

QUEBEC.

The annual sports in connection with the 8th Royal Rifles, under the distinguished patronage of Major-General Ivor J. C. Herbert, C.B., and Lieut.-Col. T. J. Duchesnay, D.A.G. 7th Military District, were held on Tuesday evening, the 4th inst., in the Drill Hall. The stand erected at the end of the hall was filled with spectators, as well as the galleries, notwithstanding the unpleasant weather which prevailed on that evening.

Lieut.-Colonel Duchesnay was present, as well as a number of officers from the permanent and local corps, as well as ex-officers of the regiment.

The bands of B Battery and 8th R. R. were present, and furnished good music. The judges were :—Lieut.-Col. E. G. Scott (ex C. O. 8th R.R.) and Lieut.-Col. Roy, 9th Batt. Capt. Rutherford, "B" Battery, R.C.A., acted as starter, and Mr. Forester, "A" Troop, R.C.D., as time-keeper.

The different events on the programme were won as follows :—

1st. 100 yards (in heats)—This was well contested, and won in the third heat by Private O. Crockett, 8th R. R. ; 2nd, Corporal D. Watson, 8th R.R.

2nd. One mile—Won easily by Driver Thompson, B Battery, R.C.A. ; 2nd, Trooper Perkins, Q.O.C.H.

3rd. Physical Drill, "B" Battery, R.C.A.,—This was performed by squads from the right and left Divisions, and, as in the past, performed in a manner to win the praise of the spectators. Capt. Rutherford was in command of the Battery. The prize was awarded to the left Division under command of Staff-Sergeant Fellows.

4th. Three-legged race—1st, Privates Bickell and Swift ; 2nd, Corporal D. Watson and Private Henderson Hossack.

5th. Quarter-mile—1st, Private Hossack ; 2nd, Private Earley.

6th. Tug-of-war on horseback—Consisted of four men a side from the Canadian Dragoons. The pull to last three minutes, in the event of neither side gaining a decided advantage. This was won by the same squad twice in succession, after the full limit of time in each pull. Both sides frequently had some of their number dismounted, but who were permitted to remount and complete the pull. This was won by the squad under Sergt. Prior.

7th. Stilt race—Won by Private Fleming, 8th R.R.

8th. 100 yards dash (open to officers of the Garrison) Won by Mr. W. H. Davidson of the 8th R. R., with Mr. R. Hale 2nd.

9th. Heavy marching order race (open to members of the 8th and 9th Battalions)—1st, Private Hossack ; 2nd, Private Smith, both of the 8th R.R.

10th. Hurdle race—This was well contested. 1st, Driver Thompson, B Battery, R.C.A. ; 2nd, Corporal D. Watson, 8th R.R. Private Crockett of the 8th, who was leading, would have undoubtedly won the race but for a mishap at the last hurdle.

11th. Animal race (dogs barred) —Two goats and a donkey won the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places respectively. The remaining animals, of which there were quite a number, failed to complete the race.

12th. Human wheelbarrow race—Won by Privates Swift and Bickell.

13th. Sack race with obstacles—1st, T. Pugh ; 2nd, Pvte. Henderson.

14th. Obstacle race—1st, Private Swift, 8th R.R. ; 2nd, Trooper Scott, Q.O.C.H. The obstacles consisted of packing cases, canvas stretched on the ground, and a high trestle with a ladder leading to the top, and a plank on the other side. In the second lap the contestants had to climb through suspended barrels, at a height of about three feet from the ground. The race was completed in very quick time.

The Committee are to be congratulated upon the success of their efforts in promoting interest in regimental sports, which tend to materially increase the ranks of the regiment. The members composing the Committee were :—Major G. E. Allen Jones, Capt. W. J. Ray, W. C. H. Wood, Chas. J. Dunn, and J. B. Peters, and Mr. W. H. Davidson, with a sub-committee of six Sergeants.

At the completion of the programme Mrs. George R. White presented the prizes to the successful competitors.

