

The Canadian Militia Gazette

THE POPULAR ORGAN OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

(Adopted as their official paper, by the Dominion Artillery Association, the Ontario Artillery Association, and the Canadian Military Rifle League.)

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REGIMENTAL AND OTHER NEWS.

encouragement given to the Dufferin Rifles will be appreciated by the whole people of Brantford, who take a very lively interest in the welfare of the regiment, as exemplified by the fact that in the handsome Christmas number issued this year by the *Expositor*, a leading place is given to an illustrated sketch of the regiment, past and present.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

A HAPPY indication of the increasing interest taken in one another by the corps in various parts of the Dominion is the growth of the custom of exchanging holiday greetings. One of the neatest of the cards with which we have been favoured is from the 62nd Fusiliers, of St. John, N.B. On the front of the plain white folding card there appears in the centre, embossed in red, the regimental crest; around the edges is a blue border, and at each of the four corners, printed in red and gold, the grenade of the badge, and the regimental number. Inside the folder is this greeting: "We of ours wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Good New Year. 1890-91."

IT is hard to sustain proper pride in one's self, when living in a house so mean as not to stand comparison with those of the company one would keep. That is exactly the unhappy position of many an ambitious regiment in Canada, and on behalf of one of these in particular we take this opportunity of urging early action to remove what is a very serious hindrance to the development of a desirable military spirit. We refer to the 38th Battalion, Dufferin Rifles, whose hopes were some time ago raised very high by the exhibition of plans for a drill hall and armoury which for comfort and convenience would have been second to none; but were rudely dispelled by the discovery that the plans involved an expense altogether too great to be recommended. Since then, nothing definite appears to have been decided upon, so far as the 38th are aware, and through the local press they utter a reasonable protest. The city, after having given free use of the present lot for twenty-three years, have invested \$6,200 in a site for the new structure, and have \$3,800 ready to apply to the construction fund, so soon as the Government will take action. Any

PERHAPS we are naturally biased on the subject, but from whatever cause we beg to take exception to the doctrine laid down by our esteemed correspondent "N. B." that matters of the first importance in the business of the military associations should not be dealt with in letters to the press. Meddlesome interference we have always discouraged; and it has even been with regret that we have sometimes published protests, reasonable in themselves, but coming too late to serve any useful purpose; but before the absolute decision of any matter we think it is highly desirable that any reasonable objections to the proposed action, or any respectful advice or suggestions, should be encouraged. Those in authority in the associations, as in the Government, are generally found anxious to hear the views of all concerned; and it has been a natural source of pleasure to us to know that on several occasions the views expressed in letters to this paper have been cordially accepted and acted upon by those in authority. We are happy, however, to endorse all that "N. B." says as to the claims of his province and of Nova Scotia.

EVERY now and again the newspaper men sink the rivalry which so often works to their general disadvantage, and unite to resent a slight, real or fancied, put upon them as a body. Through such an occurrence it happens that the interesting address delivered by the Minister of Militia upon the occasion of the recent military banquet in Toronto, did not find its way into print for ten days after the event. We republish it in full, from the *Toronto World*, in the confidence that it will be read with interest all over the Dominion. In this connection we might be permitted to remark that where a body of officers, presumably acting in the interest of the force, invite the Minister of Militia and his colleagues in the administration to be their guests and to make addresses dealing with the public business, it is not

quite fair to the speakers to be so exclusive as to make the affair a private one in place of extending the courtesy the press is accustomed to receive upon such occasions.

A STRIKING statement in these days when such emphasis is placed upon the insufficiency of the drill appropriation, is that of our correspondent "T," who writes that it costs more annually to maintain two privates at any of our schools of infantry, than to drill and maintain a whole company of the militia. He will have many sympathisers in his request for more money for the general force, even at the expense of a reduction of the strength in the barracks of the permanent corps.

OUTING for January has for a leading feature an attractively written and illustrated article on the Canadian Militia, contributed by Capt. Thos. S. Blackwell, of the 54th, to whose writings in that magazine we have frequently alluded. After dealing generally with the Militia organization, Capt. Blackwell takes up the Victoria Rifles of Canada, as a crack corps of the Dominion, and the illustrations are of the Vics' handsome armoury and the officers of the corps, past and present. The article is "to be continued" in the February number.

"TO HAVE THE WHOLE FORCE DRILLED EVERY YEAR, is one of the most important matters that can be agitated by the Militia of Canada." These words are quoted from Sir Adolphe Caron's speech, printed in full in this issue. The Minister does not disguise the fact that there is considerable feeling against any increase in the Militia expenditure, and against this feeling he has constantly to strive. It is the duty of every well-wisher of the force to lose no opportunity of showing the substantial benefits arising from the Militia outlay, and thus help to remove the objections to it. When the public demand annual drills, the Department or the Government will doubtless be found ready to respond. The Militia, as civilians, may be a powerful factor in creating such a demand, if they will trouble themselves.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON'S SPEECH AT TORONTO.

(From the World, 25th December.)

