

VOLUNTEER NOTES

(By RIFLEMAN.)

The acceptance of the defenses of the Devonport Defence Rifle Cadet Volunteers has been ascertained.

The "A" Battery is now in camp in the Domain for the usual fortnight. The parade muster is 70 strong.

Staff-Sergt. Meikle arrived in Auckland on Saturday last, and has been attached to the Engineer Corps and Signallers for instruction.

The American Military and Naval authorities have decided to lay with mines on board their warships. These tanks will now be converted into infantry.

No. 2 and 3, A.G.A., went under canvas on Saturday last, the former at Fort Cauley, and the latter at Takapuna. Heavy gun practice will take place this week.

The No. 1 Natives will not hold their annual camp till the end of the month, having declined to grant permission and camp allowance.

The conditions of the competition for the challenge cup presented to the Pike Mounted Rifles by Mr J. B. Starker, have been issued. The first competition will be held on March 20th next.

It may be as well to once more remind intending competitors that the entries for the eighth annual meeting of the New Zealand Defence Forces Rifle Association meeting at Trentham close on February 12.

Capt. W. R. C. Walker, commanding the D Squadron, has (says my Waikato correspondent) been recommended for promotion to the position of second in command of the 2nd Regiment A.M.R., with the rank of major.

A number of new regulations have been the subject of an order by the Defence Council dealing with the marks for artillery volunteers under examination, the new clauses affecting field and garrison artillery and engineers.

The whole of the Japanese field artillery has now been re-armed with the 1907 pattern quick firing gun, and the manufacture of reserve material is being proceeded with. The issue of new rifles to the infantry is nearly completed.

Quartermaster-Sergt. Arnold, of the D Squadron (Kaimahoe), has been promoted to the rank of regimental quartermaster-sergt., in place of Quartermaster-Sergt. C. Cowley, who has been promoted to the commissioned ranks.

It is not improbable that the scheme for the improvement of the infantry suggested by Capt. Grant, adjutant of the First Battalion, will come into operation in Auckland by the beginning of the volunteer year. The proposal is to be discussed by the officers commanding the companies on Monday night.

The parade of the First Battalion Infantry, No. 4 Engineers, Bearer Corps and Auckland Mounted Rifles by the Inspector-General will take place at Avondale on the 13th inst. The three town camps are to parade at the Auckland Railway Station at 3 p.m. to strain by the 4.50 p.m. train for Avondale.

Colonel Davies, C.B., Inspector-General, will, as previously stated, inspect the various corps in the Auckland District during February. The 2nd Regiment (Waikato), A.M.R., will, however, not be inspected, it having been seen by the Inspector-General in the annual training camp, when 250 men were on parade.

Sergt-Major Coleman, Staff Instructor 2nd A.M.R., will attend at the following places during the present month:—Te Aroha, February 4; Haglan, February 6; Cambridge, February 10; Te Kuiti, February 11; Cambridge, February 13; Te Awamutu, February 17; Otorohanga, February 20; Ngaruawahia, February 25; Karamu, February 27th.

A routine order issued by Lieut.-Col. Reed, O.C., the First Battalion, announces the postponement of the Buchanan Cup contest on account of the Inspector-General's visit. The marksmen's course of musketry and Government medal competitions will be fired by the first class shots of the A, B, C, and D companies on the 20th inst., and the E, F, and G companies on the 27th.

I am informed an increased grant to cadet battalions for the annual camp has been notified by the Education Department. The Wellington Education Board has received a letter from the Department intimating that it was prepared to pay the cadets' railway fares not exceeding twenty miles, and grant 3/6 per head for six days' maintenance in camp, providing camp equipment as far as available. The grant would not be payable unless two hundred of all ranks were in camp, except in the case of a battalion, the total strength of which is less than two hundred, in which case the minimum shall be one hundred and fifty or over. Wherever practicable, an instructor from the Education Department will be attached to the camp for instructional purposes. The Wellington Board referred the letter back to the Department asking that the Minister grant 1/3 per day per cadet for 6 days, as even the increased grant was insufficient.

Lieut.-Colonel D'Arcy Chaytor, commanding the 1st Regiment Nelson Mounted Rifles, and Lieut.-Colonel Allen Bell, of the 2nd A.M.R., have been appointed to frame regulations for the proposed Farmers' Union Rifle Club, to be formed of adult members of the New Zealand Farmers' Union. These officers will also draw up rules for the Farmers' Union Cup Competition, which is to be competed for by country school cadet corps with miniature rifles.

