

Regimental and Other News.

A meeting was held in Hamilton last Friday afternoon of gentlemen interested in the formation of a cavalry troop. Mr. W. A. Kerr was elected chairman, and Charles Vosper secretary. The chairman stated that he had received over forty names of those willing to join the troop, and that the city and county members of Parliament had promised to use their influence to have it equipped by the Dominion Government. A committee composed of W. R. Pray, D. J. Peace and J. C. Vosper was appointed to enquire into the cost of uniform, which, it was decided, should consist of scarlet with white or buff facings.

The portraits of the Charlottetown team victorious in the recent inter-city telegraphic rifle match, appear in the last issue of the *Dominion Illustrated*.

Lt.-Col. Lewis, Brigade Major, was in Ottawa last week to transfer the command of No. 1 Co. 43rd from Capt. Rogers to Lieut. O'Grady. He is looking remarkably well—growing younger in appearance, his friends told him. In Ottawa Col. Lewis was the guest of Capt. D. C. F. Bliss, of the Field Battery.

Capt. S. Maynard Rogers has been appointed adjutant of the 43rd Battalion, Ottawa and Carleton Rifles, vice Evans, now with D Co. Infantry School Corps. Lieut. J. W. de C. O'Grady will be captain of No. 1 Co., vice Rogers.

A bowling team of eight members of the Victoria Rifles, Montreal, on Saturday last met and defeated, at Ottawa, a team of the O. A. A. C. The latter will visit Montreal for a return match.

Lieut. Streatfeild, who will shortly succeed Capt. H. E. Wise as Aide-de-Camp to Lieut.-General Sir Fred Middleton, has been very ill with typhoid fever at the Belfast barracks, but is now convalescent. The *United Services Gazette* says in this connection: "We are glad to learn from Belfast, that in connection with the outbreak of typhoid fever at the Victoria Barracks and Willowbank Camp, Lieut. Streatfeild, Gordon Highlanders, who was suffering from this disease at the former, and Lieut. Grant-Duff, Black Watch, at the latter place, are now convalescent. The Royal Engineers are still working at the drains, which are in a defective state."

The band of the Governor General's Foot Guards, Ottawa, is showing marked improvement under the charge of Bandmaster Carter, who has lately resumed this position. At the St. Andrew's Society concert last week the band selections at the opening and during the intermission were found to be exceedingly well appreciated features of the programme.

Stanley's Right-Hand Man.

Lieut. Hooper, of the Montreal Field Battery, was a classmate of Lieut. Stairs, who has proved himself such an invaluable assistant to Stanley in Africa. Mr. Hooper has the following to say about the Hali-gonian:—

"When Mr. Stairs was at college he was a general favourite among the cadets. He was well up when he joined, having had a college education in Nova Scotia; he always showed up well in examinations, and finally graduated with honours in 1882. There is no doubt he was a clever fellow, and we always thought a manly and plucky one as well. Was he the sort of man I should expect to turn out an adventurous explorer? Yes; if I had given the matter any thought when we were cadets together, I should have expected that Stairs would make a reputation for himself by his skill and pluck. His was just the character to make an explorer out of. He was a tall, strong built lad in our cadet days, always up to a lark, and very fond of athletic sports. Stairs quite excelled on the football field, and many Montrealers must recall his steady play in the matches played here between the cadets and the Montreal, McGill and Britannia teams. After graduating Stairs went out to New Zealand to take a good position on the engineering staff of a railway under his uncle, who is also an engineer. There he had charge of the construction of a line through the bush, and was greatly praised for his energy. When the Imperial authorities offered a number of commissions to graduates of the Royal Military College in 1885 Stairs accepted a commission in the Royal Engineers and was stationed for about a year at Chatham, when he joined the expedition under Stanley. The circumstances under which Stairs joined Stanley were decidedly honourable to him. Stanley, having obtained permission from the army authorities to take a royal engineer officer with him to take charge of the astronomical and other scientific departments of the expedition, called for volunteers among the officers in the corps of engineers. I understand that about a hundred engineer officers, some of them with long service and most of them with great influence, volunteered. Stanley, after inquiring into

the physique, characters and abilities of the applicants, chose Stairs, to his intense delight. I can understand pretty well why anybody with Stanley's keen perception would select Stairs. Then, of course, the fact of his early training in Canada and his experience in the New Zealand bush would be very much in his favour. Oh, yes, all of us who were classmates of Stairs have followed him in his wanderings as far as we could through the papers, and needless to say we have felt proud of the praise showered on old Will by Stanley.

