

forced from politics, and also his assurance that graduates of the Royal Military College would be given the preference in appointments to the permanent corps, will feel inclined to regard our young friend's statement as an empty boast.

As is natural on the approach of another session of Parliament the thoughts of militiamen turn to the necessity which exists for legislation affecting the militia. "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick," they say, but the hearts of Canadian militiamen must be impervious to sickness for although their fondest hopes have been deferred to a cruel length, they are in a pretty robust state of health yet, and are still hoping. What with General Herbert's activity and his plain talking, the public mind has been more directed to the militia this year than for many years back, and there is a feeling abroad at last that the militia system is not quite as perfect as it might be, after all. Nothing can be done at Ottawa, however, unless the members are posted on the requirements of the force, and to make sure that they are so informed should be the special duty of every militiaman just now. Do not let your local member leave for Ottawa to resume his legislative duties until he has had the requirements of the militia force well drummed into his ears.

The Royal Humane Society has very properly awarded a medal to Lt. Frederick W. Deane, R.N., of the gunboat *Gleaner*, in recognition of his gallant conduct on the 18th December last. Unfortunately very few particulars have come to light concerning Lt. Deane's gallant act, owing to the fact that the *Gleaner* and the *Resolution* were en route to Gibraltar at the time. The two vessels were just leaving Plymouth Sound, the battleship leading and the gunboat following nearly in her wake. The weather was boisterous, owing to a strong breeze and a heavy cross sea. It was under these conditions that a seaman of the *Resolution*, Ringland by name, fell overboard. The *Gleaner's* lifeboat, it is stated, could not be lowered immediately; indeed, there seems to have been a delay of ten minutes before the boat actually reached Ringland. Seeing that he was in great danger Lt. Deane jumped overboard to his assistance, without even pausing to take off any of his clothing, and for ten minutes succeeded in keeping the man above water. Ultimately the *Gleaner's* lifeboat picked up both officer and man, but it cannot be doubted that

Ringland would have been drowned but for Lt. Deane's prompt and gallant conduct. Many of our naval officers and men are decorated with the Humane Society's medal, but it will be generally agreed that the reward has seldom been more worthily bestowed than in this instance. Such deeds should tend to unite seaman and officers of the navy in bonds of sympathy, and to convince the men that they are still led by gallant gentlemen.

That the *Alabama* was a very costly vessel for Great Britain goes without saying, since the indemnity the Mother Country paid the States has been a lesson to us, and will continue to be for the rest of time. Even at the present moment the unclaimed balance of the £5,000,000 we paid lies in the State Treasury at Washington to the amount of 4,000,000, which, if the people of America were possessed of common honesty, they would long since have refunded to the British exchequer.

## News of the Service.

NOTE.—Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Without we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the workings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, so long as not enclosed in an envelope, for one cent. At any rate forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades.

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### TORONTO.

On the 12th the *Mail* published the following special from Niagara Falls: A thrilling scene was enacted on Saturday on the railway suspension bridge spanning the gorge above the famous Whirlpool Rapids, in which two men engaged in a mortal combat, and a woman passenger was so frightened that she was taken with hemorrhage, and came near dying. The wife of Mr. Geo. McMicking, formerly one of the Ontario frontier police force, and a crack shot with a rifle, left him, and engaged a St. Catharines lawyer named J. S. Campbell to secure a bill of separation and alimony. The lawyer was down to the Falls on Saturday, and Mr. McMicking saw him. He followed the man on to the railway suspension bridge with a stick in his hand, with the evident intention of striking him. Mr. McMicking made his assault on the St. Catharines man. Mr. Campbell made a movement as if to draw a revolver, when Mr. McMicking turned about and slunk off the bridge. A young woman, Miss Goodrow, who resides at Suspension Bridge, saw the collision of the two men, and while laboring under the excitement of the moment was seized with a severe bleeding at the lungs. She managed to reach the bridge tender's office, and medical aid was summoned in time to save her life. The occurrence is the sensation of both sides of the river. Captain McMicking's friends denounce the story as a very one-sided statement of the facts.

"H" Company, 48th Highlanders, held their annual dinner last night in Webb's parlours. Kilted uniforms were interspersed with the dark green of the Queen's Own Rifles, the natty dress of the Dra-

goons, R.R.C.I., and Royal Grenadiers, and the sombre attire of the civilian guests. The tables were served up in Webb's best style, and the company did full justice to them. The following was the toast list: "The Queen," "Canadian Militia," "Dominion Parliament and Local Legislature," "The Mayor and Corporation of the City of Toronto," (to which Mayor Kennedy replied), "The Regiment," "Sister Corps," "Our Guests," "The Ladies" and "The Press." During the evening an orchestra consisting of Messrs. Carmichael, McConnell and Cusack rendered charming selections, while Messrs. Alexander and Galt had to respond to many encores for their vocal selections. Before dispersing a magnificent company group, which was fully described in the *Mail* some time ago, and which was won by "H" Company in the last season's shooting competition, was placed in the safe keeping of a representative of its members.—*Mail*, March 8th.

The people who attended the Q. O. R. buglers' concert in the Pavilion last night expressed themselves as being thoroughly satisfied with the excellent way in which the programme was carried out. The band of the regiment played with their usual precision and good taste under the direction of their conductor, Mr. J. Bayley. Miss Maggie Huston, and Messrs. W. A. Pentland and A. L. E. Davies, displayed considerable talent in singing, and encores were the order of the evening. Mr. C. Herbert Fielding recited very well, and Mr. T. A. Baker elicited much applause by his drill impersonations.—*Mail*, March 9th.

Lt. Peter White has been appointed to act as assistant adjutant in the Queen's Own Rifles.

All shooting men will be sorry to learn that Color Sgt. D. McNeil has left the Queen's Own. Sgt. W. Meadows has been promoted to fill his place.

### MONTREAL.

At the adjourned meeting of the Montreal Military Institute on Monday evening, March 5th, Lt. Col. Butler presided. The report of the secretary, Major Radiger, and that of the treasurer, Lt. Col. Cole, were very satisfactory. There are over 150 members. All the lectures will in future be printed in pamphlet form. Lt. Col. Houghton will deliver an address on March 31st, the last of the season.

The election of officers of the ensuing year resulted as follows:

President—Lt. Col. Starke, of the Victoria Rifles.

Vice-Presidents—Lt. Col. Cole, of the Garrison Artillery; Lt. Col. Prevost, of the 65th Battalion, and Lt. Col. Strathy, of the Royal Scots.

Secretary-Treasurer—Major C. Radiger, Victoria Rifles.

Committee—Lt. Col. Massey, Lt. Col. Turnbull, Major Cooke, Prince of Wales; Major Ibbotson, Major des Trois-Maisons, Capt. R. Costigan, Capt. Mitchell, Capt. Clark, Lt. Featherstone.

The military tournament at the Drill Hall on Saturday evening, March 10, was a complete success.

The affair was not all show by any means, for both victors and vanquished suffered from hard knocks they received while competing in the different events that went to make up the entertainment, and more than one had to retire on account of injuries before the contest was over. The most noticeable instances of this was Sergt. Arthur Hawker, Sergt. Major Morgan's opponent, who had his forehead cut in four places, and Sergt. W. Porteous, of the Field Battery, who was thrown with his horse clean over the