On Dec. 15 last, Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia, and Major-General Herbert, the new commandant of the Canadian forces, were entertained at dinner by the officers of the Toronto Garrison. Sir Adolphe, in response to the toast of "The Minister of Militia," proposed by Col. Otter, D.A.G., spoke as follows, his remarks being frequently and most liberally applauded:—

COL. OTTER AND GENTLEMEN: My appreciation of your princely hospitality, my appreciation of your kindly feelings, would be small, indeed, if I were not to admit that I find it difficult, almost impossible, to find words to express to you my delight, my feelings of deep gratification and pleasure, at finding myself among the officers of the force of Toronto. Sir, when I heard this band of yours playing "A La Claire Fontaine" and shortly afterwards "God Save the Queen" here in this room which promises

so much for the future prosperity of Canada, for this great city of Toronto, which in by-gone days was called Little York, when, I say, I heard your band playing these two pieces I thought it was extending the right hand of good fellowship to the east; the two races which constitute the strength and future of our country shaking hands over the empire which we all love, representing the common sentiment of loyalty to our Queen and to our fair Canada, showing that, whether tracing our origin to old France or tracing it to the British race, we consider the Queen of England our Queen, and that we are prepared to fight for the future prosperity of our country. You have spoken in words too flattering of the services I have rendered and the work I have done in the position I occupy in the country. I have done my duty as well as I understood how to do it, but it is due to the loyalty of my Canadian militia that I was enabled as Minister of Militia to carry out the duty which the country expected from me, and I knew I could not fail because I placed implicit faith in the force over which as Minister I was called upon to preside, and I knew that whether looking on this as a young country settling difficulties at home or repelling attacks outside—I knew that as Canadians I could rely on them to carry out what the country expected from every Canadian—to do their duty as did the militia of Canada in by-gone days and as in the present day they have showed how to carry out and do their duty, the details of which have been consigned to the pages of our history, and which in the pages of that history constitute what I consider to be one of the most glorious events which has ever come to us as a people and as a great and growing nation. (Applause.)

You have a right in saying that occasionally I have had some misunderstandings with the press, and occasionally, I must admit, the press has criticised my administration and my department, and the manner in which I was endeavoring to fulfil my duty to the militia force of Canada rather severely, but, sir, I do not always believe what I read in the newspapers—(laughter)—and I have followed the course which I believe is the right course in the interests of Canada and in the interests of the militia, and events have proved that possibly I was right and possibly that the press at times was wrong.

BUYING THE UNIFORMS AT HOME.

I was at one time accused of doing a great injustice to the force, and it is possible at a meeting like the present meeting, where we are all one family, all the militiamen discussing militia matters, that I might be permitted to refer to what you said about the clothing. Yes, it was a very vexed question, and for three months, as my friend and colleague, Mr. Bowell, knows, I was before the Public Accounts Committee discussing the question whether I should give the money which Canadians were paying to Canadians or whether I should go to outsiders. I felt that if it were possible for me to give to the militia force clothing that the militia required and to give the money which Canadians required to Canadians instead of sending it abroad, I was doing a patriotic act and doing no injury to the force. Who are the patriots of the country? Those who shoulder the rifle and take up their arms to fight the battles of the country. And what are the men who would stand up and object to my keeping in Canada hard-earned money which Canadians are contributing if it were possible for me as Minister of Militia to procure for the force a clothing which we could secure in our own country? Sir, I do not want to boast of it, nor do I want to boast of my success, but events have shown that I was right, and events have shown that the militia force never objected as a force to the policy which was being followed by the department, and the result is that I can show on my desk to-day letters stating that the clothing which is furnished to-day to the militia force is equal in every respect to the best clothing

that ever was imported from England. We are proud to belong to the British Empire, but if we are not men enough to stand up for our own interests we would not be such an important part of the British Empire—that Empire that we love and which we are prepared to fight for—nor would we be such a people that the British Empire is proud of calling one of the most brilliant jewels of the British Crown.

THE DRILL SHED SITE.

Sir, you have spoken of a vexed question, but you must forgive me, being a Frenchman from Quebec and from the old city of Chambly—to which you men of Ontario can go back to trace the progress of civilization and Christianity upon the whole of this Province and the Dominion—if in addressing you in a tongue which I love, but which is not my mother tongue, I may possibly make a mistake, and I did make a mistake when I said that the question you have referred to, I have reference to the question of the drill shed, was a vexed question. The mayor of your city, true to the interests of that great trust which is confided to his hand, my friend Mr. Small, that indefatigable enemy of the Minister of Militia, and the other members for your great city laid down their conditions, and like all true Frenchmen, respecting authority and power and respecting the authority of the mayor of Toronto, my last two items in the estimates in Parliament were for what they wished. I submitted to every condition that they laid down. You have got the drill shed to-day, you have got the deeds which transfer the drill shed to the Crown; you have got them drawn up exactly upon the conditions which were laid down by the citizens of Toronto and by the mayor and those gentlemen who represent you in Parliament. But, sir, I am prepared to admit I submitted because these conditions were fair and reasonable; they were conditions different from what I understood them to be at first, but as I say I was only too happy to help in the measure of my limited power the spirit of enterprise of the City of Toronto which had given a ground costing over \$100,000 for a site to build upon it a drill shed, where that force which we all admire, that force which has distinguished itself, will continue to learn the lessons which make it still better for the country and for the people of Canada.

