

and about six o'clock an impromptu dance was started which put a capital finish and made a fitting wind up to what proved to be the best and most successful affair the members of the mess have ever undertaken, and their many lady friends are filled already with the desire to know when they propose repeating their success.

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The annual "Smoker" and supper of "H" Co. Q.O.R. was held at Webb's parlors on Thursday evening, about 80 guests being present, chief among whom were Col. Hamilton, Major Delamere, Capt. Mercer, Capt. Gunther, Capt. Mason, Capt. A. Thompson, Lieuts. Greene, Burnham, Mowat, Morton, Booker, and Lieut. W. R. Pringle, (R. G.) and Sergt.-Major George. After supper, while the guests enjoyed either a "Churchwarden" pipe or a cigar, a choice selection of songs, recitations, banjo and mouth organ solos was rendered. At the conclusion of the entertainment short speeches were delivered by Col. Hamilton, Capt. Gunther and others.

The boys of H Co. feel gratified at the success of their "smoker."

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The 10th annual Mess dinner of the Q. O. R. Sergeants is now one of the events that lingers only in the memory of those who were lucky enough to participate therein, and the recollections of former ones were blotted out by the good time which was obtained at this one. The guests sat down at about 9 o'clock, and after grace had been said by Mr. Warring Kennedy, an onslaught was at once made on the good things which were provided by Caterer Tasker. After the tables were cleared the enjoyment proper (for such only gets well started when the covers are removed,) was begun, the toast of "The Queen" being given with all the time honored reverence; Sergt. Burns, Sec'y. of the mess then read letters of regret from Major-Gen. Herbert, Hon. J. C. Patterson, Lieut.-Gov. Kirkpatrick, Rev. G. Lloyd, ex-Chaplain of the regiment, now at Rothesay, N.B., Capt. Knifton, and others, amongst them being one from "An Exile in Ottawa," which was signed by A. M. Burns, who was generally sympathised with at having to report the speeches from the Parliamentarians at Ottawa instead of partaking of the good things which the gods had provided, and mingling his wit with that of his luckier comrades.

The toast of "Our Commanding Officer and Staff" was proposed by Sergt. Pearson and brought responses from Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, and Majors Delamere and Sankey, Capt. Mercer and Quartermaster Heakes. Lieut.-Col. Hamilton gave a decidedly interesting speech and one which, addressed as it was to the Sergeants, was listened to with profit and pleasure by all present. The work of the past year was criticised, the work of the year to come briefly foreshadowed. Faults were pointed out and the remedies to overcome such were mentioned. The speech was brought to a conclusion by the wish for the best possible exertion on the part of every member of the mess towards carrying to a successful issue the entertainment which is proposed, to be held as soon as the new Drill Hall is completed. "The Canadian Militia" proposed by Staff-Sergt. Ashall was cordially received and as cordially responded to by Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., who in a few short pithy remarks, pointed out some of the defects and suggested the remedy which would place the force on a more efficient basis.

The remarks were listened to with much pleasure by all present and many impressions were made which, individually at least, can not help but prove of value.

The toast of "Canada Our Home," proposed by Sergt. Lennox, was ably and well looked after in the person of Mr. Warring Kennedy whose remarks, needless to say, found an echo in the hearts and sentiments of all present.

Sergt. Thompson, in a clever and happy vein, proposed the toast of "Our Brother Non Coms," and this brought responses from Color-Sergt. Gallaway, No. 2 Co. C. R. I., Sergt. P. Hewgill, "A" Battery, Sergt.-Major Stretton, G.G.B.G., Sergt.-Major Spry, T.F.B., Staff-Sergt. Harp, and Color-Sergt. Rose, 48th Highlanders, Sergt.-Major Cox, 10th R. G., Sergt.-Major Baker, 14th P. of W. Own, Kingston, Color-Sergt. Healey, 13th, Hamilton, Sergt.-Major McCremmon, 7th, London, Sergt. Flemming, 38th (Dufferin Rifles.)

