next year's camp the General Officer will be able to see the whole force in this district, which is, I think, the only one he has not visited in the Dominion.

The musketry was not as well done this year as last; a musketry instructor was not allowed this year, and in consequence I could see it was done in a very slipshod manner; no camp should be without one, and a really good one is quite a rare article. It was, however, carried on the same principle as at my camp at Aldershot, viz., that unless 15 points were obtained at the short distances of 150 and 200, the men were sent back again. I enclose a return of the practice together with the target practice registers.

Regimental News.

The Tenth Royal Grenadiers will not be behind the times if their enterprising Sergeant-Major can help it. The following paragraph from the *Telegram* of the 6th illustrates his enterprise: "The Sergeants' Mess of the Grenadiers was well filled last night by the members of that corps and a few friends, the object of the assembly being to listen to a lecture on the new infantry drill, by Sergeant-Major Cox. The lecturer handled his subject well, and, considering that the new drill-book is scarcely a fortnight in the Dominion the Grens. may well be proud of their energetic Sergeant-Major."

The members of No. 6 company, 56th Battalion, with the staff officers residing in Spencerville and vicinity, met on the invitation of Capt. Drummond, and partook of an oyster supper at Duclos' Hotel on the evening of the 10th ult. The attendance of members was very good, over thirty sitting down at the tables. After the eatables were disposed of several of the company, with the staff officers present, made patriotic speeches. Having toasted the Queen, the Governor-General and the Minister of Militia the company dispersed after singing "God Save the Queen" and having spent a very pleasant evening.

THE THIRTEENTH BATTALION.

The following formed portion of the regimental orders of the 8th of February: Until further orders Lieut. Ross is attached to D company and Lieut. Osborne to A company.

It is notified for general information that the prizes for efficient companies, as provided for in regimental order No. 49, September 14th, 1888, have been awarded as follows: First, C company, Capt. Zealand; second, F company, Lieut. Tidswell; third, H company, Capt. Moore. Four prizes will be awarded at the end of this year's annual drill for efficiency in drill, regularity of attendance and general appearance and set-up of companies. They will be respectively, \$40, \$30, \$20 and \$10.

A class for the instruction of non-commissioned officers and those desirous of qualifying for the non-commissioned officers' ranks will be started on Tuesday evening, February 12th, at 8 o'clock, and meet every Tuesday evening until further orders. All junior officers who have not yet qualified will attend these classes.

NOVA SCOTIA RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The newly elected council of the Nova Scotia rifle association have chosen the following officers:

President—Lieut.-Col. Curren, 1st H. G. A.

First vice-president—Lieut.-Col. Mackintosh, 63rd Rifles.

Second vice-president—Lieut.-Col. Murray, superintendent of stores.

Treasurer—Lieut.-Col. Mackinlay.

Secretary—Major Weston, 66th P. L. F.

Council—Lieut.-Gen. Laurie, Lieut.-Col. MacDonald, 66th; Lieut.-Col. Chipman, 68th; Major Walsh, 63rd; Major Egan, 63rd; Major Marshall, 69th; Major Church, 93rd; Captain Barnhill, 78th; Captain Brown, 66th; Captain Bishop, 63rd; Captain Crane, 63rd; Captain Adams, 1st H. G. A.; Captain Stewart, 1st H. G. A.; Captain Maxwell, 1st H. G. A.; Captain Spike, 66th; Lieut. Dimock, 78th; Lieut. Jacques, 68th.

Major Walsh and Captains Browns and Maxwell were appointed the range committee. The treasurer, secretary and Captains Barnhill, Crane, Bishop, Brown and Adams were appointed the programme committee. Lieut.-Col. Murray, Major Weston and Captain Bishop were elected members of council of the Dominion Rifle association. It was determined to affiliate with the National and Dominion Rifle Associations. The president, treasurer and secretary, together with Major Walsh and Capt. Adams, were appointed the committee to carry out the inter-militia match. The secretary was directed in future to insist upon production of certificates of efficiency by members of the active militia entering for the annual matches.