

served out to the corps, and would undoubtedly help recruiting, besides being eminently serviceable.

Next to becoming a Grenadier battalion—carrying colours, and uniformed in the traditional scarlet—the “Fighting First of Foot” would do well to adopt the grey.

* * *

The Victoria Rifles Reserve Association are not asleep. These distinguished veterans show an amount of agility and “snap” that should make the members of many an active corps blush. Two events are on the tapis. The first takes place on the 31st inst., under the following instructions:—

ORDERS OF LT.-COL. HENSHAW,
COMMANDING RESERVE CONTINGENT
VICTORIA RIFLES OF CANADA.

- 1st. The Contingent will parade at their camp, Cathcart st., on 31st January, for picket duty.
 - 2nd. Each man will provide his own arms and ammunition (pipes, tobacco, &c.)
 - 3rd. Parade will fall in at 8 p.m.
Last Post, 11 p.m.
Lights out, 11.30 p.m.
- Uniform: Mufti.
The Quartette Band will attend.

By order,
C. W. RADIGER, Hon. Major,
Acting Adjt.

Rifle shooting and billiard matches with the Regiment are being arranged for above evening.

The second event will take the shape of a smoking concert, to be held in the V. R. C. Armoury Hall on 24th February. New and startling features are to be introduced, and the affair is likely to be one of the most successful that has for a long time been held in this city. The arrangements are in the hands of the musical men of the Association, prominent among whom are Messrs. Millar, Adams, Ramsay and Johnson.

NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE.

Inspector Hopkins, of the North-West Mounted Police, left last week for England, having received news of the serious illness of his father.

* * *

The Austin-Jenkins boxing match is off, Corp. Jenkins forfeiting his deposit of \$25. The Commissioner of the N.W. M.P., having seen a notice in the *Tribune* to the effect that Jenkins was about to engage in a “prize fight,” stopped the fight. As a matter of fact there was no “prize fight” in contemplation, but simply a boxing match with 4½ oz gloves. It is to be regretted that the Commissioner did not inquire into the facts of the case before putting his foot down on the match so decidedly, as the manly art deserves as much, if not more, encouragement out here as elsewhere. —*Calgary Herald*.

* * *

The Department of the Interior are offering for sale the old Police Fort at Shoal Lake and the police reserve of land in the vicinity. As will be seen by the large extent of land reserved for police purposes, 1492 acres, this was at first intended to be an important post of the N. W. M. Police, but it gradually dwindled down to a corporal's detachment watching whiskey smugglers from Manitoba into the north.

* * *

The following appeared in a recent issue of the *Regina Leader*:—

POLICE SCRIP.

To the Editor of *The Leader*.

SIR, —Where is Sir John Macdonald's *corps d'elite*? For the late rebellion all volunteers and militia got scrip, even those who never saw the North-West proper at all. The local corps in the North-West got scrip, amongst them the Battleford Rifles. Men who had held Battleford with them and fought side by side with them at Cut Knife Hill are denied it—They are only the Mounted Police. Steele's Scouts

were made up of civilians and police; the civilians of the corps got scrip, but the police who stood service with them and fought shoulder to shoulder with them at Frenchman's Butte and Loon Lake are denied it—they are only the Mounted Police. The only reason against the Police getting scrip which has come to the surface is an allegation that they were regulars. Until this allegation was made I never knew of anyone considering it other than a civil force, and it was not under the control of the Militia Minister. No doubt they expected trouble at times arresting Indians—and they got it, too—but I don't suppose that there was one man of those serving in 1885 who joined with an idea of military service or even thought he would be called on to go through a regular campaign. Now, are not the volunteers and militia enlisted and kept up with a direct view to military service. I don't want to, nor would I presume to detract in the slightest degree from the noble services of those men, nor do I mean to say that their services did not deserve all, and more than all, the recognition they received. What I want to argue is that the services of the Police are equally worthy of recognition. When the volunteers returned home and were having a good time of it, the Police for months afterwards had some nasty and severe work to do, guarded those hundreds of Indian prisoners in crowded guard rooms that stank worse than the hold of a slave dhow, and with about two nights in bed at that. There is nothing but the most cordial and friendly recollections between the Police and the corps brigaded with them in 1885, notably “The Queen's Own” and “Ottawa Foot Guards” at Battleford, when these two corps manfully, and pretty hotly, too, took the part of the Police when another undeserved slight was thought to be put upon them. I strongly appeal to those corps now, and to the other corps brigaded with the Police in 1885, to take up the cause of their old comrades in arms and not allow this undeserved slur to be put upon them. It is the slur that rankles; the value of the scrip does not go for so very much. The subject of the treatment of the Police in the matter of this scrip and the way in which medals were granted them could be very much enlarged on, but it is not for me to do it. I bring the matter up in your widely circulated and influential paper in hopes that as the department responsible for the Police seems to be at least supine in the matter, some one able and willing to push the matter would take it up and have this crying and humiliating injustice righted.

CORPS D'ELITE.

Notes

A romance of the ranks was disclosed at Portsmouth recently, during a court-martial upon Sergeant John George Hodding, of the Oxfordshire Light Infantry. The charge against him was that of committing an act prejudicial to good order and military discipline, by taking a drunken woman into the new barracks.

The medical evidence showed that the woman was ill, and not drunk, as alleged, and the prisoner was acquitted.

It transpired that he was the son of a distinguished general in the India service, and that failing in his examination for a cadetship, he enlisted as a private soldier four years ago, with a view of working up through the ranks to a commission, for which he was recently recommended by the officer commanding his regiment.

* * *

Lieut.-Col. Alfred Lewis, late of the 60th, 58th, 2nd and 8th regiments, who died on the 11th November, at Belgrave road, Torquay, at the age of 57 years, entered the service March, 1856, obtaining his lieutenantcy May, 1858, captaincy February, 1868, majority in December, 1878, and lieut.-colonelcy July, 1881. He served in the 60th Rifles in the Indian Mutiny campaign in 1838, receiving the medal. He volunteered in Canada in 1862 to go after a party of the 4th battalion, 60th rifles, that had deserted with their rifles and ammunition for the purpose of joining the American army. He captured the men after they had fired several times on his party, and for this service was mentioned in general orders by Sir F. Williams, commanding in Canada. He served in the Afghan war 1878-79 with the 8th foot, including the operations in the Koorum valley, receiving the medal.