

like the Gordon Rifles, which did not receive capitulation from the Government. The "O" Battery, which was afterwards com-



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manded by Captain C. James, used to man the guns at Fort Resolution, and their Saturday afternoon practice was quite a social function, the ladies attending in large numbers as interested spectators. It was the golden age of Volunteering; almost every young man appeared to belong to some corps or other, and the parades attracted splendid musters. A garrison review in those days was quite an imposing spectacle, and the military funeral accorded to Colonel Lyon will long be remembered as one of most impressive interments that has ever taken place in Auckland. Field-days were held in the Metropolitan Grounds, Symonds-street, and the troops were reviewed there upon occasions by New Zealand's only General—Major-General Sir George Whitmore. The sham-fight at Tamaki in 1885 was about the largest ever held in Auckland.

But all this stir and enthusiasm proved of a temporary character. The war scare subsided, and with it the patriotic ardour which had prompted so many youths to take up arms. Had the Government of the day been more liberal in their treatment of the Volunteers, more of the companies might have carried on. As it was, the revival only lasted about four years. Then company after company began to disband, and in another year or two Volunteering in Auckland was slacker than ever. In 1896 the Victoria Rifles was the only infantry corps in Auckland that went into camp at Easter, and the disbanding of the City Rifles (not the original City R.V.) left the Victorias the sole surviving company of the two infantry battalions of 1886.

It was towards the end of 1897 that the Volunteering movement again became active. The only Volunteer Corps in



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Auckland at this time were the Auckland, Ponsonby and Devonport Navals, the "A" Battery, the Victoria Rifles and the College