

Quebec.

Two of the city corps are now under their annual drill. The Eighth Royal Rifles and the Ninth Voltigeurs, the local rifle battalions, are drilling each two nights a week, and the greatest rivalry exists between the two corps, representing respectively the English and French speaking elements in our population. The Eighth, which a year or two ago was degenerating somewhat, is now again rapidly pulling up under Colonel White, with the infusion of much new blood into its rank and file. It is a thousand pities though that the members of the corps do not muster in larger numbers at the drills. The brass and reed band, under the able leadership of Bandmaster Hu'cheson, an old-timer at the business, has been making huge strides lately, it having recently secured the services of several good instrumentalists from other similar organizations. The drum and bugle band too has been re-organized, and is now on a good footing. The battalion should pass a first-class inspection this year.

The men of the Ninth Battalion are drilling with the greatest enthusiasm, and though it was at one time taken for granted almost that the Ninth was decidedly inferior to its sister corps, owing to the commands, etc., being given in a strange language unknown to many in its ranks, and from other causes, yet there is now much speculation as to which will come out ahead when the points for the annual inspection are given. The bands, etc., of this corps are like those of the Eighth, in excellent condition. The weekly drills of both battalions are largely attended, as much by the admiring best girls, sisters, cousins and aunts of the gallant soldier boys, as by their more critical relatives of the sterner sex, who delight as a rule to pass favorable or adverse comments on this man's appearance or that company's drill, as the case may be, and all with the most serene self-confidence and complacency on the part of the critics, who probably know little and think less of what they are talking about. During the quarter of an hour's intermission the bands discourse sweet music and put the young men and their best girls in the galleries above in their most sentimental mood. The first part of the evening is usually taken up with company drill and the last with battalion movements. The courses of instruction given during the winter have resulted in considerable improvement among those of the noncommissioned officers and men who were wise enough to attend them.

The men of "B" Battery and of Nos. 1 and 2 companies of Royal Canadian Artillery paraded at the 11 o'clock service at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity (Anglican) on Easter Sunday, and a better parade or a more soldierly lot of men it would be an extremely difficult matter to find anywhere. On the return march after service the band of the R. C. A., probably the best in the Dominion, played a medley of tunes of the beautiful Easter hymns found in "Hymns Ancient and Modern." Everyone along the time of march was struck by the artistic manner in which these were rendered under the magic baton of the talented bandmaster and composer, Mr. Jos. Vezina.

By the way while glancing over a file of the *Quebec Morning Chronicle* I noticed in the issue of Oct. 21st 1893, a paragraph to the effect that a couple of detachments of the Royal Canadian Artillery had been down at the Island of Orleans a few days previously for gun practice with the 40 pounder breech loading Armstrong gun. Out of fifty shots fired at the 6 x 6 foot target at a distance of 2,100 yards almost a mile and a quarter, no less than twelve

were direct hits, and this only at a practice from which to judge the best marksmen! The paper adds "Our gunners think that they have broken the record." If they didn't fracture it, they cannot, at least, have been very far from doing so.

The Eighth Battalion of Royal Rifles was to have had a street parade on Good Friday, but as a blinding snow-storm was raging that day it was found advisable to postpone the event until Easter Monday. The march out accordingly took place on that day, but many of the men being obliged to work, and the weather being somewhat inclement for summer uniforms and wedges, which the orders called for, the muster was a rather small one. Still the men under command of Col. White, looked well and marched steadily, altogether acquitting themselves very creditably.

On the first Sunday after Easter, April 1st, the Eighth paraded to Chalmers' Presbyterian Church, when there was an excellent turn out of the men. Lieut. Col. G. Robt. White was in command and the battalion as it passed along the streets presented a remarkably fine appearance. The well balance band played the men to and from church. The streets were lined with the congregations of the different churches waiting to see the boys go by.

On Sunday, April 8th, the battalion paraded to St. Mathew's (Anglican) Church there being an excellent muster. The Pioneer Brass and Reed and Bugle Bands and the signal corps headed the regiment which presented a very creditable appearance. The service was a particularly bright and attractive one, and the Rev. Lennox W. Williams, rector, took advantage of the presence of so many men to preach a sermon on the moral effects and desirability of athletic proper. There was as usual, a large concourse of sight-seers on the streets.

