

BRANTFORD DRILL HALL.

Some few years ago the residents of the east ward began the great cry that the drill shed, situated in Alexandria Park, must be removed, and gave their reason for so doing was that the Government only leased the land for a number of years and as that time had then expired, the sheds should no longer remain in the centre of their beautiful park. The officers of the 38th Battalion also wished for a new drill hall in a more central locality. The citizens of Brantford were asked to grant \$10,000 towards a new building; this they cheerfully did in consideration that the Dominion Government voted a like amount. We have also got this amount, \$10,000, to our credit for the new hall. Mr. Wm. Paterson, I think, is worthy of thanks in this matter for he championed our cause at Ottawa. The land has been purchased and the site approved of, but there the whole thing seems to stand. The city holds the balance of the \$10,000, after paying for land \$6,200, and is now waiting for the Government to go on with the shed. On good authority we believe the Government does not intend, nor was it ever their intention to build the drill hall. When voting the sum asked for, it was understood Brantford was to build the hall and the \$10,000 was to be their share of the cost.

Plans for a very handsome drill hall were drawn out by the Government architect, and approved of by Sir A. P. Caron then Minister of Militia. Cost of such building about \$30,000, but when asked why the work was not gone on with the question was asked where is the money to go on with it, for the Government had only voted \$10,000, and some \$3,800 only remained in the hands of the City of Brantford. After a great deal of correspondence and numerous deputations of all kinds to Ottawa, we find that the government will do nothing more than give the amount voted toward the construction of the drill hall.

The officers of the regiment have appointed a committee consisting of Majors Jones and Wilkes, Captains Hamilton and Stratford to obtain plans from the Militia department and to build a hall suitable to the wants of the regiment for the amount at our disposal. The committee, as yet, have done nothing in the matter, and the regiment is still using the old tumble-down shed. Parades are ordered out of the building as the roof is partly off and the whole thing may fall at any moment. The present state of the shed has a very bad effect upon the members of the regiment. The men do not care to assemble where they are afraid of being crushed to death without a moment's warning. But the ever untiring officers of the regiment manage to keep the men pretty well together, but cannot always rely upon a full turn out of the men at their drills. Great credit is due to the men who assemble at such a place and show a loyal spirit for drill. Then they have to be taken out to the open street, and be lighted by the city electric lights. *Communicated.*

A STARTLING UNIFORM.

When the Essex troop of Newark, N.J., makes its first appearance in the fall after its summer rest the members will be seen in a new and striking dress uniform. It was a matter of some difficulty for the committee to agree on the style, but it was finally decided that the new outfit should consist of a blue tunic, braded with black, with a yellow collar, white stockinette trousers, and high top boots. The helmet will be blue and brass. The troop expects to take part in the parade in New York on October 21 in honour of the discovery of America. It is expected that many new members will be added to the troop, drawn irresistibly by the variegated plumage of the gallant warriors. As a street sensation, the modern circus will, after this, have to play second fiddle in Newark. It is not stated what will be the colours of the saddle-cloth or shabraque, but it is probable that it will bear alternate broad stripes of purple, green, and orange, with scarlet border.

Among the pensioners of the State insurance for the aged in Berlin, Germany, is a Boston negro named Walker, who is 74 years old. He served in the English navy during the Crimean war, in the United States navy during the rebellion, and afterwards in the Russian navy. He drifted to Berlin and earned a living among artists. He became a naturalized German, and as such receives a small pension.



THE LATE LIEUT.-COL. ALLAN.

By the death of Lieut.-Col. D. H. Allan, the Queen's Own Rifles loses one of its former commanding officers, and Toronto a citizen prominent in military, political and legal circles, until stricken down with illness. He was the son of the late Rev. D. Allan, of North Easthope, Ont., and was born on the 31st December, 1842. He enlisted in the Queen's Own in 1865, and in the following year was promoted to be sergeant. Step by step promotion came until he attained the command of his regiment. He saw service during the Rebellion of '85, being then senior major, and was second in command of the contingent of his corps which formed part of the Battleford column. Later he succeeded Col. Miller in the command of the regiment, which he held for three years, when Lieut.-Col. Hamilton assumed the colonelship. Two years ago he was stricken with paralysis of the brain and was compelled to retire from public life. It was this disease that resulted in his death.

A RELIC OF THE PAST.

The cast iron cannon found in the Richelieu River, opposite Fort St. Johns, in November last, is now deposited at Ottawa in the military museum. Mr. Benjamin Sulte, of the Militia Department, is making an investigation into its origin. "The cannon weighs 2,670 lbs.," said Mr. Sulte, "and is pretty well eaten up with rust, but several marks are still visible on it, which enable one to trace its origin. It was cast at St. Gervais, near Mont Blanc, France, about the year 1730, and was destined to be used by the navy. The calibre is what is known as eight mark of the old style. One of the trunnions was broken and forced into the mouth of the piece in order to disable it. The number 2966, which is quite legible on the breech of the gun, indicates the number of the gun of that calibre cast at St. Gervais. There is no doubt that this arm was broken and thrown into the river when the French retreated from Fort St. Johns in the summer of 1760. The fort, which was built by order of Admiral La Galissonniere, Governor-General of Canada, was surrendered on the 1st August, 1760, by Brigadier General Le Bougainville, afterwards the great navigator, the rival of Captain Cook. This was about the end of the war. Isle Aux Noix was evacuated by the French on August 28, 1760. The Capitulation of Montreal took place some days later."