

GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

A Brigade Major exchanges the Volunteer's Sword for the Policeman's Baton.

Activity in Toronto crack corps—The new commanding officer of the Montreal Garrison Artillery—The Rebel Dumont lionized in Montreal—Anniversary celebrations by the Halifax Provisional Battalion officers—The St. John Fusiliers at home—Ottawa Rifle Club programme for 1888—Miscellaneous Matters.

THE grand military and calisthenic concert given in the town hall on Tuesday evening of last week by Lieutenant W. J. Holden, Adjutant 32nd Batt., and his juvenile soldiers, drew a crowded house, and was a complete success in every particular. Everybody present was delighted with the programme, which consisted of numerous military and fancy movements by boys and girls all in brilliant and beautiful uniform and costumes. The girls (No. 1 Company) wore uniforms of red, white and blue, and carried spears and battleaxes. They performed their military exercises exceedingly well. The boys (No. 2 Company) had red coats, striped pants and skull caps, looking very soldier like, armed with their rifles and the officers with their swords. Their drills and exercises were well executed. Mr. Holden was also nobly attired in his regimentals, and presented an excellent figure, erect and perfect in his movements. At the close the audience refused to leave the hall without giving expression to their appreciation of Mr. Holden's successful efforts in producing such a creditable programme. Dr. Scott took his place on the stage and moved that a hearty vote of thanks be tendered to the Lieutenant. It was seconded by Mr. A. Lindsay who proposed three cheers for Mr. Holden and three more for the Queen.—*Southampton Beacon.*

Toronto.

THE Queen's Own Rifles assembled at the drillshed on Thursday evening last, mustering 459 strong. Lieut.-Col. Allen was in command, and Major Hamilton, Capt. Macdonald, Adjutant, and nearly all the officers were present. The regiment marched to Clarence Square, accompanied by their band, where they performed general battalion drill; quarter column; and march past in column, quarter column and double time. The men went through these evolutions with their usual steadiness and precision, evoking the praise of the onlookers. On returning to the drillshed, Colonel Allen stated that he had nothing to add to what he had said on the previous parade night; everything was satisfactory. The following orders were issued: Half a dozen names have been put on the roll to complete the strength of the regiment, and a corresponding number struck off. Sergeant Small has been given a three years' good service badge. Private Burns, drill instructor, has been granted a drill instructor's badge. Captain Sankey, it was announced, would deliver a lecture in the sergeants' mess-room on Monday evening, the 16th, at 8 o'clock, subject "Musketry," at which all the members of the regiment and their friends were invited to be present.—*Mail.*

THE ROYAL GRENADIERS.

The Royal Grenadiers held their weekly parade on the 12th inst., under Major Dawson. There was a large turn out, fully 300 of all ranks being present. Accompanied by the brass and fife and drum bands, the regiment went for a march-out, the first of the season. They went as far as Brock on Adelaide street, then turned down to Clarence square, where a few battalion movements were practised. The brass band was under the new bandmaster, Mr. Waldron. Although he has been in charge for only a short time, he has made a very great improvement. The music was new and the time unusually fast, but nevertheless according to regulation. It carried the men along at the rate of about 120 paces to the minute.

Lieut.-Colonel Grassett is about to transfer the arms and accoutrements of the regiment to his successor, Major Dawson.

"D" Company held its annual meeting Monday evening, 9th inst. Nearly every man was present. The various committees were appointed, and other business transacted. Afterwards Lieut. John Morrow, the acting captain, entertained them at supper.

The joke of the evening was on Lieutenant Gooderham. He secured a big fine-looking recruit and requested him to stand aside for a few minutes until he was ready to take him up to be sworn. When Mr. Gooderham wanted his man he could not find him. Happening into the orderly room he found that he had just been sworn in as a member of Captain Davidson's company. It appears that Captain Davidson, who is always on the look out for fine men, saw the recruit and without questioning him rushed him off to the orderly room and had him sworn.

The following instructions will be observed in future in the formation of all parades:

- I. The "dress" will sound fifteen minutes before the hour named for parade.
- II. The markers having been placed by the sergeant-major, the "fall in" will sound, when the men will form up by companies on their markers, moving with "shouldered" arms; as they fall in they shall "order" arms.
- III. The "roll" will then be called by the orderly sergeant and the orders read.
- IV. The "officers call" will then sound, when the officers will join their respective companies, the orderly sergeant calling the men to "attention."
- V. The companies will then be inspected and proved and the parade will proceed in the usual way.

Captain Harston has been granted leave of absence for 6 months, from April 3rd inst.

Second Lieut. Burch is transferred from "G" to "H" Company.

Lieut. O'Brien, 35th Battalion (who is now attached to the regiment), is posted to "A" Company until further orders.

The commanding officer has made the following appointments: To be orderly room clerk, Sergeant Fred. M. Kitchner, "A" Company, from September 10, 1867.

To be sergeant in the band, Bandsman Thomas Tressam.

The annual meeting of the sergeants' mess of the Royal Grenadiers was held in the mess room at the drill shed on Tuesday, the 10th inst. The president, Staff-Sergt.

A. Curran occupied the chair, Colour-Sergt. Cusack in the vice-chair. In the absence of the secretary, Pioneer Sergeant Harding filled the office. There was a good attendance of the sergeants. The several committees reported. The following sergeants were nominated for the different offices: President, Pioneer Sergeant Chas. W. Harding, there being no opposition, Sergeant Harding was declared elected president of the sergeants' mess for the year 1888-89. There were several members proposed for the other offices, viz., vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and the room committee. The election takes place on Tuesday, April 24th; that being the anniversary of the battle of Fish Creek, it was resolved to celebrate the event by holding a social after the regular business of the evening had been disposed off. The anniversary of the battle of Batoche will also be duly honoured by holding a supper. It is proposed to decorate the graves of those members of the regiment who fell in the late rebellion, Saturday the 12th of May.—*Empire.*

ARMY AND NAVY VETERANS.

