

CRACK ORGANIZATION OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

FIRST BATTERY, FIELD ARTILLERY HOLDS HIGH PLACE
AMONG THE CITIZEN SOLDIERY OF THE COUNTRY



First Battery Field Artillery, Oregon National Guard, Portland's best military organization, has been given the highest percentage of any company in Oregon in the annual inspection, the results of which have just been announced. It received the per cent out of a possible 100. Its closest competitor was Company K. The battery will receive equipment valued at \$50,000 some time next month. It is now in the most flourishing condition in its history.

FIRST Battery, Field Artillery, Oregon National Guard, is not only first in name, but is first in efficiency of any of the organizations of the Oregon militia. In the report of Colonel James Jackson, U. S. A., who recently made the annual inspection, First Battery Field Artillery, or Battery A, as it is more commonly known, is given first place over all the departments of the Oregon National Guard. Last year Battery A was given second place and Company K of Portland first place. Colonel Jackson is the representative of the United States Army assigned to the Oregon National Guard.

Battery A has not only reached the highest state of efficiency of any of the organizations of the Oregon National Guard, but it has a reputation that is national in its extent. Military experts consider it one of the best field batteries in the National Guard, and if the officers and the men of this splendid organization continue to work with as much zeal and enthusiasm as they have in the past, it is not impossible that some day Battery A will be given first place over all the field batteries of the militia service. At the present time it holds the eleventh place in the National Guard, and this in itself is a glorious tribute to the officers and men. Many of the crack field batteries of the National Guard in the East do not rank as high as Battery A of the Oregon National Guard, and this means that in the judgment of the artillery experts of the United States Army they are not as good.

Battery A compares favorably with any of the field batteries in the whole of the United States Army. Officers of the Regular Army who have been spectators at the drills of the battery are unanimous in its praise. They themselves admit that it would be a credit to the Regular Army, and have spoken only in the warmest words of praise of the military training and discipline of both the officers and the men.

The personnel of the battery embraces names of officers and men who live in Portland. Many of them are

native Oregonians and practically all of them have lived in Portland for years. In late years there have been but few changes among the officers and men. This is shown by the high state of efficiency reached by the organization. Many recruits are a hindrance to the training of the officers and the men as a whole. The efficiency of many of the organizations of the National Guard is impaired by the old and experienced men dropping out. Valuable time is lost in the training and disciplining of recruits.

But the officers and men of Battery

A have taken what is really an uncommon pride in their organization. It is said that Battery A is part of their lives and that they take as much pride in it as they do in their work. And this is not far from the truth. To work for the betterment of the battery has become second nature to them. The officers and men are only too pleased to acknowledge that they are members of the battery which has made such an enviable reputation for itself. They know full well that they have reason to be proud.

Most of the members are young men and there is an absence of the old, grizzled veterans, such as are found in the Regular Army. Perhaps the en-

thusiasm of the young men has had much to do in bringing laurels to Battery A. Then again the perfect un-

derstanding between the officers and the men has had much to do with it. All is harmony, and there is no dis-

satisfaction or grudge to be paid off. The officers and the men work together as one harmonious unit, and there are no factions or cliques to drag it down.

This is not intended to signify that the discipline of Battery A is not what it should be. Far from it. The discipline might be said to be a masterpiece as it can be, and could hardly be improved upon. The officers and men of Battery A are soldiers. America is said to be the best soldiers in the world, and because of such men, those who belong to Battery A, the statement bears weight. The martial spirit is not unknown to them, but it is not of the kind that is swayed by the rendition of military marches and the cheers of admiring crowds, upon the field of battle or during the greatest privations it would remain strong as ever in them. They love their country, their Oregon and the Battery A. They are determined that if ever there should be a time when all the military forces of the country are called upon that no one will be ashamed of the conduct of Battery A. In fact, they are determined that Battery A shall make a greater name for itself upon the battle field if such emergency should arise than it has in friendly contest with other organizations in reaching and maintaining the highest stage of efficiency.

The drills of Battery A are a revelation to those who have never seen it before. The wonderful speed of the