

INSPECTION OF THE HUDDERSFIELD, HOLMFIRTH, AND MIRFIELD VOLUNTEERS.—The annual inspection of the 5th administrative battalion of the West Yorkshire Rifle Volunteers took place on Saturday, in the drill field, Greenhead-lane, in the presence of a numerous body of spectators. The battalion comprises the 6th (Huddersfield), 32nd (Holmfirth), and 41st (Mirfield), West Yorkshire Rifle Volunteer corps. There were on the ground Lieut.-Col. Crosland, M.P.; Captain Chichester (the adjutant), and four sergeants of the staff; Major Brooke, four captains, three lieutenants, five ensigns, one surgeon, 19 sergeants, four buglers, and 261 rank and file, total 298, of the 6th; one captain, one lieutenant, one ensign, three honorary staff, five sergeants, one bugler, and 80 rank and file, total 92, of the 32nd; one captain, one ensign, one honorary staff, five sergeants, two buglers, and 62 rank and file, total 72, of the 41st; complete total present 468. There were absent with leave three officers, four sergeants, one bugler, and 51 rank and file Huddersfield corps; ten rank and file Holmfirth; one officer and eleven rank and file Mirfield corps and one honorary staff, total 82; and absent without leave 48 Huddersfield, and three Holmfirth; total, 51; battalion total 601. Col. Wombwell, the inspecting officer, was received with a salute in the usual manner, after which the battalion marched past admirably in open column, then closed to quarter distance column on the leading company, and marched past at the double. The column then opened out to wheeling distance from the rear, wheeled into line, and the men were put through the manual and platoon exercise by Capt. Moorhouse, Holmfirth. Major Brooke then reassumed the command, and put the battalion through a variety of evolutions, including formations of columns and squares, wheelings, and deployments into line, and echelon movements. The battalion was also practised in file and volley firing, but time did not permit of any skirmishing. After the performance of the evolutions the battalion was formed in close column, and Colonel Wombwell said that he must express himself extremely satisfied with the performance; nothing could be more creditable. The marching past was extremely good, the marching in line was excellent, the manœuvres generally were well performed, and the firing was very good. Lieut.-Col. Crosland, M.P., said he was extremely gratified with the remarks of the inspecting officer, and he thanked Major Brooke for the attention he had paid to the drilling of the battalion during the year. Major Brooke briefly acknowledged the compliment which had been paid him, and then the battalion was marched off the field. The Mirfield and Holmfirth corps (after having refreshments at the Station Hotel) went home by train. The Huddersfield corps adjourned to the armoury, Zetland-street, where, on the invitation of Major Brooke and the officers, they partook of an excellent cold collation, which had been prepared by Mr. T. J. Wigney, of the George Hotel. Major Brooke presided, and was supported on the right by Lieut.-Col. Wombwell, the reviewing officer, Adjutant Chichester, Dr. Turnbull, Lieutenant Brook (2nd West York Yeomanry), Jos. Wrigley, sen.; and on the left by Lieut.-Col. Crosland, M.P., Rev. Canon Holmes, M.A., vicar, Mr. John Turner (chairman of the Huddersfield Improvement Commissioners), Mr. W. Keighley, and Mr. Wright Mellor. The Chairman having given the usual loyal toasts, proposed "The army, navy, and yeomanry," coupled with the name of Lieut.-Colonel Wombwell. In doing so he said they had not long been acquainted with him, but they hoped soon to know him much better. He had, however, already endeared himself to them all. He (the speaker) could not help thanking the men for the very excellent and punctual manner in which they had attended parade on that day, and for the great attention they had paid to their instructions. The corps had conducted itself much better and steadier than he had any right to expect. (Cheers.) It had been to him a matter of no little anxiety for several weeks how they were best to get through their work on that day, and he hoped the little extra exertion they had been obliged to make at the last moment had not been without its effect. (Applause.)—Lieut.-Colonel Wombwell, in responding, said that their rifle corps did credit to the town of Huddersfield, and all connected with it, and proved how untrue the saying was that a military spirit was incompatible with the interests of a mercantile community. He was sure that no one could find fault with anything he had seen on that day, and their chairman had been well rewarded for his pains, and had reason to be proud of his regiment.—Lieut.-Colonel Crosland, M.P., briefly responded on behalf of the volunteers, after which Mr. John Freeman gave the "Bishop and clergy of the diocese, and ministers of all denominations."—The Rev. Canon Holmes, M.A., in responding, said he would tell them what the church said in her plain sound sense way as to the bearing of arms. She said "It is lawful for the people to bear arms, and at the command of the Magistrate to go forth to the wars." Now he hoped that the day would never arrive when they would be called to go forth to the wars, but if they were called upon, he had no doubt they would go with a heart and a will. He believed that the wearing of arms, as they wore them, and the learning how to use them as they did, was one of the best means of preventing the necessity of the Magistrate ever giving such orders.—Lieut.-Colonel Crosland gave "The friends and supporters of the Volunteer Corps," which was acknowledged by Dr. Turnbull and Mr. Wright Mellor.—Capt. Batley gave "The Staff-officers of the regiment, which was acknowledged by Adjutant Chichester and Sergeant Wood.—Ensign Lowenthal gave "The Huddersfield Improvement Commissioners," which was responded to by Mr. Joseph Turner.—Mr. Joseph Wrigley gave the health of Major Brooke, and in doing so he referred to the horrible tragedy that had been enacted by a volunteer on that night week at Batley, and hoped it would be a lesson to the young men present not to give way to their evil passions, and never to use their arms except in the defence of their country. (Applause.) The chairman briefly responded.—Lieut. Beaumont proposed "The Ladies," which was acknowledged on their behalf by Ensign Shaw, and the proceedings then terminated.