

CANADIAN MILITARY NEWS.

The new Snider Enfield Rifles for the 100th Battalion have been received, and it is expected will be served out in a few days.—*Coburg Sentinel*.

SNIDERS ARRIVED.—Fifty two boxes of Snider-Enfield rifles, containing in all 1,040 stand of arms, have arrived in this city and will be distributed to the volunteers in this city immediately. The Spencer rifles in possession of the volunteers have been called in, preparatory to the others being served out.—*Globe*.

The 69th Regiment will arrive here en route to Ontario, early to-morrow morning. It is understood that the 78th Highlanders will move into the Victoria Barracks, at the request of the officers, who have consented to bear the expense of transport. The 69th will remain two days in Montreal, rations to be drawn and cooked for them by the 100th Regiment. The women and children of the 4th Battalion P.C.O., Rifle Brigade, proceed to Quebec in advance of the Regiment to-morrow, and the Headquarters and 10 Companies on Wednesday. The 29th Regiment will remain in Montreal for the present.—*Montreal News*.

ARTILLERY PRACTICE AT THE ISLAND OF ORLEANS.—Our streets have been crowded of late with waggons transporting ammunition, shot and shell, for practice at the Island of Orleans. The new Armstrong gun, sixty-one hundred weight, breech-loading, rifled wedged cannon, with the 8 inch gun 75 hundred weight, and 24 pounder 50 hundred weight, were transported by the steamer *Maid of Orleans*, together with the various stores, and materials, and also camp equipment and equipage for a battery of Artillery. No. 3 battery, 3rd Brigade, under Capt. R O Farmer, have been on the Island since Monday, receiving stores and preparing for their annual practice. The whole of the above material was moved under the superintendence of Adjutant J C Deshon.—*Quebec Chronicle*.

CIVIC HOLIDAY.—**MILITARY PIC-NIC.**—It has now become a custom in many of the towns and cities of Canada, to have a Holiday about this time of year, when the citizens may enjoy a day of recreation and pleasure, as a relief from the toils and perplexities of business in every day life. Acting upon this principle, and in compliance with a requisition signed by the business men of the town, His Worship the Mayor proclaimed Thursday last as a civic holiday, and which was generally observed by the townspeople, all the places of business being closed. The Coburg Volunteers took advantage of the opportunity to hold their annual pic-nic excursion on that day, and for that purpose the steamer *Corinthian* was engaged to take them and their friends to Presqu' Isle Point, a very pleasant and picturesque spot on the shore of Presqu' Isle Bay. Accordingly, at seven o'clock on Thursday morning, our streets presented a gay and animated appearance with the volunteers, and a large number of civilians and their wives and sweethearts, hurrying to the wharf, well laden with baskets of refreshments. The boat arrived here at 8 o'clock and the excursionists were soon all aboard accompanied by the Coburg Brass and Quadrille Bands. The boat arrived and the excursionists had disembarked at the pic-nic grounds by eleven

o'clock, and after the happy party had partaken of refreshments, the amusements of the day were commenced, some joining in the giddy mazes of the dance, others in the contests at the athletic games, &c. The day was fine, cool and bracing the grounds and surrounding scenery beautiful, and every one on the grounds seemed to have forgotten all worldly cares in the pleasures of the day. The disagreeable and unaccommodating spirit evinced by the leader of the quadrille band slightly marred the exuberant spirits of the gay and humorous, but this was amply compensated for by the services of a string band that was present. There must have been about 400 persons present and all seemed to have enjoyed themselves to the utmost. The *Corinthian* having made her regular trip to Charlotte, after landing the picnic party did not return until a late hour, and arrived here at half past eleven o'clock at night. They all express themselves highly pleased with Capt. Chrysler, and the officers of the *Corinthian*, for the kindness and courtesy extended to them on this occasion. It was certainly the happiest affair of the season. The volunteer officers did everything in their power to give eclat to the affair, and to make every one happy, prominent amongst whom we may mention Capt. Charles Elliott, of No. 2 Infantry company, and Lieut. Stanton, of the Artillery. Both these gentlemen are favorites with the Volunteers, and in fact with all classes of our citizens, and both vied with each other in their efforts to make all feel happy, in which they succeeded most admirably. The Volunteers deserved a fine day and a happy time at their pic-nic—they got both, and it served them right, so say we.—*Coburg Sentinel*.

