

PICTON.

Lieut.-Col. Bog and the officers of the 16th Battalion celebrated the battalion's thirtieth anniversary by a grand banquet on night of 7th inst. For some considerable time extensive and elaborate preparations for the interesting event had been going steadily forward, and steps were taken to ensure a banquet that would redound in a fitting and adequate manner to the credit of the battalion and totally eclipse all previous efforts as regards company, cuisine and eclat. The event was a very brilliant one. At nine o'clock the party sat down in the dining hall of the Hotel Tecumseth and there spent several hours of most pleasant, social and intellectual intercourse with a large number of invited guests, all of whom were of the leading men in the county and district. The dining hall was an entrancing scene and the beauty of the decorations and service called forth many expressions of surprise and admiration. The handsome apartment has been recently newly frescoed and painted.

Among the visiting officers were Lieut.-Col. Lazier and Major Biggar of the 16th Battalion, Belleville; Lieut. Floyd of the 40th Battalion, Cobourg; Lieut. Hough, of the Ganouque Battery.

The officers of the 16th Battalion present were: Lieut.-Col. Bog, Major McDonnell, Major Horrigan, Surgeon Platt, Major W. T. Ross, Major Donald Ross, Capt. Adjt. Lighthall, Capts. McLean, Ostrander, Glenn, Wycott and McFaul; Lieuts. Adams, McCornock, Ackerman and Terwilligar. There were also a large number of private guests, including the members of the County Council.

After the dinner had been done full justice to, the following toasts were proposed:

"The Queen."

"The Governor-General" was responded to by W. H. R. Allison, Q. C., and A. H. Saylor.

"The Army, Navy and Volunteers" was responded to by Col. Bog, Col. Lazier, Major Biggar, and Capt. Ostrander.

Col. Bog referred to the fact that the deeds of the army and navy of Great Britain were grandly emblazoned on the pages of her history and of the history of the whole world. The record of the Canadian volunteers when called out in defence of their country was one which was well worthy of a place in history alongside of that of the regular army of Great Britain, and Canadian history would always show that the Canadian volunteers were well worthy of the race from which they sprang.

Col. Lazier, 15th Batt., Belleville, spoke fluently and at some length. He referred to the long time the 16th had been organized and to its honorable record. The commanding officer of a regiment had by no means a bed of roses. He referred to the fact that many men have some kind of hobby and he thought Col. Bog's and his own was in connection with military matters. He paid some high compliments to the 16th. He was not an annexationist and he believed the young men of Canada would rise and fight against it if need be. He had travelled around the world and it had been a great satisfaction to his patriotism to observe the extent of British power and possessions and to notice the chain of British red-coats that surrounded the world. He thanked the 16th for the very prompt and magnificent response they had made with supplies on the occasion of the departure of a company of the Midland battalion for the Northwest, and he spoke also of the proud record of this company in service. He referred to various great exploits of the army and navy. He spoke of the great difficulty now in keeping up a battalion in Canada and of the sacrifices that officers had to make to keep up the regiment, and he congratulated the 16th on being alive and active.

Major Biggar and Capt. Ostrander also responded.

"Our Legislatures" was replied to by Dr. Platt, E. T. Dorland, W. Boulter, J. C. Wilson.

"Our Guests," was responded to by Lieut. Floyd, in well-spoken terms.

S. P. Niles responded in his usual happy way.

Mr. Gourley made a fluent and humorous speech, which kept the company in continuous laughter.

"The Learned Professions" was replied to by Messrs. Alcorn, Wright, MacNee, Young, and Rev. Mr. McPhail. Mr. J. A. Wright referred to the recent loss by fire sustained by the 16th battalion band, and thought the county council would be doing their duty in making the band a grant.

Major McDonnell sang "The Boys of the Old Brigade," in fine style.

"Educational Institutions," responded to by Mr. Dobson.

"Municipal Institutions," Messrs. Caven, Glenn, and Dempsey.

"The Press," J. W. McLean.

"Industries," by Mr. J. B. McMullen, was an exceedingly humorous effort.

"The Ladies," E. W. Case and Major Horrigan.

Col. Bog's health was proposed as the last toast, and was happily responded to by Col. Bog.

The singing of "God Save the Queen" concluded the banquet.

Telegrams and letters of regret were read from Colonel Von Straubenzie, D.A.G., Lt.-Col. Graveley, Major Sam. Hughes, R. B. Crombie, F. A. Carrell, and J. W. Langmuir.

MONTREAL.

A very interesting and instructive lecture was delivered on the 7th inst., in the Victoria Rifles Armoury, by Mr. L. G. Duff Grant, F.S.I., of London, England, who represents the Smokeless Powder Company of that city. The attendance was disappointingly small, owing to numerous counter attractions, but those who were present were well repaid for coming. Mr. Grant gave a very thorough and able resumé of the experiments made in England and on the Continent, to improve on the black powder, and gave practical examples of what has resulted from these trials. Specimens of present approved smokeless powder were exhibited, and a variety of the new cartridges now supplied by the London Company to Her Majesty's troops in India were also shown. At the conclusion of the lecture, Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D. A. G., who presided, moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was passed unanimously, and which was briefly acknowledged by Mr. Grant.

We regret that the pressure on our columns in present issue prevents our doing more justice to this lecture, but we must defer that pleasure until our next number.

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In the way of practical work there is comparatively little work being done in the city just now, although probably as much as in other places. Most of the corps are having half-battalion or company drills but the musters are small and little work is being put through. The parades of the Cavalry are more attractive than those of their dismounted comrades, as sword exercise and fencing are the chief events; these are always of interest.

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There is a considerable amount of sporting going on this winter in connection with the Montreal Force. In curling the officers of the Vics and the Royal Scots have two rinks each, and a match is arranged for next week; the Victoria Rifles Reserve Association will then play a picked four from the officers of the active list. The Victorias have no less than nine of their officers members of local curling clubs. In hockey the officers of the Prince of Wales Rifles played the officers of the Royal Scots last Saturday evening, the latter winning by a score of 2 to 0. The Scots team will, we believe, meet a team from the Governor General's Foot Guards on 4th March.

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Among the recent additions to the commissioned ranks here are those of Capt. Bell who has rejoined his old regiment, the Victorias, as Quartermaster, and Mr. W. H. Featherstone who will be gazetted next week to a 2nd Lieutenancy in the Garrison Artillery.

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The adjourned meeting of officers of the Montreal brigade for the formation of a Service Club or Association, was held in the armoury of the Victorias on 4th inst. There was a large attendance from the various city corps, and the subject was fully discussed. A committee was appointed to ascertain what rooms in the city were available, with instructions to report at next meeting which will be held in the rooms of the Prince of Wales Rifles at the Drill Hall on Saturday evening, 18th inst.