

GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

Removal of the New Tax on Militia clothing, arms and accoutrements.

Death of Surgeon Trew, N. W. Rifles—Dr. Duncan appointed Surgeon of C Battery—Linch-Pin is critical—Indoor target practice in Montreal—

Activity in the 65th Batt.—The P. W. Rifles and Prince of Wales exchange greetings—The Mayor of Halifax compliments the Garrison Battery.

THE promised Order-in-Council relieving the militia of the recently imposed tax on clothing and equipments, has been passed. It reads as follows:—"His Excellency by and with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, has been pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that there may be remitted and refunded by the Minister of Customs to military tailors and others importing military clothing or materials therefor, arms or accoutrements, for the use of the militia of Canada, or of officers thereof, the Customs duty actually paid thereon, on production of satisfactory evidence of the importation thereof, subsequent to the 13th May, 1887, and of the exact amount of duty paid thereon, including a certificate from the Honourable the Minister of Militia and Defence, or the Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence, to the effect that such articles, or articles manufactured therefrom, have been sold and furnished by such importer direct to the said department, or to a militia officer for the exclusive use of the Canadian militia, or of such officer thereof, and that such articles as so sold or furnished are not of such a character as to be fit for any other use. That an officer of militia importing for his own use or for the use of the corps under his command, articles above specified, may be allowed to make free entry thereof, provided the Honourable the Minister of Militia and Defence, or the Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence, certifies that such articles are imported exclusively for the use of such officer as such, or for such corps, and that they are not of such a character as to be fit for any other use. That an officer of the militia importing for the use of the corps under his command musical instruments for bands, may be allowed to make free entry thereof, provided the Honourable the Minister of Militia and Defence, or the Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence, certifies that such instruments are the property of such corps and not of individual members thereof."

The Thirteenth battalion (Hamilton) intend to spend the afternoon of Thanksgiving Day in battalion drill—badly needed, as the corps get very few favorable opportunities for it. Owing to the want of drill hall accommodation battalion drill has had to be performed on the street, and being at night has been anything but satisfactory.

No. 5 company of the Governor-General's Foot Guards has voted \$30 towards the Sharpshooters' memorial fund, which still languishes below \$3,000. The amount intended to be raised when the fund was started, two years ago, was \$5,000.

The resignation of all the officers of the Toronto Battery of Garrison Artillery have been received by the Militia Department. The reason given is the refusal to grant an additional battery.

Halifax.

THE handsome cup and medals won by No. 3 battery, H. G. A., at the recent military tournament for shifting ordnance, were presented at the drill shed last week. Sharp at nine o'clock Mayor O'Mullin arrived and at once proceeded with the business of the evening. He first addressed the battery, congratulating the men on being the winners of so important a trophy as the jubilee cup, and expressing the pleasure it gave him to perform this duty. It was expected when the money was given by the city for the purpose, that outside teams would have entered and competed. Unfortunately none put in an appearance, so that No. 3 battery had virtually a walk over. This fact, he thought, should not in any way detract from the honor that should attach to the winners of the cup, for he felt assured had any visitors been on hand to compete with No. 3, the result would have been the same. He felt that much praise was due to Sergt.-Major Bailey, who worked hard to make the military tournament the success that it was. His worship also paid a high compliment to Capt. Curren, in whom the men of No. 3 battery have, he said, not only an enthusiastic and thorough officer, but a comrade and friend as well. The Mayor then handed over the cup to the battery, and presented each of the men who composed the detachment which competed at the tournament, a silver medal. The names of the recipients are:—Lieut. Maxwell, Battery Sergt.-Major Lowrie, Sergt. Case, Sergt. West, Corpl. Duncan, Corpl. Gordon, Bomb. Hunt, Bomb. Tough, Gunners Geo. Umlah, J. Umlah, S. Courtney, Symonds, Leadly, Spence, G. Chapman, Drillio, Weatherbee, Fader, and D. McDonald.