ARMY SYSTEM OF RETIREMENT.

The Commons Select Committee on the system of retirement from the three non-purchase corps of Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, and Royal Marines have made their report. They suggest a limit of age for compulsory retirement from active duties, and recommend that at the age of 60 every colonel of artillery or engineers be placed on a reserve list, and while on that list, be considered ineligible for ordinary regimental duties, but eligible for staff or special employments, if selected by the military authorities. That an officer so general, and retain his right of succession to the major general's establishment and to the command of a battalion. That every colonel on removal to the reservist should have the option of retiring from the army on £600 a year with a step in honorary rank. That every officer, after completing 22 years' service, should have the absolute right to retire, with a step of honorary rank, and with an annuity (irrespective of pensions for wounds or distinguished service) according to a scale given in the report, beginning with \$250 after the 22 years' service, the scale being graduated with a view to giving an officer after 30 years' service little or no inducement to remain in the corps solely on account of any prospect of better retirement at a greater age. The committee consider that at 50 an officer should practically have to make his election between seeking the higher commands in the corps and retiring from the service. To promote this object the committee recommend that an officer on retirement be enabled to obtain from the Government the equivalent of his annuity in present pay-

ment its present value being calculated at the National debt office, having regard to his age and the state of his health, the computation of value being made at 5 per cent. interest. An officer obtaining his commission at 20, and retiring after 25 years' service on a pension of £325, his life being good, might receive for it £4,080; and after 30 years' service £450 a year or £5,050. If this experiment of compounding pensions should be successful, it might be extended to other services. The committee further recommend that no officer be retired for half pay except for wounds or ill health, and that officers rendered unfit for service by ill health be allowed to continue on the half pay list, whatever their length of service may have been, power being retained to bring them back to their former place in the corps when pronounced fit for duty. It would be in the discretion of the military authorities to employ or not any officer who shall have acquired the right to retire on a pension. It is proposed that retirement from the Marines be governed by similar regulations, the maximum annuity being £600 except in the case of an existing colonel commandant, whose annuity may be £700 a year.

DESCENT OF AN ENORMOUS METEOR IN LAKE ONTARIO.

A GRAND AND STARTLING SPECTACLE.

The *Hamilton Times* says Capt. Turner, of the schooner *Algerine*, who arrived in the city this morning, reports having witnessed at about the hour of 11 o'clock on Wednesday night, a terrific and splendid phenomenon, in the descent of an immense meteor into Lake Ontario, which struck the water not more than three hundred yards from his vessel. The Captain states that a few moments previous to the appearance he had come up from his cabin on deck, and was standing on the main hatch. The vessel was on the starboard tack, sailing along finely with a light southwest breeze from Port Dalhousie, and about twelve miles of the Niagara lighthouse, bearing S. S. W. Presently his attention was attracted by a sudden illumination from the northwest, which almost instantly increased to a dazzling brilliancy. On turning he beheld a large body of fire in the heavens, which seemed to be approaching at a descent of about 30 degrees, and growing rapidly larger as it came nearer, the observation of time being so brief as hardly to admit of computation in seconds. The momentary impression of Captain Turner was that certain destruction awaited his vessel and all on board, as the terrific missile seemed to be directed to strike the vessels broadside. The time for reflection, however, was brief, and the light emitted was so blinding in its effect that the man at the wheel and another of the crew on deck fell prostrate and remained for some time completely stupefied with terror. The Captain himself, as he states, remained transfixed and saw the fiery body enter the water some three hundred yards ahead of the vessel, about two points to the windward. A loud explosion attended the contact with the water, which was sharp and deafening, equal to a thunderbolt close at hand, and a large volume of steam and spray ascended to the air, which was noticed for some moments afterwards. In the confusion of the moment, Capt. Turner was unable to comprehend what had occurred.