

CANADIAN CAVALRY.

It would be hard to over-estimate the importance to cavalry men of the proceedings of a meeting that was recently held at Stanley Barracks, Toronto.

It has long been felt by those interested in the mounted branch of the service that it would be desirable to have some sort of an association that would be to the cavalry what the artillery association and rifle association are respectively to the artillery and infantry.

Obstacles to the scheme having happily been removed, we are pleased to be able to state that a cavalry association is now an accomplished fact. The gratitude of all concerned is due to the Major-General Commanding for the patronage he has bestowed on the project.

To the inspector of cavalry undoubtedly all cavalymen are indebted for the practical handling of the affair. Through his indefatigable efforts, a special course was arranged to be held at the Royal School of Cavalry, it being an understood arrangement that while the officers attending the course were together for the purpose of acquiring under the supervision of himself and staff a few practical hints on the new drill of 1896, if possible a cavalry association should be formed. Consequently, on Thursday at 2 p.m. the following influential gathering met to discuss the plan of action: Lieut.-Col. Denison, commanding G.G.B.G., Toronto; Lieut.-Col. Duff, commanding 4th Hussars, Kingston; Lieut.-Col. Rogers, commanding 3rd Dragoons, Peterboro'; Lieut.-Col. Domville, M.P., commanding 8th Hussars, Rothesay, N.B.; Lieut.-Col. Buckner, 2nd Dragoons, St. Catharines; Lieut.-Col. Taylor, 5th Dragoons, Cookshire. Majors Ryan, Knight, Learned, Gregory, Campbell, Wedderburn, Baldwin, Hall. Captains Barr, Macfie, Brown, Pomroy, Stothers, Denison, Turner, Whitley. Lieutenants Merrison, Lempriere, Cockburn, Powell, Layborne. Also Captains Heward, Forester and Pearce, R.C.D. Major Lessard, inspector of cavalry, was unanimously voted to the chair, and Capt. Whitley kindly consented to act as secretary. Expressions of opinion on the subject were invited. Each lieutenant-colonel in turn expressed himself in favor of the project.

It was then decided that the association be organized and the following officers were elected: President, Lieut.-Col. Denison, G.G.B.G.; first vice-president, Lieut.-Col. Duff, 4th Hussars; second vice-president, Lieut.-Col. Rogers, 3rd Dragoons; third vice-president, Lieut.-Col. Domville, M.P., 8th Hussars; secretary, Lieut. Peters, G.G.B.G.; council, the inspector of cavalry, (ex officio); Lieut.-Cols. Gartshore, Buckner, Taylor and McArthur; Majors Ryan, Hetherington, Evans; Captains Brown, Knight and Woodside.

It was resolved to submit the bylaws to the General Officer Commanding for approval. The membership fee, \$1; date of next annual meeting to be fixed by the council. Major Lessard then vacated the chair and was succeeded by the newly elected president, who in an able speech returned thanks for the honor he received in being made president.

Several officers then spoke and it was evident from the way their remarks on the feeling that existed between the permanent corps and the rest of the militia were received, that as regards the cavalry, at least, there are none except the kindest feeling of mutual regard. In view of the recent spiteful ebullition of childish jealousy as evinced by a small clique in their communications to the press on this subject, it is gratifying to all concerned to see that when a representative gathering of militia officers of the cavalry were assembled together, they were as one man in their cordiality towards their brother officers of the permanent corps, and all seemed to appreciate to the full the efforts made on their behalf by Major Lessard and his officers in what was to them the pleasant task of imparting such few hints as they were enabled to give on professional subjects.

We give below the "routine of the special course." It will be

seen that they were well occupied during their week's stay. It is hoped that somewhat similar courses will be held at each annual meeting of the association, and, as every regiment is represented, there will doubtless be a most beneficial result in keeping each regiment up to date in many minor details, besides giving the officers of various corps the chance of meeting and knowing each other. A step that the association would view with much pleasure would be the appointment of an officer at Headquarters to look after the interest of their arm of the service. It is felt, and with reason, that hitherto it has been neglected for the want of such an official, and as the other two branches are so represented, why not the cavalry?

It was most gratifying to all the officers of the Royal Canadian Dragoons to find how much their instructional efforts were appreciated. It came as a pleasant surprise in these days of "Down the Permanent Corps" to find that such was not the sentiment in reality through the country, as represented by so many officers from all parts.

Major Lessard, commanding the R.C.D. in Toronto, is officially, as inspector for the Dominion, the head of the cavalry. He showed by the manner he arranged the programme for this course and by the able way he handled practically or treated theoretically his professional subjects, that he is eminently the right man in the right place.

Capt. Forester's suaveness of manner, clearness of expression and comprehensive knowledge of his profession quickly made his way into the good graces of his pupils, who were the more eager to learn from this officer, knowing that he has just returned from England, where he spent some months with advantage to himself and his brother officers in this country.

Cpts. Heward and Pearce, in accordance with orders from their commanding officer, lectured to appreciative audiences, who were kind enough to express themselves in complimentary terms to their lecturers.

The regimental sergeant-major, Sergt.-Major Dingley, R.C.D., gave an instructive lecture on care of arms and packing kits. He is such a general and well-known favorite that all were glad to listen to his able remarks.

Before the final breaking up of the course a dinner was given by the V.R.I. mess at the barracks, to the cavalry, as represented by the senior officer from each regiment present during the course. With the attached infantry at present in barracks the number who sat down amounted to about 33.

SPECIAL COURSE, OFFICERS—9TH TO 14TH NOVEMBER, 1896.

Monday, 9th. — Arrival of officers. 2 p.m. — Officers' report. Explanation as to object of course, by Major Lessard. Lecture—"Drill," by Major Lessard.

Tuesday, 10th, 9.30 to 11 a.m.—Parade—*One half mounted, half dismounted, for field movements. 11.30 to 12.30—Lecture—"Fitting Saddlery," by Capt. Heward. 2 to 3.30 p.m.—Parade—*One half mounted, half dismounted, for field movements. Lecture—"Lee-Metford Carbine."

Wednesday, 11th, 9.30 to 11 a.m.—Parade—*One half mounted, half dismounted, for field movements. 11.30 to 12.30—Lecture—"Detached Duties," by Capt. Forester. 2 to 3.30—Parade—*One half mounted, half dismounted, for field movements.

Thursday, 12th, 9 a.m.—Parade—Detached duties, half mounted. 9.30 to 11 a.m.—Parade—Half dismounted, for field movements. 2 p.m.—Lecture—"Military Law," by Capt. Pearce; meeting of proposed Cavalry Association.

* One half officers mounted in morning, other half in afternoon, owing to there not being a sufficient number of horses available.