

whole frontier and its immediate defence on the Fifth District. The Brigade Staff of the Sixth District now with the most important part of the Provincial frontier under their charge will have an excellent opportunity of showing what practical measures they can take for increasing the efficiency of the border regiments, and in the preparation of plans for concentration and defence should an attack be threatened. Those details most open to criticism are, we think, (1) the retention of the counties of St. John, Chambly and Vercheres in the Sixth District, in the face of the natural boundary suggested by the Richelieu river; (2) Placing headquarters of Sixth District at St. Johns, on its extreme eastern boundary, instead of at Sherbrooke, the largest city in the Townships, situated as nearly as possible in the centre of the District, and surrounded by counties which furnish the strongest quota (of the country districts) to the military strength of the province.

Outside of the permanent establishment, St. Johns is now a dead town so far as the militia is concerned; its people cannot furnish a single company of infantry, to say nothing of the higher branches; and it is generally felt to be only a matter of time when the regular detachment, now in garrison there, will be moved to Montreal. We think that the Richelieu river to its eastern shore, should be included in the Fifth District, and controlled solely from Montreal; it is too important a line of communication to be worked from any secondary point. The great barrier to an attack on this line would be Isle-aux-Noix a fort that would naturally be garrisoned only by foot artillery, which could alone be furnished from Montreal.

#### POOR OLD SNIDER.

On page 180 we publish a table giving details of the military rifles used throughout the civilized world. As the table is headed *Modern Military Rifles*, readers will be surprised that the Snider-Enfield is included in the list; but we hasten to state that the addition of Canada's national weapon is only made for purposes of comparison. It may be noted that although the Snider is sighted up to 1,000 yards it

is never fired at a greater range than 600. It may also be observed that we are at the bottom of the list in (de)merit; the next above us is Spain, whose fighting reputation is doubtful in quantity and worse in quality; but even Spain is considerably ahead of us. Theoretical peace-lovers point to Switzerland as the model state of the world; but the Switzers are sensible enough to have a magazine rifle which shoots over 2,000 yards, is of small calibre, and when loaded contains 13 cartridges ready for instant use.

#### SIXTH FUSILIERS.

The annual inspection of this corps was held on the Champ-de-Mars, Montreal, on 4th of June, and was fairly successful. Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D.A.G., was the inspecting officer. The battalion was considerably weaker than on the same occasion last year, the companies barely averaging 12 files; but any deficiency in quantity was made up in quality, the men looking clean, neat, well set up and of excellent physique. The usual stock movements were done, the march past in column being a remarkably good one; the manual was disappointing, the acting-major making the too common mistake of giving his commands from a point nearly opposite the right flank of No. 2 Company, and his voice evidently failed to reach the left companies; the firing was much better. Lieut.-Col. Massey then took hold of the battalion and worked it in excellent shape, making nearly all movements at the double; distances and direction were good, but the men were rather slow in their movements, for which the heat may account. After a number of battalion movements, each captain gave his men half an hour of company drill, following which the battalion reformed, the D.A.G. made the usual address, and the inspection was over.

The chief feature of the review was the presence of a well equipped ambulance with a full corps, and the examples given of work in this line, several men feigning wounds and requiring treatment. The signal corps was also in excellent form, and several messages were flagged from one detachment to another on different parts of the parade ground. It is to be regretted that no showing was given of the skill of the battalion in the Attack, or in general extended order work. In the march through the city, which followed the review, the fugling of the Drum-major attracted much attention; it was without doubt the most brilliant work of the sort seen in Montreal for many years.

#### QUEBEC.

QUEBEC, June 6, 1892.---At a meeting of the non-commissioned officers mess of the 8th Royal Rifles, held on the 31st ultimo, the following officers were elected:---President, Sergt.-Major T. P. Ross; vice-president, Quartermaster Sergt. R. Mountain; secretary-treasurer, Sergeant H. J. Morgan.

The annual meeting of the Stadacona Rifle Association, which was called for Friday, the 3rd instant, adjourned until Tuesday evening next, to meet at 7.30, in the Drill Hall.

By kind permission of the commandant and officers of "B" Battery, R.C.A., their band performed on the Terrace, on Saturday evening last, from 8 to 10 o'clock. The weather was very fine and large numbers of the citizens turned out to enjoy the programme which was carried out by the band in question.

The Rifle Range was well patronized on Saturday afternoon, practice for the next League match being in order.

The Canadian Dragoons (late Cavalry School Corps) and the "B" Battery, R.C.A., attended Divine Service at the English Cathedral on Sunday. The latter's band was in attendance. The appearance of the troops was very good.

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#### 57TH BATTALION.

The 57th "Peterboro' Rangers" will visit Kingston on Dominion Day, and preparations are being made by the 14th to make the affair most enjoyable to the Peterboro' men. On Friday morning, (Dominion Day) there will be a review and inspection of the 14th P.W.O.R., and on Friday afternoon the men may take in the bicycle tournament, or pass the time as they please. On Saturday morning the Rangers will parade again, and on Saturday afternoon they will be given an excursion down the St. Lawrence on the steamer "Hero," to return by moonlight. The 57th officers will be royally entertained by the officers of the 14th. A moonlight excursion will be given them on Friday evening. On Saturday afternoon they will be entertained at an At Home to be given by Colonel Smith, and on Saturday evening a grand banquet will be held at the Hotel Frontenac.

#### 77TH BATTALION.

A new company of the 77th "Wentworth" battalion has been formed at Glanford, Ont. Asa Choate has been appointed captain.