

were at the Lorne Club lately in search of a suitable racing boat. One of the officers stated that he was an expert at the oar, being at one time a participant in a Cambridge Oxford race. He is confident that his four will make a good showing in the regatta.

The "at home" on the night of the 17th at the sailors' home was one of the pleasantest events imaginable. The event was arranged as a welcome to the blue jackets of the British warships, and the jolly tars who were there could not desire anything more cordial. Like their hosts, they soon became "at home" within the genial atmosphere and kindly surroundings the Sailors' Home. There were about 300 ladies and gentlemen present to meet the representations from the Blake and Partridge—the only warships in port. Elaborate decorations were made, and the home, which is pronounced one of the best on the continent at any time, was made beautiful with plants and bunting. There was a new feature of attractiveness—an open air concert in the space at the rear of the building. The area was brilliantly illuminated by electricity and hung with bunting, whilst the H. G. A. furnished a good selection of music. The balmy night air, the music, the decorations and the pleasant company, both inside and out, all contributed to thorough enjoyment. The chair in the Bethel, during the rendering of a musical and literary programme, was occupied by James Morrow, president of the home. He made a brief speech of welcome to the seamen, took occasion to congratulate them on the good record they made for themselves at the demonstration in New York.

The King's Regiment band will play in the public gardens Saturday afternoons, commencing the first Saturday in July.

The French flagship *Naiad* arrived on the afternoon of the 20th. The usual salutes were exchanged between the tricolor and Union Jack.

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The 63rd rifles, accompanied by their band, were route marching May 25th. This was the first march out this season, and they mustered strong.

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The men of the Garrison Artillery had their first battalion parade under the new organization on Monday evening fortnight. Their band has made marked improvement, and as there is considerable rivalry between the new companies, a good muster was the result.

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The new Commandant of the Imperial Troops in Canada Lieut.-General A. Montgomery Moore, is 60 years of age, and is a Cavalry officer, having served in the 7th Dragoon Guards and the 4th Hussars, and is at present Colonel-in-Chief of the 18th Hussars.

He has had various Staff appointments, and from 1887 till 1891 commanded the South-Eastern District.

He has never seen active service.

VICTORIA, B.C.

The fact that the Militia Department and the Dominion Artillery Association look with favor upon the proposition that a British Columbia team should this year—for the first time—take part in the Dominion Artillery competition has encouraged those interested to hope that the scheme will be carried out. It will involve an absence from home of about a month, with the privilege of participation in three great military events—the Dominion and Ontario rifle matches, besides the artillery meeting—as well as an opportunity of visiting the World's Fair en route. The British Columbia artillerymen make very good practice in their home competition and it is expected that they would make a creditable showing at Halifax.

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Under the new establishment the British Columbia Garrison Artillery heads the list of that arm as to authorized strength, having a total of 524 of all ranks. The next on the list is the Halifax Brigade, with 427, and the New Brunswick Brigade is third, with 278. The strongest battalion in the Dominion is the Queen's Own Rifles, of Toronto, with ten companies of forty-five men each, and a staff making the total nearly five hundred of all ranks. No other corps has more than eight companies. The new regulations as to the B.C.G.A. are now practically in force, and it rests with the young men of Victoria to show that the city is capable of holding up her end. There is no lack of good material and recruiting should be active.

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Military bands are an important factor in advertising the corps to which they are attached or belonged, and the fact that provision is made for a bandmaster and corps of musicians in the authorized strength of the British Columbia Battalion of Garrison Artillery for the coming year, has been the cause of considerable speculation as to whether or not advantage will be taken of the authority. A band can very seldom be maintained out of the Government allowance, and in most of the Canadian corps with first-class bands the officers have to go down deep into their pockets to make up the required amount. The chief inducement, however, to good musicians to belong to military bands is that the influence of the officers secures for them the most profitable engagements for supplying music on festive occasions, such as dinners, balls, receptions, celebrations, sports and public affairs of all kinds where music is required.

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A most unfortunate dispute has arisen between the Imperial and Canadian authorities at the graving dock. This important work, completed at a cost of £200,000 in 1887, was heavily subsidized by the British Government, on the express stipulation that Her Majesty's ships should always have priority in its use. On Tuesday last, the cruiser "Champion," having been ordered to refit for service in the Bering Sea, the senior naval officers at Esquimalt ordered the instant removal of an American vessel which had entered the dry dock that morning. As might have been expected from the peremptory tone of the order

the result was a direct refusal. The matter might easily have been compromised; indeed, considering that H.M.S. "Garnet" is available for immediate service, there could hardly have been any pressing necessity for driving away American business worth nearly £10,000 to make room for the "Champion." On the other hand, the Dominion Government has been both ungracious and shortsighted in its refusal to assist in the fortification of Esquimalt. Apart from its Imperial consequence, the new naval station is nothing less than the key of western Canada; and considering that the Dominion ranks fifth among maritime nations, it is hardly safe to leave the whole Pacific seaboard to the protection of one battery of artillery volunteers. The seizure of Esquimalt by a hostile fleet would utterly demoralize Canada, place the North Pacific at the enemy's mercy, and destroy that alternative route to India which has been not inaptly described as the northwest passage by land.

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At the recent banquet of the British Columbia Board of Trade, the Vice President, A. C. Flumerfelt, with a few brief, neat and effective remarks proposed the Army, Navy and Volunteers, and the toast was drunk amid vociferous applause. Capt. Hughes Hallet, R. N. of H.M.S. *Garnet* was the first to respond. His speech was one of the gems of the evening, abounding in warmth of sentiment and feeling. His humorous reference to the cause of the navy's existence was applauded again and again. Said he:

"The *raison d'être* of the navy of England is the colonies, where England is, her ships can go, and where England is is where her colonies are." Whenever a British ship came into a foreign harbor where there was one single Britisher a warm welcome was sure to be received, and the welcome now given by the British Columbia Board of Trade was but another indication, much appreciated by the navy, of the hearty way in which the fleet was received in all parts of the world." (Applause.)

Col. Holmes, D. A. G., for the regular army had only a few words to say in conveying his thanks for the honor, but referring to the rumor that "C" Battery were soon to leave British Columbia, he expressed the regret he and his brother officer felt that they would have to leave Victoria. The majority of the members of the force would stay here, but he was afraid the officers would have to go.

Col. Prior responded for the Militia which, he said, had now reached a momentous period in its history so far as British Columbia was concerned, and he at the same time put in a good word for the volunteers. He would in a short time be the commanding officer of the largest battalion in the Dominion and inasmuch as the Ottawa authorities had now decided to so increase the British Columbia force, hoped a loyal support would be given by the merchants and business men of the Province. He would like business men to have inculcated in their employes the idea that it was the correct thing for young men to join the militia. (Hear, hear.)