

the premier himself who is having quite enough to think of outside of military affairs without bothering his head or anybody else's head about such things as field guns, garrison artillery, breech-loading rifles, munitions of war, transport of troops, plans of campaign and so forth and so on. If Uncle Sam is thinking about overrunning Canada, he couldn't do better than set about it whilst cabinet reconstruction is on. He will have to make haste about it, as we expect Bowell to have things ready next Tuesday for resuming where everything was left off last Saturday. At least that's what the government whip George Taylor M.P., claims to-day.

It is interesting to note the way the question of Canada's defences came up in parliament each time the House has met this year. The topics enumerated in the speech for the throne included the question of defence. On resuming after adjournment the subject came up several times as one of predominant importance which requires to be handled without delay. Before the House rose for the present recess defence cropped up again. One of the strong points made by Col. O'Brien in relation to the smash of the cabinet was the urgency of the question of the defence and the fact that at any hour the country might be called on to strain every nerve to prepare for war as a leading division of the Empire.

The supernatuation of Col. Powell, adjutant-general of militia, which I advised you of by wire just as you were going to press with the last issue of the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE, has gone into effect. The colonel has proved himself a thoroughly efficient official, and is popular in all branches of the service. His retirement at the present juncture has caused a good deal of unfavorable comment, although his successor is considered an exceptionally good man and is acceptable so far as I can hear, to the militia with very few exceptions.

Quartermaster General Lake's mission to England to consult with the imperial military authorities, is expected to last until May. Your readers will have learned already from the dispatches to the daily papers from the capital that the idea is to increase the field batteries in Canada from four to six guns, retaining the muzzle loaders; a new pattern twelve pounder longer in the barrel, but not heavier than the gun at present in use, to be substituted for the nine pounders.

Another topic that has come to the front here in connection with the possibility of war, the need of a cable to the West Indies from Halifax. The North Atlantic Squadron has left Bermuda for the annual winter cruise in the West Indies, which lasts till April, and should war break out could not be recalled by telegraph. It is understood the government was in communication with the Imperial authorities on the subject when the present cabinet crisis came on, but the confusion into which all departments of the administration have been thrown has delayed matters, and nothing effective can be done at present.

The sudden war talk here about the time parliament assembled gave unusual interest to the turn-out of the Foot Guards, Dragoons and Field Battery for the opening, and the spectacle on the terrace in front of the parliamentary buildings was as impressive as anything I have seen here for years. All classes of the population were massed along the walks, the roads and the building itself in front of both wings east and west of the main tower. The troops never presented a more soldierly and efficient appearance.

Quebec.

QUEBEC, Jan 7th, 1896.—The Royal Canadian Artillery issued a handsome New Year's card, consisting of a photograph of the engraving of a veteran holding a scabbard from which his grandchild is drawing the sword, set in a festoon of overgreens, with the British flag on the left and a group of arms and accoutrements on the right, with the regimental crest and motto.

Lieut.-Colonel George Rolt White and officers of the 8th Royal Rifles, issued a neat card in connection with the New Year's Greetings, with the regimental crest and motto.

A number of gunners have arrived here to take a short course with the Royal Canadian Artillery, among others the following from the Montreal Regiment of Garrison Artillery: Bomb, R. C. Clarke, Tr. T. Boucher, Grs. T. Burns, Jos. Kirkham, J. C. Crowe, J. Garrick and C. Corcoran. From the New Brunswick Regiment of Garrison Artillery: Corp. D. H. Roxborough, Bomb. J. A. Pollock, Gunners Donahue, Love, and Tr. Price.

The school of instruction recently established in this city has resumed duty after the holidays which lasted some ten days. The term is to be for three months with attendance five nights per week, which will afford ample time to prepare the candidates for examination.

The 8th Royal Rifles are to be congratulated upon the decision of Captain O. B. C. Richardson, to remain with the regiment for at least another year, in lieu of retiring from the service as previously contemplated by him.

Captain Frank Pennee, of the 9th Battalion, has been appointed chief of police of the city of Quebec. His appointment meets with the approval of the citizens generally. His application was nearly unanimously received by the city council. The new chief has entered upon his duties.

The Royal Canadian Artillery have formed a snow shoe club consisting of the officers N. O. O's and men and is to be known as the Royal Canadian Snow Shoe Club. The following officers were elected for the year:

Patron, Lt.-Col. C. E. Montizambert.
Vice-Patron, Lt.-Col. F. Wilson.
President, Captain O. C. Pelletier.
Vice-President, Lieut. J. H. C. Ogilvy.
Captain, Lieut. Henri A. Panet.
Sec.-Treas., R. Q. M. Sergt. Wood.
Bugle-Major, Sergt. Godreau.
Committee, R. S. M. O'Grady, Corpl. Small, Gunner Johnston, C. S. M. Rimbault, Bomb. Pugh, Gunner Naufts, C. S. M. Fellows, Corpl. Lafleur, and Gunner Power.