Capt. Curren, in a brief speech, thanked the Mayor for attending, and also for complimentary references to himself and the H. G. A. No. 3 battery, he said, had a splendid record, and he doubted not that it would in future sustain its reputation. Speaking for the brigade as a whole he could say that at any time its services should be required by the country, it would respond quickly to the call of duty.

Capt. Curren, on behalf of No. 3 battery, also thanked the Mayor for the interest he had shown in the volunteers of Halifax. He gave an outline of the work done by the battery at Quebec, and gave assurance that in future his men would strive to keep well at the top. Capt. Curren called for three cheers for Mayor O'Mullin, which were given with a will.

The prizes were viewed by the large number present and greatly admired. The silver tripod won by No. 3 battery at Quebec in 1884, was also on the table. It will be remembered that this battery came within an ace of gaining possession of the Quebec merchants' cup. It was won by the battery in 1884, and competed for again (having to be won twice) in 1886 when the battery lost by just one point.

Montreal.

THE non-commissioned officers and men of the Prince of Wales Rifles held the usual celebration festivities on the birthday of His Royal Highness, Wednesday of last week, the affair taking the shape of a complimentary ball at the Queen's Hall. Among the guests present were Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. F. Bond, Major and Mrs. E. L. Bond, Major and Mrs. T. P. Butler, Lieut. Bourne, Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Beausoleil, Mr. J. J. Curran, M.P., Surgeon-Major and Mrs. F. W. Campbell, Major Campbell, Capt. Cooke, Capt. C. C. Clapham, Major and Mrs. Dugas, Capt. and Mrs. Foulis, Capt. Godfrey, Lieut. Hunter, Capt. and Mrs. Hanson, Capt. Hatt, Capt. Johnson, Capt. Lighthall, Capt. Leprohon, Lieut. and Mrs. Lefebvre, Major and Mrs. Milroy,

Capt. Robertson, Dr. and Mrs. G. T. Ross and Dr. Wilson. The quadrille of honor was composed as follows: Sergeant-Major Porteous and Mrs. Frank Bond, Lieut.-Col. Bond and Mrs. Butler, Major Butler and Mrs. G. T. Ross, Dr. G. T. Ross and Mrs. E. L. Bond, Major Campbell and Mrs. Beausoleil, Dr. Wilson and Miss Bell, Capt. Lehrohon and Miss de Montigny, Capt. Lighthall and Miss Hullingsbed.

During the day the following congratulatory message and reply had passed:—
Montreal, November 9, 1887.

To H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, Sandringham:

The Prince of Wales Regiment, celebrating Your Royal Highness' birthday, beg to wish you many happy returns, and to renew their pledges of loyalty and devotion.

FRANK BOND, Lieut.-Col.

Sandringham, November 9, 1887.

Col. Frank Bond, Prince of Wales Regiment, Montreal:

Thank you and regiment for birthday good wishes. ALBERT EDWARD.

The sergeants' mess of the Prince of Wales Rifles have presented a handsome sword and belt to Sergt. Lefebvre, on the occasion of his surrendering his stripes to accept a commission.

The Vics have opened their armory shooting gallery and practice with the Morris tubes is now in full blast.

The Montreal Rifle Association will dine together—holding the first of what is expected to be a pleasant series of annual events—on the 17th of December. The membership of this flourishing and formidable rifle association is now close on a hundred.

One of the last survivors of the old Canadian voyageurs has just passed away in the person of Joseph Lecuyer, who died at Vaudreuil, near here, at the age of 94 years. The deceased was engaged in the troubles of 1812, and afterwards became a regular voyageur in the service of the Hudson Bay Company. He formed part of the boat's crew in the expedition when Sir Geo. Simpson and Mr. J. G. McTavish went with their wives to the Northwest, these ladies being the first white women to visit those remote regions. After his travels the daring voyageur settled at Vaudreuil, where he acquired considerable wealth.

