

Retired officers of the Prince of Wales Rifles are co-operating heartily with the active officers of the battalion to make a success of the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Prince of Wales' marriage.

The work of fitting up the new armouries is so far completed that the volunteers are now in hopes of being in their new quarters before the commencement of this year's annual drill.

A military entertainment, consisting of readings and recitations of the British battles of the 19th century, by the Rev. Mr. Borthwick, is announced for St. George's school room, on Thursday, the 9th.

The annual meeting of the officers of the 85th Battalion was held last week at the St. Lawrence Hall, Lieut.-Col. Brosseau in the chair. The secretary and treasurer's reports were adopted and band and regimental committees appointed. Resolutions were passed asking the Government to finish the drill shed; expressing regret that Cote St. Luc was selected as a site for rifle ranges and declaring that the regulations requiring new officers to pass three months in St. John's Military School prevented desirable men from taking commissions. The present acting adjutant, who is going to the infantry school in March, will be replaced by Mr. C. L. Champagne, who will take command of No. 2 Company.

Toronto.

MR. WADMORE, C. Co. I. S. C., gave a very instructive and interesting lecture on outposts on the evening of the 30th January, at the Sergeants' Mess of the Queen's Own Rifles. There was a large attendance of n.c.o. and men, who after the lecture was delivered showed their appreciation of it by a prolonged round of applause. Mr. Wadmore, with the assistance of a piece of country sketched out on a blackboard, gave the general instructions, details and duties of outposts; the routine for commander of piquet; what every commander of a piquet should take down in writing, and what every sentry must be distinctly told. He pointed out to his audience how the outposts were the eyes and ears of an army: their duties being briefly summed up as observation and resistance, &c., &c.

If I am wrong about the Brigade Major affair perhaps "Milish" will enlighten me by saying what officers in the Canadian militia are, by Regulations, entitled to be noticed?

LINCH-PIN.

London.

THE class of instruction started by Lieut.-Col. Williams, of the Fusiliers, has proved highly beneficial to the battalion, four officers now being ready for a special course.

I think your correspondent, Linch-pin, needlessly allowed himself to get ruffled over that Christmas card of the 'Vics.' If he will take a look at the last Militia General Orders, he will see that numbers are used to designate companies, and not a letter of the alphabet. Para. 167, R. & O., 1887, states very plainly that a letter of the alphabet is to be used to designate a company, but this fact seems to be completely ignored by the authorities.

Not very long ago a recommendation for the appointment of an officer was forwarded to a brigade major, who drew his pen through the letter designating the company in which the appointment was to be made and substituted a number instead. So turn your double-barrelled pen on the big-wigs, Linch-pin, and let the small fry alone.

I hear that at a certain infantry school the double and single attack is introduced in bayonet exercise. Is not that an innovation? I think that I have read somewhere that officers are reminded of the responsibility they will incur by introducing any deviation from the system of drill sanctioned by Her Majesty.

The regulations for musketry instruction and rifle exercises, 1887, are out, with a total change of programme, but I suppose the change will make but little difference to the Canadian militiaman. He will still continue to be called out for the annual pic-nic, and be taught nothing but a little squad drill. Our volunteers should be the most perfectly drilled machines in the world, as far as squad drill is concerned, for nearly the whole of their time in camp is devoted to it. Of course squad drill is the foundation of all drill, but occasionally a feeling comes over a man that he is having too much of a good thing.

Medals and clasps have been granted to those who took part in the suppression of the North-West rebellion, but as yet I have seen no authority for bearing the honour on the colours.

No, Linchpin, that guard cannot be disturbed just yet, for the officer has disappeared, half the men have followed his example, and the remainder are asleep.

PIPECLAY.

Ottawa.

