

## GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

## Volunteer Officers ambitious to Head the Montreal Police.

Miscellaneous Notes gathered this week from Dominion and District Headquarters.

**S**EMPER PARATUS being their motto, it was as a matter of course that the officers of the Twenty-first battalion, Essex Fusiliers, turned up smiling, sharp at the time appointed for their annual business meeting, which was held at the British American Hotel, Windsor, Ont., on the 11th inst. Lieut.-Col. Wilkinson, who presided, opened the proceedings by a felicitous address, in which, while congratulating his officers on their past achievements, he urged them to follow on in the path of progress, striving always to maintain the Twenty-first in the honourable position it occupies. Reports received from the standing committees, showed that in further providing for the better equipment of the battalion and band over \$2,000 had been collected and disbursed during the year. As it is almost certain that the battalion will go to camp this year, the Colonel strongly urged the necessity of moving at once in the way of preparation. It is hoped that the company at Woodslee will be furnished with their uniforms, arms and accoutrements in time to enable them to go to camp with the other companies.

At the annual dinner, after the business meeting, Major Guillet presided, and there were present, besides the other officers and the band of the battalion, Mr. J. C. Patterson, M.P., Alexander Bartlet, P.M., Dr. R. Carney and several other invited guests. The chairman announced the first toast of the evening, "The Queen," which was responded to by the band playing "God Save the Queen." The next toast proposed was, The Army and Navy of Great Britain, and the Volunteers of Canada," and to this Col. Wilkinson responded, taking occasion as he concluded to compliment the band very highly. He was something of a musician himself, and was delighted with their music.

In calling on Mr. J. C. Patterson, M.P., to respond to the next toast, "The Senate and Dominion Parliament," Major Guillet thanked Mr. Patterson on behalf of the officers and men of the 21st for the great assistance he had lent them on many occasions. He had not used his sword, but had freely used his pen and pocket book—in times of peace mightier than the sword. Mr. Patterson returned thanks. He said Parliament was disposed to do all it could to assist and encourage the volunteers, though it was impossible to set aside the money some thought necessary. He hoped no necessity would arise for war, but if we desire to keep our position on this continent we must make progress. Anything he had done for the 21st had been more than repaid when he himself had seen the battalion in the field. He trusted it might be possible to raise a new company. He and Senator Casgrain were doing all in their power, and no effort had been wanting to urge upon the Minister of Militia the importance of having an additional company. He trusted the different municipalities would see fit to contribute toward the expense which will be incurred. The officers and men should not be asked to put their hands in their pockets for this. The expense should be paid by the towns.

Capt. C. C. Fox, adjutant of the battalion, responded to the toast, "The County and Town Council." "Our Friends," brought up Mr. Alexander Bartlet and Dr. Richard Carney. Then Major Guillet, on behalf of the officers, returned thanks to the band, and Col. Wilkinson returned thanks to the Windsor officers and all present for the entertainment, and at 8 o'clock, after "God Save the Queen" by the band and all present, the pleasant affair came to a close.

The contest for the position of Chief of the Montreal Police still excites interest. It is now said that it will probably narrow down before many days to the following participants: Major Hughes, Mr. McGowan, and the Quebec applicant, Mr. Heigham. However, the feeling seems to be increasing that no outsider need apply. Major Dugas, of the 65th, one of the police court justices, is reported to have told a press correspondent that Ald. Grenier, an all-powerful member of the Police Committee, had told the magistrate that the position was at his disposition if he thought fit to accept it. The Judge replied that if it were a position entirely free from the influences of the committee, which it certainly should be, he would consider the offer, but as this was impossible the matter might as well not be discussed. Several new applications from men with military have just been announced. These are from: Capt. Pouliot, of Ottawa, who has been employed in the Post Office Department at Ottawa for three years. He took part in the first Mounted Police expedition to the North-West in 1873; was captain of the Temiscouata volunteers for nine years; served in the fifth detachment of the Pontifical Zouaves, being present at the taking of Rome in 1870; and at Ottawa belonged for a time to the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards. Henry V. Gould, of Mohawk, Brant County, Ont., who served five years in the Mounted Police in the North-West and was in the late rebellion under Superintendent Steele. He was for some years a lieutenant of the 66th battalion, Halifax. George Forbes, of Montreal, who served five years in the Royal Irish Constabulary and eight years in the Montreal Garrison Artillery; Henry Goodwin, lieutenant on the retired list, having served for four years in the Montreal Engineers. He was a member of the Provisional battery, which went in 1870 to Red river, under the late Lieut.-Col. Osborne Smith. He served for ten years in the artillery and infantry volunteers in England. F. L. Remington, of Montreal, who served as captain in the English army in the Soudan, and afterwards was sent out by the Imperial government to take command of the Canadian contingent of voyageurs. Lieut.-Col. J. Barr, commandant of the 6th Regiment of Cavalry; Lieut.-Col. Vohe, chief of police of Quebec, and Capt. J. E. B. Normandeau, who has been a member of militia for 14 years and went to the rebellion in the North-West. He is now captain in the 83rd battalion.

