

The bugle band of the Rifles started practice on the first of the year, in their rooms in the Artillery park. Mr. Alfred Dean has been appointed instructor and under his teaching the "boys" hope to turn out with a first-class selection of new marches at next drill season.

\* \* \*

Each of the Garrison and Field sections at the Tête de Pont Barracks have decorated a room with flags, flowers, ensigns, evergreens and bunting of all kinds. They were used as reception rooms for the friends of the Battery who visited them on Christmas Day, which was celebrated in this city on Monday, December 26th. Refreshments and other delicacies were provided, after which, dancing and songs was the order of the day. The reception terminated after three or four hours hearty enjoyment by all. The entertainment will be repeated on New Years Day.

\* \* \*

I see by the *Gazette* that Lieutenant E. M. Walker, of No. 1 Company, 47th Battalion, is retiring from the service. By his doing so the "Frontenac Infantry" lose one of its most efficient officers, for "A" Company, when he was attached to it, could not be excelled for drill and manœuvre by any in the whole ten companies of the battalion. The genial young officer will be greatly missed in camp next year.

\* \* \*

The electric light company of this city has about completed their contract for the lighting of the R. M. C. buildings and grounds. Only a few more incandescent lamps have to be put in place and it is expected that everything will be in full running order by the time the cadets return from their Christmas holidays.

\* \* \*

"A" Battery, Lieut.-Colonel Cotton in command, had a route march last month through the city and suburbs. The different detachments appeared in full winter uniform, everything looking clean and bright. The band supplied excellent music during the intervals of the march. The garrison section of the battery are now armed with the Martini-Henry rifle. The three-cornered bayonet looks rather out of place on them as Artillerymen, especially as members of all ranks below staff-sergeants wear the same. I suppose it is intended to issue a better side-arm of the sword bayonet pattern that will attach itself to the new rifles to be worn by sergeants as a distinguishing badge of rank. Sergeant W. Bramah has been appointed Provost Sergeant at the Barracks.

\* \* \*

Six members of the Rifles will attend the Infantry Schools this winter, two others will take a course in equitation at the Cavalry School, Quebec. If all the above obtain certificates it will give about two qualified non-commissioned officers to each company.

\* \* \*

The Hockey season here opened on Christmas (Monday) at the Kingston Skating Rink by a match between two teams from "C" and "F" Companies of the 14th Battalion. The play was very even in the first half, neither side scoring until after twenty minutes play, Pte. Thompson of "F" Co. secured goal for his side; there was no more scoring in this half. In the second half, Col.-Sergt. Cunningham, after ten minutes play secured a goal for "C" Company. No more goals were taken in this half, so the teams played five minutes each way. Just as the second five minutes was up, Col.-Sergt. Cunningham again scored for "C" Co., thus giving it the game by two goals to one. It is probable that the remaining companies of the battalion will also form teams this winter and a series of good matches may be looked for. I hear that the battery will organize clubs in both the Field and Garrison sections; this with the R. M. C. Club would form a good Military Hockey League. A challenge cup might be put up by the officers of the different corps to be held by the club winning the most games for one year, this would furnish us with good sport all winter.

\* \* \*

The cadets are well fixed for ice to practice on, as Mr. Dix, of this city, has just completed a large open air skating rink which is situated on the football campus in front of the gymnasium.

\* \* \*

In the death of Charles Oliver, a bright young volunteer has passed away. He was only 26 years of age, and had

been lying at the threshold of death for many weeks. Christmas morning he entered into rest. He was a sufferer from consumption. Deceased was very popular among the young men of the city and was fond of outdoor amusements. He was an efficient member of the 14th Battalion, having belonged to "D" Company for a number of years. He also took a short course at the Infantry School, Toronto, four years ago.

\* \* \*

Several of the city volunteers have spoken to me about the military snobbery that exists in one of the companies of the 14th Battalion. If any entertainment, special drill or parade is to be held, the members of this particular company, sergeants, corporals, even to the privates in the rear rank hold themselves aloof. It matters not to them if the parade is to furnish the firing party at the funeral of some deceased member of one of the other companies, this *compagnie de elite* never have a member present! Their sergeants are particularly conspicuous by their absence at mess meetings, not one of them being in attendance for over six months; at the "non-coms." class this absence is likewise noticeable.

\* \* \*

The Royal Military College closed for the Christmas holidays on Dec. 16th. The cadets will have an extra week to themselves this year, the time having been lengthened on account of so many of them living a great distance away, had hardly time to get home before they would have to be on their way back again. They will not have to return until the first week in January.

\* \* \*

Owing to winter setting in so soon the spoon competition at the College have been discontinued. There were to have been four sets fired, but as yet only one has taken place at 200 yards, 5 shots standing and 5 shots kneeling position, in which Corporal Beatty came first with 39, winning a silver cup, and Sergt.-Major Morgan second with 38 points, securing a prize dessert spoon. Both prizes will be suitably engraved. They are presented by the Military College Rifle Club, of which all competitors have to be members. In lieu of the regular matches it is proposed to hold Morris Tube practice in the gymnasium this winter. The scores made to count to count in the aggregate for the original series.

\* \* \*

This year's graduating class held an "At Home," on November the 19th, at which many ladies and gentlemen from the city were present. The ball room was the central attraction, and presented a very beautiful appearance, having been decorated by the cadets in an elaborate manner. The numbers on the programme were announced by an orderly trumpeter in the hall, the whirling scene in the ball room where the redcoats of the cadets and the handsome costume of the ladies, made a spectacle once seen, not soon to be forgotten. Taken in all it was one of the best that has been held in the college up to this time. The music for the occasion was supplied by the 14th orchestra; refreshments were served during the evening in the dining room. The party finished at 11.45 p.m., and all went home well pleased with the evening's enjoyment.

\* \* \*

The final year cadets are at cavalry sword exercise and riding drill for three days each week, in the riding school under Riding Instructor Gimblett, A. Battery, R.C.A.

\* \* \*

Sergt-Major Morgan, who has just recovered from a weeks sickness, returned to his duty a few days ago.

#### STRAY SHOTS.

A line in a local paper from Chaffey's Locks, says that Joseph Lafortz, a sergeant in the Canadian Voltigeurs, who took part in the engagement at the battle of Chrysler's Farm, received a wound in his leg; for his gallantry he received one of the medals issued.

\* \* \*

The headquarters of No. 10 Company, 47th Battalion, has been changed to Odessa.

\* \* \*

It is probable T. C. Carey, eldest son of the late Mr. Carey, will accept the leadership of the Band of the Rifles.

\* \* \*