THOUSANDS of citizens, of all ranks from His Excellency the Governor-General down to the humblest, turned out on Thursday afternoon last to witness the annual steeplechase of the united snowshoe clubs of Ottawa. Amongst the starters—about twelve in all—were representatives of the Dragoon Guards, Foot Guards, and 43rd Rifles' regimental clubs. The last named had things all their own way, taking five out of the first six places. The club champion, Corp. W. Wills, who last year had won the handsome challenge cup then for the first time offered, repeated his victory, and thus becomes the permanent possessor of the trophy. His time was 10 minutes 40 seconds. Corp. Dowler, who last year almost made a dead heat with the winner, was second also on this occasion, but fully thirty yards behind, winning the silver medal offered as second prize. Corp. Wills has an almost unbroken record of victories since he took to snowshoe racing two or three seasons ago, and satisfied with his well-deserved laurels he is now about to retire from the track.

The social event of the week in military circles was the mess dinner of the officers of the 43rd Rifles, which took place at the Russell on Tuesday evening, the 7th inst. This was a pioneer of the annual dinners which the officers of the 43rd intend to have in the future. Invitations had been issued to the officers of the headquarters staff and of the other city corps. Among those able to accept were Col. Powell, Adjutant-General; Col. Panet, Deputy Minister of Militia; Lt.-Col. Macpherson, Director of Stores; Lt.-Col. Lamontagne, D.A.G.; Lt.-Col. Lewis, Brigade Major; Capt. Streatfeild, A.D.C. to His Excellency the Governor-General; Capt. Gourdeau, P.L.D.G.; Major Todd, G.G.F.G., and Lieut. Gordon, O.F.B. The editor of the MILITIA GAZETTE was also bidden to the feast. The chair was occupied by Lt.-Col. White, the officer commanding the 43rd; and the vice chair by Major Walsh. Other officers of the regiment present were Major Anderson; Captains Evans (adjutant), Sherwood, Wright, Billings, Macdonald (from Arnprior), and Bell; Lieut. Parker (paymaster), Bradbury, Rogers, Wright and Lawless; and Dr. Scott, assistant surgeon. The Russell provided an exceptionally fine bill of fare, in the disposition of which time flew rapidly. The only toast proposed was that of "The Queen," loyally honoured. Subsequently songs were demanded from and rendered by several gentlemen, amongst whom were the D. A. G. and B. M., Capt. Streatfeild and Capt.

Gourdeau, whilst Lieut. Lawless gave a humorous recitation very well received. The band of the regiment had volunteered their services for the occasion, and, under Bandmaster Greenfield, played an admirable selection of airs in the corridor adjoining the banquetting hall.

Corporal Belyeau, of No. 2 Co. of the 43rd, died on Sunday last of brain fever. He was buried at Hull yesterday with military honours.

The Foot Guards' Snowshoe Club were entertained after Wednesday evening's tramp, by the honorary president, Lieut.-Col. Pennington Macpherson, at his residence. The occasion brought about the largest muster of the season. The hospitality of the Colonel was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by the recipients.

The annual races of the Guards' Club take place on the 25th inst. There will be two open races, the prizes in which will it is expected tempt some snowshoe runners from other cities.

The non-commissioned officers of No. 1 Co. of the G. G. F. G. having now got their mess firmly established, have determined upon indulging in the luxury of mess jackets, for which measurements have just been taken.

Captain Berkley Powell, paymaster of the Guards, entertained the officers of that corps and a few friends at dinner at the Rideau Club on Monday evening.

Invitations have been issued by His Excellency the Governor-General to the officers of the city corps and headquarters staff, for the annual military dinner to be given at Rideau Hall on Monday evening next.

Winnipeg.

THE annual meeting of the 90th Club was held in the club rooms on Friday evening 17th Jan., Lieut.-Col. Boswell, president, in the chair. The secretary-treasurer read his report on the affairs of the club, showing it to be in a flourishing condition with a good balance to its credit in the bank. Officers for the ensuing year were then elected as follows:—President, Lieut.-Col. Boswell; 1st Vice-President, Col.-Sergt. A. Timewell; 2nd Vice-President, Private G. Bland; Secretary-Treasurer, Col.-Sergt. A. N. Mowat. Directors—For the band, Bandmaster Johnson, Sergt. Downard; A Co., Sergt. G. Merritt, Corporals Goulding and McBean; B Co., Sergt. C. McMillan, Privates Mason and Graburn; C Co., Corp. Adams, Privates Barrett and Graham; D Co., Col.-Sergt. Colgate, Sergt. Eadie, Private Bush; E Co., Sergt. Stevenson, Corp. Buss, Private Buss; F Co., Privates G. W. Murray, F. H. Allardyce, Jas. Russell.