I have been here only since this morning, but several questions were submitted to me; in fact I was told it was a very important matter to settle about the rifle ranges, which the equally enterprising corporation wanted to take from the militia force for purposes that are useful and needed in the interests of the public. I must tell you one thing: as Minister of Militia my first duty is to look after the force. I have already said to the gentlemen who approached me on more than one occasion on this question, if you can get the city or the Exhibition Association to agree with the militia force, and if your city or corporation is prepared to give us a ground which will be acceptable to my force and acceptable to the Department I do not want to stand in the way of anything that can comply with the desires and wishes of a corporation which has certainly done so much. I again say, what I have said on more than one occasion, that as Minister of Militia, as long as it is possible for me to stand by the interests of the force, I am bound to do so, but provided we can be accommodated elsewhere, provided the force be shown that the great and important interest which it is bound to take in the practice of the rifle is not going to be prejudiced or interfered with by any change, I say that we shall try to accommodate these gentlemen who want to develop that growing interest in agriculture in the great centre which is represented by this corporation.

TWO MORE COMPANIES FOR THE GRENS.

There is one other point I wish to refer to before I take my seat. For years and years Col. Grassett and my friend

Col. Dawson, and the gentlemen who represent you in Parliament, especially Mr. Small, the whip of my party, and under whose lash, which he wields so well, I occasionally come—I say that all these gentlemen have asked me to add to a battalion which has distinguished itself, as several other Canadian battalions did, in the North-West campaign. I refer to the Royal Grenadiers, and the wishes of these gentlemen were to add two companies to this regiment. I thought that I might, after fighting the drill shed question, and after fighting the other matters which I have referred to, that it would be possible to get my friends who were appealing to me not to insist upon getting this increase to the force, which increases, to a large extent, the expenditure of the Department but I gave in to these gentlemen before, and I gave in again, and it is my satisfaction to tell you that I have found my way to add two companies to the Royal Grenadiers. (Applause)

I do not wish for one moment to state to you that I believe everything is perfect in the department over which I preside, but I think if you will turn back a few pages of our military history and go back a few years you will find that we have been progressing according to the means of the requirements of the people of Canada. Interested in developing this country, it would not be patriotic, it would not be right, if I or any other Minister of Militia were to ask for any expenditure of money for military purposes that would interfere with the building of railways and the building of great public works, which so help in making up this country of which we are so proud; but, sir, within our means, I want to develop the militia force, and I say that if you look back and if the people of Canada wish to know where the money which has been expended in militia matters has gone, the records which are there will speak the infallible truths, and will show that since 1870 Canada has called out 37,000 men to repel attacks from outside or to put down troubles at home, and I want to know if it would be possible for any country to be without a force that is required, that is indispensable, which constitutes one of the component parts of the life of a people? I say more, it is impossible for any people, whether it be wealthy or whether it be powerful to be without a force such as Canada or other countries placed in the same condition are bound to keep up. I can say, moreover, that if you come to consider what we have been doing upon the amount of money which is voted by Parliament you will agree with me that the money has been properly spent. What have we to-day? Ten years ago we had two battalions composed of 300 men—150 each. To-day every branch of the service is represented by schools of instruction, where an officer who wishes to apply to that branch of the service may go and acquire experience and knowledge, which, when he has obtained, makes of him one of the men who is permitted to wear Her Majesty's uniform in Canada. I consider this is a very valuable addition to the institutions of our country. We have laid down the rule that no man can obtain a commission unless he has acquired the experience that you can acquire only by training, that you can only acquire in schools of instruction. When we had Her Majesty's regiments stationed all over Canada it was not necessary then to establish these permanent corps or schools of instruction which we required for our men, but to-day, without the British regiments, it became a necessity, and it would be absurd to believe that a few days' drill for the rural corps every two years is sufficient to give these officers an experience which they require to command their men.

AN ANNUAL DRILL.

Sir, I want more: I would like to have the whole force drilled every year, which is one of the most important matters that can be agitated by the militia of Canada. Those who have taken a prominent part in the militia organization know well that men who are enlisted for three

years may sometimes only receive one year's drill during that time instead of getting as they should every two years a knowledge of drill. This would happen by a recruit joining a corps just after it had performed its annual drill.

I cannot resume my seat without thanking you and the officers for the princely hospitality, the recipient of which I am, and the pleasure is enhanced, if possible, by the fact that I see here my colleagues, Mr. Bowell and Mr. Smith, representatives of the Government, and the pleasure is also enhanced by the fact that it is my privilege to present to you your new commandant of the Canadian force, Major-General Herbert. This selection was made from the high reputation which this gentleman enjoyed and from records and services which were acknowledged by the Imperial Government, and which were forwarded to me and accepted by us as being sufficient guarantee for our entrusting to him the command of a force which I love and which I should not like to place in hands which were not deserving.

