

Winnipeg.

These paragraphs are from *Siftings*:

F Company, 90th Battalion, had a shooting match last week which was carried out in good style. We were glad to see our old friend Scotty McIntyre, figuring in the score. May his shadow never grow less. The enterprise of this company might be copied with advantage by every corps and company in the city. Why cannot each company have different matches in their competitions, not forgetting a company nursery match, open to all members of the company who may not have made more than say thirty in the last class firing. Great credit is due to Lieut. Smith for the arrangement.

We understand that Lieut. Macdonell, Mounted Infantry, has made an exchange with Mr. Williams, N.W.M.P. Mr. Macdonell has done a great deal in the Mounted Infantry to encourage and foster athletic games. A good all round man at any out-door sports, he showed to advantage in a keenly contested game of football or at cricket as a batsman. Our city amateurs will miss him as an athlete, and the Mounted Infantry will lose in him a good, zealous officer. Mr. Williams is, we understand, a son of the late Col. Williams, of Batoche fame, and for that fact alone would be welcome among the young men of this city, not a few of whom served with the late Colonel on that memorable occasion, and respect his memory as a gallant soldier—a grand type of Canadian manhood.

Annual Sports of A Battery, R.C.A.

(Kingston News.)

On Thursday, 10th October, the sports of A Battery commenced on the Midland Central Fair Ground. The committee for events were: Mounted, Capt. Hudon and Riding Instructor Newham; dismounted, Lieut. Burroughs and acting Sergt.-Major Coyne. Capt. Rivers was starter, Lieut. Moren judge, and Major Drury timekeeper. Each and all did their work with that promptness, decision and politeness which is an attribute of the soldier in general and the artilleryman in particular. Business commenced at about 2:30, the weather being lovely, and specially adapted for the afternoon's work.

The first event was the high jump, which ended after an able competition with Sergt. Boutillier first with 4 feet eight inches, closely followed by Robinson and McCarthy. Sergt. Boutillier is well known as an athlete and accomplished swordsman.

Next came the high jump with pole, which was won by Stinson, with Huff as second, the height being 7 feet 3 inches and 7 feet 2 inches. Stinson is an easy and graceful jumper.

The next item was a most interesting one, viz., heads and posts (mounted). In this competition nine mounted men took part. Six posts were placed at intervals of about forty yards from each other right and left of a six foot track. On three of these posts were placed blocks of wood stuck on three wooden necks; on two others were hung rings, on cross bars, and on the last was a block of wood without the neck. Each competitor had to ride at full speed down the centre of the course, and with his sword slash off the wooden heads, pick out the rings, and with a point take the neckless block from its place. This event was gallantly contested, and eventually was declared in favour of Br. Chapman, who rode well and handled his sword with dexterity. Burns pressed Chapman closely in taking second, and also showed capital form.

The 100 yards dash was won by Lawrenson, Boutillier 2nd, and Robinson 3rd. Time, 11 seconds.

Tilting at the ring was another interesting item. The procedure in this was very like the heads and posts business. Harris headed the list with Hickey as second.

In the quarter of a mile race Lawrenson was again an easy winner, Boutillier and Stinson registering second and third.

Tent pegging followed in the list and excited a great deal of interest. McCarthy proved himself best man in this difficult feat, but neither Harris nor Rose were much behind him in dexterity.

The three-legged race followed, and caused a lot of amusement. Seven "brace of battery men" competed, and once started slipped and shuffled over the ground with contortions, twists and jumps that would have delighted the heart of a Japanese jumper. Pycok and Fawcett managed to fall over the line first, and were immediately rolling over mother earth with the seconds, Robinson and Stinson, on top of them.

