

social or political favorite to his (the captain's) position upon it becoming vacant by reason of promotion or otherwise, which I emphatically say that is an injustice to the Lieutenant or Sergeant who joined as a private and rose by reason of merit and qualification (not political and social favoritism) to his present position. This I say is worse than the purchasing of commissions, for here one who receives a provisional appointment can remain in the service year after year as ignorant of military duty as when receiving his commission; but in the regular service an officer remains not therein year after year without learning something of the drill and duty of a soldier. He says some of the greatest battles recorded in British history were fought by officers who purchased their commissions; very true, but remember they qualified and became competent after, for the positions they held, did not remain in the service as some of our so called officers do, from year to year, without learning something of a soldier's duty.

The sentiment of his letter on the whole concurs, as all the several others, with mine, that the militia requires re-organizing. My letter having extended further than intended at the outset, I now for the present bid adieu, with many thanks for the space occupied.

The country's obedient servant,
E—town, Feb. 23rd, 1891. C. F. C.

REGIMENTAL.

Mr. J. Aird, of the Bank of Montreal, has taken a commission in the Fifth Royal Scots.

Capt. Geo. F. Cooke, a popular young officer of the Prince of Wales Regiment, died in Montreal last week after a short illness. He was an esteemed member of the Bar of Montreal, who at a special meeting passed a resolution of condolence with his family. So also did the officers of the Regiment.

A meeting of a committee consisting of the commanding officers of various forces of the Toronto garrison was held at the Canadian Military Institute last week. Col. Otter, D.A.G., presided over the deliberations, which had reference to the changes in the rifle range at the Garrison common. The committee drew up a series of recommendations which are to be forwarded to Major-General Herbert. If they meet with his approval they will form the basis of the military view of the question, which will be finally settled at a conference of the authorities of the city and the Militia Department.

The *Charlottetown Patriot* describes a military social held there on the 18th, as "the jolliest and best" affair of the kind ever held there. The report continues: "Only true soldiers could have made those walls re-echo with such mirth, enthusiasm and good-fellowship as prevailed at Lieut.-Col. Moore's social last evening. Our gallant Canadian artillerymen turned out in force, and the deep blue of their uniforms were relieved with here and there a red coat. Surely such a pleasant evening will be cherished beneath their soldiers' coats, while their hearts beat so patriotically for their homes and country. Lieut.-Col. Moore presided, and he certainly understood his business. That the men are proud and fond of their Colonel was abundantly manifested last night. Among those present were Brigade Major Col. Irving, Col. Doherty, Major E. F. Purdy, Capt. S. F. Hodgson, paymaster; W. A. O. Morson, adjutant; Capt. J. A. Longworth, W. A. Weeks, jr., H. McL. Davison, D. Stewart, D. L. Hooper, Sergt.-Major Allan and Artillery Companies' Lieutenants."

THE TWENTY-FIRST ESSEX FUSILIERS.

The annual meeting of the officers of the 21st Essex Fusiliers was held in the Crawford House parlors, Windsor, February 10th at 2 p.m., and was a fine success. Present, Lt.-Col. Wilkinson, Major Guillot, Surgeon Casgrain, Pay-

master Meloche, Quartermaster Reeves, Capt. Cheyne, Lieuts. Laing and Jackson of No. 1 Co.; Capt. Ley and Lieut. Alderton of No. 2 Co.; Capt. Jones and Lieut. Russell of No. 3 Co.; Lieut. Sicklesteel of No. 4 Co., and Capt. Dewson, Lieuts. Bartlett and Ponting of No. 5 Co. All attended in full dress.

Regimental, band and mess committees' reports were submitted and adopted. They showed the regiment to be out of debt, and with a balance on hand of \$48.00. The usual committees were adjusted for 1891-2.

On the recommendation of Col. Wilkinson, classes of the officers and n. c. officers for drill and instruction will immediately be formed at regimental and the several company headquarters.

A discussion arose as to the expected Brigade Camp at Windsor the coming season, which went to show that the officers of the regiment, the town council and the citizens of Windsor are alive to the situation, and will furnish suitable grounds, plenty of good water and all the usual conveniences, and will do all in their power to make the stay of the troops on the frontier one of pleasure and success.

Lieut. Russell stated that it was probable the citizens of Essex Centre would extend an invitation to the regiment to visit that town on Her Majesty's birthday for a celebration and field day, and asked for an expression as to acceptance. It was unanimously decided to accept if the invitation is given.

Col. Wilkinson addressed the officers in a happy manner, complimenting them upon their fine appearance, and thanking them for their able and hearty support in the past. He referred to the success of the regiment the past season at Camp Stratford, when among other honours they captured the highest average score in ball practice in the brigade. He also referred to the excellent performances of the regimental League team and the beautiful trophy won. This trophy was on the table at the meeting, inscribed with the names of the Colonel, Range Officer Major Beattie, Captain of the team, Capt. Jones; Staff-Sergt. Green, Sergt. Dixon, Sergt. McAnnany, Corp. McGregor, Corp. Dresser, Privates Elliot, Green, McKenzie, Staff-Sergts. Dow and Gow.

This meeting having adjourned, the annual meeting of the Fusiliers Rifle Association was immediately convened. All the officers were present, and in addition Sergt.-Major Leighton and Staff-Sergt. A. J. Green. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and adopted, and officers appointed for the ensuing year as follows: President, Col. Wilkinson; Vice-President, Staff-Sergt. A. J. Green; Secretary, Lieut. Bartlett; Treasurer, Sergt. Dixon; Executive Committee, the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Captains of Companies, and it was resolved to leave nothing undone to make the annual matches a grand success.

It was also decided to again enter a team in the League matches for the coming season, and \$50 was at once subscribed for necessary expenses. Col. Wilkinson reported the pleasant news that the County Council had again made a grant to the regiment of \$50 per company. This concluded the business of the meeting, and by invitation His Worship the Mayor, Mr. Fleming, and the Town Council in a body, with some forty guests (also the regimental band) having arrived and been heartily welcomed by Col. Wilkinson and his officers, an adjournment was made to the commodious dining room, where a sumptuous repast had generously been provided by Major Guillot and the officers at regimental headquarters. The menu was excellent, and during the dinner the band discoursed several fine airs.

The usual toasts were put and responded to with enthusiasm, Major Guillot presiding in his usual happy manner. "The Queen" was right royally received, the band playing "God save the Queen." Other toasts were "Army, Navy and Volunteers," Col. Wilkinson; "The Windsor Town Council," His Worship the Mayor, Capt. Reeves and others; "Our Guests," by Surgeon Casgrain, Wm. McGregor,