

so freely expressed at the D. R. A. this year as well as the experience of many with the obsolete Snider, the time seems fast approaching when the Snider aggregate will be a thing of the past, and our representatives at Bisley will go there better versed and with more acquaintance with the Martini than (owing to the different regulations requiring the competitions conducted with both rifles) they have had in the past.

After what seemed to be an unendless time the walls of the new Drill Hall are making their appearance and rapid progress has been made for the past few months. The contractor is sanguine of having the roof on by the fall of 1893 and if ever a fervent hope existed in the bosoms of the volunteers, that hope is that the shed will be habitable before another winter makes its appearance.

Considerable discussion has been going on in the military columns of the *Empire* over the formation of a Bicycle Corps in the city, but as such permission has been refused it is altogether probable that sections will be formed and attached to the different regiments after the manner in which they were utilised, or intended to be, but for the postponement of the sham fight on Thanksgiving day by the Queen's Own Rifles. They have had a couple of parades this last season and it is altogether likely that by the spring they will be placed on a permanent basis and added to the strength of the regiment. The chief interest this fall has been centred in the Gzowski competition between the city regiments of this district, and in the main it has had beneficial results. So far the verdict is not known, but to judge from the *Mail* correspondent of Hamilton it seems to be a foregone conclusion that all is over except the shouting, and that the 13th Battalion are the winners. A critical examination has been given each company. Officers have been called on for detail and subalterns and sergeants have been exercised in pushing their companies through the manual and firing exercises, besides this questions were asked of each of the officers. Restricted to this, and the decision given to the most efficient regiment, no doubt the competition would have accomplished the object of the donor; but if, on the other hand the conditions of armouries and the amount of burnishing which the brasswork on rifles and bayonets possesses decide which is the most efficient regiment, then the competition cannot promote that efficiency to which a regiment should aspire; nor can it result in anything else but a sacrifice of drill and all matters which go to fit a regiment for service and the encouragement of such things as bringing down two or three buffing machines and half a hundred mechanics to work on the brasswork of rifles and sidearms, which when completed were placed in the different armouries with one idea, that of making the best possible display.

Surely no competition was ever started with such object in view, and while it is no person's business as to the amount of money such work must have cost, it seems a pity that it could not have been spent in a way that would prove more beneficial to a regiment.

BREECH-BLOCK.

Christmas Day was quietly and decorously observed at New Fort Barracks. A church parade of No. 2 Company, C.R.I., was held on Christmas morning, the men, headed by the band, marching to St. John's church, Stewart street, where the service was conducted by Rev. Mr. Williams. On Monday the Christmas dinner was enjoyed, and Lieut.-Col. Otter and officers of the company visited the men at their mess room. A brief address was delivered by Col. Otter. On behalf of the company a deputation, consisting of Sergt. Holmes, Sergt. Butcher, and Corp. Campbell, called at the officers' quarters to tender the compliments of the season.

On 31st December there passed away in this city John Bailey, late private in the 13th Hussars. It will be remembered by those who are interested in military matters that the 13th was part of the "noble six hundred" who earned deathless glory during the Crimean war. The deceased, who was just out of hospital, was put on outlying picket that day, and was an eye-witness of the charge and believed that every man was killed. He and his wife were through the whole of the campaign, sleeping in tents, caves, or anywhere they could find to lay their heads. Mr. Bailey was twelve

years in the service. His discharge was given by Lieut.-Col. Tremayne, and marked "very good." He had two medals with one clasp for Sebastopol.

Referring to the rumoured expulsion of Capt. Greville-Harston from the membership of the Canadian Military Institute, the following letter from that gentleman appeared in a recent issue of the *Toronto World* :—

Editor World,—It is not correct that the committee have expelled me from the Canadian Institute. However, I am informed by the secretary that I am suspended without reason, excepting the insinuations that letters in *Empire* on Nov. 12 and 26, attributed to me, were construed as personal by some of the members, and therefore objectionable to some of the members. In everything I have done my intentions have been to further the interests of an institution which should be beneficial to the militia of the Dominion. And I am quite satisfied that unless what was wilfully misconstrued or having some ulterior object in view such letters could not be read in any other light, as I am quite satisfied the result of any inquiries that may be made will redound to my credit, and I hope will enable me to discover the busy bodies who have for some time been interesting themselves at my disadvantage.

So long as I have the sympathy of my colonel and brother officers and such men as Colonels Grasett, Denison, John I. Davidson, Majors Hay, Mayne, and most of the prominent officers living outside and in Toronto, I can await the result with calmness, and their opinion ought to be valued by the public, both military and civil.

C GREVILLE HARSTON.

Capt. R. G.

MANITOBA.

Lieuts. Hosmer and the Hon. Elphinstone of the Virden Troop of Cavalry are taking a course of cavalry at the barracks, Winnipeg.

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The prizes won by "B" Troop, Regiment Canadian Dragoons, at their annual sports last October, were presented by His Honour Lieut.-Governor Shultz on the 16th inst. After presenting the prizes, which were numerous and of a varied character, His Honour addressing the men, complimented them on the skill shown by every competitor; the great improvement on the previous year and above all on the admirable conduct of the men when visiting town, which the people of Winnipeg greatly appreciated. His Honour also remarked on the superior class of recruits now enlisting and believes that the future would still further bring credit to the men and gain the appreciation of the people of Winnipeg. Lieut.-Governor Schultz presented his cup, to be known as "The Schultz Trophy," to the successful winner in the "Victoria Cross Competition," Sergt. Skinner, which trophy is to be competed for annually. Sergt.-Instructor Hobkirk won the "officers cup" for the highest number of points in the mounted events.

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The new buildings at Fort Osborne are a credit to the country, and many military men have expressed their opinion that they are by long odds the finest barrack buildings in Canada.

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The Dragoons and Winnipegs play their first championship match of the year on Saturday the 24th inst. Both teams are very strong this year and a good game is expected.

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The drill shed at Winnipeg is rather deserted now at nights as most of the city corps have given up the evening drills for the next three months.

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Two more companies are to be added to the 90th Rifles, which will make that battalion eight companies strong.

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Lieut.-Col. Villiers, D. A. G., was present at the presentation of prizes at the cavalry barracks on the 16th inst.

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The new issue of uniform, of the Dragoon pattern, has been made to "B" Troop, Regiment Canadian Dragoons.