

in the Northwest. Fifty good troopers were mustered, but there were no officers, and Sir Donald gave an amusing account of how he took command and appointed other officers. "So you see I have been in the service myself," he said. Sir Donald, in continuing, referred to the competition for the challenge trophy he had given to be competed for, and was glad to hear that it had done good. If the Scots won it next year he would put another little cup inside of it for themselves to keep. That brought forth more cheers. In conclusion he wished the regiment all the prosperity that was possible and was sure that Lieut.-Col. Strathy was working hard to secure it, and they had his heartiest support of the citizens of Montreal, especially those of their own race. He resumed his seat after more applause and three times three.

At the colonel's request Sir Donald then commenced to give out the prizes to the lucky winners, some fifty in all.

After the prizes for the annual matches had been given, Mr. Richard White was called upon to present the *Gazette* cup to Private A. Elliot. Mr. White said he was very pleased to perform this task, for from what he had heard from the commanding officers of the different corps the cups had been the means of bringing a number of new shots to the ranges. He was glad that he had accepted the idea suggested to him. There was no part of the work in volunteering so necessary as to be able to know how to shoot, and he hoped in the future something would always be done to encourage young shots, for it would not do to see the same prize winners coming up year after year. To the winner he said: "The cup will remind you that your first year's work was well done; let those that follow be even better, if possible." He resumed his seat amidst applause.

Lt.-Col. Caverhill presented the two aggregate medals that he gives yearly to his old corps, after which Rev. Edgar Hill was called upon to present the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association bronze medal. He was astonished and somewhat grieved, he said, when he read in a paper the report of a sermon which contained something like a charge against Montreal's volunteers. He was quite sure that the clergyman who made them did it with the best of intentions, but in this case if he had not exaggerated, he had not, so to speak, spoken by the book. Some of our greatest philanthropists unconsciously exaggerated, even with the best intentions, and the result was that they did a great deal of harm, where perhaps it was not intended. "Those that know the volunteers as I do," he said, "will say far differently to the rev. gentleman, but it is to those that do not know them that I speak thus, and am very glad to have an opportunity to do so the first time that I have met the regiment since the remarks were made."

The Victoria Rifles Reserves held their first camp fire of this season on Thursday evening the 29th

#### The Military School.

The commanding officers of the city corps are not letting the matter rest in regard to a military school in this city, and as this looks a little far off at the present, they have made a new move, suggested in this column months ago. Last Saturday evening at a meeting they decided to ask the Hon. Minister of Militia to station a company of the Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry in this city for the present winter in barracks in the drill hall, the present Victoria Rifles armory to be used as a barracks and the old Engineers quarters as officers quarters. If this is granted it will be a great benefit to the force, even more than the local one, the result of which will be palpable to all at the next annual inspections. At the same time, however, it is worth noting that there is another move on hand in regard to the quarters mentioned, and that is to place the superintendent in the upper part of the old quarters of the Vics, while the Engineers' old quarters are to be turned over to the 85th Battalion. This, however, is still in embryo yet.—*Montreal Gazette*.

The picked detachments which are to compete at the Queen's Theatre in the performance of the Free Coal Fund, are hard at work, and it would be hard just now to pick out the winners.

The Kilties say that they have a surprise in store for the boys.

#### Annual Meeting of the Montreal Amalgamated Rifle Association.

There was a very large attendance of members at the fourth annual meeting of the Montreal Amalgamated Rifle association, which was held in the Garrison Artillery armory, Nov. 28. Lt.-Col. Butler occupied the chair. The secretary, Mr. Arthur Ware, submitted the annual report, which went minutely into the doings of the association for the past year. It showed that the impetus given to shooting had been wonderful. The attendance at the ranges, both on Saturdays and Wednesdays, was double that of the previous year, making about 150 in all. According to figures supplied by Mr. D. McNicoll, general passenger agent of the Canadian Pacific railway, a decided increase was shown in the attendance. The figures are: 1892, 1806; 1893, 2,912, and 1894, 3,643. It is computed that about 500 more went out by the morning trains. The past season has been the most prosperous in the history of the association. Hon. J. C. Patterson, minister of militia, and Mr. Fred. White, visited the ranges with a view of finding out what changes were necessary to put the ranges in a more efficient state. The secretary wrote to the Brigade office asking for certain improvements, but they have not as yet been forthcoming, nor the letter answered. Mr. R. W. Allan is thanked for the efficient services he rendered during the past season. On August 24th the association had as its guests some of the members of Her Majesty's navy. The

Montreal Rifle association, through its president, Lieut.-Col. Massey, donated \$20 for team prizes.

The financial statement showed the cost of running the ranges to be \$842, showing a balance on the wrong side. The reports were discussed, as also the programme for next season. Nothing definite will be done until the election of officers takes place in March next.—*Gazette*.

#### That Long Service Medal.

Lack of official words of wisdom re the long service medal is keeping the ball rolling as to its award to our Canadian Militia. The following has been forwarded to us for publication.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TELEGRAPH:—

SIR: I noticed a telegram from Ottawa in the Sun a few days ago, which stated that Major General Herbert had decided that the Canadian militia are not eligible for the long service medal, as they are militia and not volunteers. I therefore quote you the following taken from the Broad Arrow, an official military paper. "The war office has decided to issue medals for long service, meritorious service, and distinguished conduct, to members of the colonial forces throughout the empire, including India, and the Dominion of Canada. The period of service necessary to qualify for the distinction will not be relaxed in the case of colonial troops, the length of service require being the same as for soldiers of the Imperial army. Colonial volunteers not included in the colonial forces will be eligible for the volunteer long service medal. You will see from this that "colonial forces" must mean militia, and also that there is another medal which is granted to volunteers only. Perhaps the general does not know this. However, I trust that the militia department will now make application for this decoration for the Canadian militia. The general's suggestion that the city corps should be changed to volunteers will not be accepted by any corps, as that will make them junior to country corps, which will still rank as militia. In England the latter force enjoy many privileges which the volunteers do not and the same rule would no doubt be applied in Canada.

Yours truly,

VETERAN.

St. John, N. B., Nov. 17th, 1894.

The letter from Veteran, which we publish elsewhere, shows that it will not be necessary, as General Herbert suggests, for our city militia to become volunteers to be entitled to the long service medal. It appears that our militia are entitled to the same long service medal as soldiers of the imperial army, and that there is another long service medal for volunteers to which colonial volunteers are eligible. It would be the height of folly for our city militia corps to give up their standing as a part of the army of Canada and become volunteers for the sake of any medal, especially as it would be 20 years before any of the new volunteer force would be in a position to receive it. It is satisfactory, however, to know that no distinction has been made with respect to the long service medal between the imperial forces and those of Canada. The English militia are a part of the imperial army, each territorial infantry regiment having one or more battalions of militia included as part of it. Usually there are two battalions of mili-