Coming here as I occasionally do, but not so often as I would like to, it is the greatest pleasure that I as a Canadian can possibly enjoy, when I feel that among you I am at home, among you I feel a Canadian, among you I feel that my heart beats as your heart beats for the same cause, the same Queen and country. As long as we the Canadian people remain a united people, putting aside differences which have no reason to exist; I say if we as a people united and true to our trust carry out what Providence has reserved as being the destiny and future of this country, if we work hand in hand for the good of our Dominion, we shall make it a country that will be ever in the pages of the history of the world, and make for it a place that will have no mean place among the nations that live. I cannot forget that you the men of Ontario, and we the men of Quebec, whenever troubles have arisen in our country, or on the field of battle, have always been found fighting together the battles of Canada, whether speaking French or whether speaking English, and when the brave Brock was dying on Queenston Heights, giving his heart's blood for his country which he so much loved, he cried, "Go forward, brave militia of York!" That is what has been said in another section of the country by Gen. de Salaberry, who was leading a French battalion fighting for the same cause, "Stand by your flag and fight the battles of your country!"

Gentlemen, let me again thank you from the bottom of my heart for the splendid hospitality you have extended to me and let me tell you that if my duties as a public man and as the administrator of one of the departments permitted me I should oftener be among you, but I have to fight battles, common battles, in a section of the country where my friend Mr. Bowell and my friend Mr. Smith would not care to address the people in their own language, but which battles prevent my being with you on many occasions when I would have desired it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.]

THE COMMAND OF THE BISLEY TEAM.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I notice in your issue of 27th Nov. that "Foresight" has strong objections to a commandant for the Bisley team for 1891, being chosen from Nova Scotia. The officer he brings forward is worthy of the command, and no doubt has contributed a great deal to the advancement of the force, but "Foresight" should not forget that the Nova Scotians have yet some claim. That old Province contains officers who have worked years and years (long before confederation) for the honour of the old flag, and to-day that Province has men in the force equally as capable as the officer named. Twenty-five years is a short

service compared with some of our officers in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. The writer has been in the force for 28 years and is only a captain, yet he feels as good and active—even after going through the raid in '69 and the North-West Rebellion in 1885—as many others who had not that chance. This petty jealousy is what holds our force back. This unnecessary public attention to the details of military matters is the cause of many a failure in our work. As an old officer and comrade in arms, I would suggest a complete silence in such matters. We have placed in the D. R. A. a board of gentlemen in whom we should have full trust. Why hamper their actions by writing about matters we, by their election, have left in their hands. This seems to me like a "want of confidence."

I have no doubt the selection they will make will be for the honour of our militia. N. B.

THE PRACTICE RECORD.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—My attention has been directed to a communication which appeared in your issue of the 18th inst. in which the writer claims for Ottawa preeminence for enthusiastic devotion to the rifle range. Though he does not mention my name he refers to some circumstances in connection with my personality which are quite sufficient for those of your readers who know me to understand to whom he refers. Now, Mr. Editor, I beg to say that I am in perfect agreement with "Ottawa First" when he says that this city can boast of a devotee of the range who is without a peer, and it is solely because I have no desire to belie the character for modesty which your correspondent accords me, that I am compelled to disclaim a record which properly and deservedly belongs to another. I have no doubt it will be apparent to the more penetrating of your readers that only a person possessing facilities for observing my daily habits and movements, in short one who could not have been very far from the range at any time, could have furnished so complete a statement of facts as your writer produces in support of his contention. As, however, that natural deduction may have escaped some of your readers, I would ask you to make room in your columns for a few remarks which I think will convince you that the championship in this contest belongs to "Ottawa First." He has withheld his proper signature in the letter he addressed to you so I shall refrain from giving publicity to his name. I have, moreover, a further reason for not wishing to make this matter directly personal, as I have a very gratifying souvenir of the hearty welcome with which he greeted me every time I went to the range. Indeed, no host could have treated a guest better than I was treated by the gentleman who, by his unfailing presence at the range, in sunshine and rain, in melting heat and chilling cold, led to the notion that he was living there. Possibly it may have been a spirit of jealousy on account of my proximity to the range that prompted him to refer to me; or was it because he dreaded that his reputation of the previous year would mark him as the most fitting one to represent Ottawa's claim and by anticipating that publicity escape its consequences? Why, sir, many a day during the summer, while I was quietly pursuing the even tenor of my way, I was called to the telephone by a voice that had become so familiar that there was no mistaking it, asking me to go to the range. Of course I generally consented to go as I thought he must have felt at times as if he would like someone to protect him from, or share with him, the undeniable comment which his constant presence at the rifle range would naturally give rise to; but little did I think that my generous impulses were going to be repaid in so ungallant a manner. So strongly attached to the range had he become that as the end of the shooting season approached it seemed a painful ordeal to him to leave his