The committee appointed for the purchase of a gymnasium reported that they had purchased the necessary articles in Chicago and that they were now being put into position in the drill hall.

After the business part of the meeting was over, Sergt. Major Watson, on behalf of the sergeants' mess of the 90th, presented the club with a very handsome photo of the sergeants of the regiment.

Miscellaneous Notes.

IN a newspaper report of a visit paid by Lieut.-Col. Gibson, 13th, and Captain Hendrie, H. F. B., to the factory of the W. E. Sanford Manufacturing Co., of Hamilton, contractors for militia clothing, the following interesting passage occurs: "A comparative test of English and Canadian cloths was made, proving the latter to be in every particular superior to the English make, the imported cloth tearing with comparative ease, while it seemed impossible to make the home fabric move, it being of superior quality. Its weight, dye and general adaptability seemed all that could be desired. The clothing which is now being made compares advantageously with any previous issue. The officers noticed in particular a marked contrast between the quality of the cloth used for the trousers and that of the material worked up in most of the outfits to which they had been accustomed."

The annual ball of the officers of the 12th Battalion, York Rangers, takes place at Aurora, Friday evening, the 11th inst. The Editor of the MILITIA GAZETTE takes this opportunity of acknowledging, with thanks, the courtesy of Lieut.-Col. Wayling and officers of the battalion in forwarding an invitation.

The drill hall at Vankleek Hill is about to be sold, being no longer needed, as the 18th Battalion has practically ceased to exist. For some reason not generally obvious, the name of this corps has not yet been removed from the militia list.

Apropos of the contemplated establishment of a cavalry school in Ontario, a correspondent of the *Empire* urges that a portion of such corps should be attached to each of the infantry schools, so that officers there to qualify for field rank might have the opportunity of receiving necessary instruction in equitation.

One of the volunteers who served with the Midland Battalion in the '85 campaign is about to pay the extreme penalty of the law to uphold whose majesty he so lately risked his life. The unfortunate man has been convicted at Toronto of causing the death of a young woman by an attempt at abortion. His name is John Gamble, and he served with C Company of the Midlanders.

The Austrians have decided to disclass the fortress of Josephstadt in Bohemia.

Gen. Logerot, the new French War Minister, distinguished himself in the Crimea, in the Franco-German war, and in Tunis.

Of the 909 lieutenants in the British Navy, over 300 have been more than 20 years in the service. The service of seven just promoted varies from 22 to 26 years.

Major-Gen. Sir Evelyn Wood is to go to Australia to inspect the local military forces, accompanied by Major-Gen. Brackenbury and other distinguished officers.

An appeal has been issued in England for funds to erect a memorial in the cemetery at Brussels to the British officers and men who fell at Waterloo.

It is proposed to demolish the fortress of Rastadt, and to replace it by a vast fortified camp.

La France Militaire reports that Germany has obtained specimens of the Lebel gun with samples of the cartridges and powder belonging to it, and has already manufactured copies of them.

Our French contemporary, *Revue de Cavalerie*, cites one instance of the fatal effect sham battle exercise has upon cavalry. At the Battle of Worth (Franco-Prussian campaign), a small body of the English Cuirassiers and Sixth Lancers, while in retreat from Morsbroun, came suddenly upon the 13th Uhlans (Prussian), supported at a short distance by more cavalry. A captain of the English promptly formed upon his men, the charge sounded, and the French men dashed forward. But the Prussian Cavalry did not move, as if determined to receive the shock at a standstill. This was so unexpected that the French horse, as if remembering the order of sham fight, drew up their horses at pistol shot range. Neither side did anything. Had a single man rushed forward with the standard at this point, it were certain that a melee would have followed. As it was, both sides emptied revolvers and carbines, and the Frenchmen, discovering they were vastly outnumbered, and that there was nothing to be gained by fighting, turned and fled.—*Scientific American*.