

Major Stewart, of Ottawa, the contractor for Toronto's new drill shed, was at the Walker House on the 15th inst.

"No," he said to an *Empire* reporter, "we're not doing much on the shed these days. You see, the weather won't permit it. But as soon as it opens up a little we will get down to work again. Yes, the prospects for the building trade are fairly good, so far as I know."

Major Stewart left the city late last night for Red Deer, Alberta, where he has just completed an industrial school for the Government.—*Empire*.

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The Toronto Rifle Association held its twenty-sixth annual meeting on 21st inst. Capt. Walter Macdonald, the president, occupied the chair, and there were over 20 members present, among them being Capt. M. S. Mercer, Lieut. Cartwright, Capt. Rennie, Messrs. Simpson, J. McVittie, T. Mitchell, A. Elliott, Jos. Johnston, A. Bell, J. K. Fairbairn, W. Harp, R. McVittie, W. J. Davidson, A. Curran. After the reading of the secretary's report and the adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting, the election of officers was proceeded with. This resulted as follows:

President—Mr. Joseph Johnston.

First vice-president—Mr. William Harp.

Second vice-president—Mr. W. J. Davidson.

Secretary-treasurer—Mr. Alfred Curran.

Executive Committee—Capt. Rennie, Capt. Macdonald, Messrs. J. K. Fairbairn and A. Elliott.

A vote of thanks was passed to the retiring president and secretary and other officers, to which Capt. Macdonald made a neat reply. After considerable discussion it was decided that it should be optional to use either the Martini-Henry or the Snider at the annual or other matches in connection with the association for the year 1893. A resolution was passed "That the Toronto Rifle Association is of the opinion that the Martini-Henry should be adopted by the Ontario Rifle Association as far as possible at the annual matches of that association, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the secretary of the Ontario Rifle Association." It was decided during the coming season to hold spoon competitions, in which the prizes would be a silver ladle for the winner and a wooden spoon for the marksman making the lowest score.

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The following are the volunteer companies entitled to the 15c. fare to the new rifle ranges: Governor-General's Body Guard, Toronto Field Battery, Queen's Own, Royal Grenadiers, 12th Battalion, 48th Battalion, Canadian Regiment Infantry, Toronto Rifle Association and Ontario Rifle Association.

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When Lieut. H. F. Wyatt made up his programme for the annual dinner of F company, Q. O. R., he introduced a number of quotations from Rudyard Kipling's ballads. Mr. Wyatt sent him a copy of the programme and received the following letter yesterday in acknowledgement, written from Battleboro', Vt.; "I have to send you very many thanks for your mess dinner programme and for the cutting that came with it. I think I know all about the Q. O. R. from a Canadian officer who is now serving in India, and it does me good to hear of a mess dinner again. It is more gratifying than I can say to find my Banackers going where they belong, that is to say up and down the Army of the Empire. Some day when I have knocked about the world a little more I want to turn my hand to a set of songs for all the colonial corps, say, for instance, Cape Mounted Rifles, N. Z. Artillery, Bishar Light Horse, Canada Mounted Police and so on, but it would need a great deal of special information to be worth anything. As you will see from the address, I am not very far across the border, under three feet of snow in a country where the army "walks by himself" and messes are few. With renewed thanks for your courtesy and sincerest respect for your battalion."

## LONDON.

The men of the Seventh Fusiliers who rallied to the call to arms in 1885 have not forgotten the stirring events of the campaign that, with all the difficulties, brought with it many pleasantries as well, and they purpose shortly holding a big banquet to become an annual affair to perpetuate the memories of the time spent in tramping through the gaps and do-

ing duty out on the broad prairies. With this object in view a meeting of the veterans was held on 25th March in the City Hall. The members present were Lieut.-Col. Gartshore, Major Smith, Capt. McKenzie, Lieuts. Chisholm and Baply, Col.-Sergts. Jackson, Owens and Lyons, Sergts. Anundson, Cox, Wanless, Pets, Pontey, Martin, Somerville, Burleigh, Cowan, Leonard, Ironside, Dignan, Watson, Moriarity, F. McNamara, A. McNamara, Heydon, Moise, Norfolk, Geo. Wright, Sinnett, Parkinson, Wilson, Smith, Farrell and Quarter-Master Sergt. Jury.

Lieut.-Col. Gartshore was elected chairman *pro tem.* and stated the object of the meeting was to bring the men together again, and if possible form an organization of North-West veterans of '85, and hold an annual gathering to commemorate the anniversary of the 7th Battalion's departure for the front. It was then unanimously decided to form an organization of members of the North-West field force, composed of all members residing in London or vicinity.

Sergt.-Major Ironside was appointed secretary-treasurer.

It was moved by Pte. Cowan, seconded by Pte. Leonard, that a banquet be held on the evening of the 7th of April, and an Executive Committee be appointed, composed of Lieut.-Col. Gartshore, Major Smith, Lieut.-Col. Payne, Lieut. Chisholm, Q.-M. Sergt. Jury, Corp. Wanless, Ptes. Watson, Dignan, Leonard, Cowan and Pontey—Carried.

In all probability a route march will take place.

The committee met subsequently, and appointed Major Smith chairman, and arranged details.

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At a meeting of the executive committee of the North-west veterans, held on 28th March, it was decided that the association be known as the "North-west Comrades of 1885 Association," and that all officers and men of any corps who served in the rebellion of 1885 be eligible. The banquet was arranged to take place at the Tecumseh House on the evening of April 7.

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If newspaper gossip is correct, the principle of adopting permanent grounds for the annual camps is being acted on by the Government. The new Minister is reported to have stated to the correspondent of a London paper in reply to the enquiry if the camp at that city was to be a permanent one—"Yes," replied Mr. Patterson, "I am going to adopt permanent camp grounds as a principle in the interest of the force, and London will be the Western site." Consequently any erections on the camp grounds might be made with that end in view. "I shall also establish permanent camp grounds at Kingston and Niagara. We have such in Quebec now, and one will be established in New Brunswick. Oh, yes, London is by all odds the best place in the West, on account of its grounds, water supply, central situation, and railway facilities."

## SHERBROOKE; QUE.

At a meeting of the local Board of Trade, held on 28th March, it was moved by J. S. Mitchell, seconded by N. T. Dussault and resolved, That in view of certain changes in the staff of the different military districts of the Dominion, contemplated by the Militia Dept., the present is a fitting opportunity to press the claim of the city of Sherbrooke to be made the head quarters of the 6th military district, and that the Secretary be instructed to send a complete copy of the resolution setting forth the advantage which Sherbrooke possesses for the position, to the Hon. W. B. Ives the representative of the city in the Dominion Parliament, with a request that he should urge the matter with the Minister of militia.

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The annual drill of the Fifty-third battalion will begin on Tuesday, 2nd April.

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It is the almost universal feeling here that something should be done without delay to strengthen the local force. Either the 53rd should be increased to the very moderate establishment of six companies, or a Field Battery should be established, to replace that recently disbanded at Richmond. Both could be done without any serious strain on the finances and stores of the Government, or on the available "food for powder" of the Eastern Townships' capital.