

The 24th April being the anniversary of the battle of Fish Creek the sergeants of the Royal Grenadiers held their annual meeting, according to constitution. Several amendments were made to the by-laws with reference to the interior working of the mess. The auditor's report showed the books to have been well kept and the mess to be in a flourishing condition, both numerically and financially. It was decided to celebrate the anniversary of Batoche in the usual manner, by the annual dinner, which will be held at Webb's again this year. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year, and will be installed on May 12: President, Staff-Sergt. Ewart; vice-president, Col.-Sergt. Scully; secretary, Paymaster-Sergt. Harding; treasurer, Quartermaster Sergt. Johnson; committee of management, staff-Sergt. Bewley, Sergt. McClinton, Sergt. Atkinson and Sergt. M. Macdonald; auditors, Staff-Sergt. Hutchinson and Sergt. Wetherley.

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Lieut.-Col. Gravely, Paymaster of No. 2 District, was recently in receipt of a letter bearing Russian stamps and post marks, not often seen in Toronto. On examination it proved to contain a claim for a North-west pension. It was a militia pension claim, dated at Sebastopol in the Crimea, April 4, 1893, and regularly made out and certified to by the British Consul at Sebastopol. It certified that Henry Jones, late of "C" Company Canadian Regiment of Infantry, who was wounded at Fish Creek, was entitled to a pension of 30 cents per diem for one-half year for having had half his jaw shot away on the aforesaid field of battle. The claim has been forwarded to Ottawa.

BREECH-BLOCK. ¶ ¶

MONTREAL.

A meeting of the Montreal Amalgamated Rifle Association was held on Saturday evening, 8th inst. Lieut.-Col. Butler, P.W.R., presided. Sufficient arrangements were made so that the members will be enabled to get target practice on Wednesday afternoons. Mr. R. Binmore announced that he was compelled to resign his office of secretary-treasurer, and Mr. Arthur Ware was elected his successor. Bugler Broadhurst intimated that the Royal Scots would not shoot in any of the military league matches if the Snider rifle was to be used. This led to some discussion, and finally Lieut.-Col. Burland moved:

"It is expedient that the modern rifle to be issued to the active militia should be placed in their hands at as early a date as possible, so that the same only be used on the ranges and the members of the force become familiar with it and to do away with the anomaly at present existing, in the fact that three different arms are now used for practice."

This was seconded by Major Busted and carried.

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It is to be hoped that strong action will be taken by the senior officers of the Vics, and by the Reserve Association, against the new saloon which it is proposed to open next to the Natural History Society building. It is bad enough to have *one* near the Armoury without having an additional one to tempt the members of the corps. It would show excellent judgment on the part of the officers to do all in their power in opposition to the granting of a license to the place referred to.

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The company drills of the Victorias have been fairly well attended; the series is now closed. The challenge cup presented by Major Sims adds special interest to the regimental work this year; it is to be competed for annually, and held for the season by the company making the highest total number of points, which are to be allotted as follows:—

Attendance at Company and Battalion parades for drills ordered by the officers commanding, based on the percentage of the strength of the Company. Possible 100 points.

Attendance at parade at Annual Inspection. Two points for each officer, N. C. O. and man present.

Clothing and Accoutrements.....	30 points
Company Book and Interior Economy.....	30 "
Company Drill.....	100 "
Manual and Firing.....	40 "
Officers' Questions (2 each, value 3 points)....	18 "
N.-C. O. Questions (2 each, value 3 points)....	48 "

Attendance at Annual Company Target practice at Cote St. Luc Ranges. One point per officer, N. C. O. and man. Figure of merit at Annual Company Target practice, based on the strength of the Company.

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The annual meeting of the N.-C. officers of the Royal Scots was held in their Mess room on 3rd inst. The reports for last year were approved, and office-bearers for 1893-4 were elected. These were: President, Serg.-Major Niven; Vice-President, Colour-Sergt. Currie; Secretary-treasurer, Corporal Casey; Committee, Colour-Sergt. Bethune, Pipe-Sergt. Clarke and Corporal Irwin; Auditors, Pioneer-Sergt. Kelly and Corporal Harbeson. Votes of thanks were tendered to the retiring officers for their services, and to Color-Sergt. Currie, Corporals Irwin and Early for donations to the Mess.

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On the evening of the 20th inst., the new commanding officer of the Royal Scots, Lieut.-Col. J. A. L. Strathy, formally took command of the battalion. The muster was a fair one, and the battalion drill which occupied the first part of the evening was well done. At half past nine the regiment went for a short march-out and on their return to the Drill Shed, prior to dismissal, Lieut.-Col. Strathy drew their attention to the fact of this being the first parade of the corps since he had been gazetted to the command, and stated that for his part he intended being as good a commanding officer as he knew how, and that, knowing the regiment as he did, he could rely on their co-operation and prompt attention to duty. He then referred to the band, and said that as he had been promoted he had given up the position of president of the band committee, and that in future, for the purpose of discipline, the band and pipers would be in charge of the new band president, Major Ibbotson. In closing, he said that in future markers would sound at twenty minutes past eight, and that, if only ten men were on parade at eight thirty, drill would commence and continue for an hour and a quarter, as he believed good, sharp drill far better than a long drawn out one that was often needlessly fatiguing.

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The annual meeting of the Vics Rifle Association was held at the Armoury on the evening of 14th inst. Lieut.-Col. Starke presided and there was a fair attendance of members. The secretary's report was read and approved. Two important resolutions were then carried, one entering two teams for the League competitions and the other recommending that the P.Q.R.A. matches be held in June this year instead of in August as usual. It was also decided that the annual matches of the Association be held on 15th July and that both Snider and Martini rifles be used.

The following office-bearers for this year were then elected: Hon. President, Lieut.-Col. Starke; President, Major Busted; Vice-President, Capt. Meakins; Sec'y-treas., Lieut. Brown; Assistant sec'y, Sergt. Phillips; Team captains, Major Busted and Capt. Meakins; Committee, Staff-Sergt. McCrae, Sergts. Binmore and Lanigan, Corporals Davis and Warmington and Pte. McClatchie; auditor, Lieut. Wilson; executive officer, Major Sims. The delegates appointed to the D.R.A. and P.Q.R.A., were Lieut.-Col. Starke and Major Sims; delegates to the Montreal Amalgamated Rifle Association, Lieuts. Brown and Wilson, Sergt. Binmore.

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The presentation of the silver challenge cups given by Sir Donald A. Smith, K.C.M.G., to the most efficient city and rural corps of the Fifth Military District, took place in the Drill Hall on Saturday evening, 29th April, and was a brilliant affair. The 6th Fusiliers, and the 83rd "Joliette" battalion of infantry were the winners, and the former corps had a full-dress parade for the occasion. The galleries of the immense hall were crowded with spectators, while at the north end of the ground floor a platform was specially erected to accommodate the large and distinguished party of invited guests. This comprised, the generous doner of the trophies, Hon. Mrs. Herbert, Miss Cantlie, Mrs. Burland, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Massey, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Mattice, Col. Powell, Adjutant-General, Lieut.-Col. Macpherson, Mr. Sanford Fleming, Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D. A. G., Lieut.-Col. Stevenson, Mayor Desjardins, Lieut.-Cols. Henshaw, Bond, Gardner, Sinton, the officers of the various city corps, and many others. The platform and the walls near it were tastily