The Militia Department has nearly completed the award of the contracts for the supplies required during the coming year by the Canadian militia and the permanent forces. The amount, approximately speaking, will probably exceed between eighty and one hundred thousand dollars. The articles required and the names of the successful tenderers are as follows: Artillery forage caps—James Coristine & Co., Montreal; nose bags, haversacks (white linen) pillow cases, pillow slips—S. & H. Borbridge, Ottawa; bed straps, great coat straps—James Nosworthy, Belleville; marquees, tents, haversacks (black linen)—National Manufacturing Co., Ottawa; mess tins—E. N. Chinic, Quebec; grey blankets—Joseph Hamel & Co., Quebec; iron bedsteads—W. A. Deek, Kingston; woollen mufflers—J. M. Garland, Ottawa; cotton sheets—J. C. McLaren & Co., Montreal; fur caps—G. R. Rensfrew & Co., Quebec; long

scrubbing brushes, mops with handles—Wm. Howe, Ottawa; carriage brushes, dandruff brushes, stable brooms—Thomas Bryan, London; accoutrements, black leather—Heney & Lacroix, Montreal; moose moccasins—Maurice Bastien and Philip Vincent, Indian Lorette.

For Quebec Citadel: Meat—D. & S. Real; bread—Jas. McCorkill; potatoes and groceries—Turcott & Prevost; forage—M. Brophy; straw for men—Jas. Calvir; fuel and wood—Lawrence & Brumer; coal oil—Boyce & Son.

"A" Battery, Kingston: Thos. Nicholson, W. Wiltshire, John S. Henderson, Jas. Mallor, Jas. Goudy and Thos. McConville, Jas. Swift, McKelvey & Barch, Edward Roddy, Mrs. C. Cameron.

Mounted Infantry Corps, Winnipeg: Wm. Bateman & Co., Cummings & Co., Goodridge Bros., Mulholland Bros., P. Gallagher and Margaret Buckley.

Col. H. E. Davidson, who has been selected for the command of the 19th (Imp.) Regimental district at Richmond, joined the 100th Foot as ensign on its formation in Canada in June, 1858, and served with that regiment for twenty years, being transferred as major to the 19th Foot in 1878. In the latter regiment he had command of the 2nd battalion from September, 1882, until the expiration of his appointment three months ago. Col. Davidson was born in Quebec, and educated there, at Hamilton, and at Upper Canada College. He has a large number of relatives in Canada, these being now resident in all parts—at Toronto, Belleville, Montreal, Ottawa and elsewhere.

In connection with the order recently issued from headquarters that all unissued war medals and clasps should be returned forthwith to the Department, it is stated that a large proportion of these rewards of merit still remain in the hands of the commanding officers. With the Winnipeg Field Battery, for instance, this is the case. Some of the men who went through the rebellion in that corps are in South America, others are in the McKenzie river district and Alaska, and others again are scattered throughout Europe. Volunteers who have not yet received the medals to which they are entitled should make application for them to the Militia Department, Ottawa.

The officers and ex-officers of the Halifax brigade have subscribed for gold and silver medals to encourage the volunteers in their duties. The competitions will be: (1) Bayonet vs. Bayonet—Open to all non-commissioned officers and privates of the city battalions. (2) Sword vs. Sword—Open to officers and non-commissioned officers of the city battalions. The competitions take place at the annual athletic exhibition on the 19th inst. at McKay's Hall of Health.

