

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## A GARRISON ENTERTAINMENT SUGGESTED FOR MONTREAL.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

DEAR SIR,—Having read with great interest the items that appear from week to week in your regimental and amusement columns, and observing that almost every city regiment throughout Canada has a club of some sort or another, for amusement purposes, and that the city corps of Ottawa were able to join together in a theatrical performance, as well as those of Toronto. I am impelled to offer a suggestion to the corps composing the Montreal garrison. The corps of this city are laboring under disadvantages compared with other places; their armories are scattered throughout the city, and there is no drill hall where the men can meet and exchange views; but each regiment has to provide itself with a club room, or meeting place, consequently each regiment is so much isolated that it works solely upon an independent basis. Now, I do not think there is a regiment in Montreal that does not count among its members a glee club or a snowshoe club—the latter being the chief sport indulged in here—and it is customary for each regiment to give a concert or ball every year. The suggestion I would make, is that the regiments join forces and give a grand public concert or ball; let each corps be represented, and if there is no charitable object in view, let the proceeds be equally divided amongst the clubs. If it does nothing else it will have the effect of bringing the men more closely together, and thereby create a more friendly intercourse and stimulate a friendly rivalry amongst the now isolated city battalions.

AN EX-VOLUNTEER.

MONTREAL, 30th January, 1886.

## FIX BAYONETS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

"Nemo" and "Noodle" are, in a measure, both on the right track; but, from not calling things by their right names, are likely to get your readers somewhat mixed. There are two kinds of the aforesaid implements, the "bayonet," which is triangular and fit for only one purpose, and the "sword bayonet." The latter is evidently "Noodle's" weapon. The days for fixing bayonets, or putting a sharp thing on the end of a rifle, are by no means passed away. How would the soldiers who composed those celebrated squares in the Soudan have fared during the Arab charges had they no bayonets to fix? The Servians and Bulgarians, a few days ago, each felt the sharpness of those points and can testify to their utility in action. The "bayonet" should be discarded in Canada for a more practical and serviceable weapon. As the "sword bayonet" can be used for many purposes, let me suggest a compromise between these two writers, and produce something really useful. Do what an American writer advised. That is, shorten our weapons. A good bowie knife with a *strong sharp* blade twelve inches long on a "sword bayonet" handle, that is capable of being fixed when necessary, would be a weapon useful in many ways, and not incommode the wearer thereof, as "Noodle" says his bayonet does. Mounted infantry and horse artillery are the only serviceable troops for the North-west territories.

KOOKHRI.

## REGIMENTAL NOTES.

(We wish to publish information respecting all the doings of all corps. Will the officers interested, particularly at a distance, assist us by having news relating to their corps promptly forwarded?)

QUEEN'S OWN.—The officers held a meeting a few days ago to consider the practicability of taking the corps to England for the Queen's jubilee.

P. E. I. BRIGADE GAR. ART.—On the evening of the 21st ult., Captain F. S. Moore entertained the men of his battery (No. 2) at dinner at the Osborne House, Charlottetown, when a very enjoyable evening was spent. Besides Lieuts. Longworth and Bell and the men of the battery there were present as guests: Brigade Major Irving and Capt. McDougall, who respectively occupied positions on the right and left of Capt. Moore; Captain D. Stewart, Adjutant Moison, Lieut. Weeks, Surgeon S. R. Jenkins and Sergeant Major Hartz. The facts were brought out during the post-prandial speeches that this battery had taken the Governor-General's prize last year for general proficiency, and that the brigade had won five prizes in shifting ordnance out of six competitions. The Province has every reason to be proud of its brigade, which, organized only in 1882, has already taken a first-class position amongst the artillery corps of the Dominion. This dinner is the first held by any portion of the Provincial force, but from its great success it is probable it will be but the pioneer of many other similar sociable gatherings.

40TH NORTHUMBERLAND BATT.—The annual meeting of the officers of this battalion was held at Colborne on the 15th ult., when Bt. Lt.-Col. Rogers presided and Capt. Snelgrove acted as Secretary. Resolutions were passed governing the interior economy of the regiment, and reports were presented showing that the finances of the battalion were in satisfactory condition. The band committee for 1886 was constituted as follows: Lt.-Col. Graveley, Major Floyd, Major Van Ingen, Surgeon Powell and Capt. Butler; the regimental committee of Major Floyd, Capt. Butler and Capt. Dennis. A memorial to Gen. Sir Fred. Middleton was adopted, urging him in the best interests of the force of Military District No. 3 to use his influence at headquarters for the retention of Lt.-Col. Villiers as D.A.G. of the district, for another term of five years.

A question which had arisen as to the ownership of the colors used by this regiment was warily discussed for over two hours, and finally resulted in the adoption on division of the following resolutions, which explain themselves:

"Inasmuch, as it has been shown that the colors used for the past 20 years by the 40th Battalion were presented by a committee of ladies in Cobourg to the 'Cobourg Volunteers,' and that upon the formation of the 40th Battalion they were handed over to the commanding officer of this corps on conditions discriminating against any future commander who did not reside in Cobourg,

"Therefore, Resolved,—That this meeting is of opinion that to have accepted the colors subject to any such conditions was unfair to the Battalion, and that they should not be longer retained by the regiment, but be returned to the custody of Lt.-Col. Smith, of Cobourg, the first commanding officer, who may be considered to represent the old 'Cobourg Volunteers.'"

