

GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

Occurrences of the Week in Some of the Live Corps.

A crack garrison battery in Nova Scotia—The Vics' Armoury Association—
The Sixth Fusiliers exchanging compliments—The O. & C. Rifles
have a Thanksgiving feast—Prizes and plumage for the
Guards—London heard from on the no-range
grievance -- The Ninetieth lose
their Chaplain.

THE Canadian militia costs 26c. per capita of the population. This includes the total expenditure for the maintenance of the force of about 38,000 of all ranks, the pay of the permanent staff, equipment, military college, schools of military instruction and all. It is a good investment. There is not one of us who does not feel safer to the amount of 26c. per year for having these 38,000 men at the country's call. The government might make it 50c. a head and even then we would not grumble. —*Star*.

No. 3 battery, H. G. A. which has the honor of holding the jubilee cup awarded for shifting ordnance, has for years been recognized as the best rifle shooting company in this district. A claim for this distinction was made last year by one of the infantry companies, whereupon No. 3 promptly called them to the range. The challenge was accepted and 20 men from each company tried conclusions, with the result that No. 3 won a decided victory, defeating their opponents by 178 points. In big gun shooting they are always well up. In shifting ordnance they are one of the very few batteries in the Dominion who have made themselves efficient. When men were required to aid the civil power at Lingan, on two hours' notice No. 3 paraded a large share of the contingent. Of the artillerymen who served in the Northwest with the composite battalion, one-third were from No. 3 battery. In competitions at Bedford, Ottawa, Quebec, Moose Jaw, Wimbledon and Sheelburness they brought credit to the H.G.A. and to Halifax. As the result of the Quebec meeting of 1884 has never been published we give below the positions of the leading teams from the D. A. A. report. It will be seen that out of four competitions, No. 3 topped two and was one of the four teams in No. 3 shift that almost made a dead heat of it: First—Halifax, England, England, Quebec, Montreal. Second—England, P. E. Island, Montreal, Levis. Third—P.E. Island, Quebec, Halifax, England. Fourth—Halifax, New Brunswick, Montreal. —*Halifax Mail*.

"B" Co., of the Royal Grenadiers dined at the Clifton house, Toronto, on the 16th inst. Color-Sergt. Hewitt occupied the chair. After the tables had been cleared, toasts and speeches were made, in which the stirring events of Batoche were again recited. Capt. Howard and Lieut. Cameron replied to the toast of the evening, "Our Officers." A strong patriotic sentiment tinged the utterances of all the speakers.

Montreal.

ON the occasion of a parade held last week for the purpose of the presentation of prizes won at the regimental matches, Lieut.-Col. Massey complimented the members of the Sixth Fusiliers on their many victories with the rifle in this year's competitions. He recalled the fact that by again winning the team aggregate cup of the Province of Quebec Rifle Association, which now becomes the property of the corps, the regiment secured for three years in succession the team championship of the Province of Quebec. In addition they had won five team prizes at the P. Q. R. A. meeting, and more cash prizes than any other corps which competed. By winning the \$500 Corporation of Montreal Jubilee Trophy the regiment would be the first to get its name inscribed on the handsomest trophy ever put up for competition among the Canadian militia. At the Dominion matches at Ottawa, the regiment had also done its share towards maintaining the reputation of the Montreal Brigade. The Colonel concluded by announcing that he expected next year to see the number of crack shots in the regiment greatly increased. Lieut.-Col. Gardner, the late commanding officer, assisted Lieut.-Col. Massey in the distribution of the prizes. Lieut. Chambers, on behalf of the winning team, presented to Col. Massey, in acknowledgment of the interest he has always taken in rifle shooting, the P. Q. R. A. cup.

It was now again the Colonel's turn, and he, on behalf of the shooting men of the regiment, presented to Lieut. Chambers, the captain of the team, a handsome gold chain and locket, the latter bearing the regimental crest and a suitable inscription, the presentation being made in recognition of Lieut. Chambers' services to the team during the seasons of 1886-'87.

