

read showing the Company's affairs to be in a most flourishing condition in every way. The civil officers for 1893 are as follows:—Secretary, Sergt. Blair (re-elected by acclamation); Treasurer, Lieut. McNeil; Rifle Committee, Corp. Beatty, Ptes. Nugent and Keys; Clothing and Recruiting Committees, Corp. Reaves, Ptes. Dickinson and Rutherford. The new constitution of the Company, nicely done up in book form, was distributed to the members. It is a model in every way and the boys of No. 5 claim it is the best in the militia. A committee, composed of Colour-sergt. Lennox, Sergt. Blair, Corps. Beatty and Heron, Ptes. Dawson and G. Keys, was appointed to arrange for the 31st annual dinner. A good volunteer company in every way is old No. 5, but to really appreciate them a person has to attend one of their annual dinners. May their 31st be even more successful than any of the others.

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I understand that arrangements are finally completed whereby the Heintzman Band, who are at present without a leader, will amalgamate with the 48th Highlanders Band. The last objection, and in fact the all-powerful one, has been overcome, and it is rumoured that the new men will not have to wear the kilts, which in the case of some of the Heintzman players were regarded with as much aversion as Old Nick himself.

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Despite the rough weather, the first concert of the Drum and Bugle Corps of the 48th Highlanders, which was held in the Pavilion on Thursday, the 2nd inst., was very successful. The performers were all first-class, and everything progressed without a hitch, resulting let us hope in a valuable addition to the mess funds of this enterprising and efficient corps.

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Major Sam Hughes was in town on a short visit over Sunday. The query of the Major's as to whether the government would grant the Volunteers Snider ammunition at 5 cts. per package and Martini ammunition at 10 cts., has raised the greatest and biggest hopes that the bosoms of riflemen have contained for a long time, and if this concession could be granted, Major Hughes has certainly rendered himself a benefactor to the entire force. Undoubtedly Mr. Patterson's bank account, as Mr. Duff Grant terms it, would suffer thereby, but this would be more than made up by the increase in the shooting efficiency of the force. At the present prices of ammunition, combined with the expenses in travelling to and from a range, and a few incidentals in the way of shooting necessities, it is absolutely impossible for a man, unless in receipt of a good salary, to improve at the rate he might improve were the cost of practice not so prohibitive. Take the men who need the greatest encouragement, the recruits for instance, who in 95 cases out of a hundred, are only earning, and some of them do not earn enough to board and clothe themselves. If they cannot be induced to take an interest in rifle shooting when they are young members of a regiment, the chances are pretty good that if they remain in the service until they are in a position to afford the outlay required the enthusiasm has departed, and the Annual Match is about their only appearance on the range. At present this is about the routine: A recruit goes up to the ranges and finds that he is given 10 rounds of free ammunition to be fired at the 200 and 400 yard ranges, no more and no less, he is given these every day until he puts in a certified number of scores of say 24 points. He then goes into the second class and is permitted to shoot at 200, 400, and 500 yards, but to do this he has to purchase 15 rounds at one cent per round, this rate being obtained by his regiment accounting for the difference. Now it does not take long, nor is it much practice to fire 15 rounds and only 5 shots at each range, so that if this ambitious marksman wishes to obtain more practice, relying on the old maxim that "practice makes perfect," he procures or thinks he would like to procure a little more ammunition, but when he finds that it will cost him about 1-7 10 cents or nearly 2 cents a round, he concludes that he will endeavour to win for himself as much fame, and, incidentally prize money, on practice gauged up to the 15 round notch; a little later on perhaps getting disgusted at his want of success, which could he have afforded the cost of practice, would have given a different result, throws up the sponge as far as rifle shooting is concerned. Through the kindness of Sir A. P. Caron, and his successor Hon. Mackenzie Bowell, free ammunition was given to the Military League competi-

tors for the past two seasons, and the result has been of the greatest benefit to every regiment in the service, because in every one of the regimental teams that competed, I believe that there were some young shots who would have had to drop out, did not the ammunition come to them free of charge. I have, in my own small field of observation witnessed many a promising young shot drop out, because of the pace in the way of expense getting too hot for him. Were but a few concessions like these granted we would have a greater number of men capable of doing good work in the field, even if they had to go there but indifferently equipped otherwise. This is even a more serious matter than arming the force with Martinis, (much as they hope and pray for them) because if you have a fairly good shooting force armed with Snider rifles, that shooting will not deteriorate because of the force being armed with Martinis. If the numerous military men (and I fancy there are lots of civilian members who are just as good and staunch adherents of the force) will give their attention, and bring a little pressure to bear, the shooting season of 1893 will long be remembered by as the liveliest and most successful season in the history of the force.

BREECH BLOCK.

KINGSTON.

The minstrel troupe in connection with the non-commissioned officers Social Club of "A" Battery gave their first entertainment on Feb. 4th, in the new amusement hall, which has been fitted with a stage, eight complete sets of scenery, footlights, and all the necessary adjuncts of a first-class miniature theatre. The performance was a first-class amateur one, and the performers deserve great credit for the smooth way in which it was put on the boards. The hall, which seats about 250, was crowded to its fullest capacity, and if these entertainments are to be held throughout the balance of the season, some larger place will have to be secured to hold the large number of people who will attend. When the curtain rose it disclosed the regular minstrel circle, all dressed in satin knickerbockers, slashed jackets, &c; and the usual quantity of starched linen was also displayed. The programme was an excellent and varied one, concluding with a screaming farce, entitled "Dr. Thumper's Thumping Process," or "Take down that Sign," by the members of the company. All the jokes were local and were much enjoyed. I reproduce a couple of them here, of course if the reader had heard them he would enjoy it better, but perhaps having it second-hand will matter but little. First joke: "Why is the hill at Fort Henry like the beef supplied at the barracks by the butcher?" Answer. "Because the hill is as hard to get up, as the beef is to get down." 2nd. "Why is the building in which the sergeant's mess is located like the wilds of Siberia?" "Because there is a 'Wolf' in it." Several good local hits were got off, which space will not permit of sending. Taken in all the affair was very enjoyable, although I heard (confidentially of course) that one of the members of the company who had an instrumental solo part to take, met with a slight accident just before his turn came which caused him much pain but he manfully played his solo and was loudly encored for it, although none of the audience knew that he was suffering at the time. It is very likely that these entertainments will be repeated every fortnight for the balance of the winter.

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The R.M.C. senior hockey team met the Queen's College team on the Kingston rink, on Thursday, Feb. 2nd, and were defeated by a score of five to two; the game was protested on the grounds that one of the goal umpires had money bet on the game and gave decisions in favour of Queen's. The Cadets team for the struggle was composed of Cadet Rusel, goal; C.S.M. (C.) Armstrong, point; Sergt. Leckie, cover point; Sergt. Heneker, r. wing; Cadets Cory and Franklin, centres; and Corp. Lefevre, left wing. A great amount of money will change hands as the result of the game, no matter how the protest goes; the betting was about 3 to 1 on the Queen's. The Cadets team was very fast and played a fine combination. The features of Queen's game was their rough play, body-checking, tripping, shineying and continual offside play by their wings. At half time the score was even 2 goals each, and even money was freely offered and laid. The second half started and in ten minutes the Queen's team secured 3 more goals. The Cadets after a few minutes more play were