

Regimental News.

The 21st Essex Fusiliers.

The fourth annual meeting of the 21st Essex Fusiliers was held at the Crawford House, Windsor, on the 7th February, 1889, at 2.30 p. m. Present, Lt.-Col. Wilkinson, in the chair; Major Guillot, Surgeon Casgrain, Captain Meloche, Paymaster; Captain Reeves, Quartermaster; Captain Fox, Adjutant; Captain Cheyne, Captain Ley, Captain Botsford, Captain Jones, Captain Dewsen, and Lieuts. Bartlett, Alderton, and Ponting; and Sergt.-Major John Leighton.

Lieut. Bartlett was appointed secretary, after which Col. Wilkinson addressed the meeting, offering congratulations on the attendance and on the *esprit de corps* shown by, and the general success of the regiment.

Captain Jones, chairman of the Regimental Committee, submitted his report, which was received and adopted. Capt. Reeves, chairman Band Committee, submitted his report, which was adopted. The band is in a flourishing condition under the able leadership of Mr. George P. Vansickle.

The several committees were then appointed: Regimental—Capt. Jones, Capt. Botsford and Capt. Ley. Band—Captains Reeves, Dewsen, Fox, and Surgeon Casgrain. Mess—Capt. Ley, Botsford, and Lieut. Russell.

The annual appointments of the 21st Fusiliers Rifle Association were then made as follows: President, Lieut.-Col. Wilkinson; Vice-President, Sergt.-Major John Leighton; Secretary, Lieut. Bartlett; Treasurer, Capt. Ley; Range Officer, Capt. Fox; Executive Committees—Capt. Botsford, Major Guillot, and Mr. A. J. Green. It was resolved that the annual prize meeting should be held at Essex Centre. An excellent range is completed there from 100 to 1,000 yards. 15 Martini-Henry rifles were obtained from headquarters last season, and it is expected the regiment will in future take an active part in rifle shooting.

At the close of the meeting the officers of the regiment entertained at lunch the Mayor, Mr. Twomey, Ex-mayor Major Beattie, Fred Villiers, war correspondent of the *London Graphic*, and many other influential citizens and friends. The fine band of the regiment was stationed in the corridor and furnished excellent music. After lunch the usual toasts were indulged in, Col. Wilkinson presiding. A most hearty welcome was accorded Mr. Villiers, who was well pleased with the reception.

The officers then, in full dress, in a body attended the lecture of Mr. Villiers in the Methodist Church, which was a thrilling and delightful affair.

HOTSPUR.

The following interesting account of the banquet and lecture is taken from the *Detroit Free Press*:

"Last evening the officers of the Twenty-first Essex Fusiliers closed their annual meeting with a lunch at the Crawford House, and by a happy coincidence they were able to have as their especial guest the *Graphic's* special artist and correspondent, Frederic Villiers. The excellent condition of the Twenty-first and the enthusiastic loyalty of both officers and men was well demonstrated by the satisfactory reports from the several companies, and the sympathetic interest and hearty encouragement of the people of Essex County was well represented by civilians who were present at the lunch. There were present, Lieut.-Col. Wilkinson, Major Guillot, Capt. Jones, Dewson, Cheyne, Ley, Reeves, Meloche, Botsford and Fox, Surgeon Casgrain and Lieuts. Bartlett, Alderton and Ponting, and Sergt.-Major Leighton. The guests of the evening were Frederic Villiers, Dr. Carney, Robert Barr, Alex Bartlett, Major Beattie, Mayor Twomey, Rev. J. M. Hodson, C. S. Hathaway, Captain Templeton, A. Whittaker, Thomas Dow, and the editors of the *Windsor Clarion* and *Record*. The toasts, "The Queen," "Our Guests" and "Our Friends" were responded to respectively by Col. Wilkinson, Major Guillot and Alex Bartlett. Lieut. Bartlett proposed the sentiment, "The Ladies," and Sergt. Casgrain responded. Brief speeches were made by Messrs. Villiers, Whittaker, Templeton, Barr and others, and the Twenty-first Regiment band, stationed in the corridor, presented a pleasing musical programme. Altogether the affair was a success, a good portion of the credit therefor belonging to Landlord McFarland and his assistants.

