

and H. E. McNab sang "Oh ain't it mournful?" one of the selections from the opera produced at the Academy some years ago. J. E. Hills proposed "Absent Members," and R. Shaw made a neat response. "The Press" was replied to by J. W. Power, *Recorder*, and the "Officers and Active Members of the Scotch Company" (proposed by Lieut. Flowers, H.G.A.) by Lieut. McKie. "Our Next Merry Meeting" was next drunk, and after singing "Auld Lang Syne" and "Good Save the Queen" the company dispersed shortly after midnight, everyone being more than pleased with the evening's enjoyment.

#### A VETERAN CLUB.

A Northwest Veteran Club has been established in Halifax, and gives indication of taking well with the old campaigners. Its chief object will be to try and the men that were to the North-West together irrespective of corps or rank and celebrate the anniversary in a fitting manner so that the good and tender feelings which sprang up out there between the three corps may continue to grow now while at home. Their meetings will be held monthly—the first Monday in each month. On Monday the 5th the business will be drawing up a code of by-laws and other work for the good management of the club. The qualifications for membership of the club will be membership of the Halifax Provisional Battalion.

#### Montreal.

Addressing the Fifth Royal Scots at a recent battalion parade Lt.-Col. Caverhill denied the report that he intended to resign.

Lt.-Col. Houghton, D.A.G., was interviewed by a *Witness* reporter a few days ago respecting coming volunteer parades in Montreal:—"No definite steps have yet been taken in regard to our Queen's Birthday arrangements in Montreal," he said. "The fact is, the military authorities of the city are rather at a standstill, owing to the uncertainty attaching to the movements of the Duke of Connaught on his approaching visit. There is a very widespread feeling, shared, I may say, by the military themselves, that an imposing demonstration should take place when his Royal Highness arrives in Montreal, and it is quite probable that all the garrison regiments will turn out in their full strength to give him a right royal welcome. But until we get definite information as to dates it is impossible to say what will be done."

"Then there may be no Queen's birthday parade this year?"

"Oh dear yes, there will. The only thing is there may be some variations as to date, for we can make the demonstration to suit ourselves, but something more definite will probably be known in the course of a few days."

#### 25th Battalion of Elgin.

St. Thomas, Ont., 18th April—Last evening was the occasion of a large gathering at the Elgin St. Rink, which presented a gay and animated appearance, it being the scene of a grand military ball under the auspices of the non-commissioned officers of companies 1, 4 and 6 of the 25th Battalion of Elgin. The rink was tastily and handsomely decorated with a profusion of evergreens and bunting on either side and above. There was a good attendance, including many young people of the city, as well as a large number of strangers from neighbouring towns who one and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The officers of the battalion took quite an interest in the affair, as was evidenced by their presence on the festive occasion. There were in all about one hundred couples present, and dancing began about nine o'clock in the evening with the grand march, and was kept up till about three o'clock in the morning. A large number of spectators were present and expressions of admiration were numerous on all sides, the variously coloured dresses of the ladies and the red coats and civilians mingling together presenting a very pleasing spectacle. The different committees deserve great credit for the very efficient manner in which the whole affair was conducted, as everything in connection with the ball was carried out in good style, and all who participated in the mazy dance, or who were present merely as onlookers went away feeling that a pleasant time had been spent, and expressing the wish that they might again have the pleasure of tripping the light fantastic with the non-commissioned officers and men of the 25th. Excellent music was furnished for the occasion by a local orchestra, and refreshments were provided on the canteen principle by a city caterer.

#### Hamilton.

Marches to some objective point are becoming quite popular features of Hamilton volunteer drill, and their good effect on the men is becoming quite apparent. Last Friday night Companies A and H, of the 13th Battalion, left the armoury a little after 8 o'clock, under command of Captains Stoneman and Moore and Lieut. Herring. There were about sixty men in the march; and the bugle band, fifteen strong, went before, making the night air musical with trumpet blasts. When the boys arrived at the Mountain View Hotel they took possession of the ball room and proceeded to make themselves happy. An impromptu programme was given. It was about 11 o'clock when the armoury was

reached on the return march, and after numerous cheers and the national anthem, everybody went home tired, but good natured and happy.

Drill Instructor Kerley is teaching the Field Battery a new artillery drill similar to that in vogue in the Imperial army. He expects to have the men quite proficient before they go to camp.

