

## BALAKLAVA DAY.

The thirty-eighth annual banquet of the officers who took part in the Battle of Balaklava was held at Limmer's Hotel on Tuesday, 25th October, the anniversary of the fight. There were present: The Earl of Lucan (in the chair). Genls. Forest, C.B., Sir C. Shute, K.C.B., and G. C. Clarke, C.B., Major-Genls. Mussenden and Godman, Surg.-Genl. Mouat, C.B., V.C., Col. Sandeman, Lennox Prendergast and Lord Tredegar, Majors Creagh-Thornhill, Everard Hutton, Clowes, Stocks and Lee, and Capt. Clutterbuck, Fisher-Rowe, Halford, Hefferon and Scevan. "The Thanæs fly from us!" Where was Sir George? Where Sir Roger?—the *duo fulmina belli*. They are happily extant, and could have come to the feast in good health. It will be observed that the Heavies are in the majority at present. The disparity of numbers between officers and men is remarkable—21 to 29.

The survivors of the charge who were non-commissioned officers or troopers at the same time dined together in the afternoon at St. James's Hall. In the chair was Sergt. Herbert (4th Light Dragoons), while Lieut. Wightman (17th Lancers) occupied the vice chair. The committee by whom the dinner was organized, searched the United Kingdom for survivors and the result was the appearance of 29 men only. As they met, hearty grasps were given, and the old familiar names called out. The medals which were worn spoke of service in India during the Mutiny as well as in the Crimea, and though the veterans, with one exception, wore plain clothes, on every breast medals were conspicuously displayed. Of those present in the charge there were nine of the 11th Hussars, nine of the 17th Lancers, eight of the 4th Light Dragoons, one of the Scots Greys, and two of the Eighth Royal Irish Hussars. The single survivor who wore his uniform was Sergt. Fawke, who stood six feet in height, and measured 44 in. around the chest. He was 22 years of age when he rode with the Scots Greys in the famous charge. This man of 60 not only stands erect and firm upon his legs, but in proof of his strength he cut bars of lead through with his sword, and played with a 40 lb. club in a way to astonish everyone. The gallant sergeant wore upon his breast the Crimean medal, with three clasps for Balaklava, Inkerman and Sebastopol, also the Turkish medal, and his forehead and cheeks show the marks of sword cuts and bullet wounds. He spoke with great energy of the incidents which befell himself in the charge—how in the mixing up of Russian and English one of the enemy raised up a sword to cut off his head, when Sergt. Major George Tildesley ran him through with his sword, which he subsequently gave to Sergt. Fawke. Riding back the sergeant described how a shell came along and, after passing through the Dragoons, struck the Canadian charger on which he was mounted, killing it on the spot. When he fell his companions rescued him, and a sergeant-major of the Dragoon-Guards gave him the bridle of a riderless charger of the 13th Light Dragoons, upon which he escaped out of the valley. When about to dismount Fawke noticed that the white sheepskin on which the saddle rested was covered with the brains of the Dragoon to whom the horse belonged. Fawke received seven wounds on the eventful day, three of which were on his legs. Amongst others present were representatives of the 13th Light Dragoons—Private Lamb, who was wounded in two places by a shot and had his horse killed under him, Sergt. Allen, whose horse was shot, and Private William Sewell, who was wounded in the head by a fragment of shell. After the usual loyal toasts were given, Sergt.-Major Smith, of the 3rd Surrey, recited "The Charge of the Light Brigade," with a drum accompaniment, which went well. "Our dead Comrades" was drunk in solemn silence, and a similar honour was paid to "Our Leaders." The old heroes did full justice to an excellent meal, and the company broke up at an early hour. *Army and Navy Gazette.*

The Commander-in-Chief has approved of the officers of Fusilier regiments being allowed to have their full dress fur caps made of bear-skin instead of raccoon skin as heretofore, but the fur must not be longer than that now in use. It is understood that the bear-skin, till now worn only by the Foot Guards, is a much more costly headdress than the raccoon-skin.

## TRANSACTIONS OF THE CANADIAN MILITARY INSTITUTE.

In another column we devote considerable length to an account of the Canadian Military Institute and the excellent work it has done and is doing for the force. We are glad to be able to accompany this with a notice of a very attractive pamphlet just issued by the Institute, embodying three papers which were read before its members during the past winter. These papers are "Lower Canada during 1810-14," by Mr. Benjamin Sulte; "With the Indian Contingent in Egypt," by Surgeon-Major Keefer; "The Growth of a Military Spirit in Canada," by Lieut.-Col. O'Brien, M.P. These are supplemented by a statement of the proceedings at the second annual general meeting of the Institute, held 25th January last. The whole forms an interesting addition to our limited stock of native military literature, and is in itself an excellent proof of the value of the Institute in developing the military and patriotic taste among our people.

Selected Papers from the Transactions of the Canadian Military Institute, 1891-92. The Williamson Book Co. (Ld.) Toronto.

In a recent October number of the *Sporting Goods Review*, published in London, England, appears a detail of a prosecution under the merchandise marks act, instituted by Messrs. P. Webley & Son against Messrs. Jeffrey & Co.

The contention was that Messrs. Jeffrey had received in exchange (allowing £3 for them) two Webley Martini Rifles that had become obsolete through usage and had handed them over to Messrs. Ellis to have them made like new, and to have new foreparts fitted. The prosecutors contended that it was the intention of Messrs. Jeffrey to dispose of these made like new "Martini's" to marksmen in the colonies who were not in a position to vindicate the make of the rifle. It is pleasing to note that the contention of the prosecutors was upheld and that Messrs. Jeffrey were fined £10 sterling and £5 costs. Messrs. Jeffrey had gone so far as to instruct Messrs. Ellis to change the inscription, which was as is customarily upon Webley rifles "P. Webley & Son, Birmingham," to simply "Webley barrel." Quite a deal of evidence was gone through in the prosecution, numerous witnesses having been examined for and against, resulting in the fine being imposed as above stated.

## THE FRENCH ARMY AUTUMN MANŒUVRES.

A writer in the *Avenir Militaire*, who was present at the autumn manœuvres of the 9th and 12th, as well as those of the 6th, French Army Corps, approaches the topic in a very impartial manner. He reproaches the French Press in general for its optimism and flattery in describing the operations. He condemns the greatly extended fronts taken up on many occasions, due doubtless to the constant effort at outflanking an adversary. The artillery of the attack is blamed for not sufficiently preparing the way for the infantry. Artillery tactics displayed some improvement; but the writer considers its mobility as far too questionable. Positions were hugged too closely, and this arm did not sufficiently support the infantry by advancing with it. Part of the blame, he adds, may be attributable to the weight of its armament. In the 6th Corps the cavalry displayed commendable activity, but in so doing it made a frontal attack on infantry under a fire which would have been annihilating. The experiment tried in the neighbourhood of Paris of allotting infantry battalions to cavalry in the manœuvres of the latter is not held to be successful; the infantry was naturally sacrificed to the more rapid arm and thus condemned to inactivity. The performances of the "active" army are, on the whole, commended; the doings of the reserves are not so highly esteemed. As to the generals and officers of the higher staff, the writer desires to see manœuvres made more instructive for them. Finally, he calls for more criticism and less eulogium.