smouldering camp fire. When the time came for the targets to be removed he succeeded by his earnest entreaties in inducing the contractor to leave them up a week longer, and when the last day came he might have been seen jumping up between shots and dancing around to restore the circulation to his numb members. Now, sir, I leave your readers to judge to whom among the Ottawa shots belongs the honours in this contest. Great Scott! if his *Moody* associate and the other *habitués* of the Rideau Range would give expression to their opinions in this matter there would be a *Carroll* of harmonious accord in which the *Steward* and *Cook* of the range would join proclaiming that I have *Wright* on my side. I have sometimes thought that a gifted writer might produce something entertaining to lovers of the rifle by publishing a work on, say, "People I have met on the Rideau Rifle Range"; and I am sure "Ottawa First" possesses all the qualifications which personal observation and a lively imagination could lend to such an enterprise. If he would undertake the task he could give it a more extended scope, say, "People I have met on the ranges of Canada," for there is not a provincial or local range that he does not possess some reminiscences of. After all I have advanced in my defence it might seem to some that I have shown your correspondent to be better entitled than I am to the distinction under discussion I have, by implication, admitted that I am a close competitor. But, sir, I would remind you that I am but a novice at shooting, that the last season was my first at the range, so had I been less assiduous in my practice I would have deserved the reproach of all genuine lovers of the rifle. My successful rival, on the contrary, has been a crack shot for many years and cannot, therefore, urge in his defence the need of practice.

I ought to apologize for taking up so much of your space in the discussion of a topic of no real value and very little interest. I think, however, it is only fair to myself that a proper presentation of this matter should be placed before your readers.

MARTINI-HENRY.

Ottawa, December 25th, 1890.

A CRITICAL REVIEWER.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I am troubled in my mind, and only the vent that is given in the privilege of using your good little paper, can relieve the affliction—but to the point. When the "GAZETTE" came to hand this evening (a day later than usual), it was eagerly opened in the hope of spending a nice half hour with the shooting minds of the Dominion, but woeful disappointment awaited me. Nearly five pages of "ads": Tom Mitchell's "stogas," Hamilton's Blasted Powders, Fits Cured, Claxton tooting his own horn, Pike's sinister question, if "you are going camping." (This must be the essence of sarcasm to Ontarians at this season of the year.) Then the different makers of rifles urging the quality of their goods as if the name on the barrel had anything to do with it. And then the whole of the last page is covered by the assertion that "Electricity is Life." Kemmler didn't find it so, and it *Baers* out the truth of what I say on the surface. All these instead of curing my ailment aggravated the trouble. And it is only in the hope of being able to linger on until the New Year, when we are promised more news, in a better form of paper, and the said paper properly clothed, for you know, sir, that your child, the GAZETTE, has been allowed to go naked for about four years. This has a serious side, what with exposure to the cold, miserable, damp, muggy weather of the east, so trying to a young constitution. Your progeny has now come to an age when common decency demands, that the child shall be clothed and not allowed to wander over the land in a swaddling band any longer. There, sir, my grievance is aired, and like "Short-stocks," my vitals are being exercised, over the result.

We notice with satisfaction the reference this week to Pringle, Davidson and Burns, as being enthusiasts, and would say that it is to such men that the shooters of the Dominion have to look for the development of our favourite pastime. Quick, open, generous enthusiasts! Oh! that we had more in every city. We think, however, that "our" man leads the van. With one more remark, we are exhausted. Clarence Timothy Burns is a mixture. His first name is essentially English, and associated with conspiracies, nightmares, etc.; his second has a greenish hue, and to it is attributable his pugnacity. His third, gives him genius, in all its branches. With such a combination it would be impossible to get a better fellow than C. T. B., but I would add that it has always been a conundrum to Manitobans where he got the notion of going shirtless to the Dominion matches; he couldn't do it here.

A Merry Christmas to you, Mr. Editor, and a prosperous New Year for your "child," is the wish of

BUCKSHOT.

THE MILITIA AND THE SCHOOLS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—Your issue of Dec. 4th contained an article on "Our Militia," written by Capt. Cartwright, in which he makes some suggestions for the improvement of Canada's only army.

We, who are not of the permanent corps, may agree with him that there is decided room for improvement in all branches of the service, but it is another thing when he advocates calling out only ten men per company for annual training. We presume that only ten men are to be called out because it costs less than twenty.

Some years ago, the number of rank and file in every troop and company was reduced, also the number of horses in each battery.

In Ontario there are now over seventeen thousand men on paper, half of whom are called out every year. According to the Soldier's Pocket-Book, an army corps requires seventy combatant and one hundred and thirty-six TRAINED non-combatant staff officers. In No. 2 military district there are more men than in an English infantry division, which requires a staff of ten combatant and fourteen non-combatant staff officers. I am afraid that in the event of all the militia in Ontario being called out, that there would be as much difficulty in filling the staff appointments as there would be in finding partially trained men to fill up the skeleton battalions. Anyway, what is the use of trained companies of ten men? It is numbers that hold the corps together. There is always more difficulty in recruiting for say one battery and troop than there is in recruiting for corps like the 2nd, 10th, 13th, etc.