"And further Resolved,—That the commanding officers of companies be appointed a committee to take steps to provide a new set of colors for the Battalion,

"Also Resolved,—That this meeting is further of the opinion, that the course of action indicated in the foregoing resolution should not be resorted to, in case the ladies who represent the original donors do withdraw within one month from the date of this meeting all conditions imposed which are not in accordance with the Queen's Regulations."

62ND BATT.—In compliance with the terms of the militia act, the officers of the St. John Fusiliers met in Capt. Edwards' office, in St. John, on the 15th ult. After the reports of the standing committees for the past year had been submitted, the election of committees for the present term was held, with the following result: Band Committee—Major Tucker, Capt. Edwards and Lieut. Godard. Regimental Committee—Surgeon Walker, Capt. Hartt and Lieut. Godard.

63RD RIFLES.—The annual business meeting of No. 2 Company was held at their orderly room, Halifax, on the 18th ult., Capt. Hechler in the chair, and nearly a full muster in attendance. A written address from the captain, reviewing the year's operations, was read. Referring to the fact that the majority of the company had been in the North-west, he pointed out that while this had interfered with the regular routine of the company, the men had done their duty and done it well. He then said: "Those of our members to whom the lot to accompany us to the field did not fall are not less deserving of praise. They were ready if occasion required to fill up our ranks had they been unfortunately depleted by the dire fortunes of war. While part of us were absent those who remained at home kept up the organization, the drill and the name of No. 2 Company. Their thoughtful kindness in contributing not only the money that they earned as a guard of honor, but also what they could individually afford, to the succor and comfort of those who represented them in the field will never be forgotten. We found good, true and staunch comrades in the officers and men of the Princess Louise Fusiliers (66th) and of the Halifax Garrison Artillery. Still it is my hope, as I believe that it is also yours, that if we should ever be called out again, either to defend our soil against an alien foe or to restore peace within the borders of this broad Dominion, it may be our own chosen organization—the 63rd Battalion of Rifles. In order that we may always be ready to promptly meet any call that may be made upon us we must attend steadily to drill and discipline as prescribed in the regulations and orders for the government of the militia of Canada." He explained that \$50 of the Company funds had been advanced to the Nor'-west contingent, and in consequence of this and other unforeseen demands, the dues of \$1.50 per year had proved insufficient, and he recommended that they be increased to \$2.

The recommendation that the dues be increased was unanimously, indeed enthusiastically, adopted and the grant of \$50 from the funds to the men on active service which was made last summer was cordially approved.

The following company office-bearers were chosen for the ensuing year: Treasurer, Lieut. H. St. C. Silver (re-elected); Lec.-Copl. John Brunt, (do.); Auditing Committee, Capt. Hechler and Lieut. Gunning; Investigating Committee, Sergts. Lindsay and Mumford, Corps. C. Keefe and Adams, and Priv. Hesson.

34TH BATT.—The annual inspection of the arms and accoutrements of the Oshawa Company has just been made by Lieut.-Col. Milsom, B.M., accompanied by Lt.-Col. O'Donovan, commanding, when Capt. Cleverdon and Lieut. W. Deans were complimented for the state in which everything is kept.

## AMUSEMENTS.

(If the active organizers of regimental games, company clubs, and similar winter occupations for the militia will forward us accounts of their doings we will gladly publish them. This, we hope, will have the good result of encouraging the organization of similar clubs where there are none at present.)

WINNIPEG.—The officers and men of No. 1 mess room, School of Mounted Infantry, were to have given a dance at Fort Osborne last Friday evening.

ST. JOHN, N.B.—The competition for the magnificent gold medal, presented by the officers of the New Brunswick Brigade Artillery to the Lansdowne Rink, will be commenced on Friday next, January 29th, and will be continued at subsequent dates up till April 9th, of which proper notice will be given. The rules governing the competition will be as follows:—

The medal is for the amateur five mile speed skating championship of the Dominion. All competitors must be amateurs.

The winner may be challenged at any time up till April 9th, and each race will be open to any amateur.

The holder must skate, or forfeit the medal and championship, but has the same right to challenge again or to enter the competition again as any other amateur.

The manager of the Lansdowne rink will pay fares both ways to winner of first place, and fare one way to winner of second place, in any championship race.

The area of ice is 160x80 feet. The course is 15 laps to the mile, and is 11 feet wide.

The medal will remain in the possession of the officers until finally won, and will be kept on exhibition till then.

The competition will be conducted under the rules of The National Amateur Skating Association.

The judges and other officials will be selected by the officers of the artillery.—*Telegraph.*

HAMILTON.—The entertainment mentioned last week, to be given by G Co., 13th Batt., came off most successfully in the Grand Opera House on the 26th, with a large audience. The first part of the programme consisted of tableaux vivants. The first one presented was a "Zereba." The temporary fortification of bags of sand,