The annual supper and presentation of prizes, E Co., 5th Royal Scots, took place on the 14th inst. In the absence of Capt. Gault, Pte. Sutherland, president of the committee, occupied the chair. A pleasant evening was spent, some capital songs and recitations being given. The statement presented showed the company to be in a flourishing condition.

THE VICTORIA RIFLES.

The annual general meeting of the Victoria Rifles Armory Association was held on the 14th inst. in the new armory. Lieut.-Col. Henshaw occupied the chair, and amongst those present were Hon. Judge Davidson (late Lieut.-Col. commanding), Lieut.-Col. Crawford, Major Radiger, Captains Bacon, Stark, A. H. Sims, Becket, Mr. J. W. Mills and a large number of members. The annual report showed the finances to be in a satisfactory position. The Victoria Rifles pay \$3,000 rent per annum, and each of the six companies contribute \$60 per annum each. The rent for officers and sergeants' mess and the library room go to swell the rent fund, but the principal source of income is the rent of the hall, and since August \$500 has been obtained from that source. The association has \$1,000 worth of stock still to dispose of, and it was decided to endeavor to get the members of the regiment to take up a portion of this stock. Mr. Prince is getting up an entertainment to be held at the Academy of Music on January 6th, the proceeds to go to the armory fund. The Garrison Artillery have also offered and will give a dramatic entertainment for the benefit of the armory. The question of paying the tax on the building was brought up. The building having been constructed for the defence of the city, it was contended that they should not have to pay any tax on it, and a committee was appointed to wait upon the Council to ask a remission. Directors were re-elected as follows: Lieut.-Col.

Henshaw, Major Radiger, Captain Busteed, Capt. A. Burnett, Color-Sergt. Rodden, Lieut.-Col. Crawford, Messrs. J. W. Mills, E. B. Greenshields, A. A. Anderson. A committee was appointed to revise the by-laws of the association, and other routine business being done a vote of thanks was passed to the chairman and the meeting adjourned.

A turkey match was the feature of absorbing interest at the Vics' shooting gallery last week. It was fired at ranges representing 200, 400 and 500 yards, five shots at each. The winners, with their scores, were: 200 yds., Lieut. Busteed, 21; 400 yds., Lieut. Desbarats, 19; 500 yds., Staff-Sergt. Brocklesby, 22.

Ottawa.

THANKSGIVING DAY was availed of by the Ottawa companies of the 43rd Battalion to hold a reunion at Aylmer, a distance of about 10 miles from the drill hall. The march out was made in the creditable time of two hours and a half, though the roads were very bad, the mud being literally ankle deep in some places. The staff officers present were Major Walsh, Capt. and Adjutant Evans, and Assistant Surgeon Scott. Lieuts. Bradbury and Rogers accompanied No. 1 Co., Capt. B. Bell and Lieut. B. T. A. Bell No. 6, and Capt. Wright and Lieut. Nesbitt, with a squad from No. 2, joined the other companies at Hull. The band, under Bandmaster Greenfield, played its merriest tunes while passing through the streets of Ottawa and Hull; and the musicians having been provided with a 'bus to convey them from Hull to Aylmer, again took their place in front a short distance from the village and played a lively march as the Rifles entered. The whole turnout numbered upwards of a hundred. There were present as guests Lieut. Bliss, of the Ottawa Field Battery; Lieut. Taylor, of the G.G.F.G.; and Mr. J. D. Taylor, of the MILITIA GAZETTE. At Aylmer Mrs. Acres' hotel was made the headquarters and there a very substantial dinner was served. The usual toasts and speeches followed, the speech of the evening being the reply of the Adjutant to the toast of the officers, in which he outlined the work and entertainment to be expected by the corps during the coming winter, and tendered some excellent advice as to the methods which should be adopted as best calculated to maintain or exalt the already high standard of the regiment. The return trip to Hull and Ottawa was made by special train, the party arriving home shortly after ten o'clock.

