

To those who frequented the drill hall during the last drill season, the uniform of the Royal Engineers was very much in evidence, and to those attached to the different regiments the first appearance of this uniform created quite a consternation, as visions of snap inspections of anything or everything crowded through the brains of those whom these things would most directly concern.

No doubt the intimation that the party wearing this uniform, was doing so without any reason, never having served in any part of the Royal Engineers, will cause just as great a surprise, but I am creditably informed such is the case and the easiness with which the "military" of Toronto was impressed is gradually dawning on some with great vividness.

The last Gazette contains the transfer of Capt. C. C. Bennett of the Queen's Own to the British Columbia Brigade of G. A., and of Lieut. R. F. Matheson to the Gov. Gen.'s Foot Guard.

Thus the string increases and they can count their offspring in all quarters of the land; aye, and there are some now holding high rank in the American National Guards whose first soldiering was in the ranks of the Q.O.R.

The sergeants of the Q.O.R. have published a very handsome booklet, containing photographs of the different rooms of their mess. The troubles that have come over them does not seem to have diminished their desire to make their mess second to none, and judging from the appearance, as described by the camera, they are ably sustaining the splendid reputation they have enjoyed so long, and which has reflected so creditably on the regiment with which they have been connected.

Quebec.

QUEBEC, 24th December, 1895.

The military school which opened here on the 9th inst., closed for the holidays on the 20th inst., and will resume duty again on the 7th prox. Some excellent work has been done already and the result will prove very beneficial to those in attendance. The school opens at 7:30 for five evenings in the week; the first one and a half hours is devoted to drill instruction in two divisions, one in charge of Sergt-Instructor Bridgeford and the other in charge of Co-Sergt-Major Reinbault, one at each end of the drill hall, the balance of the evening being taken up by lectures given by the Adjutant Captain T. Benson, R.C.A. Lieut-Col. T. J. Duchesnay, D.A.G., manifests great interest in the school and is invariably to be seen in attendance.

The following officers have so far attended the school: from the 8th Bn Royal Rifles: Second Lieuts. W. H. Davidson, E. R. Hale, W. S. Champion, T. W. S. Dunn, R. J. Davidson and J. J. Sharples; from the 9th Bn: Captains E. Pennee, L. F. Pinault and L. Stein; Lieut. J. V. Dupuis; Second Lieuts, C. H. Valin, P. Ferland, E. Joncas, Garant and Levas-

seur; from the 87th Bn, Second Lieuts, F. A. O'Farrell, J. Livermois, A. de L. Panet and E. DeBlois; from the Queen's Own Canadian Hussars, Capt. R. E. W. Turner. It is expected that when the class has made further progress and take up battalion drill that the above number will be increased by an additional number of officers.

Lieut-Col. C. E. Montzambert was absent for a few days on an inspection tour in New Brunswick.

The 8th Bn Royal Rifles will shortly lose the services of Captain O. B. C. Richardson of letter "C" Company. His resignation will be a matter of regret as he is one of the hardest workers in the regiment. An increase of one Lieut. and one Second Lieut. has taken place in the persons of Lieut. H. J. Lamb and Second Lieut. J. J. Sharples, respectively.

The annual turkey matches of the 8th Royal Rifles took place at St. Joseph de Levis on Wednesday the 18th inst. A fair number were in attendance although the weather was very disagreeable. The ranges were: 200, 400, 500 and 600 yards. Matches open to members and ex-members of the regiment. The following is the result:

200 YARDS.	
1st, Private Stobo.....	22 points
2nd, Lieut W H Davidson.....	22 do
3rd, Lieut R J Davidson.....	21 do
400 YARDS.	
1st, Lieut R J Davidson.....	25 do
2nd, Sergt Norton.....	24 do
3rd, Private Douglas.....	24 do
500 YARDS.	
1st, Bandsman Pugh.....	23 do
2nd, Private Douglas.....	21 do
3rd, Private Stobo.....	21 do
600 YARDS.	
1st, Lieut R J Davidson.....	22 do
2nd, Corporal A E Swift.....	21 do
3rd, Sergt Norton.....	21 do
AGGREGATE.	
1st, Private Douglas.....	84 do
2nd, Sergt Norton.....	83 do
3rd, Lieut R J Davidson.....	83 do

Several applications for the position of Chief of Police, which will be vacant in May next, have already been received, among which are a number of well known military men, among others mentioned being that of Major F. L. Lessard, R. C. D., Major Talbot, Captain Fages, R.C.A. and Capt Pennee of the 9th Bn, and Lieut-Col. Hudon.

The annual dinner of the Quebec Garrison Club was held in the early part of the current month and proved an enjoyable affair, presided over by Lieut-Col. T. J. Duchesnay, D.A.G.

PATROL.

It is reported that a large order for new rifles and other war material has been given by the Canadian Government in England. The steamer *Damara*, which arrived at Halifax, brought a quantity of ammunition, but this is said to be part of the regular supply.

Ottawa.

There is no war scare here. Men go and come and attend to their business as usual. The militia department routine is unruffled. Hon. A. R. Dickie, Minister of Militia, set his face from the first against sensation-mongering, and gave an example of tranquility that would have been reassuring if anybody felt panic-struck, which nobody did.

The chances of war have been thoroughly discussed and are estimated at their true value here. Military officers, almost to a man, think no time should be lost in quietly preparing for eventualities. Heavy guns should be got, strategic points fortified, supplies of arms, ammunition and stores laid in, and arrangements completed for transport. Like the United States, Canada finds herself unprepared for a fight. We have men enough, with stout hearts and strong arms, to check the advance of any force the United States could put into the field at short notice, until reinforcements could come over from Britain on the Atlantic side and India on the Pacific. But our field equipment is far from efficient. The whole military system needs a thorough overhauling on the basis of arming, victualling, transporting and maintaining in the field the full strength of Canada's defensive forces.

The *Ottawa Evening Journal* drew public attention to the wisdom of preparations being at once quietly set on foot, the day after Cleveland's war message was issued. The *Hamilton Herald* took a similar view. Later, the *Montreal Star*, *Montreal Herald* and *Charlottetown, P. E.I., Examiner*, joined them in the demand for arming the militia, and making such arrangements as to ensure the country from being caught unawares, and her sons sent to the front without arms in their hands to be shot down like game. The *Journal* has, from the first, insisted on a joint commission of British and Canadian officers to consult on the necessary measures for the adoption of a definite plan of defensive operations. The press throughout the country, whilst unwilling to believe war is possible, is united in standing shoulder to shoulder. The most pithy expression of the kind I have seen is from the *Moncton, N.B., Transcript*, and is worth reproducing as a specimen of the resolute British spirit that has been aroused, and which is ready at any moment to answer the call of duty. "There is no division in British or Canadian sentiment when the empire is wantonly attacked. We are all one! And don't you forget it." As one of the Foot Guards' officers said to me this afternoon: "Our men are ready if the government calls on them"—volumes in a sentence.

There has been considerable said and written here respecting the mode of calling up the militia in the case of a new enrolment, in view of the war message of United States President Cleveland. In connection with this I have before me an interesting document, the "Reserve Mi-