During the recent North-West campaign, there was thousands of dollars wasted for want of an efficient staff that could have immediately proceeded to the field, and we saw the transport, intelligence and commissariat departments filled with civilians who knew nothing about their duties, and the results were time and money lost, and the bulk of the work in the end having to be done by chiefs of departments.

We have the schools, and I think their staffs might form the staff officers for each district. Increase the number of officers in each school, and increase their pay after a certain number of years' service, if they are not lucky enough to be promoted. Do away entirely with the rank and file in *all the schools*, keeping a certain number of non-commissioned officers for instructional and staff duties and a few men for grooms, cooks and servants. The money saved in this way could be utilised in paying for the increased number of officers, and in calling out every *winter* the corps that are not intended to send to camp, and drilling them in barracks, say for twenty-one days. In that way there would be all winter several thousand men ready for any-

thing in the spring. Very little extra accommodation would be required, and of the rural battalions, at least half the rank and file can get away at that time.

Canada cannot and will not support a standing army. It now costs as much to maintain two privates in the Schools of Infantry as it does to drill, clothe and instruct a company of forty two men and three officers—and the feeling, I think, throughout the country is: No more reduction in the Militia. Twenty years ago, there were twenty garrison batteries in Ontario—there is one left. It is an easy matter to reduce, but if you want an extra company, or a few spare horses for a battery, you will find that it is a work of years.

T.

DRILL AND DISCIPLINE.

LECTURE BY LT.-COL. W. E. O'BRIEN, M.P., CANADIAN MILITARY INSTITUTE, 15TH DECEMBER.

I ENTER upon the subjects which I have ventured to select for consideration this evening with great diffidence. I feel that no officer of the active force who realizes the responsibilities of his position can have failed, whether consciously or not, to have given these subjects much consideration; I feel also, that among those present there are many to whom it is presumptuous in me to offer advice or instruction. No two words are more often in our mouths than Drill and Discipline; yet perhaps we do not always observe the distinction between them on the one hand, and the close connection that there is between them on the other. I think also that in some minds, especially in the minds of men who have not much practical experience, and who have not clearly studied the matter, there is a tendency to undervalue the necessity for discipline, and to imagine that a drilled man is therefore a disciplined man. Now, using the term discipline in the highest and broadest, and least technical sense of which it is capable, I venture to affirm that while some measure of drill is essential for the beginning of discipline, the latter is the higher and more essential qualification for a soldier. Drill, however necessary, is but the handmaid of discipline. Drill is mechanical. Discipline is moral and intellectual, and enlists in its service the highest mental and moral qualities. Drill deals with the hands and feet—with the motions of the body. Discipline relies upon the mind and the heart. For example, drill teaches the sentry how to march upon his beat, how to carry his arms, how to salute, and how to fulfil the various duties of his post. Discipline keeps him at his post even at the peril of his life. It makes him feel his responsibility, and holds him to his duty. It interests him in the discharge of its most minute particulars, and makes him feel a pride in their exact fulfilment. To quote a well known but striking illustration, drill taught the Roman sentry whose remains were found in Pompeii the mechanical duties of his post, but discipline kept him there, when others fled for their lives, till he was smothered in the falling ashes which buried the city. So, in later times, by the means of drill the commander of the troops on board the Birkenhead mustered his men upon the deck of the sinking vessel, but it was by force of discipline that the instinct of self preservation was overcome, and those men, nothing but common British soldiers, gave an example of heroism which shall never be forgotten. And later still, by means of drill, a British force was paraded on the banks of the Nile, hot, weary, hungry, exhausted with the fatigue of marching and fighting, and the reaction which follows upon such work as they had just accomplished, parched with thirst and within a few yards of the cool flowing river. But discipline retained them in their ranks, till, quietly and orderly, man by

man, company by company, the word was given for them to step down and drink; and not till that word was given did a man leave his place. It will be observed that in these cases, as in many more which could be cited, we have the controlling and ennobling effect of discipline unaided by excitement or enthusiasm, such as would be caused by fighting, or vigorous action of any kind, and therefore the highest proof of its power and influence. In action, however, discipline has equally its part to play, and its duties to perform. It enforces patience under suffering, combines coolness and intelligence with courage and daring, teaches the soldier confidence in himself and his comrades, keeps his mental balance midst excitement and confusion, so that he knows when to strike, and when to forbear—in short, makes him such a man that though he may be defeated, he will never be disgraced. Proofs of this lie thickly scattered throughout military history. It was more than drill and physical courage which turned the doubtful combat at Marston Moor into a decisive victory for the Roundheads. It was the highest discipline which sustained the British squares during weary hours of waiting at Waterloo, and enabled them to hold their ground till the moment for action arrived. It was discipline, as well as drill and bravery, which triumphed in the bloody combats at Albuera, Benaco, Fuentes D'Onoro, and elsewhere in the Peninsula, where every quality of endurance and fortitude, as well as desperate courage, were successively brought into play. The converse of my proposition is easily established, and instances will readily occur to every reader of history in which the want, or failure, of discipline has rendered fruitless the efforts of men skilled in arms and full of courage.

