

advancing beyond the routine as usually practised. The cavalry man who wasted four years in the infantry said: "There ain't nothink in it but 'Alt, left dress,' that's all," was very nearly right, if one can judge from what is seen in the armories almost any drill night. An officer should not feel himself tied down to the exact letter of the drill book. There are many applications of the movements laid down there that may be helpful in times of difficulty. How many times do you see a company retiring in column of half companies or sections and company formed without first advancing? And the same thing with regard to files broken off. There is a movement which might, I think, be practised with good results in the saving of a cumbersome and ragged movement in fours. For instance, a battalion is marching along a street in column, and, coming to a cross street along which they intend to go, why not treat the companies as being in line as they arrive, and form them successively into column of sections to the right or left as the case may be? This is not according to the drill book, but would be more satisfactory than forming fours to a flank and wheeling, and would not take up so much time, as each company does the latter separately, it being impossible for the C. O. to drown the band.

The Highlanders adopted last year the new method of falling in, and are still using it with good results. It is not the captain's duty to inspect the sergeants of their companies, that falling to the lot of the adjutant according to interior economy, and if there is no staff parade, as is usually the case, how are the sergeants and other N.C.O.'s to be kept up to the mark? As the 48th do it there is always a staff parade, and the adjutant gives it his very best attention, with the result that the N.C.O.'s are smarter, look after their men and keep them up to the mark, also taking a special delight in requiring them to do as has been required of them by the adjutant. The men did not fall in as quickly as they should on Friday night, but taking it all together it is a more satisfactory method than that still practised by the other regiments.

There appears to be some difficulty in getting men to attend parade this fall, as is evidenced by the fact of the small parades of the regiments. I understand recourse has been had to the Police Court to enforce the more refractory. This method does not strike one as being at all military, and it should be a point of consideration with the authorities as to providing a means of punishment which would tend to increase the respect of the rank and file for military institutions and not tend to disgrace.

The bowling alleys are gradually coming into use again. Of course, it is only those who are not busily engaged that can afford the time, but many matches will be played as soon as inspection is over. If the rifle galleries are fixed up this winter there will be a further attraction to the men, as they can put in an enjoyable evening between the two. Now provide them with a room for recreation and meeting purposes, and Toronto Drill Hall will be without a drawback.

At the church parade of the Grenadiers on the 4th inst., the regiment paraded some short of 500, rather a small parade for them on a Sunday, when everyone usually turns out to see and be seen, and especially as they were to hear a sermon from their own recently appointed chaplain, the Rev. A. H. Baldwin. One or two of the companies were very weak, which probably accounts for the fact that they marched in fours instead of column. It is very hard to get every man in a company to remember everything, but if all have not gloves then no gloves should be worn. There is the same trouble about leggings, some with and some without.

The annual rifle match of the Grenadiers took place on the 3rd, and was attended by about 200 members besides ex-members. Dull weather has been the rule at the rifle matches this year, but the light was good on the 3rd, and many good scores were made, among which may be mentioned those of Corpl. Windatt and Major

Bruce. A good feature of the rifle match was the ex-members' match, and many availed themselves of the privilege of reviving old and pleasant recollections by turning out with the boys in red to their annual shoot.

The officers' questions for inspection this year look nice and easy, and so they are, but the answers are very long, and, in one or two instances, intricate. The ground covered is very much the same as last year, as it must necessarily be, but the questions provide for a more practical knowledge of drill.

One of the answers brings up a nightmare to the mind of some of the officers of city battalions: "An officer on outpost duty must provide himself," etc. This continual provision from out of the slender stores of a city man's purse becomes tiresome, and one is apt to wonder where the Government and the Militia Department come in at all for the poor officer. No doubt he must consider it a boon and great privilege, as it is, to provide himself, for the usual Government issues are far from satisfactory. But if a stores department were kept, where officers could buy what they wanted at cost price and get it of good quality, much needless expense in the shape of outrageous profits would be saved, and the militia force have the benefit of many who under the present system find it too expensive a hobby in which to indulge.

In looking over the militia general orders, my attention was caught by the establishment of the 43rd Rifles, of Ottawa. Twenty-two officers for 199 men and four non-combatant officers for 60 non-combatant men, two majors and an adjutant. Does it not seem absurd that such should be the case, and yet, under the system, it is necessary, for without the fees of the officers it would be impossible to keep the battalion fully equipped.

The officers of the city corps are taking steps to fit up their general mess rooms. The committee in charge is Surgeon-Major Grasett, G.G.B.G.; Surgeon-Major Elliot, T.B.F.A.; Capt. Cameron, R.G.; Capt. Donald, 48th; Lieut. Green, Q.O.R.; and they expect to have the annual garrison dinner in the newly-fitted quarters.

The district marching and firing competition came off on Saturday. Eight teams, of ten men, one sergeant and an officer, entered, viz.: Two from the Q.O.R., under command of Lieuts. Wyatt and Crooks; two from the 10th R.G., under command of Lieuts. Mason and O'Reilly; one from the 13th Infantry, under command of Lieut. Ross; one from R.R.C.I., No. 2 Company, under command of Lieut. Thacker, and two from the 48th, under command of Lieuts. Mitchell and Thompson. The distance marched was exactly eight miles, over a road not at all too good, and was covered by all the teams in less than two hours. One team of the Q.O.R., put in for the purpose of maintaining the record of that regiment for marching, managed to do it in 1.45, or at the rate of 4 4-7 miles per hour. One team of the Highlanders lost two men by reason of not being properly accoutred, and thereby hangs a tale. Anyone might have seen the adjutant of that corps scorching along King street with a bayonet sticking out of either pocket and not caring a — for anybody or anything. But he did not arrive in time to save his two men being sacrificed, and he was angry, in fact mad.

The results as handed out by Col. Otter are:

Highest possible score, 160 points.	
1st Winner of Gascoigne Cup, 48th Highlanders (1st team). Score, 91; less penalties, 8	83 points.
2nd Royal Grenadiers (2nd team). Score, 85; less penalties, 2	83 points.
3rd Royal Grenadiers (1st team). Score, 85; less penalties, 6½	78½ points.
4th—Royal Regiment of Canadian Infantry. Score, 73	73 points.
5th—13th Battalion. Score, 72; less penalties, 1	71 points.
6th—Queen's Own Rifles (1st team). Score, 64; less penalties, 5	59 points.
7th—Queen's Own Rifles (2nd team). Score, 45; less penalties, 5, and 6 shots not fired.	40 points.
8th—48th Highlanders (2nd team). Score 38; less penalties, 1, and two men disqualified for not being properly armed.	37 points.

From this it appears that the Highlanders managed to choose