

REGIMENTAL.

The annual outing and dinner of No. 2 Co. of the Guards took place on Monday, the 5th inst. The company left the Ottawa drill hall, in 'busses, at 8 p.m. and proceeded to Mrs. Litchie's Hotel, Aylmer, where the table was spread in first-class style. After doing justice to the good things provided, the remainder of the evening was devoted to songs and speeches. Amongst the guests present were: Lt.-Col. J. P. Macpherson, Major Hodgins, Capt. Powell, Capt. Winter, Mr. E. A. D. Jones, Mr. L. H. Colman, Mr. Carter (Bandmaster), and several members of the band, whose presence and performances were greatly appreciated. Lt.-Col. Macpherson, in replying to the toast of "Our Guests," gave a brief but very interesting history of the Guards, alluding to No. 2 as the shooting company of the regiment, and showing how they had always borne a reputation for marksmanship. (Indeed the company has the record for this season, having captured no less than five first prizes at the D. R. A. meeting.) Songs were rendered by Major Hodgins, Messrs. Fairweather Bethune, Colman and Campbell. The boys returned to the city towards morning, having spend a very pleasant time. Amongst those invited but unable to attend were Lt.-Col. Todd and Sergt. Major Conroy.

TORONTO.

Following the custom so prevalent in the city now among the different regiments and clubs, the bugle band of the Queen's Own gave their first smoking concert last Saturday night, and with a result similar to all that attends on any affair gotten up by this crack little corps.

Bugle Major Swift occupied the chair, while the onerous duties of master of ceremonies were ably discharged by Bugle Corporal Ross. The attractions were numerous and all of a nature suitable to the occasion. Among others were the mandolin quartette, under Mr. G. Smedley, the bugle band orchestra, under Bugle Sergt. Woods, and the Columbia Minstrel, under Bugler A. B. Davis. The minstrel performance was very unique and of itself was sufficiently good to fill the whole of the time allotted for the concert. The remaining portion of the time was filled in by songs and recitations, chief of these being by Mr. H. Stevens and Mr. J. Winters. Refreshments were served during the evening, and the "witching hour of midnight" tolled all too soon for the delighted guests. Nothing keeps up the *esprit de corps* so much as these social gatherings, and all trust that many more will follow in the steps of the one of January 10th.

Q. O. R. SERGEANTS' MESS.

The annual meeting of the sergeants' mess was held in their mess rooms on Monday, the 12th inst., and when Quartermaster Sergt. Burns called the meeting to order about fifty members of the mess were present.

After the routine business was finished the retiring President, Col.-Sergt. W. G. Kennedy, presented his report, in which all the changes to the mess, entertainments during the season, etc., were dealt with, and in closing he paid a very touching tribute to the memory of our late Sergt.-Major S. C. McKell.

The Treasurer, A. M. Burns, read the most satisfactory report ever submitted to the mess, showing a surplus of assets amounting to about \$1,700 and dwelt with great satisfaction on the fact that not a cent of liabilities are standing against the mess.

Reports were also presented by the retiring Secretary, Col.-Sergt. H. M. George, showing the membership of the mess to be 74, and also by Sergt. Cauldwell, Superintendent of Refreshments. The election of officers for 1891 then proceeded by acclamation as follows:--President, Col.-Sergt. H. M. George; Vice-President, Col.-Sergt. J. G. McMaster;

Secretary, Sergt. J. G. Langton; Treasurer, Sergt. G. Bailey; Supt. of Refreshments, Sergt. T. Cauldwell; Room Committee, Sergts. Vicars, Berthon and Mingay.

In response to the very kind invitation from the sergeants' mess of the Princess of Wales Own Rifles of Kingston, Col.-Sergt. H. M. George was delegated to represent the mess of the sergeants of the Queen's Own.

Supper, tendered by the retiring board of management, was then discussed, and an exceedingly happy family whiled away the time into the wee sma' hours with speech and song. Patriotism was in the air, and every one joined in with a will to such chorusses as the "Union Jack of Old England," "Rule Britannia," and "Maple Leaf for Ever." Songs were rendered during the evening by Sergts. Crichton, Woods and Sanson. Staff-Sergts. Williams and Fletcher, and recitations by Staff-Sergt. Harp and Col. Sergt. Cooper. 'Twas long after Big Ben had tol ed the hour of 2 that Auld Lang Syne and the National Anthem brought the festivities to a close. To judge by the success of last Monday night the idea of a social reunion after every monthly meeting, meets with a warm response on all sides. They certainly help to make the bond of fellowship tighter, and make every one much better acquainted than if a crowd of out-iders were partaking of the festivities. I can't let this letter go without expressing the fact that high encomiums are heard on all sides on the new appearance of the GAZETTE.

"BREECH BLOCK."

THE MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE.

The Secretary is busy preparing the proposed programme for this year's matches and wishes any riflemen who may have suggestions to make to kindly forward same to him to Box 542, Toronto.

The Executive for Ontario, together with several leading local riflemen, will meet at the office of Capt. Bruce, Adelaide street East, Toronto, on Tuesday evening, 20th inst., for the purpose of considering the programme.

AN OLD COUNTRY CUSTOM.

Last Christmas morning, the excellent band of the New Brunswick Brigade Garrison Artillery, some twenty-five in number, broke the stillness of the dawn of day at St. John by playing Christmas carols in front of the residence of Lieut.-Colonel Armstrong, commanding the Brigade. The members of the band committee were treated in a similar manner, and after this, Colonel Blaine, the officer commanding the 62nd Fusiliers, was waked from his slumbers by like strains. The music sounded sweetly on the frosty air, and residents in the neighbourhood of the various localities visited thought it a delightful way of ushering in the happy morn.

DE PEN OR DE SWORD.

A Georgia colored lycum discussed the question, "Which is de mos' powerful, de pen or de sword, de newspaper or de gan?" The debate was closed by a disputant who spoke as follows:

"Mr. President: 'Spose dar was a bar at de do', an' you was to go dar and shake de newspaper at him, you'd see what de bar would do. But jes' shoot a cannon at him and see what comes. I call for de question."

The President forthwith decided in favor of the gun.

STRAY SHOTS.

"A soldier of a cavalry regiment was brought up for stealing his comrade's liquor ration. He was an Irishman, and his defence was unique:

"I'd be sorry in lade, sur, to be called a thafe! I put the liquor in the same bottle, and mine was at the bottom; and sure, I was obliged to drink his to get at me own."

"Major, I see two cocktails carried to your room every m'raing as if you had some one to drink with."

"Yes, sir; one cocktail makes me feel like another man, and, of course, I'm bound to treat the other man."