The following volunteers have qualified for certificates:—P. C. Daniell and C. Holloway, No. 1 Waikato M.R. Volunteers; both for sergeant. Corporals E. Ballantine and J. Ludlow, both of No. 1 N.Z.G.A., have been transferred to the Reserve of existing corps at their own request, as from 20th November last, and Private J. P. White, of the 1st M.R., as from 3rd May, 1908. The O.C. District has approved of the appointment as hon. acting lieutenant of James Edward Gray, Devonport Rifle Cadet Volunteers, from 20th November, 1908.

A recent general order issued by the Council of Defence, runs as follows:—This appointment having been expressed by some officers that their pay has not been increased in accordance with the scale published in General Order 21 of 1908, attention is drawn to the proviso printed in the two lines beneath the tabulated scale on first page of above order, where it is distinctly set forth that the increment is dependent on efficiency and competency, and, if required, a qualifying examination before the same is granted.

A new drill book for cadets has been issued. It consists of suitable extracts from infantry training, 1906, Imperial, as adopted for New Zealand defence force. In parts the terms are slightly altered to suit the purpose of the work. Some sections are included, not because of direct application to the cadet system, but because they enunciate principles that officers, and even cadets themselves, ought to know. Officers of corps, as far as possible, are requested to carry out those instructions to enable cadets to be trained with a view to future admission to adult volunteer corps.

No. 1 A.G.A. is fortunate in having such a large number of trained specialists, there being more than double the number required by the conditions of the Challenge Shield. The company has 32 efficient signallers, trained in lamp sending by night, heliographing and flags by day, in both the semaphore and Morse codes. The signallers are under the supervision in camp of Sergt. West, a veteran signaller with South African experience, assisted by Corp. Woodford. This company is the only one in Auckland that has a trained detachment able to run its own engines and work the electric searchlight.

"Target Practice" (1908-10) is now with the printers, and will be issued to corps about March 1 (new volunteer year). The following are the leading changes: (a) Targets and value of hits will be same as used at New Zealand Rifle Association meetings. This is introduced to save corps the necessity of maintaining two classes of targets and two systems of marking. It should enable many company prizes to be competed for, in conjunction with the class-drill. (b) The figure targets are amended to count hits on figure, with an inner and magpie circle. (c) The discretion of O.C. corps as to preliminary and further training with rounds available is further extended, especially with cadets. (d) A number of examples of simple schemes for field-drill practices from a squadron to a battalion will be included. In these practices are urged on O.C. regiments and battalions that they be carried out combined with judging distance.

During last week the Bastion Fort, Auckland, has presented an exceedingly busy appearance with the camp of the No. 1 Company Garrison Artillery (Auckland Naval). The company started well by marching into camp on the 25th January with the record muster of 120 men of all ranks—the largest muster which any company in Auckland has ever had, and the keenness displayed by all ranks is a gratifying feature. As an instance of the general enthusiasm of the men it may be mentioned that one day when the weather was very rough the men were unable to proceed by launch to the camp, and instead of going to their homes walked, via Remuera, a distance of nearly seven miles, in the pouring rain. The officers, Capt. Knyvett, and Lieutenants Rodie, Greenhoogh and Tulloh, acting as Battery commanders for the different gun series, in addition to which Captain Knyvett supervised the instruction of the range-finding specialists and the Q.F. gun detachments.

Some Definitions.

By A MAN OF THE WORLD.

- What is whisky?—Whisky is trouble in a liquid form.
- What is flirtation?—Flirtation is attention without intention.
- What is dyspepsia?—Dyspepsia is a good foundation for a bad temper.
- What is a motor car?—A motor car is a succulent lump of animated iron-mongery.
- What is a button?—A button is a small event that is always coming off.
- What is a bachelor?—A bachelor is a standing temptation to women.
- What is a policeman?—A policeman is a never-present help in a time of trouble.
- What is the Yellow Peril?—The yellow peril is orange peel on the pavement.
- What does marriage mean?—Marriage means a few minutes at the head of the procession, and a lifetime in the ranks.
- What are whiskers?—Whiskers are a mistake on the face of it.
- What is Wealth?—Wealth is not everything, but poverty is the very devil.
- What is a Crank?—A crank is a little thing that makes revolutions.
- What is vulgarity?—Vulgarity is a quality seen only in the behaviour of others.
- What is a Patriot?—A Patriot is one who has the Press with him.

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