

THE MONTREAL MILITARY INSTITUTE.

During April three meetings of the members of this Institute were held. The first was in the rooms of the Montreal Garrison Artillery, on the first of the month. A large number of members were present, Lieut.-Col. Butler in the chair. After reading and adopting the minutes of previous meeting, the secretary read letters from Lieut.-Governor Chapleau, Major-General Herbert, Col. Powell, A.G., and Lieut.-Col. Irwin, agreeing to become vice-patrons of the Institute; a letter was also read from Sir Donald A. Smith, K.C.M.G., thanking the Institute for having made him a honorary member. The Committee then presented a report on by-laws, but it was moved and carried "that the report be received and that the adoption of the by-laws be deferred." A resolution making THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE the official organ of the Institute was also unanimously adopted. The question of club rooms was then discussed and the chairman reported what the Committee had done in the matter and it was resolved that the Committee be authorized to, if possible, complete arrangements with the City Club for premises, provided the expense be limited to two hundred dollars. On behalf of the Royal Scots, Major Ibbotson then invited the members to meet at the room of that corps on 15th inst. This concluded the business, and a very enjoyable evening was then spent.

The meeting on 15th April at the armoury of the Royal Scots was a most pleasant one. In spite of the very unfavourable weather there was a large attendance of members. At the short business meeting that opened the proceedings, the President, Col. Butler, occupied the chair; after routine, the vital question of permanent quarters was again discussed but in the absence of definite offers of rooms nothing could be decided. The name of Major Labelle, 65th Rifles, was added to the room committee, and a thorough canvas for eligible quarters was decided on. This concluded the business and a very jolly evening was spent.

The third meeting during the month was held on 29th inst. in the rooms of the Montreal Field Battery at the Drill Hall. Owing to the parade of the 6th Fusiliers and the ceremony of the presentation by Sir Donald Smith of the challenge cups given by him to the winners in the efficiency competition, the meeting did not take place till nearly eleven o'clock; but though late, it was an exceptionally brilliant one, being graced by the presence of Hon. Mrs. Herbert and a large number of ladies, Col. Powell, A.G., Sir Donald Smith, Mayor Desjardins, Lieut.-Col. Macpherson, Mr. Sandford Fleming and other distinguished guests.

What little business was on hand was quickly disposed of and several of the gentlemen present, including Sir Donald Smith, Col. Powell, Lieut.-Col. Macpherson, Mr. Fleming and the Mayor, favoured the meeting with short speeches. For the settlement of the only really important business before the Institute (the selection of permanent quarters) it was decided to have a Committee meeting on the following Monday. On behalf of Number 1 Troop Duke of Connaught's Hussars, Col. McArthur invited the Institute to hold its next meeting in their rooms on Saturday, 13th May, which was accepted with thanks. The meeting then adjourned.

The trite saying that a great war can no longer be afforded is given greater significance than ever by the descriptions of the new field piece of the German army. This is pronounced the most terribly destructive engine of war ever produced, and is a three-inch gun, which can be loaded and fired in one-third of the time required for the old gun, and with almost double the effect and precision. Explosive shell is the only projectile. This is charged with a new powder of secret composition, that scatters thousands of splinters over a circle of 900 feet, whereas during the Franco-German war the pieces of bursting shell fell within a circle of 40 or 50 paces, and not more than 7 or 8 were wounded.

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The United States Government have decided to erect fortifications for the defence of Portland, Maine, and a few days ago the Government surveyor, and four assistants, went to Cushing's Island and surveyed the tract of land there upon which the fortifications are to be erected. A strip of 30 acres, running from White Head, along the outer shore towards the Ottawa Hotel, will be taken. This piece of ground is well known to many Canadians.

Personal Notes.

Lieut.-Col. J. A. L. Strathy, who has just been promoted to the command of the 5th Royal Scots, is not quite thirty-six years of age, having been born on the 24th July, 1857. He joined the 5th in 1880, and attended the regimental camp held on St. Helen's Island during that summer. In the following winter he obtained a 2nd class M. S. certificate and received substantive rank on 25th February, 1881.

On 2nd June, 1882, he was promoted to rank of lieutenant, and on 29th February, 1884, to captain. He commanded a company until 1891, when he was appointed Major, and now succeeds to the command of one of the best six-company battalions in the Canadian service, and the pioneer killed corps of the present establishment.

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Lieut. A. G. Peuchen, of the Queen's Own Rifles, was married to Miss Thomson, third daughter of the late Mr. John Thomson, a few days ago. Owing to the illness of Mr. John Thomson, the brother of the bride, the wedding was a quiet one, there being present no one but the immediate friends and relatives of the contracting parties. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. R. J. Beattie, of Guelph. Lieut. Edward McNaughton, of the Cobourg Garrison Artillery, and Lieut. Alex. Crooks, of the Queen's Own, acted as groomsmen, and the bridesmaids were Miss Jessie and Miss Nannie Thomson. The drawing-room of the house was resplendent with a large collection of presents from the bride's many friends. Chief among the presents was a complete case of silverware from the bride's brother. Among many others was a Doulton china set from Dr. J. E. Elliott, a silver service from S. C. Peuchen, a diamond pendant from the bridegroom, a piano lamp from George Thomson, a gold watch from Mrs. Thomson, and a solid silver card case from the doctors, matrons and nurses of the hospital in England in which Miss Thomson studied for some years.

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Mr. Taylor Crowe, son of Mr. J. J. Crowe, of Dummer, has returned from the Royal School of Artillery, Kingston, where he concluded a three months course by successfully passing his examination for a first-class certificate. Mr. Crowe had previously taken first-class honors at the Quebec School of Cavalry.

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Mr. Henry Taylor, a prominent citizen of London, Ont., who died on 28th inst., was at one time in the Commissariat department of the Imperial Army, and afterwards held a captain's commission in the 7th Fusiliers.

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Staff-Sergeant Walker, of the Dufferin Rifles, met with a very severe accident recently. He was unloading about half a ton of lead from a G. F. R. lorry when the mass fell upon him, crushing him terribly.

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Major Busted, of the Victoria Rifles, Montreal, has been made a Q.C.

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At the St. George's Society dinner in Toronto on 24th April, Lieut.-Col. Gray responded for "The Army, Navy, and Auxiliary Forces," while Lieut.-Col. Denison suitably spoke for "The Day and all who honour it."

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Mr. C. E. A. Patterson, who has just been appointed one of the city assessors of Montreal, held a lieutenancy in the Victoria Rifles for several years subsequent to 1876. On the breaking out of the North-West Rebellion in '85 he joined the 65th Battalion as Sergeant-Major and served throughout the campaign.

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Sir Evelyn Wood, V.C., completed 41 years of service under the Crown on April 18, he having joined the Royal Navy on April 18, 1852, at the age of 14. He was with the Naval Brigade in the Crimea and took part with them in the battle of Inkerman and in the attack on Sebastopol, being severely wounded in the assault on the Redan. The gallant officer was transferred to the Army as a cornet in the 13th Light Dragoons in 1855. Before assuming his present command at Aldershot Sir Evelyn held the post of Sirdar of the Egyptian Army, and he also served some time at the Cape.