

Ottawa.—A course of military lectures to be given during the winter months by the officers of the Governor-General's Foot Guards, was inaugurated on Thursday evening last, when before his officers and a few friends Lieut.-Col. J. Pennington Macpherson took up the subject of "Hasty Entrenchments." He began by remarking that it was necessary for the officers of the different branches of the service in Canada to have a fair idea of field engineering as if called suddenly into the field there were so few engineers in the force, only three companies in the whole Dominion, that, if ever so well qualified, they could be of comparatively little use. During one evening it was impossible to do more than to give a general idea of the subject, a full knowledge of which could only be obtained by going through a course of instruction at the Royal Military College. There, every branch of the subject is taught by highly trained officers drawn from the royal engineers and artillery, and the work is actually done either in full or model size. There were a great many interesting points on which he would be unable to touch, but he hoped to be able to convey a fair idea of the manner in which hasty entrenchments and field works were constructed and defended. The objects of fortification were then explained to be: 1st, to provide cover from the fire of an enemy; 2nd, to enable the defending force to deliver their fire and counter attack in the most advantageous manner, and 3rd, to expose the enemy to disadvantage in attacking. The first was done by taking advantage of any existing cover and supplementing it by shelter trenches, field works and redoubts. To attain the second it was necessary that the position of the works should be judiciously chosen. They should have a clear view of the ground in front and be so disposed as not to hamper the defender's movements. The third was accomplished by placing obstacles in the path of the enemy, which would detain him under fire without affording him any protection from its effects. The thickness of various materials considered proof against rifle bullets at fifty yards were then given, as well as the thickness of a parapet to withstand artillery fire, the different kinds of which, both as to its direction with reference to the horizontal plane and its trajectory was fully explained. Col. Macpherson then gave the rules which would govern the selection of the position of a shelter trench, the manner in which the trench should be arranged and the distance to which the ground should be cleared; and illustrated by means of diagrams the different kinds of hasty entrenchments which might be thrown up in from five minutes to four hours, and which afforded protection to men lying down, kneeling or standing. Diagrams of gun pits and gun epaulements were also shown and their construction explained. The conditions which must be observed in the placing of obstacles and the manner in which they were used were detailed, and illustrations given of the construction of military pits, abatis, entanglements, chevaux de frise, palisades, etc. The dimensions of field works were then given, and the manner of tracing, profiling and defilading shown by means of diagrams. The names of the different parts of a work, the angles at which they were constructed, the manner of revetting by gabions, fascines, logs, etc., the construction of casemates, blockhouses, traverses, the defence of walls, and of a house, and the construction of stockades, tambours, machicoulis, galleries, etc., were explained and illustrated. The lecturer also made some remarks as to the manner in which working parties were formed and brought to the site of the work, and stress was laid upon the necessity of taking great pains in all preliminary details, so that the men might arrive properly provided with tools, their task clearly defined and in such formation as would admit of their ready distribution on the work. The manner in which picks and shovels were carried was shown, and the necessity of avoiding any clatter which would betray the whereabouts of the working party pointed out. The ordinary tasks of untrained workmen, the distance at which they should work, the direction in which the pick is to be used were explained, and the lecture was brought to a close with some instructions as to the duties of superintending officers and company officers. At the conclusion Major Anderson, 43rd, expressed his appreciation of the lecture, and said that the inception of such a course should be productive of a great deal of good. Major Todd and other officers followed in the same strain, and after a discussion on some points which had been brought out, the meeting broke up. It is understood that papers for the next evening will be prepared by Lieuts. Bowie, Gisborne and Shannon.

The annual dinner of the Ottawa field battery took place last Wednesday evening at the Queen restaurant, when some seventy-five sat down to as nice a bill of fare set before them as the most fastidious could desire. The dinner was got up by the non-commissioned officers of the battery, and therefore Sergt.-Major Peck occupied the chair. The vice chairs being filled by Staff-Sergts. Dunnett and Morson. The chairman had on his right hand Major Stewart, commander of the battery, and on his left Mr. McLeod Stewart, Mayor-elect of Ottawa. Other guests present included Major Stewart of the North-West scouts, formerly of the P. L. D. G.; Capt. Evans, R. L., late of the O. F. B.; Ald.-elect Borthwick, Sergt. Wheatly, Sergt.-Major Thompson, P. L. D. G.; Sergt.-Major Laurie, 43rd Batt. The officers of the corps present besides Major Stewart were Surgeon Bell, Veterinary Surgeon Harris, Lieut. Bliss and Lieut. Gordon. During the evening a telegraphic message was received from Capt. Bliss, from Grand Falls, N. B., expressing regret at his inability to be present on the occasion. Sergt.-Major Conroy, G. G. F. G., was unable to be present owing to illness. Dinner having been disposed of, a distribution to the officers and men of the battery of some of the many prizes won during the past season was made. Mayor-elect Stewart did this in a graceful manner. Those who received prizes were Major Stewart for the whole battery; Corp. Cowan, Sergt. Ingram, Driver Gray, and Drivers Gray and Johnson a drivers' prize. The cash amount of the prizes distributed was \$169, while there were associated with these cash prizes cups and other trophies not yet to hand.