Their first march out through the principal streets of the city will take place on the 8th inst., in the evening, leaving the Citadel at 7:30 and serenading the popular D. A. G., Lieut.-Col. T. J. Duchesnay and Lieuts.-Cols. Montizambert and Wilson.

On Christmas day the officers of the Garrison accompanied by a number of friends paid a visit to the Artillery, and visited their quarters in the Citadel and in the Montreal Division, St. Louis street. Much labour had been devoted to the decorations of the rooms which presented a fine appearance with flags and banners, arms, etc., etc. A most enjoyable time was spent by the N.C. O's and men, who received the visitors in their usual hospitable manner.

Major-General I. J. C. Herbert, late General Officer commanding the Canadian Militia, did not forget his friends in the Artillery, having sent a cable of kindly Christmas greeting. His efforts on behalf of the Permanent Militia will long be remembered.

On New Year's eve, Lieut.-Col. J. F. and Mrs. Wilson gave a pleasant dance in Tara Hall, which was fully enjoyed by all those present.

Capt. Chas. J. Dunn, secretary of the Quebec Garrison Club, had the door prettily decorated with the greeting of "A Merry Xmas."

The present season would be an opportune one for a few lectures in the room of the Royal Canadian Artillery Military Institute. The room is so well adapted for the purpose and recent rumours of disturbances so numerous, that a lecture for instance on the defence of Canada and the part to be taken therein by the local force, would prove of great interest, and would doubtless draw a good attendance. Our friends in the Citadel should take the initiative.

Among the New Year festivities was that of the Staff Sergeants and Sergeants of the R.C.A., who gave a dance which was fully enjoyed by those who were fortunate enough to attend. Dancing which commenced at about 9 o'clock, was kept up until about 5. A large number of civilian friends were present, as well as others, among the latter being Major J. Secretan Dunbar of the 8th R.R. At midnight "Auld Lang Syne" was sung by all present.

The officers of the R.C.A. Quadrille Club are as follows:

Patron, Lt.-Col. C. E. Montizambert.
Vice-Patron, Lt.-Col. J. F. Wilson.
President, Reg't Sergt-Major Lyndon.
Vice-President, Sgt-Instructor Slado.
Sec.-Treasurer, R. Q. M. S. Woods.
Floor Manager, Corporal Jordan.
Asst Floor Manager, Corporal Small.
Committee, Sergt. Morgan, Gr. Larko, Sergt. Lyndon, Sergt. Sellwell, Corpl. Rutherford, Corpl. Morrison, Bomb. W. Pugh, Gr. Naufts, Sergt. Sutherland, Corpl. Whitslaw, Bomb. T. Pugh, Bomb. Baugh and Gr. Power.

PATROL.

Montreal.

New year's day was celebrated by the usual receptions in the different armories.

Lieut.-Col. Starke and his officers in the officers' mess and the sergeant-major and sergeants in their mess made the armory on Cutcart street very lively, indeed, from 11 to 1, and many visitors called on both officers and sergeants. In the drill hall red coats and green vied with one another in hospitality. Lieut.-Col. Bulter and Capt. Bond received in the Prince of Wales quarters, Lt.-Col. Strathy and his officers in the armories of the 5th, Lt.-Col. Burlandin the 6th, and Lt.-Col. Prevost and Capt. d'Orsonnens received the callers in the rooms of their regiment, the 65th. The M. G. A., the Field Battery and the Cavalry were all represented by their commanding officers at their respective quarters and several pleasant hours were spent together.

Never has the day been better kept by militia men in Montreal.

W. R. Boyd, drum-major of the Royal Scots, has published a short poem entitled, "Let 'Em Come." It is dedicated to Lieut.-Col. Strathy, and is full of vim and spirit. The following are the closing lines:

We pray that Peace may ever reign 'twixt us and
"Uncle Sam,"
And would that he might, reverently, the "Tenth
Commandment" scan.
We're loyal British Subjects, and till our days be
done,
To firmest friends, and fiercest foes, our "Watch-
word's" *Let 'em come!*

The Military Institute was fortunate in being able to induce Lieut. P. Girouard, of the Royal Engineers, to give a lecture in their rooms on "Infantry Tactics." Major E. B. Ibbotson, presi-