

their every act, no matter how unreasonable, or unjust, such may be. And, should any presumptions follow—who may have worn the Queen's uniform in times and places of danger, as well as of peace, and may have "fell in" for action as well as for church parade—dare to express an opinion, or make a comment, upon "anything milingtairy," straightway their little backs are elevated, their little strut is "put on," and their astonished gaze is turned upwards, in the expectation that the heavens will fall upon, and "squelch" the cheeky offender.

Of course "Vedette" should not have noticed the blackguardly conduct of the man who disgraced his uniform in the presence of the General. That was a matter to be hushed up, or denied. Of course he should not have noticed the disgraceful conduct of a number of the men of the 14th, at the unveiling of the Sir John A. Macdonald monument, when these military paragons hooted and yelled, during the delivery of the Premier's address, until his words were drowned by their clamor. That, too, was a matter to be vigorously and emphatically denied. What unheard of fate, poor "Vedette" may expect, when, in the near future, he exposes certain of the abuses that exist in the 14th, and that tend to destroy the efficiency and the welfare of the regiment, it would be hard to predict. But "Vedette" with the hope that he may be able to promote the prosperity, and increase the usefulness, and efficiency of the battalion, will point out these regimental ulcers, and expects to survive the displeasure and haughty chilliness of the offended autocrats of the service.

VEDETTE.

Toronto.

New Year's day in Toronto was celebrated, as far as the sergeants' messes of the city corps were concerned, in a little different manner than in past years. The Grenadiers and Highlanders sergeants' mess had representatives on hand all day to receive their callers, and the Queen's Own sergeants held an "At Home" in their new quarters from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. To them must be given the greatest credit, as without a doubt their reception was as well attended as any other event in the city.

Cards were sent to the officers and sergeants of the forces in the city, and as the number of callers exceeded two hundred the reception committee was kept busily engaged.

The lower floor blinds were shut and the gas lighted, and the effect on one coming in from the bright sunlight was most pleasing.

The callers, as they arrived, were received by Q. M. Sergt. Thorn, and the vice-president, Hospital Sergt. World, and by them handed over to a member of the board of management, who after seeing to the refreshment of the inner man, acted as a guide in showing the rooms the members take such a pride in.

Following their practice the sergeants of the Highlanders were early abroad in a well-equipped four-in-hand, and with the pipe-major and pipes occupying a prominent seat in front.

They opened the reception of the Q.O.R. sergeants mess, reaching there almost to the minute, the reception opened, proceeded from there to the Grenadiers, thence to Stanley barracks. They also called on Sergt.-Major Robertson, who who has now become attached to the Toronto Fire Department, Lieut.-Col. Davidson, Major Cosby, Major Macdonald and Mr. W. Simpson.

They were all delighted with their day's outing, and their well-known high spirits were a little increased as they observed in

their mess rooms a very handsome marble clock, presented to them with best wishes for a prosperous new year from the popular wife of their popular commanding officer.

Sergt.-Major Harding, in charge of the drill hall, was agreeably surprised at receiving a handsome silk umbrella on New Year's eve from the sergeants' mess of the 48th Highlanders, who took this method of reciprocating the many kindnesses which they have received at the hands of the chief caretaker.

Considerable disappointment was expressed in many quarters that the idea so successfully carried out by the Montreal regiments of receiving in their respective regimental quarters, in the drill hall, was not carried out in Toronto.

To those who know anything of how Toronto people appreciate these little acts of courtesy, it seems as if a good opportunity was lost, and it is by such little acts that keep alive that interest without which no regiment can be successful.

Following the success which attended the example set by the sergeants' mess of the Q.O.R., it seems safe to say that New Year's day, 1897, will see their idea acted on by all the regiments.

The following clipping appeared in a recent issue of the *Mail and Empire*, and possibly ere this reaches the eye further progress will have been made:

AN ARTILLERY CORPS.