An object of curiosity is now being exhibited in the Star window, this being a small, old-fashioned field gun captured by the Missisquoi volunteers at the fight at Moore's Corners in 1837. The rebels secured this gun from sympathizers at Swanton, Vt., and Gagnon's force brought it with them when they attempted to force their way from the lines to the Richelieu district, where they hoped to effect a junction with another force supposed to be in existence there. Mr. Geo. W. Johnston, of Clarenceville, the present owner of the gun, was one of the participants in the fight, being in command of a body of the loyalists, and upon the rout of the rebels claimed it as his portion of the booty. The American sympathizers of the rebels subsequently stole the gun and dragged it across the lines, but after a time a party of Canadians re-stole it. Expectation of again hearing the boom of the antiquated weapon was no doubt long ago given up, but it is said to be producing a decided boom—in the circulation of the Star war literature—at present.

Sergt.-Major Gauthier, of the 65th Batt., has commenced another course of instruction for officers wanting to qualify at the end of next March. It is to be hoped that this new batch of officers will pass as successfully as the six young lieutenants of last winter did. When this is done, every officer in the regiment will have qualified. There will be a course for n.c.o's during the winter, and every effort is being made to place the battalion on a good footing before entering the new drill hall, the completion of which is anxiously awaited.

RAM-ROD.

Toronto.

A QUESTION which has long been debated in military circles here is which is the correct thing to do at mess in drinking "The Queen." Some contend that it should be drunk sitting, others standing. Some Imperial regiments no doubt enjoy the right of drinking "The Queen" sitting. This right probably originated during the time when to be drunk was fashionable, and it was not thought judicious to show that some were incapable of standing at such an early stage in the evening.

After the recent inspection of the Q. O. R. was over, and before dismissing the men, Col. Allan, having referred to the neatness of the men and their steadiness on parade, next spoke of a cowardly attack which had been made on him in a certain Toronto newspaper—cowardly because his hands were tied—but it pleased him very much to see that the attack had been well answered by a parade of over 500 officers and men at muster, and 496 at inspection.

I hear that Col. Sweeny has definitely declined to accept command of a brigade of garrison artillery proposed to be established here. He is too busy, he says, with other things at present to enter into any military corps.

Everything is quiet here in military circles, except grievances, which are not, it seems, confined to Toronto alone. From Halifax to British Columbia one hears and reads the old, old tale.

Even the good things in militia life are not evenly divided. London drill shed has a caretaker paid by the department, I believe. Toronto shed has two caretakers (one with a little more cleanliness would answer as well) paid by the city corps. How is this?

I hear that a certain captain in a certain infantry corps in London has lately received from the authorities a clasp for his North-West medal. As neither the corps nor the officer were under fire, it has nearly rent the city asunder trying to find out why this officer was selected for such an honor—an honor which I hear he declines to wear, not being entitled to it.

QUEER REGULATIONS FOR FIELD BATTERY PRACTICE.

A friend sends me a circular memo. respecting the annual gun practice of field batteries, marks a paragraph in it, and says, "What do you think of that?" The paragraph referred to is No. 3, which says that "transport will be paid for 2 officers and 16 men from battery to range and return, and an allowance of 75 cents each, inclusive of daily pay if during annual drill, for each for such days as necessarily absent from battery headquarters." I think that a printer's error must have crept in somewhere. As it now reads it is tantamount to the government only paying gunners and corporals 25 and 15 cents each respectively; the officers and men in addition paying for their rations, vide paragraph No. 4. I think if my friend were to write the proper authorities he would probably have the error rectified.

Another point my friend refers to is the essence of matter contained in No. 6, which says that officers commanding London and Ottawa batteries will make their own arrangements locally so as to obtain transport at the most advantageous rates. He objects, he says, to c. o's being placed in this position. They must furnish the money themselves to pay transport, and await the refunding of it. He thinks the government ought to advance the transport money, or at least give them an accountable warrant to cover expenses.