Half mile handicap (mounted)—Truly each of the eleven steeds entered for this race well knew their riders, for they were all battery horses. Oh, "ye lovers of all equine sports," why were ye from this, the greatest race that the exhibition grounds have seen this year. When all were handicapped away the horses went, the ground groaning beneath the thunder of the heavy cavalry horses' hoofs. Half way round a big sheet would have covered the whole lot, and when the race was finished there was hardly more than two lengths between first and last. Well known old Bismarck, ridden by McCarthy, took first, while to Argyle, with Rose up, second honours were given.

The last event was an interesting one, being the mile race. Three started for this, viz., Lawrenson, McCarthy and Stinson, but from the first it was easily seen that Lawrenson had it all his own way. This young fellow is a fine runner, and with more training could easily hold his own in long distances at big meetings. McCarthy and Stinson made a good second and third.

The sports were continued on Friday afternoon, and as on the previous day were witnessed with great satisfaction. The track was heavy, therefore the jumping was not as good as on former occasions. Robinson took the running long jump with 15 feet, with Boutillier second, half an inch behind. The hop, step and jump was also secured by Robinson, who covered 35 feet 9 inches. Fawcett, who jumped in his bare feet, took second place, and was well up.

The dismounting of a nine-pound gun was contested between the field and garrison sections, with Sergt. Gimlet in charge of the former and Sergt. Boutillier of the latter. The garrison men took the first trial and went along rapidly, making such good time that it was thought they were sure of winning, but just as they were about to advance with the gun it was discovered that a lynch pin was not in its place. The sergeant took some seconds in placing it, thus the time made was very slow; 2:20. The field men finished their task in 1:47. Strange to say they had a lynch pin incident also, but they didn't wait. The carriage was drawn along and the pin slipped in by the way. The victors cheered lustily and then an argument ensued, the garrison men calling on their opponents to "come out on the grass for another try." The Colonel stopped the wrangle, which showed how enthusiastic the men were in their work. During the contest a gun came down on Reynold's thumb and ripped off the top of it.

Lawrence beat Hickey in rolling the wheel, and then came the wrestling on horseback. Rider and McCartney tugged away at each other until they became tired. They appeared to be well matched in strength and as if they would rip the garments off each other. It is rough work, and bleeding wounds are something numerous. After a rest they went at it again, and suddenly McCartney seized his opponent's leg and unhorsed him. Rose soon dragged Chapman to the ground, and then he and McCartney tried for first prize. Rose is a boy 18 years of age, but an excellent rider, while McCartney is a big able man, therefore it was thought the former would be "pie" for him. The tussle was a desperate one, and the friends of each shouted encouraging words. Both men appeared to be pretty well exhausted when they closed for the final bout. Rose seized McCartney by the shirt collar, and chopping him under the chin pressed him so hard for nearly two minutes that he was compelled to let go the reins to save himself from falling in a heap on the sand. Rose was loudly cheered. On dismounting he said he had injured himself at the outset and felt like giving up the contest. He was the hero of the day. Rose was never in a similar contest before.

The Victoria Cross race was exciting. A stuffed man was thrown up the track, and some distance from him were several sharpshooters in ambush. When riders dashed up to carry off the "wounded man," the shooters opened fire, sometimes causing the horses to fall back on their haunches and retreat. Of course a great deal depended on the horse. If it would not stand fire the rider could do nothing with it. Harris went out and dismounting was soon in the saddle again with the dummy dangling at his side. McCartney did well also, using his horse as a cover while he raised the dummy, and getting back to the lines in 39 seconds. He was given first prize, with Harris second. Rider took third. Ross carried the dummy off with only one foot in a stirrup and clinging to the saddle, while poor Hickey, who was sick, was not equal to the task of raising the dummy from the ground. Defoe's and Huxley's horses could not be controlled. The popping of the guns and the sight of the dummy set them fairly mad, hence their riders had to succumb.

The field men, in the tug of war, dragged the garrison men over the mark as easily as they could have hauled a gun carriage down the fort hill, and then a flat race with six horses entered closed the day's doings. The "Hip-hip hurrah's" over, the men donned their uniforms and left for the barracks.

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