The annual meeting and dinner of the Royal Military College Ex-cadet Club will take place at the Russell House, Ottawa, on Saturday evening next, the 21st inst. As the membership of the club has largely increased during the past year a very successful meeting is looked for.

## Toronto.

**D**URING the week we have had the following distinguished military visitors in Toronto: Major-General J. R. Oliver, commandant R. M. C. of C., who has been staying with Capt. S. A. Denison; Capt. Douglas, R. N. R., of the Nordenfolt guns; Mr. E. Heward, of the Cavalry School of Quebec, and Mr. Platt, of the "Carabineers," who is enjoying a year's leave of absence from his regiment, which is in India.

Says the *Globe*: "Mr. George Robinson, bandmaster of the 13th battalion, Hamilton, has been engaged as bandmaster of the Massey Manufacturing Co's. band, the position having become vacant by the death of Dr. Hartmaun."

The following appeared last week as an advertisement in *The Empire*: "Wanted to enlist in 'C' Co., Royal School of Infantry, a man to fill the appointment of Bugle Major, becoming vacant on the 17th Feb., 1888; single man preferred; references required. Apply to the Adjutant, Royal School of Infantry, New Fort Barracks."

The annual meeting of the Queen's Own Sergeants' Mess took place at their Mess rooms on Monday evening the 9th inst. A large number of members were present. The annual reports show the affairs of the mess to be in a very prosperous condition. Col.-Sergt. McKell, who has been president for the past two years, retiring, his place was filled by the election of Staff-Sergt. Strachan by acclamation; Qr.-Master Sergt. Burns was elected vice-president; Sergt. T. K. Henderson, treasurer; Col.-Sergt. Levisconte, secretary; and Col.-Sergt. Dommelle, Bugle Major Swift, Sergt. Higginbotham and Sergt. Small, committee. After the meeting was over refreshments were served, and a pleasant social evening was spent.

At the annual meeting of I company of the Queen's Own Rifles on Tuesday the 10th inst., the following committees were elected: Rifle—Colour-Sergeant Kennedy, Corpl. Brown and Pte. Thompson; Clothing—Corpl. Myles, Ptes. Rogers and Evans; sec.-treasurer, Corpl. McHenry. Corpl. Myles, Ptes. Matthews, Lee and Cassels were elected a committee to arrange for the company's annual sleighing party, to be held on Friday, 13th inst. Capt. J. A. Murray, who presided, feelingly referred to the loss the company would sustain in the approaching departure of the indefatigable Pte. Cassels for British Columbia.

Ex-Sergeant W. H. Meredith, of "A" Company, Q.O.R., who died at his residence, 101 Adelaide street west, on Wednesday, 4th inst., was one of the oldest volunteers in Canada. He enlisted in the Queen's Own in March, 1863, and served during the troubles of 1866. He was an enthusiastic rifleman, and was much respected by his comrades in arms.—*Mail*.

## A DEFICIENCY IN CAVALRY.

Lord Wolseley in his "Soldier's Pocket Book" tells us that the proportion of cavalry to infantry is as one to six. If such be the truth, we have either too many infantry in Canada or too few cavalry. We have 32,282 foot soldiers, consequently we ought to have about 5,456 cavalrymen—or, as we have 1,987 cavalry, there ought to be not more than 12,040 infantrymen.

Infantry can be more cheaply equipped, more quickly made efficient and more easily kept up than the other arms. It is, also, less liable to lose efficiency than either cavalry or artillery. Cavalry, on the other hand, is expensive to equip and requires long training to become efficient, whilst artillery is of all arms the most expensive to equip and keep efficient, and the most difficult to train.

## THE DRILL INSTRUCTION MONEY.

Paragraph 390 gives directions as to the annual allowance for drill instruction money, and it seems to stand this way: The officer commanding a company of infantry receives \$40 per annum for instructing in drill—should his corps not be ordered to perform drill, he receives \$20. So far so good. In a rural corps, the commanding officer of a battalion of infantry of not less than four companies receives independent of the amounts paid to his captains, the sum of 25 per annum for each company, so that if an eight company battalion drills, it receives: