

A circular was read to the officers from the Canadian Military Rifle League requesting the battalion to join and enter a team to take part in the matches. The matter was approved by the officers, but as the annual meeting of the D. R. R. A. was to take place on Tuesday, the 21st inst., it was thought best to defer action on the matter until the opinion of the Association was received.

THE SEVENTY THIRD BATTALION BAND.

The Band of the 73rd Batt. was entertained by Lt. Col. McCulley, the officer commanding, at a dinner on New Year's eve. The spread was given at the Lorne House and was gotten up in the good style which is customary at that long established hotel.

After full justice had been done to the various courses and the Bandsmen were engaged on the cigars and light refreshments the Colonel made his appearance accompanied by Lieuts. Mackenzie and Snowball and Adj. Templeton. A few toasts were then in order, and after the usual loyal sentiments were duly honoured, Bandmaster Kaine rose and proposed the health of Lt. Col. McCulley, which was received in the usual way and drunk with all the honours. In responding to the toast, the Colonel referred to the pleasure it gave him to see them enjoying the feast of good things, and observed that it appeared only justice to give a little enjoyment to those who contributed so largely to the pleasure of others; referred to the progress the Band was making; and said that a great deal was due to the exertions of Lieut. Mackenzie who took such a lively interest in the Band. He wished them all a very Happy New Year.

The health of Lieut. Mackenzie was then proposed and received with a great enthusiasm. Mr. Mackenzie in reply said it afforded him a great deal of satisfaction to be present at this social gathering, and that it was a labour of love to advance their interests in every way possible, referred to the marked improvement in the performances of the Band, and hoped that a discerning public would accord a fair patronage to the Band when they launched the concert programme. Lieut. Snowball was then honoured by having his health drunk, and responded in his usual happy, bright and intelligent way. Adj. Templeton was also remembered and gave the company one of his favourite songs, which was well received.

Bandmaster Kaine was presented by the members of the Band with a handsome meerschaum pipe. The presentation took him completely by surprise and he responded in a very feeling manner.

This Band is a credit to the 73rd Batt. and from the progress already made under Mr. Kaine's instruction bids fair to become one of the first musical associations in the Province. We bespeak good patronage from the public both in the way of engagements and in attendance at the concerts which are now being prepared. It is the intention of the Band Committee to have playing on the square during the coming spring and summer, and to that end we would urge the building of a band stand as soon as practicable.—*Chatham World*.

THE VICTORIA RIFLES.

The Vic's paraded at their armoury in the Montreal drill hall on Monday evening, 20th January, for company drill.

There was a fair muster, considering the weather, and had all the companies been provided with fur wedges there would probably have been a much larger parade.

A steady drill followed amid the choking clouds of dust from the cinder floor of the hall, and the battalion was dismissed until the 3rd February.

Major Radiger was in command of the battalion in the absence of Col. Henshaw, who is travelling in Europe at present.

Sergeant Goodfellow, late of B Company, I.S.C., St. John's, has joined the Vic's, and has been appointed sergeant drill instructor. He has entered upon his duties already, having taken charge of the n.c.o. class of 1889-90, and is making great progress with the candidates for stripes.

OVERHEARD.—A corporal was overheard to say to a private during a "stand easy": "This dust reminds me of our church parade in Toronto." "Yes," said the private, "I was not there, but I heard of it."

Hamilton.

The long talked of military ball given by the non-commissioned officers and men of the 13th Battalion has come and is over, and the unanimous verdict is that it was a grand success in every way. Between 400 and 500 people were present, but there should have been about 1,000 to make it a thorough financial success. However, better luck next time. The hall looked like a fairy scene, with the hundreds of flags, the various uniforms and the pretty dresses of the ladies. The four guns kindly lent by the Hamilton Field Battery were placed at the four corners of the dancing platform, muzzles to the centre. At each post there was a pile of rifles with fixed bayonets, and at different places in the hall bayonet stars reflected the brilliant light of the electric lamps placed there

for the occasion. Dancing commenced at 9.30, the music being supplied by the splendid band of the regiment, under the able leadership of Bandmaster Robinson. The following took part in the first set of Lancers:

Major Moore and Miss B. Moore,	Captain Stuart and Miss Mercer,
Mr. F. E. Kilvert and Mrs. Billings,	Mr. H. A. Mackelcan and Miss Walker,
Mr. J. D. Lansby and Mrs. Oliver,	Mr. H. Zealand and Miss Billings,
Lieut. Tidswell and Mrs. Tidswell,	Mr. Smart and Miss Mabel Young.

