

## GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

### A Military Tournament for Dominion Day Celebration at Ottawa.

The Guards Pleased with their Montreal Outing—The Victoria Rifles Inspection. Presentation to Sergt.-Major Rodden—A Field Day for the Eighth Royal Rifles—The Warfaring Operations of the Toronto Exhibition Association—Hamilton's unmusical Councilmen—The Grenadiers at Guelph—Miscellaneous Notes.

At a recent meeting of officers of the 45th Battalion, to arrange preliminaries for brigade camp at Kingston in June, it was unanimously decided to take none but good steady men.

Michael Kelly, a private in A company of the Infantry School Corps, Fredericton, suicided on the 20th inst., shooting himself in the left breast. He died early next morning. Kelly was twenty-five years of age, and worked at the printing trade before joining the school corps, to which he has belonged since its formation. He went on a spree a fortnight before his death, after an abstinence from liquor for two years, and it is said that nervous prostration consequent on the excess, led to the suicide.

On Sunday morning the 20th inst., No. 4 company of the 31st Battalion, under the command of Lieut. Torry, together with the fine band of the battalion, under their bandmaster Mr. Parker, turned out for church parade and marched to the Presbyterian church to attend divine service. By the time the hour arrived to leave the drill shed the street was lined with spectators to view the boys in red. The band although just newly equipped looked handsome in their new scarlet tunics and presented a fine soldierly appearance. The company was also well up to the mark and although a large number of them were recruits they marched very steadily.—*Durham Review*.

#### Ottawa.

An attractive programme of military sports is being arranged for Dominion Day, in connection with the celebration in this city. These will be open to the whole Dominion, and it is hoped that many outside corps will do the Capital the honour of sending representatives, all of whom may trust to being well looked after during their stay in the city. The programme includes events for all branches of the service being as follows:—

1. Bayonet and manual exercise, for squads of twelve non-commissioned officers and men from any battalion of infantry or rifles.
2. Dismounting and mounting ordnance. Squads of n.c.o. and men from any battery of artillery.
3. Wrestling on horseback, open to the cavalry.
4. Skirmishing race, 440 yards, for infantry or rifles.
5. Tug-of-war (on turf). Teams of eight men from any troop, battery, or company.
6. Victoria cross race, 500 yards, cavalry.
7. Dismounting ordnance race, for batteries.

There will be two good prizes for each event, in the shape of silver cups, or gold or silver medals. The committee in charge of these sports consists of Capt. D. C. Bliss, O.F.B.; Capt. T. Evans, 43rd Batt; Lieut. R. Brown, P.L.D.G., Lieut. P. B. Taylor, G.G.F.G., and Mr. C. W. Martin, all experienced men and hard workers, so that everything needful will be done to make them a success. Further particulars desired may be obtained from Capt. T. Evans or Mr. C. W. Martin, the secretaries. Entries, addressed together of these gentlemen, will be received up to 30th June.

Officers and men alike of the Foot Guards are delighted with the attention and hospitality shown the regiment in Montreal on the Queen's Birthday. All the Montreal corps were represented on the reception committee, and the members of each did their share; but the Fifth Royal Scots were particularly attentive, having been recipients of the hospitality of the Guards last year, when the Scots visited Ottawa. They paraded with the Guards on the Champ de Mars on the morning of the Queen's Birthday, and the Guards "trooped the colours," much to the delight of the thousands of spectators, to whom the spectacle was a novelty. Lieut.-Col. Caverhill, of the Scots, was the officer in command at the attendant review.

The Field Battery are preparing to join the district camp which open on the 19th June. The battery will be the only corps from the city to go to camp this year.

Bandmaster Greenfield and the other members of the Rifles band are kindhearted citizens as well as good soldiers, as witness the following paragraph from the *Evening Journal*: "As the band of the 43rd Batt. was passing the Protestant Orphans' Home, on its return from the Canada Atlantic station on Wednesday, after the demonstration in honour of the Governor-General, a little orphan girl lisped a request that the band would play them a tune. The kind-hearted bandsmen could not resist the appeal, and wheeling into the orphanage grounds formed up and played a couple of selections to the immense delight of the inmates, both young and old. The kindly act spoke well for the hearts of the members of the 43rd band and will tend to increase the high estimation in which it is already held by the citizens.

