

by court martial and received 56 days' cells, 14 of which was remitted.

A busy time they are having of it just now at the barracks here. No. 1 is Co. nearly full strength, while the number of attached officers. N. C. O.'s and men reach 45. Between the new drill and the attached things are kept going along lively.

It is rumoured that Major Bentic, of the 7th Batt., does not desire promotion to the command of the regiment. The officer mentioned as likely to succeed Lt. Col. Payne is Major A. M. Smith, formerly connected with the 7th, and a very popular officer. His appointment would be received with general favour among members of the battalion and the citizens generally.

BERLIN.

The annual regimental meeting of the 29th Batt. was held last evening in the Walper House. There were present the following officers: Lieut. Col. Cowan, Major Cooper, Capt. Kerr, Capt. Bowman, Capt. McCallum, Lieut. Futher, Lieut. Martin, Lieut. Bowman, Lieut. Osborn, Sgts. Breechbill, Keffer and Hall.

The minutes of the last regimental meeting were then read.

Moved by Capt. Kerr, seconded by Capt. McCallum, that the minutes be adopted as read. Carried.

The financial statement for 1893 was then read.

Moved by Capt. McCallum, seconded by Capt. Bowman, that the financial statement be adopted. Carried.

Moved by Capt. Kerr, seconded by Capt. McCallum, that Captains Bowman and Ellis and Lt. Osborn compose the Regimental Committee. Carried.

Moved by Capt. Bowman, seconded by Major Cooper, that Capt. McCallum, Honorary Major Cranston and Lt. Limpert compose the Band Committee. Carried.

Moved by Capt. McCallum, seconded by Lt. Osborn, that Major Cooper, Q.M. Simpson, Capt. Kerr, Lieuts. Bowman, Fox, Martin, Goodhall, Hampton and Futher compose the Mess Committee. Carried.

Moved by Lt. Bowman, seconded by Lt. Martin, that Lts. Osborn and Limpert and Captains McCallum, Kerr and Bowman compose the Rifle Committee. Carried.

Arrangements were made to purchase balance of helmets, also to get plates, spikes and chain straps for helmets.

The battalion go to camp at London in June.

The meeting adjourned at 10.30 o'clock p. m.—Record, Feb. 13th.

NAVAL AND MILITARY NEWS

It is, says the Volunteer Service Magazine, just about twelve months since the long service decoration was bestowed on some of our volunteer officers, and now it is expected that the Royal warrant announcing the grant of a similar decoration to non-commissioned officers and men of twenty years service and upwards will shortly be issued. The estimated number of recipients is about

10,000. There are some 2,500 men in the volunteer force who wear six stars, signifying upwards of thirty years' service, while the number who have served twenty years and upwards exceeds 7,000; but as the decoration is to be conferred alike upon past and present members of the force, the total number of recipients may be expected to reach 10,000.

Attention has recently been drawn to an invention by Capt. John Ewart, R.A., late adjutant of the 1st Banffshire Artillery Volunteers, who has just perfected what he calls an "improved means for using miniature cartridges for rifle practice." The real object of the invention is to provide for regulation target practice being carried out in the least possible space, as well as at little expenditure. The Morris Tube idea is, in this case entirely left out, and much consequent trouble avoided. Capt. Ewart's contrivance is much more simple, and from this very fact it is hoped, will prove more serviceable. It is simply this. A strong metal cylinder, or "carrier," is provided of exactly the same size as an ordinary cartridge, and therefore fitting correctly into the bore of the rifle. This cylinder again has provision formed in it, or attached to it, for a miniature cartridge to the front end of which an ordinary full-sized bullet is secured, the whole representing an ordinary cartridge. The extreme simplicity of the design will commend itself to all rifle-men, as, in effect it is very much like using an ordinary cartridge. Moreover there is no tube, and the bullet is full-sized, so that the later fits the grooves of the rifle in the ordinary way, thus obviating all danger of "blocking up."

