

# MILITARY ● DEPARTMENT.

T. W. GRIFFITHS.

THE military bearing of our boys while in San Antonio was very commendable, and no small number of compliments were passed upon them.

The showing made by the boys at Grand Guard Mounting and Battalion Review was remarkable considering the short time they had to prepare for the trip. Their lines were good and their wheelings by sets of fours from and into the line were made very nicely, every man keeping his distance and dress. The halts also deserve some comment, as they were made very evenly, but there is still room for improvement.

The captains should instruct the privates thoroughly in the manual of arms, facings, position of a soldier, and other effective points that are very readily noticed by an experienced man, should they be slighted in any way. The non-commissioned officers also need a little coaching as to their step. At quick time the cadence is a hundred and twenty steps to the minute, each step being thirty inches, and at double time the cadence is a hundred and eighty steps to the minute, each step being thirty-six inches in length. To acquire this it takes practice, but not to a great extent, for a regular step is very easily acquired. The officers would not harm themselves in reading over the platoon move-

ments, as that is the weak point in the drilling of the Battalion, and in order to have a well drilled company the officers and non-commissioned officers should all coincide with each other and help their captain, for one man can not do it all, nor can he see every little mistake made.

Another thing to which the attention of officers, non-commissioned officers and privates should be called and cautioned about, is the raising of the hands and shifting of the head and body while standing at either attention or parade rest. A good military man would let a bee sting him in the face before he would raise a hand to strike at it, and in order to impress this upon the Battalion, I will close with the

“POSITION OF A SOLDIER.”

“Heels on the same line, and as near each other as the conformation of the man permits. Feet turned out equally and forming with each other an angle of about sixty degrees. Knees straight, without stiffness. Body erect on the hips, inclining a little forward; shoulders square and falling equally; arms and hands hanging naturally, backs of the hands outward; little fingers opposite the seams of the trousers; elbows near the body. Head erect and square to the front; chin slightly drawn in, without constraint; eyes straight to the front.”