

with the Masonic order at the age of 17, and has been a most active member, and to him is due the honour of the success of the Knights Templar of Canada, which he was instrumental in resurrecting in Kingston about 26 years ago.

Belleville.

Major T. C. Lazier arrived home from the old country last week after being absent two months. Having spent one month in London, the remainder of his time was occupied in travelling through England and Scotland. He visited several of the military institutions in England, chief amongst them being the arsenal at Woolwich.

Cpts. W. N. Ponton and J. E. Halliwell are home again, having taken a special course at C and D Infantry Schools respectively. Both these officers have received first-class certificates.

Dr. Cook, Assistant Surgeon of the 15th Battalion, returned home from Europe a couple of weeks ago, after a few months absence visiting some of the celebrated hospitals in England and on the Continent. The Doctor is looking remarkably well after his sea voyage.

The Sergeants of the 15th are not going to let the fall of 1890 pass without offering to the citizens of Belleville a first-class military entertainment. Large posters all over the city announce that there is to be a grand Assault-at-Arms in the Opera House on Tuesday evening, September 23rd, for the benefit of the Sergeants' Mess, and from the programme which is announced thereon I doubt not that it will be the best military entertainment ever offered to the Belleville public. The Sergeants have been working hard and drilling almost nightly for the past few weeks so as to be fully prepared for the coming event. Sergt.-Major McRae and Sergeants are indefatigable in their efforts to make the coming entertainment a success, and I predict for them a bumper house. Full particulars after the affair comes off.

W. H. Ponton, Registrar of the County of Hastings, died at his residence, Church Street, in this city, on Friday, 5th inst., at midnight. Deceased was born at Inverness, Scotland, in 1810, and was consequently eighty years of age. With his father, the late Dr. Mungo Ponton of the celebrated Cameron Highlanders, he came to this country when quite young. He had been a resident of Belleville for 60 years. For several years he was private secretary to the late Hon. Robt. Baldwin. He was twice Mayor of Belleville, the first time being when that office was given by appointment. As a volunteer Mr. Ponton served during the Fenian raid of 1866, being stationed at Prescott. He leaves a wife and four children to mourn the loss of a loving husband and a devoted father. He was twice married, his second wife being a daughter of Lt.-Gen. Hanwell of the Royal Artillery. His two sons are identified with the 15th Battalion, the eldest, William, being a corporal in "A" Co., while George, the youngest, is Bugle Major of the Battalion. Deceased was an uncle of Capt. W. N. Ponton of this city, and brother of the late Lt.-Col. Archibald Ponton, first Colonel of the 15th Battalion. Of a pleasing disposition, manly bearing, patriotic, kind, loving and gentle, he was held in the highest esteem by all, and his loss will be severely felt. The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon, 9th, and was very largely attended. He was buried under the auspices of the Masonic fraternity, of which he was a distinguished member, there being a large turnout of the craft.

"ARGYLE."

St. John, N. B.

The officers of the New Brunswick Brigade of Garrison Artillery had a regimental dinner at the Hotel Dufferin on the 29th ult. They were honoured with the presence of the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Leonard Tilley, who sat to the right of the chairman, Lt.-Col. Armstrong. At the chairman's left sat Lieut.-Col. Irwin, Inspector of Artillery. Paymaster Smith occupied the vice chair, and by him sat two other honoured guests, Mayor Lockhart and Lieut.-Col. Blaine of the 62nd Fusiliers. After the loyal toasts came one to the Lieutenant-Governor, proposed by the vice-chairman.

Sir Leonard Tilley in replying said that though owing to the condition of his health he had attended but two public dinners in six years past, he felt it not only a privilege but a duty to be present on this occasion. He briefly reviewed the military history of the country from the time when the boundary difficulty with Maine was troubling this country 50 years ago, when he had entered the service, first as a private, and was afterwards promoted to a captaincy, down to the present time. He touched upon the Fenian raids of 1866 and 1870, the withdrawal of the British garrisons from Fredericton, St. John and other points, which he thought a mistake, and invaluable services rendered by the militia forces at various times, and especially in quelling the Northwest rebellion. Recalling the report of Col. Jervis on the defence of the Dominion he reminded those present that the report indicated St. John and Esquimaux as vital points in the military front of the Dominion. This gave especial prominence to the artillery and rifle corps enrolled in this city. He thought the money annually voted for the militia was not too great, and deemed it of importance that it should be continued and increased if

necessary, which, he believed, would be cheerfully done when occasion required. His two sons had enrolled themselves with his entire approbation in two branches of the militia service, and he felt it a great pleasure to be present and lend his support to the military organizations of the country. Many felt that they were unnecessary, and he had at one time partially shared that sentiment, but he had been compelled to change his views. The present outlook indicated that the best security for peace would be found in preparation for a possible emergency. He complimented the artillery and militia forces, and believed they were equal man for man to those of any other country, and would be found more than equal should stern duty summon them to stand in rank for the defence of their homes.

