

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

HAMILTON.

At the conclusion of the parade of the Thirteenth on 24th March, Major McLaren, who was in command, got both half-battalions to give an exhibition of the special work being undertaken for the military entertainment. The preparation of the physical drill, with arms, was assigned to the left half battalion, and that of bayonet exercise, in review order, to the right half. The physical drill was first performed to the music of the regimental band, and the four practices of that exercise were done in a most creditable manner, the time in the swinging, except in a few instances, being kept perfectly. This is a very pretty exercise, and when all the practices were completed the spectators applauded loudly. The bayonet exercise, however, was not so well executed, there being a great lack of precision in the delivery of the points by many, and by other members a total ignorance of the exercise.

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The officers of the 13th Batt. are having a large group photo taken at Cochran's studio. It will contain thirty one figures and will be forty inches by sixty in size. The officers will be photographed separately and then grouped, the background being the interior of the mess-room in the Drill Hall.

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During the course of a very pleasant entertainment held on 27th March, under the auspices of Court Lindley, Canadian Order of Foresters, were given well-executed sword and bayonet exercises by Color-Sergeants Skedden, Halford and Parkhill, Sergeants Garson, Smith, Coddington, McNeilly, Hopkins, Woodcroft and Hill, of the Thirteenth Battalion. These gentlemen also sang "The Boys of the Old Brigade," Sergeant Skedden taking the solo. Mrs. C. Harris Stickle rendered two songs, "Raise the Flag" and "My Own Canadian Home," in charming style. Sergt. Skedden sang two capital selections from Kipling's Barrack-room Ballads—"On the Road to Mandalay" and "The British Soldier." The entertainment concluded with a song by Sergt.-Major Huggins, of the 13th, entitled "Canada the Gem of the Ocean."

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The tug of war between the officers and sergeants of the Thirteenth after the parade on 24th ult. caused a lot of excitement. The sergeants appeared to have the most supporters in the crowd and they were loudly cheered as the team came forward. The personnel of the teams was:

Officers: Major Stoneman (anchor), Major Stuart, Capts. Tidswell, Osborne, Lieuts. Powis, Robertson, Herring and King.

Sergeants—Sergts. Bismark, Marris, Harvey, Johnston, Woodcroft, Kidner, Coddington, Garson.

Major McLaren acted as referee, and on the word being given the crowd began to yell wildly, and the backers of either side ran up and down the line encouraging their teams. But the officers were too much for the non-coms., and slowly but surely pulled them over in thirty seconds. The second pull was much stiffer, and lasted 2.35. Major Stoneman, the officer's anchor, who seemed to be pulling like a harbor tug, lost his foothold, and though he threw his weight on the line and "hung to the grass," the officers were pulled across the rubicon amid wild cheering. On the third pull the officers pulled the sergeants across after a plucky struggle that lasted forty-five seconds.

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The beautiful silver cup presented by Mr. W. H. Gillard for competition among the junior shots in Major Stoneman's company is on exhibition in Campbell's window on James street. The design is very neat, and the cup will make a handsome challenge trophy.

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Major Stoneman is preparing a new and very effective musical setting for his recitation of the Charge of the Light Brigade, but it will not be ready in time for the tournament, though he may give it when the Forty-Eighth are here. The piece will open with the bugle calls, followed by the trumpets sounding the "trot," "gallop," and "charge." Then, while the drums keep up a muffled roll, the major will commence

the recitation, and all who have heard him will appreciate how his fine voice will ring out. When the lines are reached

Cannons to right of them, cannons to left of them,
Cannons in front of them, volleyed and thundered,

drumbeats in imitation of distant firing will be heard in the directions indicated. Finally the trumpets will be heard sounding the Retire, and the piece will end with a burst of patriotic music. It should be exceedingly effective if well carried out.

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The *Spectator* is agitating for a large parade to be held in Hamilton on Her Majesty's birthday. The 48th Highlanders have definitely arranged to be there, and it is hinted that the Queen's Own and Grenadiers in going farther may fare much worse than they would if they took the short and comfortable jaunt to Toronto's sister city. There is no doubt but that their reception would be a most hearty one.

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At the parade of the Thirteenth on the 28th ult., no spectators were allowed to be present, and a large number of ladies who had come down to see their scarlet-coated friends at work had to forego that pleasure and turn their disappointed steps homeward.

After parade the semi-final tug of war contest between the officers and "A" Company resulted in a victory for the latter in three straight pulls. The teams were as follows: "A" Co.—Ptes. L. McKenzie (anchor), Colin Macnab, Harry Ellis, Alex. Wood, Frank Wood, Geo. Davis, H. Barker and Sergt. Coddington. Officers—Surgeon Griffin (anchor); Capt. Osborne, Lieut. Powis, Lieut. King, Capt. Mewburn, Lieut. Robertson, Lieut. Logie and Capt. Tidswell. Sergt.-Major Huggins was the referee.

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An examination of candidates for non commissioned officers' rank is to be held on Thursday evening, 20th April. The battalion is under orders to parade on Friday evening, 21st April, and every succeeding Friday until further orders.

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Among the orders issued to the Hamilton Field Battery on 30th ult. by Major Van Wagner is one which requires each officer to take to camp with him a copy of "Field Artillery Drill," volumes I., II., and III., 1889, and "Regulations and Orders for the Militia," 1887. The Battery goes into camp at Niagara on 13th June.

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Suckling & Sons have published J. E. P. Aldous' setting of the Thirteenth's regimental song, "In Days of Yore," the words of which were written by the late Capt. J. B. Young. Mr. Aldous' composition is vigorous and spirited. The melody is admirably suited to the words, and while not at all conventional is one that is easily picked up and remembered. It is sure to become popular with the boys of the Thirteenth.

The Sucklings have given the song a neat dressing. On the cover is the maple leaf in green and gilt, with the numerals XIII. on the face and regimental motto on a scroll underneath. Application was made for leave to dedicate the song to the Thirteenth Battalion, but as Col. Gibson did not vouchsafe any reply to the application it is announced on the cover that the song is "dedicated without permission to the XIII. Battalion."—*Spectator*.

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The military tournament which took place at the armoury of the Thirteenth battalion on the nights of the 5th and 6th insts., was an unqualified success from every point of view. The armoury, especially the roof, had been partially decorated by the managers of the St. George's society entertainment, and that added greatly to the effect of the decorations. The reserved seats were arranged to form a square in the centre of the hall, and the several galleries were crowded. The attendance was fully 1,000, and the spectators were liberal with their applause, and evidently appreciated the efforts of the soldier boys heartily. The programme included sixteen events. After the opening overture by the Thirteenth band, a very warlike-looking little bugler sounded a call, and eight sergeants of the regiment, under the command of Sergeant-Major Huggins, marched out and gave an exhibition of sword swinging, the men swinging their short sabre-bayonets to music as if they were clubs. The precision with which this was done called forth loud applause.