

representative of the Active Militia Force, Lt. Colonel E. Beer, and not only has the Provincial Competition been conducted in the most satisfactory manner, but the Rifle Association generally, including its branches.—County Rifle Associations,—appears to be in a very flourishing condition; increased interest taken in the matches, and local aid more liberally granted. The only drawback to the success of this year's Provincial Match was a sad accident that occurred at Sussex, a marker in the butt having been severely wounded in the neck by a bullet. I am glad to say the bullet has since been extracted and the man is steadily recovering.

This the first accident that has occurred at our Rifle Matches, and I consider this was caused partly by a slight defect in the construction of the butt, and partly by the man not sitting in the proper position of a marker in the butt, through his zeal to mark correctly.

It has shown that every precaution should be taken at target practice, to secure the safety of the markers as well as those engaged in the practice.

In arranging for future Matches I hope that steps may be taken to ensure the attendance of a larger number of competitors than heretofore, as comparatively few "2nd Class shots" think it worth their while competing. It is almost desirable that the Government grant to County Rifle Associations be issued annually at a sufficiently early day to allow their Matches being held preparatory to the Provincial Match.

The following Associations held competitions this year:

1. New Brunswick Artillery Association - formed 1872.
2. New Brunswick Provisional Rifle Association.
3. Charlotte County Rifle Association.
4. St. John "
5. Carleton "
6. King's County "
7. York "
8. Northumberland "
9. 62nd Battalion Rifle Club
10. King's County "
11. 71st Battalion "
12. N. B. Engineers "

New Brunswick Artillery Association.

With respect to the formation of the "New Brunswick Artillery Association," Lieut. Colonel Jago states, that "on the 5th March, 1873, he forwarded a letter to me" (mentioned in my last Report), which I transmitted to head quarters, "informing me of the formation of this Association, and applying for a grant of ammunition and money for the same, he also reported the formation to the two Dominion Inspectors of Artillery, who were good enough to accept the position of Vice-Presidents of the Association.

"Being President himself, he feels diffident in speaking of its efficiency, but he cannot help regretting, at finding from my letters that the Government cannot aid it either in ammunition or money, and Col. Jago trusts," in which I join most earnestly, "that another year a grant may be given it in both, that will enable it to do good work among the Artillerymen in this Province."

In his report (B) hereto appended, Lieut. Colonel Jago offered some suggestions as to the desirableness of serving out the Gatling gun to Field Batteries, in the proportion of

two to a Battery, all of which I beg to submit for favorable consideration.

TARGET PRACTICE.

In submitting the accompanying Return showing "Figure of Merit" and names of best shots or corps in my District, so far as the Annual Drill has as yet been completed, I must express regret that the Battalion and Company money prizes have not been granted this year; the amounts though small, \$10 and \$5, respectively, had been granted two years in succession, except in the case of the Artillery, who received money prizes for shot and shell practice for many years past, and the prizes were closely contested, and when won were much valued, accompanied as they were with badges.

Lieut. Colonel Jago, speaking on this subject, states, "that the loss of the small annual prize for the best shot in each Battery, this year, has been a great disappointment to both officers and men."

KRIGSPHEL DRILL.

Competitions in company drill have been held during the past year—in the 62nd Battalion, for the first time systematically carried out in this district. This to my mind, is another important step in the right direction, if the competitive drill be carried out in the same good spirit that pervaded in the 62nd Battalion, it must be productive of the best results, as, besides taking into consideration the intelligence and ability of the officers and non-commissioned officers, the umpire gives credit for steadiness in the ranks, and general efficiency on the part of the men.

SCHOOL OF MILITARY INSTRUCTION.

The attendance at the Military School at Fredericton during the past half-year has been very good, sixty two cadets having obtained "2nd class certificates."

Having recently had occasion to submit this subject for your consideration, I need but repeat that which I stated in my letter of the 16th September last, viz., "that, although I have done all in my power to ensure a large attendance of officers of the active militia at the Military School under my command, but a small proportion of them have joined, as they prefer to pass an examination before a Board of Examiners (vide my report for 1872), which examination must necessarily be unsatisfactory. Moreover, however, careful the Board of Officers for Examination of Candidates for admission may be in testing the competence of such candidates for the position of commissioned officers of the militia, it has been too frequently found that many cadets join the school and receive gratuity, whose services are not subsequently available either as officers or non-commissioned officers of the active force, although I am of opinion that as large, if not a larger, proportion of past cadets of the Fredericton School are useful members of the force, as in any Military School in the Dominion.

In view of the above statement, I respectfully suggested that the rules for the Board of Examiners for admission be amended; that the new rules be more stringent; that none but officers of the active militia, and such candidates as may be specially recommended by officers commanding corps—intelligent young men, who may be required to replace officers of the force on their retiring—be admitted.

Lieut. Colonel Otty, B. M., has discharged the duties of Adjutant for two years in succession; Captain McKinzie those of 1st

Instructor; and Lieutenant Howe, 71st Battalion, a passed cadet of the previous year, noted last year as 2nd Instructor. I take this opportunity to offer my best thanks to those officers for their efficient services.

DRILL IN COMMON SCHOOLS.

It is needless for me to adduce argument in support of the question of extending drill to the common schools of the country. It is one which has frequently been brought forward, and is deserving of the most serious consideration, more particularly at the present time when much thought is given to the intellectual and physical training of the young, when the thing to be desired is to persevere the "sound mind in the sound body," and not to develope the intellect at the expence of the body.

It is true that drill associations have been formed in connection with the colleges and schools, but something more, I think, is required to give general effect to that plan, and I respectfully suggested that a joint arrangement be made between the Dominion and Provincial Governments, the better to carry it out. That licensed school of military instruction, and on obtaining the necessary certificates of fitness, and on carrying out to the satisfaction of the Deputy Adjutant General, a prescribed course of drill in each school, that a small Government grant be made the schoolmaster.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

GEO. J. MAUNSELL, Lt.-Col.,

Deputy Adjutant General,
Commanding Military District No. 8.

(To be Continued)

NIAGARA CAMP.

NIAGARA, June 22.

It is now two years since the volunteers went under canvas by orders from the Militia Department, the various corps having last year performed their annual drill at their respective headquarters, an innovation which was introduced partly to satisfy the cry of a Grit Opposition for economy, and partly as an experiment. It has yet to be seen how the result has affected the drill and discipline of the force, but it is not too early to say that the opinion of Canadian military men is generally in favour of the troops going into camp for their annual instruction.

In 1872 the force assembled on the common at Niagara was much larger than that which is to muster to-morrow, being numerous enough to form three brigades. The chief command devolved upon Lieut. Col. Durie, Deputy Adjutant-General of No. 4 District, and the several brigades were under the direction of Lieut.-Colonel Gilmor, of the Queen's Own Rifles, Lieut.-Col. Pollard, 31st Battalion. On that occasion the troops were on service for sixteen days, being fourteen clear days, or rather nights, under canvas. This year the whole number will probably not exceed 2,500 men, and it is called out for only twelve days, which, deducting two days for the double journey to camp and home again, leaves only ten days for instruction in drill. Seeing that it takes at the very least a week to settle into disciplined habits, and for imperfectly trained men to be qualified to fall into the ranks, this will allow just three days for battalion and brigade manoeuvres, and our volunteers