

another "trial." A number of members of the 14th Battalion captured their Montreal friends and entertained them at the Club room until about 2 a. m., when they accompanied the Montrealers to the depot and gave them a "send-off" in the shape of three hearty cheers. The jolly Montrealers expressed themselves as immensely pleased with their visit to and their reception in this city.

On the same evening, two rinks of Montreal Club Curlers, who had been playing the Kingston Club, were entertained at an oyster supper by the officers of "A" Battery. The supper took place at the Tete du Pont barracks, and an enjoyable time was spent.

Major-General Herbert, commandant of the Canadian Militia, accompanied by Lieut.-Col. D. T. Irwin, Inspector of Artillery, were in this city from the 7th to the 9th, making the first general inspection this year of "A" Battery, R.C.A. The last time the General was here he was accompanied by Capt. Streatfield, A. D. C., whose services were not needed this time, owing to the able Inspector of Artillery himself being in a position to attend. The first day was devoted to a thorough inspection of the Regimental books and accounts, which were found to be correct in every particular, reflecting great credit on the Master Gunner of the Battery, who had the preparation of them. The General also listened to several complaints from non-commissioned officers and men, but did not think any of the cases serious enough to warrant his interference with the judgment of their own commanding officer. On Thursday morning the Garrison Division, Field Section, Signallers, &c., paraded on the Barrack square at nine o'clock, and headed by the regimental band, marched to a parade ground which had been selected on the ice in the harbor opposite "Shoal Tower," taking up a position in line at open order in front of the saluting base. They had just got well into position when the General and Col. Irwin appeared, mounted, and Lt.-Col. van Straubenzee, D. A. G., on foot. The Garrison division presented arms, and the band played the "general salute." Arms were shouldered, and the General rode up and down the ranks, making many comments, favorable and unfavorable, on different individual members of the corps. Referring to the band, he said that on all his parades he wanted to see the band parade in the ranks, as they were but a privilege, not a necessity. The march past then took place, the Field Section with three nine-pounder R.M.L. guns mounted on the "Drury" gun sleds and a spare limber and extra ammunition box mounted on a carriage of the same style, went past at close interval in fine style. The Garrison Division went past in quick time, commanded by Lieut. Burstall. Owing to the recent thaws here the slush was from three to four inches thick on the ice, making it impossible for the men to march very steadily, which brought forth the remark from the General, "very bad indeed; they march like a lot of recruits." He was nearer the truth than a good many people generally are when they say anything on the spur of the moment, for over half of the Garrison Section of the Battery *are* recruits, as men for the Field Section are all drafted from their ranks, leaving nearly all recruits with the Garrison Section. The march past in quarter column was a little better than the column movement. Both the Garrison and Field Sections then went past at the double and trot respectively, in exceedingly good order, after which the Garrison was marched back to barracks, to prepare for kit inspection. The Field Section then ranked past, and General Herbert called out Major Drury, Capt. Hudon and Lieut. Gaudet, complimenting them highly on the efficiency of the Field Section, stating that he had been talking to Capt. Boileau of the Royal Artillery, Halifax, who had been in Kingston for a few days, and had seen the Field Section at practice on the ice, and had told him they were perfection itself; he was, therefore, prepared for something good, but did not think the Field Section would be up to the high standard of excellence that they showed to-day, they being really the best he had seen since he came to Canada. Major Drury then galloped his command far out to the middle of the Lake, where they were halted. action left, and by means of range finders, the distance to two trees placed so as to represent one flank of an opposing battery was ascertained. The range finders gave the result at 1950 yards, the first shot was, therefore, fired at that elevation, but struck short. The elevation for the second shot was raised 200

yards and went over. The third shot was fired at 2000 yards elevation, and struck exactly at the top of the trees, demonstrating the good work of the range finders, who were only 50 yards out on their calculations, a mere trifle in battery firing. After a few rounds had been fired at the above range they advanced towards the targets and the range finders again showed the accuracy of their reckonings, for the distance at which they halted was immediately found to be 1,000 yards, the first shot taking effect alongside of one of the trees. After the firing was finished the Section returned to barracks and were dismissed to "stables." The General then made the round of the barrack rooms where the men had their kits laid out for General Kit Inspection; all the stores and regimental necessities were found to be in good order with the exception of one room where the General asked to have one of the regimental blacking boxes opened so as to see what kind of blacking was used, this was done, but the peculiar part of it is that every box was found to be empty; whether this room used some other polish I do not know, mentioning it simply to show the thoroughness with which the inspection was carried out, details, even to the smallest, being looked into and commented upon. Taking all in all, the General was more than pleased with the Field Section; there was much room for improvement in the other ranks, everything not being just what it should be. He did not know that "A" Battery was to be exchanged with "B" Battery in six months as had been stated by an officer here. He could not say that Lieut.-Colonel Van Straubenzee, D.A.G., was to be shelved; further than the remarks made by the Minister of Militia on the floor of the House the General had no knowledge of the matter. Hon. Mr. Patterson had said that another officer's duties would be coupled with that of Deputy-Adjutant-General. In regard to the Kingston Board of Trade securing the site of the Tete de Pont Barracks for an elevator, a report of the matter would be presented to him and the choosing of a new site for the barracks, if so it was desired, would be his duty. During his stay here he was registered at the Hotel Frontenac and was entertained by the officers of the R.C.A. at mess on Wednesday night.

The General and Colonel Irwin left for Ottawa on Wednesday afternoon.

Staff-Sergt. Patrick Coughlan of "A" Battery having been appointed caretaker of the city drill shed, has moved into quarters there. This appointment is only a temporary one, his name being still carried on the strength of the Battery, being struck off from pay and rations only. This appointment puts the right man in the right place, although the Battery loses a very efficient Paymaster's Clerk by his acceptance of the position.

As spring is now near at hand the interest in rifle shooting is again being revived, and in the various military messes here, the topic of conversation generally leads to discussing the kind of rifle that will be used in connection with the League the coming season. The general opinion here, as in other places, being in favour of the Martini-Henry. The efforts of Major Sam Hughes, M.P., for the procuring of cheap ammunition are also enthusiastically endorsed, and the result will be watched with great interest.

Capt. W. J. B. White has been appointed Quartermaster of the 14th P.W.O. Rifles, vice the late Major Spriggs, Capt. Bruce Carruthers succeeding to the command of "F" Company.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* states, that the Secretaries for War and India and H. R. H. the Commander-in-Chief, have expressed their appreciation of the good services performed by several officers, among whom was mentioned the name of Lieut. Twining (of the R. M. C.) of the Indian establishment, on the survey of the proposed railway from Mombasa to Victoria Nyanza.

In speaking of the inspection of "A" Battery there is one thing that cannot well be overlooked, and that is the difference in the efficiency of the Garrison and Field Sections. The reason it exists is put down by some to be simply this: It is a well-known fact that both Major Drury and Major Wilson are in command of "A" and "B" Batteries respect-