



THE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE DEVONPORT COASTGUARD ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS.
Hanna, Photo.

THE AUCKLAND RIFLE BATTALION COLOURS.

The Queen's and regimental colours imported from England for the Auckland Rifle Battalion No. 1 are now in the possession of the Customs Department in Auckland, and will be formally presented as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made. Both colours are presented to the Rifle Battalion by the ladies of Auckland, the cost of the flags, exclusive of freight, etc., being £38 16/. The ladies wish the colours presented at a daylight parade of the volunteer force, and Lady Ranfurly is to be asked to make the presentation. The colours were designed by Lieutenant-Colonel Dignan (Hon. Colonel of the Battalion), who was the first to suggest the idea of colours, and who offered to present one or both if necessary. They are very handsome silk flags, ordered from Hobson and Sons, of London, and supplied by them from their 'Indian and Colonial Department.'

The regimental colour is a large blue flag bearing in the upper inner corner the figure '1,' and in the other three corners the letters 'N.Z.' In the centre is the name of the battalion surrounding the arms of Lord Auckland, after whom this city was named.



THE AUCKLAND RIFLE BATTALION COLOURS.—THE REGIMENTAL COLOUR.



THE QUEEN'S COLOUR.

viz., a mailed fist grasping a sheaf of corn. This is surrounded by a wreath, and the whole is surmounted by a crown proper. Underneath the wreath is a white scroll bearing in gold letters the inscription 'New Zealand.' The centre of the flag is in crimson silk, with gold letters and edging. The centre scroll is gold with black silk letters. The crest in the centre is all gold on black and white. There is a blue and gold fringe, and blue and gold tassels; the colour is also fitted with a pole and a gilt crown.

The Queen's colour is the New Zealand Government flag, blue, with the four stars representing the Southern Cross, and with the Union Jack in the upper inner corner. In the centre of the Jack is the crown, over the motto, 'Auckland Rifle Battalion,' which encloses the Auckland arms. The four stars on the body of the flag are gold, with white edging. There is a gold fringe to the flag, and the pole is surmounted by a gilt crown and lion, while gold tassels depend from the top of the pole. Both colours are accompanied by colour belts, with the Auckland arms engraved thereon.

PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO NAPIER VOLUNTEERS.

The presentation of the colours to the East Coast Battalion of Volunteers on the 9th of last month was the occasion for one of the most attractive and interesting ceremonies that has been celebrated in the little city for a long time past. After the prayer of consecration had been delivered by

Dean Hovell, Mrs R. D. D. McLean presented the colours. In addressing the volunteers, Dr. de Lisle, the donor of the colours, said that if anything could have added to the pleasure he felt in giving the colours, it was the manner the offer was received by all hands in the battalion and the appreciative remarks that he had heard from many old soldiers who had served with the flag and helped to shame the enemy, both in the regular and the auxiliary forces. At the close of a very appropriate address, he said it was much to be regretted that the clouds which at the present moment obscure the political horizon had prevented the senior officer on the station from sending one of Her Majesty's ships to our waters. It would have been gratifying if the proceedings had been graced by the presence of the representative of that grand old service which has done so much to make Old England what she is.

On behalf of the East Coast Battalion Major Chicken returned thanks. He said they felt honoured and proud to accept this gift, being, as it was, evidence of interest shown in the work of the volunteers. It was the first set of colours that had ever been presented to any battalion in New Zealand.

The colours were brought on to the ground by a reserve body comprising Quartermaster-Sergeant Fox, Colour-Sergeant Tychenne, Sergeant-Major