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The officers, N.C.O.'s and members of "D" Company, 8th Royal Rifles, are deserving of the greatest praise for their successful effort in entertaining their numerous friends, as demonstrated by their "At Home," which was held in the Tara Hall on the evening of the 6th inst. The neat card of invitation, which was printed in rifle colours, contained the names of the following ladies who were to receive :—Mrs. G. R. White, Mrs. G. E. Allen Jones, Mrs. J. S. Dunbar and Mrs. E. Montizambert.

When "D" Company, better known to the Quebec public as No. 4 Co., take anything in hand it is a sure guarantee of success, and their "At Home" was no exception to the rule, unless it be mentioned that they exceeded all previous efforts. The decorations of the hall were very fine and artistic, and showed careful and pains-taking work on the part of the committee entrusted with this work. A 9-pounder gun was placed in position on the stage, surrounded by stacked arms and various designs made of lances, swords, bayonets, etc. In rear of the gun was placed a table upon which were displayed the prizes won by the Company on the rifle range. Mr. W. H. Davidson's "Corporation of London Cup," won at Bisley, was much admired. The remainder of the hall was appropriately decorated with flags and arms, etc., emblematical of a military entertainment, and presented a pleasing result.

Music was furnished by the "B" Battery band, who were stationed in the gallery, and who gave the utmost satisfaction. The ladies who did the honour of receiving were Mrs. Geo. R. White and Mrs. J. Secretan Dunbar, and who were ably assisted by Captain Walter J. Ray, the popular Captain of "D" Company.

The Ball was opened in a pleasant and novel manner. At about 9 o'clock a "rifle" gun detachment fired one round from the gun, the firing of the friction tube being the signal for a perfect shower of bouquets, which, needless to add, were quickly picked up and handed to the ladies.

From the opening to the close of the ball the dancing was kept up with much spirit, and the unanimous opinion was that it was the most enjoyable social entertainment of the season. During the evening light refreshments were served.

It is to be hoped that other entertainments may follow this most successful one, which as a means of keeping up the *esprit de corps* in the Regiment is decidedly a success in every way. The officers to whom the thanks are due are :—Capt. Walter J. Ray and Messrs. W. H. Davidson and George Van Felson.

Among the officers present were noticed :—Lieut.-Colonel Geo. R. White, Major G. E. Allen Jones, Capt. J. S. Dunbar, E. Montizambert (Adjutant), W. C. H. Wood, J. Chas. Dunn, and J. B. Peters ; Messrs. W. H. Davidson, O. B. C. Richardson, Mill, Geo. Van Felson, R. Hale, Capt. Argue, Quartermaster, Asst-Surgeon Parke of the 8th Royal Rifles, Mr. W. E. Cooke, "B" Battery, R. C. A., Mr. Forester, "A" Troop, C.D., Major Laurin, 87th Batt., Mr. W. A. Baldwin, Q. O. C. H. ; Mr. C. DeGuise, 9th Batt., and Surgeon-Major Parke, Capt. E. F. Wirtele, and Mr. W. Dobell of the retired list (late 8th R.R.).

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Commanding officer's inspection of the 8th Royal Rifles took place on Friday evening, 14th inst. Lieut.-Col. G. R. White, accompanied by Major G. E. Allen Jones and Capt. E. Montizambert, Adjutant, made a careful inspection of the bands, the various companies, ambulance corps, etc., after which the commanding officer put the regiment through the general salute, the march past at the quick and double, and then called upon Major Jones for the manual and firing exercises. At the completion of the latter, Capt. J. S. Dunbar and Walter J. Ray were in turn called out and put the battalion through several movements, including the formation of square, changes of front, deployments, etc.

The popularity of the corps was well testified to by the number of spectators present, among whom were many ex-officers and officers of the permanent corps.

In connection with the parade it might be mentioned that officers in giving details should be careful not to give the explanations too quick, as in so doing they do not permit of the same being grasped by those for whom it is intended, and, as a consequence, full justice to the movements intended cannot be obtained. They should also endeavour to make themselves heard by all hands,—this requires words of command to be delivered loudly and distinctly.

A little more steadiness in the ranks is desirable, and will