A number of the rifle shots of the Eighth Royal Rifles have been down recently to the ranges at the Beauport Flats testing the shooting qualities of the Martini-Henry ammunition loaded with the rifle powder manufactured by the Smokeless Powder Company, of London, England. All express themselves as delighted with the accuracy of the powder as well as with the absence of smoke and the lessening of the recoil which is so trying a feature of the Martini-Henry rifle.

The Queen's Own Canadian Hussars are very much later than usual this year in beginning their annual drill. The first of the foot drills is not yet in sight and currency has recently been given to a rumor that the squadron will not drill at all this season. On dit that the whole trouble is caused by dissensions among the officers on the question of who is to fill the position of Colonel soon to be left vacant by the resignation of Lieut. Col. J. Bell Forsythe. Capt. and Adjutant Brown is said to have first claim to the position, but his appointment would, it is asserted give the greatest offence to some of the most prominent and active officers of the squadron. As a possible solution of the difficulty, it is suggested to offer the Colonelcy to Lieut. Col. Turnbull, who it is said, is about to resign from the position of commandant of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, Toronto, in order to return and take his residence at his fine property on St. Louis Road, Quebec. No arrangement could possibly be more agreeable and more beneficial than that just mentioned, if the gallant Colonel really intends to give up his command. At all events, it is earnestly to be hoped that something will be done shortly to put an end to the alleged trouble if such actually exists elsewhere than in the fertile imaginations of inventors of cock and bull stories. Col. Turnbull was commandant of the Q. O. C. H. some years ago when he resigned to take command of the Cavalry School which was then formed.

"E" Company 7th Royal Rifles fired their annual match on Saturday, March 31st. The day was a very bad one for the shooting. The wind was blowing a strong easterly gale, accompanied by a heavy snow-storm which rendered sighting almost impossible. The ranges were 100, 200, 300 and 400 yards; five shots at each, the possible at each range being 20. The following were the prize-winners in each class:—

1st Class	100	200	300	400	Total
Sgt. Hartley, \$4	15	17	14	14	60
S. Sgt. Dawfall, \$3	12	16	16	14	58
Sgt. Hay, \$2	11	10	17	18	56
Green—Private Hay, 1st, \$3; Private Edwards, 2nd, \$2; Private Casault, 3rd, \$1; Private McDonald, 4th, 50 cents.					

OUR SERVICE CONTEMPORARIES.

Admiral Norman Bedingfield died at Upper Norwood, at the age of 70. Entering the Navy in 1839, he saw a good deal of active service in the East, rendered important services in the suppression of the slave trade on the coast of Africa, and was in command of the *Jackal* and the *Pluto* between 1850 and 1854. He accompanied David Livingstone on the Zambesi expedition in 1858.

It has been decided that the battalions of Foot Guards to take part in this year's army manoeuvres near Aldershot, under the Duke of Connaught, shall be the first and 3rd Grenadiers, the 2nd Coldstream, and the 1st Scots Guards. The brigade will be encamped at Frensham.

The Duke of Cambridge made the most minute inquiry into the condition of Gibraltar as a garrison and a fortress, and there is reason to believe that the visit of His Royal Highness will lead to some useful results there and at home.

Colonel J. B. Richardson has taken up his command of the Royal Artillery at Gibraltar with the rank of Major-General. Vice Major-General G. J. Smart, C. B., who has assumed command of the Woolwich District, and Colonel R. MacG. Stewart, C. B., A. D. C., has succeeded Colonel Richardson at the School of Gunnery.

It is understood that the Channel Squadron will be considerably strengthened during the present year. Among the vessels that will in all probability be appointed to the Squadron are the *Revenge*, *Blenheim*, *Appollo*, *Andromache* and *Speedy*.

In the Boer campaign of 1880-81 there was much talk of the gallantry of a young warrant officer, Conductor of Supplies Ralph Egerton, Commissariat and Transport Department, who saved the colors of the 94th Regiment, after the disaster which overtook that regiment, by wrapping them around his body and carrying them, although wounded in the engagement at Bronkhorst Spruit, over forty-two miles in safety into Pretoria. As a reward Conductor Egerton, whose gallantry was