

## GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

### A Growl from down by the Sea at the Attack formation.

The Hamilton F. B. strongly for camp—The Vics. going in for Sport—  
The Toronto Boys euchred out of their rifle Practice, etc.—  
Promotion in the 13th Battalion.

#### St. John, N. B.

The militia of St. John are now actively at work, and despite the fact that this year we have no Jubilee or other "chromo" to act as a further incentive to drill and attendance, the musters so far have been good. The Artillery have commenced recruit and gun drill, and it is said are well satisfied with their batteries in efficiency and attendance.

The 62nd Fusiliers so far have only had squad and company drill, and next week the corps will probably muster for their first march out of the season; the companies as a rule are fairly up to strength and only a few recruits are necessary.

The Rifle company are happy in the possession of new uniforms, and are actively at work.

As by General Orders extra attention is to be paid this year to skirmishing and the attack, it is a pity that the militia authorities cannot keep the Barrack Square for the use of the military only. At present it is used as a cow pasture, and for base ballists, which makes the ground anything but pleasant to skirmish over, and is certainly not conducive to keeping clean tunics. Last year we had the electric light on the square, but so far there is no appearance of it for this season, and yet we must have our men "well up" in the attack. By the by, when so much was recently taken from the Field Exercise why didn't they also obliterate this absurd attack system and substitute something sensible—say the four deep formation—anything to save the utter confusion which now ensues when the fighting line is reinforced, and no man knows whose orders he is to obey, and section commanders lose their sections entirely. Although the recent changes in the Drill Book take out many "pet" movements and will spoil some stereotyped programmes, the result here is considered beneficial, and will simplify drill, yet many more useless battalion formations might have gone also, though one veteran officer lately remarked that there is nothing left in the Field Exercise but the covers.

New Brunswick riflemen feel very jubilant over their victory at Bedford, over teams from Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and on the former's own grounds, and as the N. B. men had not met or practised as a team, and were entirely unacquainted with the winds and peculiarities of Bedford range, their victory is all the more decisive.

The Staff at the camp at Chatham will be: Commandant, Lt.-Col. Maunsell, D.A.G.; Brigade Major, Major Gordon, I.S.C.; Musketry Instructor, Lt.-Col. Blaine, 62nd Fusiliers; Orderly Officer, Lieut. Raymond, 67th C.L.I.; Camp Quartermaster, Major Lipsett, 71st Batt; Supply Officer, Capt. Seely, N.B.B.G. Artillery.

GRENADÉ.

#### Hamilton.

Extract from the orders of the Hamilton Field Battery, published on the 8th inst.: "The attention of n. c. o.'s and men is called to paragraph 365, R. and O. 'Any officer or man of the militia who, without lawful authority, neglects or refuses to attend any parade, or drill, or training, at the hour and place appointed therefor, or who refuses or neglects to obey any lawful order at or concerning such parade, drill or training, shall incur a penalty, if an officer, of \$10; if a man of the militia, of \$5, for each offence, and absence for each day will be held a separate offence.'

No. 32. The Sergeant Major will detail a n. c. o. and three men who will remain in Hamilton until June 22nd instant, for the purpose of arresting defaulters, and detail instructions will be furnished to the n. c. o. after the battery has left the sheds for camp."

The Battery parade state on Tuesday morning showed 4 officers, 74 n. c. o.'s and men, four 9-pr. R. M. L. guns, and 29 horses. Full strength of officers were present, viz: Major H. P. Van Wagner in command, Capt. J. S. Hendrie, Lieuts. Bankier and Duncan and Surgeon Storms. At 9 a.m. fall-in sounded and the corps was marched from the gun sheds to the steamer "Macassa" which had been chartered for transport service to Camp Niagara. The soldierly, clean, and generally smart appearance of all ranks elicited most favourable comments from all who saw them. Owing to numerous applications, horses of a set color and well matched had been selected, and this, taken in con-

junction with the cleanliness of guns, harness, and equipment generally, made the battery present a really creditable general appearance, and too much praise cannot be bestowed on Major Van Wagner and his officers for attaining this end when the difficulties they have had to contend with—the least of which was a great deal of old and mouldy harness—are considered. On arrival at the boat, the gun carriages had to be taken to pieces owing to the narrowness of the gangways. Sergt. Kenley had some trouble in getting a couple of the horses on board, until they were blindfolded and further helped with a bar from the rear. The battery left at noon with the best wishes of many friends who witnessed their embarkation.