The usual loyal toasts were then honored. In connection with that of the Governor General the pleasing announcement was made to the battery that His Excellency had declined the proffered appointment to the British Cabinet, as he did not wish to sever his official connection with Canada before the natural expiration of his term. The announcement was received with great cheering. The "Army, Navy and Active Militia" was responded to, first by Major Stewart, the organizer of the P. L. D. G., who expressed the pleasure it had afforded him during the late rebellion to co-operate with the Canadian militia, in command of 150 scouts composed of as good and faithful men as could be got together, in bringing about its prompt suppression. Capt. Evans, R. L., for many years of the O. F. B., and Paymaster A. S. Woodburn, O. F. B., made neat and happy replies.

After some other complimentary toasts "The Officers of the Ottawa Field Battery," proposed by Mr. McLeod Stewart, brought a reply first, of course, from Major Stewart, the popular commander, who referred with pardonable pride to the splendid record of the battery in competitions against the Dominion, and to the record of this year in particular, mentioning the following amongst the trophies it had won during the past season: The general efficiency prize donated by the Governor-General; the Dominion Artillery Association prize for picket competition; the 3rd prize in the Gzowski challenge cup competition, an accident on the field depriving them of first; the Oswald cup for the highest score in the Dominion of Canada—all the above competitions being open to the Dominion. The battery also took two Ontario Provincial prizes, these being the first in the Ontario Artillery Association competition and the

Ontario challenge cup presented by Lieut.-Col. Montizambert. Then amongst the individual winnings of members were the D.A.A first prize of silver cross guns and \$15, and the Ontario Association prize of \$15, both won by Gunner Cowan; the 3rd prize in the Dominion competition, by Sergt. Ingram; the fourth by Gunner Gray, and the 18th by Sergt. Pinkerton. Other toasts and speeches followed which we regret that want of space prevents us from detailing, and a most enjoyable meeting broke up at a late hour.

The snowshoe club recently organized in connection with the Governor-General's Foot Guards had their first tramp on Tuesday night. A start was made from the Drill Hall at 8 o'clock sharp, when there were mustered nearly 50 all told, representatives from each company being present. Capt. Hodgins, the captain of the club, took the lead, and Staff-Sergt. Newby, the whipper-in, armed with a tremendous horn, which he vigorously manipulated at intervals, brought up the rear. After nearly two hours' tramping the club proceeded to the residence of the honorary president, Col. Macpherson, where they were received by that gentleman and Mrs. Macpherson, and sumptuously entertained. Supper over, all adjourned to the drawing room, where an hour was very pleasantly spent in song, "Auld Lang Syne" and "God Save the Queen" being sung about 11 o'clock. Outside the house the club heartily cheered their host and hostess. Up Rideau street the snowshoers then proceeded in column, singing merrily on the way. All were enthusiastic concerning the sport in which they had been participating, many for the first time, and the next tramp of the club, which will be in two weeks, will, no doubt, be attended by all those present last evening and many more. The Guards' club has been very happily inaugurated, and from present indications will soon be one of the most flourishing of such institutions in the city.

Regina.—On the 23rd the first of a series of entertainments given by the N.W.M.P., came off very successfully in the large assembly room at the barracks, under the management of Inspector Matthews, assisted by R. S. M. Belcher and Sergts. White and Straton. The programme was a varied one, including instrumental and vocal music, dances, recitations, and farces, all performed by members of the force. These entertainments are doubly beneficial; in keeping the men amused through the long winter evenings, and in furnishing a few dollars for worthy objects.

Our Trading Column.

This column is established for the purpose of enabling our friends to exchange, purchase, sell, or otherwise advertize articles they desire either to acquire or dispose of. It is not available for commercial purposes.

The cost of announcements in this column for each insertion will be one cent per word for the first ten words one-half cent for each additional word. Each advertisement will have a register number in our books, and all communications regarding it must be forwarded through the GAZETTE, but it must be distinctly understood that this office incurs no other responsibility or liability in connection therewith. Address, with stamp for return postage, Canadian Militia Gazette, Box 316, Ottawa.

WANTED TO PURCHASE.—Rifle mounted officer's saddlery. Describe and quote prices. Register No. 3.

FOR SALE.—Two pairs of new black silk stars for rifle tunic or patrol badges. Price one dollar per pair. Register No. 6.

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SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tenders for Cape Breton Railway," will be received at this office up to noon on Wednesday the 12th day of January, 1887, for certain works of construction.

Plans and profiles will be open for inspection at the office of the Chief Engineer and General Manager of the Government Railways at Ottawa, and also at the office of the Cape Breton Railway at Port Hawkesbury, C.B., on and after the 27th day of December, 1886, when the general specifications and form of tender may be obtained upon application.

No tender will be entertained unless on one of the printed forms and all the conditions are complied with.

By order, A. P. BRADLEY, Secretary.

Department of Railways and Canals, Ottawa, 15th December, 1886.