

The 62nd Battalion and its Commanders.

As will be seen from the militia appointments the 62nd Battalion is to be commanded by a new Colonel, and one who will probably occupy that position for some time. It will not be amiss here to give a short sketch of former commanders. Years ago, when the Volunteers of this City, consisting only of a few independent companies, were under the Provincial Militia Act, formed into a Battalion under the name of "The St. John Volunteer Battalion," Colonel R. W. Crooksbank was appointed to command them, but only held that rank for a short time, as on account of his business engagements he was obliged to retire, much to the regret of all who had the pleasure of serving under him. The command of the corps then devolved upon the late Col. Otty, who had taken a deep interest in volunteering for some time, and who took great pains to establish a thorough esprit du corps in his Battalion.

He was never tired of working for the welfare of his command and the officers under him, and when, under the Dominion Act he was appointed Brigade Major, he was followed by the best wishes of every officer and man who had served under him; but all were pleased when it was known his place was to be filled by Lt. Col. Charles R. Ray, who had always been a popular officer, and during the few years he held the chief command in the Battalion he won the esteem of everyone who knew him. When he retired, Lt. Col. Macshane vaulted into the Colonel's saddle and worked hard and effectually to keep up the good name of the Battalion. On his appointment as Brigade Major, Col. Sullivan took the command for which he was well fitted, having spent most of his life in the volunteer service. Col. Sullivan found it impossible, however, to do full justice to the Battalion and attend to his business besides, and consequently was forced to send in his resignation, a few weeks ago, which has been accepted. Col. Blain, the new commander of the 62nd, is an officer thoroughly qualified for the position he now holds, by an experience of nearly thirty years in the volunteer service, during which time he has held every rank, rising step by step. During the time he was Sergeant Major, the non-commissioned officers always looked to him for advice and assistance, and when he was appointed Adjutant, which office he held for some years, it was the same as regards the officers, all wishing to profit by his experience. Colonel Blain holds a first-class certificate from a volunteer board, and has the name of being well able to handle a Battalion as far as mere drill goes, and is thoroughly acquainted with all details of interior economy and routine work. We congratulate the Battalion on having such an efficient officer to command it, and Col. Blain on his new title, and hope he may long live to enjoy it.

Pesthe Lloyd, Count Andrassy's organ, published a warlike article yesterday, showing the necessity for Austria defending herself against Russian designs.

The Servian War Minister has ordered the purchase of 25,000 Chassepot rifles.

A Vienna despatch to the *Daily News* says the *Free Press* hears that Russia and the United States concluded a treaty last August by which the former cedes the Port of Oktotsk, in Siberia, and adjacent territory on the shore, in exchange for iron clads and the sum of 16,000,000 roubles, and that a Russian crew has already left for America.

The *Detroit Post* refers to the Canadian display at the Centennial as follows: "We cannot claim exclusive honor for the United States in this magnificent exhibition of the fruits of the earth. Our neighbours North of the great Falls and the great lakes actually led off in this friendly rivalry. Canada has commanded our respect and challenged our admiration in nearly all the departments of the great International Fair, and has not only done herself great credit, but has shown her respect for the United States in the efforts she has made to be 'counted in.' In fact, the Province of Ontario has in this rivalry of nations shown her full capacity for the position of independent existence as a state, nation or republic, and must have produced the impression on the minds of visitors that she is worthy of far more than Provincial honor. Notwithstanding her high Northern latitude, she is up to time with her display of fruits, and the forwardness of her products is a matter of surprise and astonishment to the visitors."

China.

San Francisco, Oct. 3.—Letter from China by yesterday's steamer says that the foreign interest now centres in Chefoo. The diplomatic representatives are all assembled there, and Li Hung Chung arrived on Aug. 18th to confer with Sir Thomas Wade respecting the final settlement of the long deferred questions. This visit of the Chinese functionary has been postponed as long as possible by every device that could be invented, but Wade remaining firm, concession was unavoidable. It is now hoped that the Chinese will gradually submit to the British demands, and hostilities be averted. The manner of Li Hung Chang since coming to Chefoo is extremely conciliatory. He has visited the foreign ships of war, and given a State breakfast to the envoys of England, France, United States, Germany, Russia, Spain, Austria, and the Naval commanders. Numerous speeches were made—all of an amicable tendency, although the actual situation was not touched upon. Nothing is yet known of the conferences between Wade and Li. Some surprise, however, is occasioned by an order from Wade to suspend the operations of the Foreign Railway.

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