The programme consisted of twenty-six dances, and it was a very early hour on Saturday morning before it was finished. The supper, which was served at one end of the main hall—tastefully screened off with a hedge of evergreens,—commenced at about 11:30, and was entirely satisfactory. All the armouries were opened, and they made remarkably good sitting out rooms. The members took great pride in showing the armouries to their friends, and well they might, for it is entirely owing to their own exertions and money that they are in the condition they are now. There are, of course, two or three that might lay claim to being called the show armouries, but it is unnecessary to particularize; suffice it to say that they are all a source of credit to themselves and to the battalion. The ball was very enjoyable, and the floor was large enough to afford the most perfect facilities for waltzing.

The 13th officers present were: Major Moore, Major Barnard, Major Mason, Capt. Stoneman, Stuart, Moore, Zealand and Mewburn, Lieuts. Tidswell, Bowman, Domville, Osborne and Witton; 2nd Lieuts. Labatt, Fearman, Bruce, Powis, Laidlaw and Hobson.

The stewards were: Lieuts. Tidswell, Witton, Fearman, Laidlaw and Bruce; Corporals Cleaves, Richmond and Henderson; Privates Kidner, Dixon and Low; the president was Sgt.-Major Athawes; the treasurer was Sergeant Bismarck; and the secretary was Corporal Henderson.

Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. J. M. Gibson, Q. C., M. P. P., was unable to be present, through illness, but is about again now.

Lieut.-Colonel Villiers, D. A. G., was to have been present, but at the last moment was unable to attend.

Lieut. A. B. Rastrick's (37th) many friends were glad to see him. He is a Hamiltonian, and makes a smart looking soldier.

Corporal Henderson, the secretary, was the hardest worked man of the whole battalion, and he deserves a great deal of credit for his exertions.

The object of the ball was to do away with company suppers and bring the whole regiment together. The boys did not take it up as they might have done, but it was not so bad for the first one.

Lieut. Domville says gold stripes are a great improvement, don't you know.

The genial face of the veteran rifle shot and musketry instructor, Captain Adam, was missed from the merry throng, but, like a great many more, he was suffering from that fashionable complaint, la grippe.

The "I'll do all I can for you, boys" of Captain Reid was also not forthcoming. La grippe was to blame again.

Major Mason was on deck, and didn't he enjoy himself? He is a good man at a party.

The committees in charge were as follows: Music Committee—Sergts. Healey and Martin and Pte. Murray; Printing Committee—Corp. Cleaves, Sergt. Claringbowl, Ptes. Moore, Kidner, Povey, Overholt, Armstrong and Creen; Refreshment Committee—Sergt. Harvey, Ptes. Wray, Upstill, Kilgour, Bruce and Wood, Colour-Sergts. Blake and Skedden. Sergt.-Major Athawes was chairman of the executive.

Hasty Intrenchments.

In an excellent paper upon the subject of Hasty Intrenchments for Infantry, by Lieutenant W. A. Shunk, U.S.A., in a recent issue of the *Journal of Military Service Institution*, he says: "The importance of hasty intrenchments is now so universally recognised that every civilised nation provides its troops with intrenching tools. The Linneman spade, weighing one and one-half pounds, and carried in a pouch weighing one-half pound, is now adopted by most European nations and issued to Infantry soldiers as part of their equipment to be carried on the person. With it the soldier can obtain cover in ordinary soil in eight minutes, and can make a very good shelter trench in thirty minutes. But it is too small for rapidity in heavier work; a body of troops that could build an ordinary redoubt with the Linneman spade in three and three-quarters hours, could do the same work with the ordinary spade in two and one-half hours. For such cases spades and long-handled shovels are carried in the company's waggons; axes and picks, &c., are also provided. The Germans issue one Linneman spade to every four men, the Russians and Austrians twice as many. The number of large spades is in most cases equal to one-fourth of the number of small ones; picks and axes in sufficient numbers are provided also. All the above nations require their Cavalry to carry intrenching tools in their company waggons, and