The Revenge, having now completed her trials, is to be brought forward for commissioning, and will, as already reported, hoist the pennant of Captain W. H. May in April to relieve the Rodney. This latter ship will then go to the Mediterranean to relieve the Dreadnought. When this change has taken place the Channel Squadron will consist of four high freeboard battleships, the Royal Sovereign, Empress of India, Resolution and Revenge, while all the low freeboard "Admirals," with the exception of the Benbow, will then be up the Straits. The Mediterranean Squadron will therefore comprise ten battleships, the Hood and Ramillies, the Nile and Trafalgar, the Sans Pareil, and the five "Admirals." Two of the Royal Sovereign class, the Royal Oak and Repulse, will still be in reserve. It is probable that in the Channel the Immortality and Narcissus will be relieved by the Gibraltar and Grafton, while the Mediterranean cruisers will be the Edgar and Hawke, Aolus and Spartan, Arctusa and Amphion, and in the smaller classes Barham, Fearless, Scout, Surprise, Gleaner and Skipjack. The fighting strength of the two squadrons as they were ten years ago, will therefore be: Mediterranean, 1884, 6 battleships, 2 cruisers; 1894, 10 battleships, 12 cruisers. Channel, 1884, 6 battleships, no cruisers; 1894, 4 battleships, 4 cruisers.

The Duke of Westminster has expressed himself very much in favour of a volunteer reserve in England. In distributing the prizes to a North of England corps the Duke strongly advocated the utilization of the services of those men who have left the force, but who would, on an emergency, be able and willing to again bear arms in the defence of their country. This movement, it will be recollected, was originated some months ago by that well-known West Riding officer, Lt. Col. Bingham, and the authorities have been strongly urged to permit a reserve to be formed. This, however, they will not do, because they doubt if a volunteer reserve would be of much practical utility.

An officer of H. M. S. Blake has written home as follows from Dominica: "We have visited Antigua, Nevis and Montserrat; Nevis was particularly interesting to me, as the church there contains the registrar of Nelson's marriage; the book itself is in very bad condition, and, if some means be not adopted to preserve it, will soon cease to exist. It ought to be kept in a glass case and not handled, as it would be a thousand pities to lose such an interesting relic. The house where the marriage took place is in ruins."

Some interest attaches to the question of the use of merchant vessels for war purposes. Not more than thirteen vessels at present receive from the Government an annual subvention: They are the Imperial, Campania, Lucania, Majestic, Teutonic, Etruria, Umbria, Aurania, and the P. and O. Victoria, Himalaya, Australia, Arcadia, Oceana, & Britannia; many of the others belonging to the same or other owners, being only held at the disposal of the Admiralty, as vessels which have complied with the desired conditions of sub-division by transverse bulkheads.

Advices have been received at Halifax to the effect that serious trouble, almost amounting to a mutiny, has manifested itself on board Her Majesty's ship Canada, since the vessel was re-commissioned. The Canada is now in the West Indies, and the matter has been kept as quiet as possible. Admiral Sir John Hopkins visited every vessel in the squadron on Christmas day, and was received in the most hearty manner on board all of them, with the single exception of the vessel mentioned. That ship displayed no decorations, nor anything to indicate the advent of the festive season. On each mess table was a tin of water and a plate of ship's biscuits. The admiral was received in absolute silence by the men, and he could obtain no answer to his questions. On Boxing day the Royal Naval sports took place, but no member of the crew of the Canada entered for the contests. It is reported here that the admiral has asked the Admiralty Board to order the Canada home.

The Duke of Connaught has fixed March 14th for a field day in the neighbourhood of Aldershot, in which the Public Schools Volunteers, to the number of 500 of all ranks, will take part, assisted by regular troops from the camp.

With the view of instructing cavalry men to swim their horses across rivers, a large lake is to be constructed at Aldershot and the expenses will be included in this year's estimates.

Pending the appointment of a brigadier, Col. C. Bromhead, C.B., commanding the 24th Regimental District, has assumed temporary command of the South Wales Volunteer Brigade.

Some of the men of the Cameronians, now quartered at Portsmouth, have recently been giving trouble to the civil and military police, and Lt. Gen. Davis has threatened to send the regiment to Portsdown Hill forts unless an improvement takes place. They have also been informed that should this step be found necessary the neighboring villages of Cosham and Porchester will be placed out of bounds. The regiment is chiefly composed of very young recruits, and the Cameronians are anything but popular at Portsmouth just now.

Breech-loading rifles were invented in 1811, but did not come into general use for many years. It is estimated that over 12,000,000 are now in actual service in the European armies, while 3,000,000 are reserved in the arsenals for emergencies.