Another distinction between drill and discipline exists in this: systems of drill are constantly changing; the principles of discipline are immutable. The men who fought in the Macedonian phalanx, the Roman legionaries, the men-at-arms of the middle ages, the infantry trained by Monk and Leslie, and other officers who had learned the art of war in the Low Countries, the great battlefield and military school of Europe, the soldiers of the Great Frederick, of Napoleon and of Wellington, had each and all their systems of drill, as widely differing as the weapons they carried. But the same principles of discipline applied to all and will continue to apply throughout till war shall be no more. There is one system of drill for the infantry, another for the cavalry and a third for the artillery, but the same discipline for all. Yesterday close order was the rule—to-day all attacks are made in loose or open formation. Movements which were deemed essential a year ago are now expunged from the red book as valueless or obsolete. Still there is no change in the rules of discipline. I may, however, remark that, as the present mode of attack in loose formation, and the system of firing suitable to it, require the exercise of greater individual intelligence and independence of action on the part of the soldier, and therefore more careful training in drill, so a higher degree of discipline is necessary than when men fought shoulder to shoulder, and felt the moral support of close contact with their comrades. I say, advisedly, more careful training in drill, because I am aware that there exists in the minds of some the idea that skirmishing drill is something easily learned, and that the preliminary teaching upon which so much stress is placed is no longer necessary. It is true that precision of step in wheeling and marching is not so much as formerly a means of displaying the high training of the soldier, but I need scarcely tell any one here that we might as well expect one who has only learned the alphabet to read at sight as an undrilled man to make a good skirmisher.

In the foregoing remarks I have endeavoured to point out the distinctions between drill and discipline, the one being mechanical and changing with the differing conditions of warfare—the other being mental and moral, and based

upon principles that do not change. While placing due value upon the importance of this distinction, and placing discipline upon the higher scale, I would not be understood as under-estimating the necessity of drill. Each must cooperate with the other to make a good soldier. In teaching drill we teach discipline, and, to a great extent, we teach discipline by means of drill. But it is when men are off duty, in times of idleness or inaction, that discipline is hardest to maintain, and that the effects of good discipline are most felt. In time of action, whether in the field or on the parade ground, men's minds and energies are interested and occupied, and they are less inclined to breaches of discipline. But when parade is over, or the battle has been fought, and the idleness of the camp, or the reaction after the excitement of the fight, the intoxication of victory, or the depression of defeat, the hardships of a weary march, the effect of bodily suffering, as well as of mental inaction—all these, in greater or less degree, are the tests of discipline. As in my own little experience I found it harder to keep up discipline on the plains of Humboldt than when on the constant watch for an enemy, so all history teaches that in such times as I have described, the bonds of discipline are the most quickly loosened and good order the hardest to maintain.

Now this word discipline, which so far I have been using without having given any precise definition of it, may be used in two senses. Its primary sense, as applied to military affairs, means the education of a soldier, apart from that which we comprehend in the term drill. We, however, use the term in common parlance, as I have hitherto been using it, in the sense of the result of that education. We speak of discipline as meaning that condition of obedience to authority—that surrender of one's own will and inclination to the will and inclination of another, which is found essential to the success of all warlike operations, however small and however large. It involves to a great extent the abnegation of our reasoning powers—"ours not to reason why, ours but to do or die"—yet our reason convinces us that this surrender of will, and this abnegation of reason, is in conformity with reason, and reconciles us to a condition of things which otherwise would be unendurable. This discipline, or education, begins with the enlistment of the soldier. His first lesson is that of obedience—obedience to rules, the object of which he may not understand, but which long experience has found to be necessary. His whole life is guided by rule, and thus he becomes habituated to discipline so that when the time for action comes, he is ready to obey as a matter of course, regardless of what to him the result of that obedience may be, and in learning to obey he learns also to command. He finds himself a link in the great chain of responsibility, which binds together the body, large or small, of which he is a part, thus enabling it to act as a machine directed by the single will which sets in motion the whole. He finds that the discipline of which he is the subject in some form or other applies to all, from the highest to the lowest; that the higher in station the greater the responsibility, and that each has his proper function, or duty, for the performance of which he is responsible, and beyond the limits of which he has no right or power to go. He is further taught, at any rate he should be taught, by example, as well as by precept, that the obedience he renders should be a willing and cheerful, not a slavish or mechanical obedience. And, lastly, he should learn that, as part of his obedience, and as a necessary consequence upon his act of enlistment, he must accept all the results of his obedience. He therefore will not complain of hardship, will endure suffering without murmuring, and will forego indulgences or pleasures which are forbidden. The higher moral discipline which should also be inculcated, will teach him to respect himself as well as his superiors. He will not stain his courage by acts of

cruelty or rapine. He will be temperate in all things. The sense of danger will make him thoughtful, not reckless. In short, his discipline will make him a good man as well as a good soldier. And as each man in the body of which he is a member, is confident in himself, so each will learn to be confident in his comrades; and in nothing is good discipline more valuable than in the mutual reliance which it causes in the component parts of a military force. Without that all else is of little value. No matter how brave a man may naturally be, his courage will fail if he feels no confidence in his right or left hand man, and the same principle will apply to companies, regiments or brigades.

