

News of the Service.

NOTE.—Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Without we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the doings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, so long as not enclosed in an envelope, for one cent. At any rate, forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades. Address,

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British Columbia.

The annual business meeting of the British Columbia Rifle Association was held at Victoria on the evening of Friday, the 25th ult., the comfortable and well equipped men's reading room in the drill hall affording splendid accommodation for the purpose. The association has a very representative membership, the Senate, the House of Commons, the Provincial Legislative, the Army and Navy of Great Britain, all contributing to the elements of its composition, and making a welcome addition to the Canadian militiamen and private citizens who naturally form the great majority, and the two classes last mentioned represent nearly every province in the Dominion, as well as the volunteers of England and Scotland. Conspicuously displayed at this meeting were the handsome Tait and Brassey cups, evidence of the battalion and company championship won by the team of the B. C. Garrison Artillery sent east by the association last summer. The chair was occupied by the president, Lieut.-Col. R. Wolfenden, R. L., who has been a member continuously ever since the association was organized in 1874, and who has largely contributed to ensuring the continuous success of its operations. The secretary, Capt. E. H. Fletcher, and the treasurer, Capt. W. H. Dorman, who also have been honorary officials of the association almost from its start, presented reports showing a very satisfactory state of affairs. The treasurer showed a surplus of about \$50, of revenue over the expenditure of about \$2,250, to add to the balance of \$30 with which the year commenced. There was one point of the secretary's interesting report which elicited comment, that being the fact stated that no acknowledgment or reply had been made by the Dominion Rifle Association to a resolution forwarded by the B.C.R.A. Council early in 1894, directing attention to the fact that New South Wales and Victoria (Australia) Rifle Associations then had under discussion the matter of sending a team to Bisley, and respectfully suggesting that the D.R.A. should take steps to have the team pass through Canada at least on one way of their journey. They would be returning at about the time of the Provincial and Dominion matches where they would certainly be cordially welcomed. British Columbia is directly in touch with Australia since the Canadian line of steamers was started, and the council of the Provincial association being

anxious to have the team visit this province, asked the Dominion Association to move in the matter as an invitation would come more gracefully from them. Another report presented and very cordially received was that of the Captain of the Ottawa team, Lieut. J. D. Taylor. The team consisted of eight members, all belonging to the B. C. Battalion of Garrison Artillery. In place of going directly to Ottawa as in previous years, the team added a week to their necessarily long vacation and visited the O. R. A. meeting at Toronto, in order that the practice there and succeeding rest might fit them for the greater meeting. The result was highly encouraging, for though at the outset of the Ontario meeting they were noticeably out of form and consequently out of the prize list, when the very important Tait-Brassey match came fittingly at the close of the meeting, they had so far improved as to achieve the distinction of taking both cups—the Tait, for a battalion team of six, with an average of 90; and the Brassey, for company teams, with an average of 91 made by the four members of No. 4 Co. (Westminster). These scores were the highest ever made in this competition; they are above the record of the London Merchants Cup match at Ottawa, and have only once been exceeded by the Kolapore teams at Wimbledon and Bisley. The same regimental team won second place in the London Merchants Cup competition the following week, with an average of 86½, the winners, who averaged 88½, having been picked from five crack corps of Ontario; and the B.C.G.A. regimental team won third place for No. 11 District in the Military District match at Ottawa, being with 424, only two points below the winning team, drawn from three Ontario corps. To have been 1st, 2nd and 3rd in three competitions of such importance within two weeks, is a matter of just pride to the representatives of the B.C.G.A., who as individuals also distinguished themselves, putting five men out of the Provincial eight into the Grand Aggregate at Ottawa and being secure of representation at Bisley in 1895 as Gunner John C. Chamberlin is 23rd on the list. The team are to be handed down to posterity in the shape of a handsomely executed photographic group, including the Tait-Brassey cups, and the B.C. provincial crest which the association have adopted for their badge. Upon the reception of the team captains report, Lieut.-Col. E. G. Prior, M.P., took occasion to express the pride he felt in commanding a regiment which had thus demonstrated its proficiency with the rifle, whilst its efficiency in its own peculiar duties as garrison artillery has been shown to be very creditable indeed.

After such a satisfactory year it naturally followed that all the members who again offered were re-elected to the council, which, a ballot having been taken was found to stand as follows: From Victoria: Lt.-Col. E. G. Prior, M.P., Lieut.-Col. R. Wolfenden, Capt. W. H. Dorman, Capt. E. H. Fletcher, Lieutenants B. Williams,

F. B. Gregory and J. D. Taylor, and Messrs. A. R. Langley and George H. Norkill; from Vancouver: Major J. D. Townley and Mr. James Wilson; from New Westminster: Messrs. S. A. Fletcher and Ralph Wilson; from Nanaimo: James McGregor, M.P.P., and Mr. W. W. B. McInnes. Senator McInnes and Col. Prior were re-elected members of the council of the D.R.A., with the recommendation that Andrew Haslam, M. P., be one of the B.C. representatives chosen at the meeting at Ottawa. The council then met and re-elected officers as follows: President, Col. Wolfenden; vice-presidents, Lieut.-Col. Peters, D.A.G. (ex-officio), Major Townley and James McGregor, M.P.P.; treasurer, Capt. Dorman; secretary, Capt. Fletcher; assistant-secretary, Lieut. Taylor; archon, Capt. W. Shears. The only change being that Mr. McGregor replaces Dr. Braeger, who has removed to California. Three new life members were added during the year, having qualified under the rules by the presentation of substantial gifts. They are Lieut. Col. J. N. Peters, D.A.G., Hon. J. H. Turner, Minister of Finance, and H. D. Helmcken, M.P.P.

The annual meeting of the officers of the headquarter companies of the British Columbia Battalion of Garrison Artillery was held on Saturday evening, 26th Jan., at their rooms at the drill hall, Lieut.-Col. E. G. Prior, M.P., presiding. Committees for the year were chosen as follows:

Band—Surgeon Hasell, Capt. Flumerfelt and Lieut. Monro.

Regimental and Finance—Lieuts. Gregory, Sargison and Williams.

Mess—Lieut. Pearce, Capt. Flumerfelt and Lieut. Gregory.

The recreation and shooting committee has yet to be named.

A resolution of regret at the retirement of Capt. W. Shears from the office of Paymaster was passed, it expressing also the high appreciation by his brother officers of the services rendered by Capt. Shears, who had been with the corps almost since its organization.

Thanks were tendered to Lieut. Gregory for the gift of a clock to the mess, and to Capt. Flumerfelt for the gift of a bugle to the boys' band for competition; and Capt. Flumerfelt announced his readiness to present a prize for the encouragement of Morris tube shooting should that be taken up as intended.

It was decided to make an effort to have the annual inspection, which was postponed from last September, take place about the end of February; and the matters of Good Friday manoeuvres, a military day in connection with the Queen's birthday celebration; and a visit to Vancouver or the reception here of the companies from that city, were briefly discussed and will receive further consideration.

A vote of thanks was passed to Hon. B. W. Pearce for his kindness in presenting to the mess a historical picture of several members of the first volunteer corps here.