

£30 the following year. They carried off the Gordon Shield four times, being the only corps in the present garrison which has won this annual teams' match more than once. In 1897 two members of the "A" Battery, Messrs. J. P. Webster and Hazard, went to England with the New Zealand team which competed at Bisley, and was only beaten by two points in the competition for the Kolapore Cup, a contest open to teams from all parts of the British Empire. The present strength of the corps is close on

survival of the fittest." For not only are they the oldest infantry corps in Auckland, but they are (with one exception, which exists under a fresh name) the only "survivors" out of the first five companies formed some forty years ago. To complete the analogy, this old-established corps has not only outlived, but has actually incorporated, one after another, all the original companies except the Royals, which corps still survives as the "A" Battery of Artillery. Some of the old companies



NAVAL AND GARRISON ARTILLERY OFFICERS.

100. All the field artillery companies were instructed last year to recruit up to 100, in anticipation of receiving new guns from England, the present batteries being admittedly out of date. So far, however, only one new battery has reached the colony, the war being doubtless mainly responsible for the delay.

#### THE VICTORIA RIFLES.

Formed originally as an off-shoot of the old City Rifles, the Victoria Rifles can fairly claim to be an excellent illustration of "the

gained a new lease of life by amalgamating with one another, or with new companies, but all eventually merged into the Victoria Rifles. The latter may well feel proud of their record, for no corps in the colony has withstood better the many vicissitudes through which the Volunteer movement has passed. Started about the end of 1859, it is as strong to-day as ever, and its long and successful career has developed to a high degree that *esprit de corps* upon which, more than anything else, the life of a Volunteer Company depends.