#### Montreal.

The Victoria Rifles' Armoury was enlivened on the anniversary of Her Majesty's birthday by the uniforms of the Governor-General's Foot Guards and their friends of the Fifth Royal Scots. A general invitation to use the building was extended to the visitors, and the Vics were pleased to see how the boys availed themselves of it. The Sergeants' Mess was made open to the sergeants of both the regiments on parade, and good fellowship reigned between the red and the black coats. The sergeant-majors of the G.G.F.G. and the Vics having been duly bounced, before the party broke up a genial representative of the Royal Scots was in turn seized and elevated, but bouncing a Scot in the nether costume of his native wilds was discovered to be an unhandy process, and the game was called off. The Guards, by their excellent behaviour, have made many friends here, and both their reception and send-off were evidences of the pleasure their trip here afforded Montrealers, civil and military.

The Vics have the honour of having the first inspection this year in No. 5 district. The regiment mustered at the armoury on Saturday in strong force, 366 men of all ranks being present. The line of march thence to the Champ de Mars was crowded with spectators, while the inspection ground itself was literally packed with people, a large proportion being lady and gentleman friends of the members of the corps specially invited by card from Lt.-Col. Henshaw and the officers.

It would be, in the short space I can ask for in the GAZETTE, impossible to detail the inspection itself; suffice it to say the Vics passed a most creditable one, and any regiment surpassing them will have to work hard and will deserve to be more than complimented. The inspecting officer was Lt.-Col. Mattice, acting D.A.G., and he expressed himself as highly pleased with the way all the movements were carried out. The special feature—review exercise in both slow and quick time—was excellent with probably even a better showing in quick time. When the regiment returned to the armoury a pleasing event, which had been prepared by the Sergeant's Mess, took place in the presentation to Sergeant-Major Rodden of a silver tea service. The presentation was made by Lt.-Col. Henshaw, and served the double purpose of a mark of esteem to the retiring Sergeant-Major and a souvenir of his marriage, which takes place on 7th June. Mr. Rodden, it is thought, will accept a commission in the old corps he has been so long and so favourably connected with.

The staff appointment of Musketry-Instructor, vacant by the promotion of Mr. Shaw, has been filled by Sergeant E. W. Wilson of No. 5 Co., Corpl. W. Proctor in turn filling the vacancy in that company.

#### BUSBY.

Lieut.-Col. Ouimet and the officers of the Sixty-Fifth give a grand reception Thursday, 31st May, in their new quarters on Craig street, on the occasion of the third anniversary of the battle of Frenchman's Butte. Says the *Star*: "It is probable the gallant soldiers will have all they can do to attend to their visitors. The regiment is in a high state of efficiency, the ranks being full, and numerous applications are being made for the vacancies created by the recent resignations. Altogether, the battalion, officers and men, enjoys great popularity, and it is apparently one of the best organized of the force."

#### Quebec.

The Eighth Royal Rifles underwent their annual inspection on the Plains of Abraham on the afternoon of the Queen's Birthday before an immense concourse of citizens. Shortly after mid-day the men of the battalion began to muster at the drill hall, the scrupulous cleanliness of their neat uniforms and the bright polish of their belts and leggings being subjects of general remark on the streets. About half past two the battalion was formed up in the drill hall, under command of Lieut.-Col. H. J. Miller, there being present about three hundred, all told, including six companies, brass band, bugle band and signalling corps. After being put through some preliminary movements the battalion proceeded, by way of the Grande Allée, to the Plains of Abraham. The popular thoroughfare, as it had been for nearly an hour previous, was crowded with people hurrying on to the review ground, and as the regiment passed, with a good swinging step, the neat appearance and steady