Lieut. Stairs was born in Halifax in 1863, and is therefore just twenty-six years of age.

F. W. Bullock, of Halifax, received a private letter last week from Lieut. Stairs. The letter, which is dated from Usambiro mission station, Victoria Nyanza, August 30th last, contains some interesting details of Lieut. Stairs' experiences. He had just received the intelligence of his father's death from Halifax. Following are extracts from the communication:—

"I wrote you last from Yambuya. Our starvation periods, fighting, fevers and other trials would occupy pages. You must read Stanley's letters to the English papers. Directly on leaving Yambuya some had bad fever. Then we got into countries without food and lost men at a terrible rate. Natives shot a great many. When, on December 16, 1887, we reached Albert Nyanza we had 170 out of 414 men that left Yambuya. We could not then connect with Emin and had to return 120 miles west of Albert Nyanza. Here we built a strong fort and I started back to a place 228 miles down the river to bring up our sick. Meantime, Stanley and two of our officers went east to the lake and connected with the pasha. Then our return march to Yambuya commenced April 12; the united expedition left Kavallis, on the Albert, for the Indian ocean. Our numbers were then 1,175. Now, on reaching here, Ursalala, we have about 670. We have made many important geographical discoveries, one of the most important being Mount Ruagori, which for all these 3,000 years has been undiscovered. The very source of the Nile is from its snow-capped peaks. It is a wonderful sight. I went up 10,700 feet, but was stopped by ravines 2,000 feet deep. Anchori and the Albert Edward Nyanza are new places to Europeans at least beyond the mere names. There in Karagive we found the Urigi to be a large lake, instead of the petty thing laid down on our maps. After a hard march of four months we reached here (Ursalala) and found Mr. McKay and Mr. Dreaks, of the Church Missionary Society. We have been here three days, and from these kind-hearted people received a most hearty welcome and rejoiced again in a cup of tea with meat and biscuit. We fortunately found that cloth and beads for us had come up from the coast, enough to buy our way out to the coast. Everything has been stopped on its way inland by the Arabs, making affairs assume a very critical aspect for missionaries and attached whites living inland. From here to the coast, should we have open roads, is a four and a half months' march for this caravan. If the Arabs, however, oppose our progress, no one can say how long it will take. Of our trials, suffering, etc., I have said very little, but so far our expedition has been an immense success, in spite of sneers seen in some of the English papers. I hope we will emerge triumphantly to the coast. The pasha we have; all Casati, the Italian, beside Egyptian and Turkish officers, soldiers, men, women and children and convicts. We have no news from the coast here for over one and a half years, and we are all in uncertainty. If pluck and determination can carry us through we shall reach the coast."

Trials are about to be made in different Austran cavalry regiments to decide how the 8-millimetre Mannlicher carbine is to be carried by troopers, and how the saddle accoutrements are to be arranged. It is proposed that the carbine shall hang in a leather case to the right of the saddle. The new cavalry knapsack, which has two cartridge pouches outside it, is to hang to the left side of the saddle, and the trooper will have two other pouches, holding ten cartridges each, slung across his body. Every trooper is to carry fifty rounds of ammunition.

Le Progres Militaire says that during the last Belgian manoeuvres, Gen. van der Smissen had ordered some photographers to be stationed at various points on the manoeuvre field. At the end of the operations he had the proofs brought to him, and could thereby ascertain that frequently his instructions had been neglected. Thus at the passage of a ford he could see that many soldiers, instead of fastening their cartridge pouches to their rifles, as the instructions prescribe, left them where they were, whereby they got wet. He also observed that no ropes were stretched across the stream to mark the ford, and to enable the soldiers to hold fast on, in case the current proved too strong. A good many other things the general is said to have found out; and so the photographers will probably become *la bête noire* of the Belgian Thomas Atkins.