The monthly meeting of the Army and Navy Veterans took place on Tuesday evening at Temperance hall. After the usual routine business was over considerable discussion arose anent the "Army and Navy Home." Mr. Butler took exception to the word pensioner. Mr. Gibb heartily endorsed Mr. Butler's remarks, stating that a great many veterans who were not pensioners had seen more active service than some pensioners. In fact, he knew a number of pensioners who never saw an angry shot fired. It was moved by Mr. Cooke, late Royal Artillery, and seconded by Mr. Gibb, late 78th Highlanders, that "Veteran" be substituted for "Pensioner," which was carried. A committee was then appointed to confer with the six aldermen of the City Council as to a home for "Veterans." The latter will be represented by the president secretary and Messrs. Cooke, Gibb, Wilton and Macfarlane.

A GERMAN GENERAL'S LETTER ON ARTILLERY.

Recently I had the pleasure of meeting a large number of Ontario artillery officers. Naturally the conversation was chiefly on their own branch, one officer present being very full of a new book called "Letters on Artillery, by Prince Krantz Hohenlohe, Ingelfingen." Major-General Prince Krantz was, during the war of 1866, commander of the Guard Artillery Brigade—needless to say of the German Guard Corps. During the war of 1870, he was commander of artillery of the Guard Corps, having 15 batteries or 90 guns under him. In addition he served, I believe, during the war of 1864. He is therefore what we might call a very high artillery authority.

In his first letter he describes the use made of field artillery in the war of 1866, and explains the reason why the artillery, which in 1870 did such excellent service, failed altogether four years before, although its materiel was with few exceptions the same, and under the command of the very same men. Some of the reasons which he gives for the failure in 1866 are that "our artillery did not shoot so well as we had reason to anticipate, judging by the results obtained on the practice ranges; the renewal of expended ammunition was carried out on no regular plan, so that many batteries, owing to the want of ammunition, were not in a condition to injure the enemy, and batteries also constantly went out of action, either on account of the infantry's fire, or in order to refit, when they would have done better to have remained in their position."

He tells us of the opposition against the introduction of rifled guns. It was considered too scientific by the men, who had gained their experience of war in the years 1813-15. One biased general went so far, that as he lay on his death-bed he begged that at his funeral the salute over his grave might be fired with smoothbore and not with rifled guns!

One letter is devoted to target practice. Prior to the introduction of rifled guns, the artillery very seldom indeed ever saw such practice as is customary in war, namely, at a moving target at an unknown range, and when they did see it, they were merely convinced that the target could not be hit. Such practice did not tend to give confidence of success against an attacking enemy. Now all that is changed. The targets represent troops, skirmisher targets are used sometimes standing (man-targets), and sometimes lying down (head-targets). A moving target is always in use and practised at. The targets are moved daily, the ranges are daily varied, and a battery is often stopped in its practice and ordered to fire at another target. The youngest subaltern has thus plenty of opportunity of showing whether he can judge distance and whether he can pick up the range correctly.

Referring to drill he says that they did not go far enough in their simplification of drill movements, and they might have laid more stress upon the correct training of a battery. From his experiences in war the only movements of use in the field, are the advance in column of route, deployments and the advance in line. He cites two instances, one of Koniggratz, the other of Sedan, as being the only two occasions in all his battles and actions, at which he had seen brigade movements attempted.

In his letter on the renewal of ammunition during war, he says, that it is an established principle that the ammunition in the waggons should first be used, and that in the limbers kept as a last reserve. He also gives a description of the arrangements for the renewal of ammunition by the ammunition columns, and for the replenishment of the latter from the depots of field ammunition. During the war of 1870, the guard artillery expended about 25,000 shell and one case shot, the latter having been broken in transport. A story has arisen probably from the above case shot that no case was fired during that war. The 1st H. A. Battery, 11th F. A. Regiment, received the French at Elshassansen with case and other batteries did likewise on other occasions; but the guard corps, so General Prince Krantz says, did not fire one case shot.

One extract more. One thing which was continually practised by their artillery was "gun axletree-arm disabled": a stout spar is lashed under the axletree, and great was the importance attached to the neatness of the various kinds of lashings! The Canadian drill book says, I believe, that such a gun can be retained in action, so did the German book. The Germans fired a shell from a gun thus fitted, the latter broke down from the recoil—the officers thus learnt something that they did not know before. He also refers to the system of lashing the gun under the timber. In the four campaigns he says that he never saw any use made of a spar lashed to the axle tree, or of the process of lashing the gun to the limber. He also asserted that no artillery officer ever saw either during these wars, although as he says later on opportunities for doing so did occur.

I would most strongly impress upon artillery officers, who take an interest in their work that they should get these letters and study them. They have been translated into English by Major Walford, R.A. The Prince has also written letters on Cavalry and Infantry.

LINCH-PIN.

Montreal.

LIEUT.-COL. THOS. T. TURNBULL, the new commanding officer of the Montreal Garrison Artillery, had his first parade in that capacity on Friday evening last. Col. Turnbull was born in Leith, Scotland, and was educated in Edinburgh. He began his military career as a member of the 1st Midlothian Volunteer Rifles. He arrived in Canada on a pleasure tour during the excitement of the Trent