Lieut. Bankier has received the Montzambert and Gzowski cups won by the battery at the Dominion and Ontario Artillery Association's shoots.

#### Toronto.

The course of lectures to be given in connection with the recently organized Canadian Military Institute at Toronto was inaugurated on Saturday evening last by Lieut.-General Sir Fred Middleton, who delivered a most interesting lecture on "Outposts and their duties." The chair was occupied by Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., and there was a large attendance of officers.

#### THE QUEEN'S OWN.

The Queen's Own Rifles had a march out last Wednesday evening. The regiment paraded 493 strong, exclusive of "K" Co., who, owing to their armoury being destroyed at the University fire, have been unable to parade since for want of accoutrements. The regiment marched to Wellington Street where battalion and company drill occupied their attention for about an hour. On their return Col. Hamilton briefly addressed the men, and stated that owing to the railroads not being ready to give their terms he was not yet in a position to place before the regiment the inducements held out by the different places who were vying with each other for the pleasure of entertaining the corps on the Queen's Birthday. He stated that without doubt all information would be in by the next weekly parade.

The following were among the orders for the evening. The Officer Commanding has been pleased to make the following promotions:—

"D" Co.—To be Corp., Pte. Smith, W. E., vice Porter, promoted.

"E" Co.—To be Col.-Sergt., Sergt. Bowden vice Hector, discharged. To be Sergt., Corp. Bailey, G., vice Bowden, promoted. To be Corp., Pte. Coffin vice Pearson, promoted. To be Corp., Pte. Matthews vice Bailey, promoted.

"F" Co.—To be Corp., Pte. Godfrey vice Agnew, promoted.

"H" Co.—To be Sergt. (provisionally) Corp. Arglis, R. F., vice Small, discharged. To be Corp., Pte. Green, S. A., vice Arglis, promoted. To be Corp., Pte. Pafford, vice Bromley, discharged.

To be Sergt. in Bugle Band—Bugle Corp. Jas. Wood.

To be Corp. in the Pioneers—Pioneer Jas. Brash.

Hereafter the Ambulance and Signal Corps will be independent corps. Names of the men of these corps will not be entered in the company's roll books or added to the company's parade states. Separate rolls and parade states will be made out for them.

The regular lectures of the Ambulance Corps, by the Surgeon, were begun on Monday night, the 14th April, at 9 o'clock, in the lecture room of the regiment, and will be continued on each succeeding Monday at the same hour until further orders. Any member of the regiment may attend these lectures.

A church parade will take place on Sunday, the 27th inst.

The Bachelor members of the Sergeants' Mess met last Tuesday evening and formed themselves into a rifle association, with Staff-Sergt. Harp as President and Sergt. Langton as secretary. A challenge was issued to the Benedicts of the Mess for a rifle match to be shot on the Garrison Common ranges at 200, 400 and 500 yards, seven shots at each range. Teams to be 15 men each. The losing team to provide a supper to be held in the Mess room at the conclusion of the match. Band Sergt. Donnelly on behalf of the Benedicts has taken up the gauntlet and at time of going to press was busily engaged canvassing the members of the Mess with the Danite-like inquiry of "Married Sir?" He is quite hopeful of getting a team that will cut the combs of these youngsters down to a fine point.

Speaking of Benedicts and Bachelors reminds me that the Benedicts have got a new acquisition in the person of ex-Sergt. Frank Eddis, who on Thursday last despoiled Ottawa of one of her fairest daughters, Miss Bessie Patrick, daughter of the late Geo. Patrick. The ceremony took place in the Catholic Apostolic Church, and with a full choral service. The bridegroom was ably supported by his brother and also by a representative of "The Mess," in the person of Sergt. Ernest Langtry. Now that the Rubicon of life is passed and the heavy cares of matrimonial bliss begin to cloud that benign brow, we are sore afraid that too seldom shall we hear the jolly voice of the "greatest Corporal that ever lived" carolling forth "The Three Jolly Britons." May his life be as unclouded as the many pleasant hours spent within the precincts of the Mess, and to both Mr. and Mrs. Eddis do the Sergeants of the Queen's Own wish every expression of joy and happiness.

A query is going around as to the whereabouts of the young recruit who appeared upon parade with civilian clothes and a regimental forage