



Military Matters

Devizes

DEVIZES (5TH WILTS) RIFLE VOLUNTEERS

The annual meeting of this corps was held on Monday evening last 6th July, 1874 at the Town Hall, under the presidency (in the absence of Captain Colston), of Lieut. Randell.

The hon. sec., (Lieut. Nott), read the report of the committee, which was as follows:-

To the Members of the 5th Wilts Rifle Volunteers

Your committee present herewith a statement of accounts for the corps, for the past year, which Mr. H. H. Hulbert (honorary member), and Private J. R. Fox have kindly audited, and of which a copy has been sent to every enrolled member. These accounts show a balance in favour of the corps of £14 13s. 3d., as against £15 16s. 3d. due from the corps at the close of last year's accounts, thus showing a gain of £30 9s. 6d. during the year.

The capitation grant earned during the past year was £90, being £8 less than the preceding year; in addition to this, however, £17 10s. has been received on account of two officers and five sergeants, who hold certificates of proficiency.

The corps, at the commencement of the current year, consisted of 61 enrolled members, of whom 60 earned the Government grant of £1 10s. each, making the before mentioned total of £90.

Only £27 10s. has been paid for travelling expenses to battalion drills, as against £40 in the preceding year. Your committee, therefore, find that the new scheme of allowances to members has produced a considerable saving to the corps.

The list of honorary members is about the same as last year.

At the annual prize meeting on 27th September last, a good list of prizes was again offered, Sir T. Bateson, Bart, M.P., presented a prize of £5 5s. to the winner of the challenge cup. Other valuable prizes were presented by the Mayor (H. J. Sainsbury, Esq.), the officers of the corps, Mrs. Colston, Mr. W. Brown, and other honorary and enrolled members. The monthly challenge cup, presented to the corps by subscription, is still the subject of competition.

In the last year's course of musketry, 57 members fired, of whom 21 became first-class, and 14 second, while 2 remained in the third class, the remaining 13 firing as recruits. Of those first-class, 11 became

marksmen (as set forth in the list already published), the best shot being Sergeant Perkins, with a total of 81 marks in the first and second class. The highest score in the third class (67 marks) was made by Sergeant Pritchard.

The total number of enrolled members is at present (July 6) 72.

Voting-papers have been sent out for the election of a committee; the result of such papers as have been returned is that the following for the committee for the ensuing year, in addition to the captain and two lieutenants for the time being:- Sergeant Pritchard, Corporal Johnson, Colour-Sergeant Bull, Private w. H. Butcher, Sergeant Perkins, Sergeant Bush, Private J. R. Fox, Quarter-Master-Sergeant Ward, and Corporal Greenland.

The report having been read, resolutions were passed approving the same, and of the statement of accounts, and also according the thanks of the corps to the editors of the Devizes newspapers for inserting the weekly notices of drill, to Mr. Coward, Mr. Ruddle, and Mr. S. Hull (to the first of whom the corps is indebted for the rifle ranges, and to the latter for the use of the drill field, to the donors of the prizes at the annual prize meeting, to Lieut. Randell, and to Lieut. Nott, the hon. sec.

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