Frederic Villiers must have been well convinced that his fame is well established and that his achievements are much admired by Her Majesty's subjects in Windsor, when he faced his audience last evening to deliver his lecture, "War on a White Sheet." Every seat was occupied, a section of the auditorium being devoted to the officers of the Twenty-first Essex Fusiliers, making a bright spot in the picture with the red coats and bullion decorations of the soldiers. The presence of the red coats seemed to inspire the lecturer, for when the lecture hall was darkened and the evening's entertainment began, he described his picture and related the many incidents in thrilling fashion as though he was living the scenes over again. The audience caught the infection and with each mention of the names of Wolseley, Stuart and their fol-

lowers enthusiastic applause was given. The lecture was a delightful affair and quite profitable to the promoters of the enterprise."

The Dufferin Rifles.

A meeting of the officers of the Dufferin Rifles was held at the officers' rooms Monday evening 11th inst, there being a large attendance of the officers with Lieut. Col. Jones in the chair. Several matters of interest to the regiment were discussed and action taken thereon.

Considerable discussion took place over the fact that there was no provision made in the Dominion Parliament estimates for a grant for the Brantford Drill Hall, and Col. Jones and Surgeon Harris were appointed a deputation to wait on the Government in reference to the matter. The amount no doubt will appear in the supplementary estimates, but considering the liberal grant from the city it was expected that the amount would have been placed in the first estimates.

A letter was read from Mrs. Gough, thanking the officers for their contribution of \$25.

A series of monthly informal concerts and entertainments is being inaugurated by the officers, the first to take place in their rooms Monday evening, 18th inst.

Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.]

THE CHALLENGE CONSIDERED.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—The challenges of Captain Thompson and Mr. Willis are duly noted and these gentlemen will hear from our village during the coming season, probably in the leafy month of June, as by then we will have sandpapered the rust out of our rifles. We never shoot through the winter here but you ought to hear the boys talk. The "record" at Fenelon Falls on New Year's day is nothing to some of the scores that are made when they get "talking through their hats," and judging from that, I think a few of them will come out in pretty good form this season.

I humbly appologize for my stupidity in asking the question in my previous communication "if the match was shot before or after the banquet?" as the narrative states that after the banquet the *whole* party *marched* down to the station and joined in singing "Auld Lang Syne," and "The Girl I left behind me." So that when we consider that they were all able to *walk* down, we infer none had to be driven, and that they were able to tell the difference between "Auld Lang Syne" and "The Girl I left behind me." They were in good enough trim to make an average of seven over inners whether before or after the gathering round the festive board, and there was really no necessity for my putting such a question.

"A DOUBTING THOMAS."

Toronto, 15th Feb., 1889.

A COMPREHENSIVE CHALLENGE.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Noticing a *defi* thrown out by Fenelon Falls and Lindsay, and intended especially for the benefit of riflemen of Toronto, I beg most respectfully to exclaim in the vulgarity of the day: "Aw there, my size!" And I mean it—it's just what I have been waiting for after a winter's restraint. I have no idea who "Doubting Thomas" is. However, be that as it may, the F. F. and L. men seem determined to have a crack at Toronto. So on behalf of her marksmen, I take up the gauntlet and will make the following matches:

No. 1.—I will match five Toronto men to shoot against a similar number of the Lindsay team, on the following conditions: Snider or Martini rifles, 7 shots each at 200, 500, and 600 yards, or on their own terms, viz., 200 and 500 yards; positions kneeling at 200 yards, prone at 500 or 600 yards. We will shoot one match on their ranges, and a return one on the Toronto ranges—the team finishing with the greatest number of points in both matches to be decided the winners. This match to be for \$50 a side.

No. 2.—I will also match ten Toronto men against the same number from either Lindsay or Fenelon Falls, same conditions as No. 1, except in rifles, which shall be Martini only. This match to be for \$100 or \$200 a side.

No. 3.—I will also take up the challenge thrown out by the *Warder*, viz., offering to back Messrs. McDougall and Brandon to shoot against any other two men in Ontario who are members of one business firm. I have two men here who will exactly fill the bill, conditions same as No. 1. Amount \$50 or \$100 a side.

No. 4.—I will also match myself to shoot against any man either in Fenelon Falls or Lindsay, at 200 yards standing, elbow clear of the body, 10 shots, Snider or Martini rifles, pull not less than 6 lbs, on any range. This match to be for \$25 a side.

No. 5.—I will also back a Toronto regiment to shoot against any