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News of the Service.

NOTE.—Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Without we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the doings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, so long as not enclosed in an envelope, for one cent. At any rate, forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades. Address.

EDITOR, CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE

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Halifax, N.S.

On December 9th Major and Adjutant Oxley, H.G.A., delivered a very instructive and interesting lecture entitled "Modern Ordnance and its Construction," to the officers of the City Brigade of Militia. The lecturer carried his audience back to the eighth century, describing the ordnance then in use by the Chinese, and continued by following up and explaining the many improvements and changes which has taken place in artillery weapons since that time. Major Oxley had a perfect grasp of his subject and seemed quite at home describing the construction and uses of the monster guns of the present day. He exhibited splendid drawings of the following guns 54pr. converted 58cwt, 7 inch 7 tons, 9 inch 12 tons, and 10 inch 18 tons R.M.L. guns, and the drawings spoke well for the major's ability as an artist. The attendance of officers of the 63rd and 66th Battalions was not as great as it would have been had the lecture taken place at the time originally notified. A vote of thanks to the lecturer was proposed and passed unanimously. The D.A.G., Col. Curren, H.G.A., Col. Egan 63rd, Majors Garrison, Maxwell and Stewart, H.G.A., in neat speeches acknowledged their thanks to Major Oxley for the great pains he took in preparing and delivering such a valuable lecture on so difficult and scientific a subject. There were congratulations of another nature also offered to the lecturer, viz., the appearance upon the scene of "A Young Major and Adjutant" who reported himself on the 6th ult. At the request of the commanding and other officers H.G.A.,

Major Oxley repeated his lecture to the U.C.O's and Gunners on the 16th ult., they appreciated the very valuable instruction imparted to them, and expressed their desire to soon hear another lecture from him. If you have any "Grindstones" knocking around your barn send them down this way, we have plenty use for them.

GRAVELCRUSHER.

Toronto.

The 48th Highlanders are about to lose the services of their bandmaster, Mr. Griffin, whose term of service has expired and who returns to the old country at an early date.

While not succeeding in making his band the best in the city, Mr. Griffin did very good work with the raw material placed in his hands some three years ago, and leaves the 48th in possession of a good parade band.

The band committee have several names under consideration, and perhaps before this article appears will have reached a decision and engaged a new bandmaster.

The bowling alleys in the drill hall, at least those allotted to the Grenadiers and Highlanders, are now in constant use, and exceedingly popular with the N. C. O's and men of these regiments.

The officers of the 48th have turned the charge of their alley over to the sergeants' mess and the decision seems so far to prove a wise one.

They have a member of the mess on duty each week night, and by a system of tickets resembling the early street car ticket (eight for a quarter) enable the members of the 48th to enjoy a game, cheaper than any club in town.

The Grenadiers have not yet completed their system of control as yet, while as for the Queen's Own, their alleys have not yet been opened for use by members of that regiment.

Some kindly disposed person should give the commanding officer of the Queens a gentle hint that these alleys are really handed over to his regiment, and that members of the Queen's Own would much rather play on their own alleys, that

trespass any longer on the good nature of the Grens and Kilties.

The Grenadiers have issued a very handsome Xmas card conveying the compliments of Lt.-Col. Mason and officers of the regiment.

Classes for those desiring to qualify as N. C. O's are held by the Queen's Own and Highlanders on Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights in each week.

Examinations were conducted on Monday evening by Captains Mason, Mercer and Gunther of the Queen's Own with the class qualifying for sergeants.

The class of those desiring to qualify as corporals in the Q.O.R. was abnormally large at the outset, but is fast dwindling. It was the largest class the regiment has had for a long time, but in physique and appearance ranks lower than any they ever had.

There are quite a few complaints at the physique of some of the recruits and men attending the non-com class, and some say it is directly attributable to the policy in vogue this last three years of laxity, in recruiting so as to ensure large parades above all other considerations. This may be, in some minds, a good policy, but its effect in the Queen's Own is nothing short of suicidal.

Several companies of the Q.O.R. have been entertained by their respective sergeants at the Sergeants Mess Rooms, since the end of the fall drill. The idea has proved a very popular one, and as a means of fraternizing and making each member of the company acquainted all around, has turned out quite a success. "C," "D" and "I" companies have been entertained so far.

F Co. Q.O.R. have started the ball rolling in the way of company dinners, having given their annual dinner at the Grand Union Hotel on Friday evening, the 13th Dec.

The affair was conducted by the right half company and proved most successful. The toast list comprised "The Queen" "Our Regiment" "Our Guests," and "The Ladies," and the invited guests were Major Delanieri, Major Pellatt, Lieuts Wyatt and Crean.