

St. John's possesses some admirable amateur actors, so that it only required a moving spirit to induce them to appear before the public. This came with the advent of Captain Young to assume the command of the Company of the Canadian Regiment of Infantry stationed here, and was found in the person of his estimable wife. A couple of months ago the comedy of "Married Life" was so successfully presented, that it was determined to give a second entertainment. It was decided that its proceeds should be for the benefit of the Garrison Cricket Club, whose field was destroyed last summer by the cavalry in camp. Amateurs were sought for among those connected with the Regiment to assist their friends in the town. These were found in the person of Mrs. Young, Surgeon-Major F. W. Campbell and Lieut. MacMahon. Delightful, I am told, were the rehearsals at the Barracks, in Captain Young's quarters -- charming the rehearsal at the handsome residence of Mr. J. B. Stewart, with Miss M. of Montreal acting as prompter. Then came four or five rehearsals at the Theatre -- when the business of the pieces claimed attention. At one of these Mr. F. White of the Militia Department at Ottawa was present and his instruction, I am told, was very valuable. At last the appointed date, Feb. 14th, came round, and the curtain rose on an audience completely filling the Theatre Royal, and composed of the leading people of the town. Of course the Military were out in large numbers -- scarcely a man off duty but was present. In the front row sat the gallant commandant of the Royal School of Infantry, whose smiling face, from first to last indicated his enjoyment of the entertainment. Here and there was to be seen the other officers in their mess uniform. The first piece "Dearest Mama" is a comedy, well calculated to try the mettle of amateurs. But they stood the test well. Mrs. Captain Young, as Mrs. Breezely Fussell, the meddling mother-in-law, acted charmingly. Her stage walk and presence made her perfectly at ease. It would be hard to have this character better played. Mrs. J. B. Stewart, as Edith Clinton, looked and acted well. Mrs. A. I. Wight, as Mrs. Honeywood, the seductive widow gave a most creditable rendering of the part. Of the gentlemen, Mr. C. Horace Pierce as "Uncle Browser" was the best -- indeed a veteran actor could not have done better. Mr. Montgomerie made an excellent "Jones" and was deservedly applauded. Mr. W. I. Wight as Harry Clinton, and Mr. Albert Murray as Nettle Coker, did their parts well and contributed much in making the performance of "Dearest Mama," a great success. The farce of "Betsy Baker," brought the evening's entertainment to a successful close, and to say the acting of this piece was excellent, is the simple truth. Mrs. J. B. Stewart's "Betsy" was a finished piece of acting. It would be hard to improve on it -- or indeed on the Mrs. Mouser of Mrs. Young. The dressing of their parts by both these ladies was excellent. Lieut. MacMahon, as Crummy, surprised even those who saw how well he did at rehearsals. Well up in his lines, he threw spirit into the character, and when the curtain fell the verdict was that he could take his place and hold it at any amateur performance. If the *St. John's News* and the new Montreal society paper are to be believed, not a little of the success of "Betsy Baker" was due to the acting of Surgeon-Major Campbell. The latter paper in speaking of the performance says: -- "Were we not familiar with the skill and valor of the worthy Surgeon-Major, we should be tempted to say that he had missed his profession, and he certainly betrayed the fact that he was no novice on the stage. With the exception of a slight omission, his rendition of "Marmaduke Mouser" was almost faultless, and he constantly convulsed the house with laughter." The Orchestra of the Band of the Royal School of Infantry discoursed sweet music during the interval between the pieces, and before the rising of the curtain. It was not right, however, for Mons. Ferrary, the Bandmaster, to disappoint the audience by not rendering the solo for which he was down on the programme.

## LONDON.

A new and novel thing in the military line in this country took place here on the 14th inst., in the shape of a long distance marching competition among sections from four company's of the 7th Battalion.

This is not altogether a new thing here as it was contem-

plated last fall but, owing to the early breaking up of the roads it was indefinitely postponed. However, the feeling has so worked up among the men that it was decided to have it on the 14th inst.

The route taken was from the drill shed along Wellington street to Dundas street, through London West thence north along the Wharnclyffe road past the Kennels, crossing the Medway river and returning by the Proof Line road. The men were in marching order, and the tramping was rendered difficult owing to the soft snow on the roads. Nos. 3 and 4 Company's had another difficulty to contend with having had to march the last four or five miles under a heavy rain. But notwithstanding these drawbacks the men covered the distance, estimated at eight miles in a manner worthy of commendation.

The section from No. 1 Company's section comprised ten men under Color-Sergeant Freeland; Section from No. 2 Company, 13 men under Sergt. Floyd; section from No. 3 Company, 10 men and a bugler under Sergt. Brown; and section from No. 4 Company 11 men, under Color-Sergt. Hayman. The first section left the shed at 2 o'clock p. m., and the others at intervals of 20 minutes.

The best time was made by

Col.-Sergt. Hayman's team	in	1 hour	43 minutes.
Sergt. Floyd's	"	"	47 "
Sergt. Brown's	"	"	50 "
Col.-Sergt. Freeland's	"	"	54 "

After the sections returned to the drill shed they partook of supper provided for the occasion, and a good time was had.

Col. Payne and Capt. Hayes acted as judges on the competition, but as the men returned in such a good condition, only the time was taken into account.

This march is only a feeler, as it were, for it is the intention of the Battalion to have a series of these marches during the Spring, increasing the distance each time.

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No. 1 Company, 7th Fusileers, held their annual meeting in their Armoury on the 11th of February. Lieut. Graham occupied the chair, and after discussing the business of the Company, indulged in a little refreshment sprinkled here and there with a song or a speech. The entertainers of the evening were Color-Sergt. Freeland, Sergt. Osmonde, Pte. Hessel, Corpl. Callard and others; a thorough good time was participated in.

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Tuesday evening next the officers will hold a meeting to arrange the programme of this season's drill.

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Lieuts. Graham, McGee, Taylor and Graves of the 7th, are attending the Military School here. This looks like business.

SNAP CAP.

## BRANTFORD.

The annual meeting of the Dufferin Rifles' Rifle Association was held on Wednesday, 8th inst. The affairs of the association are in a very satisfactory condition. Lieut.-Col. Jones was elected president; Surgeon Harris and Major Jones, vice-presidents; Capt. Curtis, secretary; and Lieut. Fuller, treasurer.

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Messrs. Havill and Whitham, of Brantford, have been awarded the contract for the erection of the new drill hall.

## WINDSOR.

The officers of the 21st Battalion Essex Fusiliers, held their annual meeting at the Crawford house, on the 21st instant. The report of the Band Committee showed the expenses for the year to be \$751.81, with a balance on hand of \$82.57. A resolution was passed asking the Government to retain Col. Alymer in some position. He has been brigade-major, but a bill has been passed this session abolishing this office. A committee was authorized to procure leggings for the battalion as soon as possible. A vote of thanks was passed for a grant of \$750 from the County Council and \$250 from Windsor.