(To be continued.)

REGIMENTAL.

A Winnipeg correspondent thus writes concerning the illness of Lt.-Col. Bedson of the 91st, an officer whose loss will be generally deplored:—"From good sources I learn it is only a matter of a short time, ere the force will have to record the death of one of the most efficient officers it has had. His regiment feel to a man the expectant loss and many a silent prayer has gone to the Higher Power for his recovery. Just as he was getting his regiment in shape and being loved by his men, the 'call' came—but the 'final call' so far has not yet been heard—we hope it will not be."

An enthusiastic representation of "G" Company, Q.O.R. of Canada, was assembled at the Union Station, Toronto, Saturday evening (20th ult.), for the purpose of wishing their comrade, Corp. C. E. Baynes Reed, "bon voyage" and every success on the occasion of his leaving for Winnipeg to fill an important position in the Molsons Bank there. The boys of "G," although regretting that circumstances had arisen to deprive the Company of one of its squarest men and best of soldiers, did their utmost to shew by their cordial hand-shaking and cheering that they appreciated men of Corp. Reed's stamp.

The sergeants' mess of the 15th Battalion, Belleville, gave their annual banquet at the Hub on the 17th ult., and it proved of such a pleasant character that the next anniversary will be looked forward to with pleasant anticipations. Mine host Jenkins had the dining hall tastefully decorated and the tables were most tempting in their arrangement. It was nine o'clock before the door opened, a signal for the onslaught upon the dainties provided. The menu was excellent, as it always is when served by this painstaking caterer, and was discussed with a keen relish. Sergt.-Major McKae presided. In the seat of honour to his right was Col. Lazier, then Capt. J. E. Halliwell. To his left Sergt.-Major Baker of the 14th, of Kingston, Capt. W. N. Ponton, Capt. Alex. Robertson, Staff-Sergt. Walker, secretary of the mess, occupied the vice-chair.

Lt.-Col. J. W. Lewis, Brigade Major of the Third and Fourth Military Districts, died at his residence in Brockville on the 21st ult. He was in excellent health until about two weeks before. While on a tour of inspection in the actual discharge of his official duties he caught a severe cold which settled on his system and resulted in death. Col. Lewis was born in Ireland 55 years ago. He came from noted military stock, his father and grandfather having been distinguished officers in the British army. His father was a cousin of Lord Rossmore. When 19 years of age he entered the army as an ensign in the Fortieth Regiment,

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and shortly afterwards went to New Zealand, where he remained 12 years, during which time he was exchanged to the 65th Regiment and promoted to a captaincy. He went through the campaign against the Maoris in that country, was twice promoted for gallantry, and obtained the New Zealand medal. In 1886 he returned to Ireland. In 1872 he sold out his commission and came to Canada, settling in Toronto, where he joined the York Rangers, of which regiment he was made adjutant. In 1883 he was made brigade-major for District No. 4, with headquarters at Ottawa. About five years later, when districts three and four were united, he became brigade major of both and then moved to Brockville, where he has since remained. He was an enthusiastic soldier, and a great favourite among the military of the district. The premature death of Lt.-Col. Lewis brings to mind the coincidence that Lt.-Col. Lamontagne, who was Deputy Adjutant General of the Fourth District when Col. Lewis was Brigade Major, has also died since his removal.

Col. Fred. Massey was paid a high compliment last night. He has commanded his regiment for several years, the Sixth Fusiliers maintaining a very high state of efficiency under his direction. The officers and men have not been slow to observe Colonel Massey's zeal for the gallant corps,

which under Colonels Martin and Gardner, respectively, achieved so much that any regiment may well be proud of. He bore his part well in aiding their success then, and it is gratifying to notice the warm and hearty manner in which the regiment now recognizes his efforts as commanding officer. Last night a number of the officers and friends of Colonel and Mrs. Massey assembled in the Colonel's residence, when Captain McLaren presented to Mrs. Massey a life-like painting by Harris, of Col. Massey, in full uniform, standing by his charger. Capt. McLaren said a few words, and Major Seath read an address expressing to Col. Massey the esteem they all felt for him as an officer and a gentleman. The address is signed by Major Seath, Col. Gardner and Sergt.-Major Dennison, for the non-commissioned officers and men of the regiment. Col. Massey, in a short speech, acknowledged the kindness which had urged the regiment's gift to Mrs. Massey, holding that the honour of commanding so fine a body of men amply repaid all his efforts. The band then played "For he's a jolly good fellow." Cheers were given for the Colonel and Mrs. Massey, and Col. Gardner, Col. Sinton, Sergt.-Major Dennison, Col. Lyman, Col. Turnbull and Major Vidal, of Toronto, each spoke briefly, cheers for the Queen closing the proceedings. —*Montreal Witness, Dec. 30th.*

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