A movement is on foot to reorganize the Toronto Garrison Artillery, a military body which was born in 1866 and died a few years ago. The battery formerly existed under the command of Captain Gibson and Mr. W. B. McMurrich, but did not remain on the military list after 1892. A petition has been circulated asking for the reorganization of the corps as a brigade of from four to six companies, which has been signed by over 2,000 names. A meeting of the sergeants of the old battery was held last evening at the residence of Major Harston, those present being Major Harston, and Sergts. R. Lovatt, Ward, G. Brooks, W. L. Ramsay, and T. W. Self. The question of the reorganizing of the battery was discussed, and it was decided that a deputation should be requested to go to Ottawa to interview the Minister of Militia on the subject. A letter will be sent to W. B. McMurrich, H. H. Dewart, Dr. R. A. Pyne, Major Harston, W. D. McPherson, R. A. Denison, A. R. Boswell, and H. P. Drayton, asking them to act on the deputation. It is expected that the petition will be presented by Mr. Emerson Coatsworth, M.P.

In reference to the above, the present time seems most opportune for the carrying out of such a scheme, and if Montreal, with her plethora of regiments, can support so successfully as she supports the Montreal G. A., no one doubts the success, under the proper officers, of a Garrison Artillery in the city.

The M. G. A., as seen here last July, was a credit to any city, and there is not the slightest doubt but that a corps could be raised in Toronto that would make them look to their laurels.

It is to be hoped, however, that better results will follow the efforts of Major Harston in this attempt than attended his efforts in forming a bicycle regiment.

In view of the events which attended the publication of the message of President Cleveland re the Venezuelan matter, the feeling of friendship and desire for closer connection which is being evinced by Canadian corps toward the 100th Royal Canadians, must be gratifying indeed to the people of the mother country, and nothing would better refute the desire for

annexation which some ill-advised people state is prevalent here, than the expressions of good-will that have been extended to the commanding officer and officers of the 100th.

Following the gift of the badges, etc., of the permanent corps of infantry, presented by Lieut.-Col. Macpherson, came the invitation from Lieut.-Col. Maunsell and officers of No. 4 company, R.C.R.I., to become perpetual honorary members of their mess.

Through the able efforts of Major Delamere this was quickly followed by a similar invitation from Lieut.-Col. Hamilton and officers of the Queen's Own Rifles. The acceptance to the invitation of the Q.O.R. reads as follows:

"On behalf of the officers of the First Leinster regiment, Royal Canadians, I beg to thank you and the officers of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, for your kindness in making us honorary members of your mess, a privilege we will gladly avail ourselves of, should opportunity offer, and an honor much appreciated by the officers of this regiment, as a token of the interest and kindly feeling still taken by the army of Canada in the regiment, which, though now recruited in Ireland, has not forgotten its old and intimate association with Canada, and is proud of the title which it alone bears amongst the regiments of the British army.

"Yours very sincerely,

"(Sgd.) H. W. FRENCH, Lt.-Col.

"Commanding Royal Canadians.

"Barracks, Tipperary, Dec. 12."

Through the kindness of Major Delamere the sergeants of the Queen's Own are forwarding to their brother sergeants of the 100th a frame containing the chevrons, badges, etc., worn by the regiments, as well as a photo album of their mess rooms. Accompanying this will be an invitation from sergt.-major and sergeants, extending a similar invitation to that extended by the officers.

The kindly disposed person alluded to in my last letter has evidently been found, as from reliable authority, I learn that the C. O. of the Queen's has at length bestirred himself, and by the time this meets the eye the indications point to the bowling alleys apportioned to his regiment being made use of. I cannot say under what arrangement they will be run, but the supposition is that in the meantime the sergeants of the regiment will take charge, if for no other reason, than to prevent further delay in getting them open.

The drill pay of the Grens and Kilties was received by them on or about the 12th of December. The pay of the Queen's is still in futuro.

Various rumors are prevalent in the places where these things are talked of, and while no one can be found who really knows anything, it is pretty generally supposed that carelessness or negligence in connection with some of the returns, is the real cause of the trouble.

The delay has caused considerable talk as well as disappointment to many members of the regiment, who think that it is about time that the withdrawal for their annual blow-outs had arrived.

"SABRETACHE."

Ottawa.

OTTAWA, Jan. 11.—The government have something more interesting to them to look after just now than strengthening Canada's defences and supplying the deficiencies of Canada's military effective. Mr. Dickie, minister of militia, is temporarily out of business and the department is turned over along with others,