

Battalion, rendered good service in the camp of the 3rd Wanganui. The greatest praise is due to the adult officers (masters) for their unremitting attention to the comfort and training of their respective corps under most trying circumstances.

The Taranaki Battalion went into camp on the 27th March last for a week's training at Sentry Hill, near New Plymouth, under Major H. Dempsey, its commander. This was the first battalion which did guard duty all night, and this at the request of the cadets themselves. The number of posts and duration of duty were so fixed at all camps that every cadet did a tour of guard duty. In wet weather all the sentries were called in.

Newspaper reports, &c., relating to the camps and the movements will be found in the Appendices.

*Presentation by His Excellency the Governor.*—On the 20th February last His Excellency the Governor was pleased to present the North Island Challenge Shield to the Onehunga District High School Cadets. The brigade of the Auckland City and suburbs, numbering three battalions, showed a field state of 1,106 of all ranks. A march past took place after the inspection; and after the presentation was made His Excellency was pleased to make the speech which appears in Appendix IV. Colonel Kirkpatrick, R.E., of the Intelligence Department, having expressed a wish to see the public-school cadets, was present on the above occasion, and expressed his approval of the manner in which the cadets had acquitted themselves. At the request of the colonel a complete set of the literature relating to public-school cadets was supplied to him, and copies of future publications as issued are also to be forwarded.

*New Zealand International Exhibition.*—The 1st and 2nd North Canterbury Battalions took part in the ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone of the above Exhibition by the Right Honourable the Premier on the 18th December last, and were complimented by him on their general appearance and the manner in which they marched past. The band of the Burnham Industrial School played the cadets to and from the grounds.

*Classification of Corps.*—After each personal inspection of a corps its classification is announced before the parade is dismissed. A copy of the classification is sent to the Chief Inspectors of education districts for their information, and for incorporation in their reports to their respective Boards; and thus a record is kept of the progress of each corps.

*Cadets joining Volunteer Corps.*—It is gratifying to be able to report that those cadets who have joined the Volunteer Force are much appreciated by the officers commanding corps, and it is satisfactory to learn that at this early stage of the movement the cadets are joining the adult corps and giving so much satisfaction; and there is every hope that at no distant period there will be no "recruits" joining the Volunteers, but that all will be returned as "trained men."

*Classes of Instruction for Officers.*—The Hon. Minister having authorised the appointment of instructors of the Permanent Staff to attend classes of instruction, officers will thereby be provided with a means of preparing for their examinations. It may be stated that the proposal meets with the approval of every master who is an officer of a public-school cadet corps.

*Public School Athletic Associations.*—Several education districts have formed these associations, and by personally judging at some of their competitions I am able to testify to the excellent state of efficiency the squads competing have been brought to under their commanders—usually a sergeant. Apart from the cadets, there were squads of girls competing in wand, club, dumb-bell, and physical drill. It is pleasing to report the vast amount of good these associations are doing towards physical development. Owing to the diversity of a number of the exercises done by the girls of two different districts, and the want of uniformity in performing the various exercises, it was impossible to form a correct judgment as to which was the most proficient. There will be no such difficulty in the future when the new syllabus of physical drill is issued.

*Physical Drill.*—Instructions have been given by the Hon. Minister for the preparation and issue of a manual of physical drill for both boys and girls attending public schools.

I have, &c.,

L. W. LOVEDAY, Lieut.-Colonel,

Commanding Public-school Cadets.

The Right Hon. the Minister of Education, Wellington.