#### 77TH BATTALION.

This battalion passed through per Grand Trunk Railway, en route for camp on Tuesday morning about 10 o'clock, Col. Gwynn in command. The parade mustered about 320 of all ranks, and the corps looked well.

#### 13TH BATTALION.

The battalion monthly parade came off on the 8th inst. Officers turned out well, but the men did not. Col. Gibson addressed the men and the parade was dismissed after marching through the city. Among other orders, the following transfers were published. Capt. Adam, from G to F Co.; Lieut. Ross, from B to A; Lieut. Tidswell, from A to F; and Lieut. Domville, from A to B.

The following officers of the battalion do duty on the brigade staff at camp: Major McLaren, as Supply Officer; Capt. J. J. Stuart, Orderly Officer; and Captain James Adam, Instructor of Musketry. Major Barnard and Lieut. Ross have been assiduously coaching their company in rifle shooting at the ranges every week. The young shots are coming on well.

GIRTH.

#### Montreal.

#### VICTORIA RIFLES.

Since the inspection the boys have had more time on hand for amusements, and two matches have been brought off, both being won by the Vics. The first was a bowling competition, between the Lt.-Col. commanding, and a team of 4 men a side of the Vics and the Prince of Wales Rifles; and the other between the Victoria Rifles and the Hochelaga cricket clubs.

There being no immediate prospect of a shooting range (though the lease of the new grounds at Cote St. Luc has been signed at last), companies are making arrangements to hold their annual matches in the armory gallery with Morris tubes. No. 6 is first in the field with an announcement of a match for Thursday evening, at which eight valuable prizes are offered.

Col.-Sgt. Gardner, of No. 6 Co., has been appointed Sergt.-Major, Sergt. A. W. Gardner becoming Col.-Sgt. in turn, both changes arising from the resignation of Sergt.-Major Rodden, who has since been appointed to a commission in the regiment.

BUSBY.

#### Toronto.

The owners of the property about to be expropriated, to clear the site for the new drill hall and grounds, are reaping a harvest out of the procrastination of the city council concerning the expropriation proceedings. Values of property in that neighbourhood are going up by leaps and bounds, and the city will certainly have to pay considerably more than anticipated. In fact there is a prospect of a further weary delay in the proceedings, owing to the possibility that another by-law may have to be submitted to authorize the expenditure of a sum in addition to the hundred thousand dollars already voted.

#### THE QUEEN'S OWN.

The Queen's Own Rifles are devising ways and means for the entertainment of the Victoria Rifles of Montreal, on their promised Dominion Day visit.

An exceedingly live organization in connection with the Q.O.R., is the Sergeants' Mess, whose membership is between sixty and seventy, there being included a number of ex-sergeants who have retired from the corps, but retain sufficient interest in it to seek connection with the mess. The quarters on Wellington street, are very comfortably furnished. Amongst the equipments are billiard and pool tables and similar recreative facilities. The decorations, however, form the most expensive part of the outfit, the walls being covered with handsomely framed pictures of military celebrities of various countries, and photographic regimental company and squad groups, invaluable as souvenirs. The whole form an art gallery of which any regiment might be proud. It is the intention of the mess to have their room entirely renovated shortly.

Private W. S. Duncan, who won distinction for the regiment by capturing the Governor-General's prize at Ottawa last year, has been promoted to the rank of sergeant, for which he long ago qualified.