The toast of "Our Guests," proposed by Col.-Sergt. J. G. Langton, brought forth a response from Mr. A. Muir, presi-

dent of the Army and Navy Veterans and author of "The Maple Leaf." This speech proved without any doubt to be the speech of the evening and the applause the gallant bard received (and who, by the way, was Col.-Sergt. of the old Highland Company of the regiment) at its close has seldom if ever been exceeded in the rooms.

The toast of "The Ladies," proposed by Col.-Sergt. Boyd and responded to by Sergt. Hulme brought the toast list to a close.

Intermingling the toasts were songs from Col.-Sergt. Creighton, Staff-Sergt. Williams, ex-Sergt. Eadis, Bugle Sergt. Woods and Bugler Baker.

Previous to leaving the tables the toast of the Sergeants' Mess of the Q. O. R., proposed by Sergt.-Major Spry was fittingly replied to on behalf of the Mess by Sergt.-Major George, who amongst other things stated, that for several years past it had been customary for many of the guests to read an account of the dinner in the daily papers of that morning, and expressed the wish that many of the guests would avail themselves of this convenience instead of rushing off home and reading it about nine or ten o'clock, and as afterwards proved, many of them accepted the invitation.

The decorations this year fully exceeded those of previous years and reflected great credit on Col.-Sergt. World and his staff of assistants.

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The oil painting of the late Sergt.-Major McKee which was placed on the walls of the mess room for the first time, attracted considerable attention and excited many flattering comments on the skill of the artist, Miss Berthon, of Sherbourne street.

BREECH-BLOCK.

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One of the most successful of those social events which so emphatically mark the advancement made in recent years by the Militia of Canada, took the form of a complimentary dinner, tendered on evening of 22nd inst., to the members of "A" Company, Royal Grenadiers, by Major J. D. Hay and Capt. A. M. Irving, the former and present commanders of the company.

The efficiency (military and social) of "A" Company is so thoroughly established, that the dinner was pleasurably anticipated by the invited guests, and their expectations were more than realized, as the banquet was an unqualified success.

Captain Irving occupied the chair, and dispensed the duties of the position admirably. Among the guests present were the following prominent officers and civilians:—

Lt.-Col. Davidson, 48th Highlanders; Major Buchan, C. R. I., Major Mason, R. G., Capt. Harston, Capt. Trotter, Capt. Cameron, Capt. Tassie, Capt. Bruce, Surgeon King, Lieut. Chadwick, Lieut. Pringle, Captain Gibson, Mr. A. W. Croil, Surg.-Major Cox, Mr. Bert Kennedy, son of the late Lt.-Col. Kennedy, Mr. Moody, Mr. Williamson, Mr. Smith, of the "Globe," Mr. McDonald of the "Star," and others.

Regrets were read from Lieut.-Col. Grassett, Lieut.-Col. Dawson, A.D.C., Captains Gosling and Macdougall, Surgeon Ryerson, Lieuts. Thompson, Lehman, Willis and Bain, Mr. A. S. Irving, Mr. McKinnon and others.

After full justice had been done to the ample menu (which was enlivened by the strains of Glenna's Italian Orchestra), the toasts of the evening were proceeded with and responded to as follows:—

"The Queen,"

"The Regiment,"—Major Mason and Capt. Harston.

"Sister Corps,"—Major Buchan.

"Non-Commissioned Officers,"—Sergt.-Major Cox, Col.-Sergt. Smith, Sergt. Wetherley, Corp. Anderson.

"The Press,"—Mr. Smith, Mr. McDonald.

Major Buchan proposed the health of Major Hay and Capt. Irving, to which Capt. Irving responded, and explained the unavoidable absence of Major Hay, who was prevented from returning to the city in time, owing to distance and pressure of business.

Capt. Cameron proposed "The Defenders of Canada," responded to by Messrs. Smith and Croil.

During the evening a most entertaining programme was rendered, from which we cull the following items of special merit and ability:

Mr. Tyner, Dutch and Irish songs; Mr. Baker, comic song; Drummer Pratt and Mr. Ross, song and dance in