The health of the Inspector of Artillery was proposed by Lt.-Col. Armstrong, in a complimentary speech.

Lt.-Col. Irwin in responding said his pleasure in inspecting the St. John batteries had never been so great as this year, for he found the efficiency not only maintained but excelled. The five batteries in the firing competition this year had scored 471 points, an average of 94, as against 285 and an average of 57 points last year. This was very encouraging and showed an ambition to excel; and no small amount of labour in attaining this point. The corps, although not yet attaining first place in competition with the artillery of other provinces, had come very near to that point. He proceeded to remark upon the advantages of local corps to the places where they were maintained, and asked that employers of labour should not grudge a little of the time of value demployees to an occasional drill and parade. Drones and idlers were not wanted in the artillery. The result of the recent inspection was highly creditable to the St. John batteries.

Capt. Jones proposed the health of the District Staff, coupled with the name of Major Armstrong, who made a spirited and appropriate response. Sister Corps was proposed by Surgeon Daniel, who, in mentioning the name of Lt.-Col. Blaine, hoped that he might never grow old. Col. Blaine, Major McLean and Surgeon Walker successively responded in hearty soldierlike terms to the honours so enthusiastically offered the sister corps.

Some important changes have been made in the 78th Highlanders, of Colchester, Hants and Pictou, consequent on the retirement of Lt.-Col. W. M. Blair, who retains his rank. Major Sutherland is promoted to the lieutenant-colonelcy; Capt. H. T. Laurence, Truro, to a majority, and Lieut. J. Suckling to the captaincy of No. 1. Bt.-Major McKenzie retires with his brevet rank. The *Amherst Record* says:—"The militia officers of the province will greatly regret the retirement from active service of so efficient and popular an officer as Col. Blair. During his 14 years command of the 78th he made it one of the leading rural corps in the province in appearance, equipment, and general efficiency. We have no doubt that he resigns regretfully, though with a sense of duty to his position as manager of the Experimental Farm, which requires his whole attention."

Halifax.

Monday, 8th September—As previously announced H. M. ships *Comus* and *Buzzard* proceeded to sea on Saturday afternoon for the purpose of returning suddenly and making a mimic attack on the city. The various forts had been manned by the men of the West Riding Regiment, the Royal Artillery, the H.G.A., and the torpedo and royal engineer corps were posted at their customary stations in such cases. On their return from sea the ships began the attack first and as soon as they had got within range of York Redoubt that battery opened fire with 18 ton guns, manned by the royal artillery, and the first battery of the H. G. A. under Capt. Botsford and Lieuts. Hart and Holmes. The firing from this battery was quickly followed by the new battery, recently constructed on McNab's Island, supposed to be armed with 6 and 10 inch breech-loading guns. The *Comus* and *Buzzard* immediately answered the fire from these forts and also defended themselves by machine guns from attack by torpedo boats, of which there were several sent out by the torpedo corps. The two war ships were running the gauntlet of the forts at a pretty lively speed, and forts Cambridge and Ogilvie, under command of Col. Noyes, R.A., and Col. Curren, H.G.A., opened fire on the attacking fleet at 4,000 yards range, as did also the fort at Ives' Point, on McNab's, at about the same range. It is claimed by those defending the forts that with the bright clear day and with trained men manning the guns in actual warfare there is no question that the two ships would have been blown completely out of the water, as almost every gun fired bore directly upon the attacking vessels; or at least that there is no question but that the firing would have resulted very seriously to the approaching ships. Col. Ryan, R.A., who was acting as umpire, expressed himself as perfectly satisfied with the good work performed by the men of the H.G.A. Capt. Anderson and Major Purcell were with the detachment at Ives' Point. Majors Garrison and Boggs, Cpts. Maxwell and Stewart, and Lieut. Boulton were with the