Lieut. B. T. A. Bell announces that he is about to resign from No. 6 Company, on account of lack of time to attend to his duties. The announcement has given rise to speculation concerning his probable successor, and the name of Colour Sergeant Henderson is very favourably mentioned. He has made an excellent non-commissioned officer.

SOME ACTIVITY IN THE GUARDS.

A parade of the Guards was called for last Friday evening, but only a small number of the members attended, not much more than one-fourth the total strength. Col. Macpherson announced that valuable company prizes in cups and money were to be offered for attendance at and proficiency in next season's drill. The first will be a handsome challenge cup, value \$150, together with \$60, and will be awarded to the company obtaining the highest number of marks. The system of marking is not yet decided. The name of the winner will each year be engraved on the cup, and it will become the final property of any company winning it thrice in succession.

Several other prizes will also be offered, those heard of so far being from the Paymaster, Capt. Berkeley Powell, for regimental competition, and from Capt. Bate, of No. 4, for competition in that company.

It has been left to the men of the regiment to say whether or not the drill will be commenced at once and partly performed before the severe weather sets in, or whether it will be postponed to the spring. The answer is expected to be returned at a parade called for Friday evening of this week.

New uniforms will be served out to the Guards early next year, and the companies have been asked to hand in the measurements of their men, in order that good fits may be secured.

A number of fine looking recruits have lately joined No. 3 company, and these are now being drilled by Colour-Sergeant Davis, who has been instrumental in greatly improving the company since he was promoted to his present responsible position.

No. 5, the newly-formed New Edinburgh company, is the most enthusiastic in the regiment at present. It has been drilling regularly for several weeks past, and is bound to be a formidable competitor for the company prizes mentioned above. Capt. White, whose duties as Comptroller of the Mounted Police have called him away to the North-West, has been granted leave of absence for a few weeks, and in the meantime the company is under command of Lieut. Taylor.

The subject of the annual march to Aylmer, and dinner there, was a live topic of conversation amongst the members of Nos. 1 and 2 companies for several weeks, but time speeds, and "the powers" are dumb concerning the date of the annual reunion. Rumour says that one company's funds are low, that the Kingston trip cost more than anticipated. However that may be, it is quite likely that the men would rather pay the trifling expense than forego the trip, which latter would decidedly be taking a backward step.

Winnipeg.

THERE was hardly standing room at Knox church at both services on the 13th inst. It was Rev. D. M. Gordon's last Sabbath, before translation to Halifax, and the people turned out in force to hear the farewell words of a minister who had endeared himself to the hearts of so many. The morning service was particularly impressive, as the 90th Rifles, two hundred strong, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Boswell, were present to show their appreciation of their chaplain, and to hear his last words. Rev. Mr. Gordon wore, outside his robe, the medal he had earned in the Saskatchewan campaign. He preached from 2nd Timothy, 2nd chapter and 3rd verse, "Thou therefore endure hardship as a good soldier of Christ." He first described Paul, who uttered the words of the text, as a good soldier, showing how he had fought the good fight, and the patience he had exhibited throughout. He next went on to point out and elucidate the attributes which should characterize a good soldier—courage, self-sacrifice and devotion to his leader. Turning to the 90th he entreated them in his last words to be good soldiers. Continuing, he said: "Being privileged to be with you through the scenes of trial at Batoche, to minister to the wounded, to join in the burial of the dead, to share with you the joy of triumph; being with you on the march and in the camp, permitted to preach to you the gospel of Christ on many a peaceful Sabbath, I may say I can never forget the courage, devotion and self-sacrifice shown by you throughout the campaign. We recognize the gratitude and appreciation of services shown by our fellow citizens in the monument they erected; we look with tenderest regret on the burial lot in the quiet cemetery of St. John, where some of our dead are laid. We recall the faces of those who have been taken from us forever, prominent among them, Lieut.-Col. Mackeand, who was the last to leave us; and now we look at the whole campaign as a thing of the far past, willing to bury the misunderstanding and strife that led to it, and anxious to live in charity and righteousness towards all