

In a militia way, all the units seem to be doing fairly well in Montreal. The artillery, who were particularly backward in the first year after the war, are now steadily gaining strength. Billy Dodds is C.R.A., while Ned Cape commands one brigade and Alec Patterson another. A couple of weeks ago Creelman gave a little dinner to the surviving officers of those who accompanied the 2nd Artillery Brigade to France in February 1915. I think out of a possible attendance of seventeen, thirteen were present. We had a joyful time and while it may be true that the public are tired of hearing anything concerning the war, we talked of nothing else and everyone seemed happy about it.

A few weeks ago I went out to Westmount, which is a city within Montreal, where Basil Price commands the Royal Montreal Regiment. His unit is small but it is one of the best turned-out militia units I have ever seen. I think all his officers served overseas. He has been greatly handicapped in having no regular drill hall, but recently the Government made a proposition to pay a certain rental if a hall were erected. My business was to encourage the people of Westmount to grant the necessary land. We had a fine meeting of some 400 or 500 citizens, and a motion to put the necessary by-law before the people carried unanimously. It was a rather remarkable meeting, in as much as it is the first meeting I know of since the war where the public turned out to shew their interest in a militia project.

The Highlanders, the Guards and the Victoria Rifles are all doing very well. The Machine Gunners are having rather a hard time, but are pegging away. At the University we have a moderate-sized Officers' Training Corps, commanded by a most enthusiastic member of our staff