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# Military Gazette

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## News of the Service.

**NOTE.**—Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Without we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the doings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, so long as not enclosed in an envelope, for one cent. At any rate, forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades. Address,

EDITOR, CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE

P.O. Box, 2179, Montreal, Que.

### Halifax, N. S.

The annual meeting of No. 4 company 63rd Rifles was held at the drill shed on Saturday evening, 25th ult. Reports from the different committees showed the company to be in a flourishing condition. It was decided to hold the annual sleigh drive on February 12th, the price of tickets being fixed at \$1.50. The officers elected were:

President—Capt. Gunning (re-elected).  
 Vice-President—Lieut. Thompson (re-elected).  
 Treasurer—Lieut. Moore (re-elected).  
 Secretary—Sergt. Daniels (re-elected).  
 Managing Committee—Pvtes. Meagher (re-elected), McDonald, Rosborough.  
 Auditors—Pvtes. Tupper, Etter.

No. 3 company 1st C. A. have formed themselves into an association for mutual improvement, etc. They have engaged suitable rooms, purchased piano, billiard table, etc., and will soon open by entertaining their friends to an "At Home." The association is outside the military organization of the company.

In your last issue you credited the 1st C. A. with an aggregate of 125. This is an error, the aggregate, according to the inspector's report, is 175'25.

Bombardier Thompson, 1st C. A., wrote to the *Halifax Evening Mail* on military matters. I am sending you the letter, hoping you will find space for it in your columns.

Things are quiet in military matters down this way.

GRAVELCRUSHER.

### Kingston.

KINGSTON, Feb. 10.—Kingston has no drill shed! For thirty years past the local battalion of rifles has drilled in a structure that was wonderfully and fearfully made. It resembled, to a certain extent, in appearance, the home of a beaver, for was it not dome-roofed, and always very damp? A rare and beautiful species of moss grew luxuriantly on the ground-floor, within its walls, and ornamented the sides at varying heights. Interesting effects of the passage of time were to be found in the beams, girders, etc., and the troops using it have, for years past, been quite undisturbed by rats. Along one side, on the interior, ran a series of "cubby-holes," which, in more modern times, have been used as company armories.

Some years ago, the authorities of Queen's University secured possession of the land on which the beautiful and stately old building stood, and last June it was abandoned as a drill-hall.

Since the skating season set in, it has been used as a skating rink. On Friday 7th inst., it collapsed under the weight of melting snow on its roof, and "great was the fall thereof." The citizens view the destruction of one of the architectural ornaments of the city with an apathy that is really hard to account for.

Last week, a deputation composed of the mayor of the city, Major Skinner, and Ald. Ryan went to Ottawa to interview the Minister of Militia, and urge the construction, in this city, of a new drill shed, to cost from \$25,000 to \$30,000. The deputation, accompanied by Hon. Senator Sullivan, of this city, J. H. Metcalfe, M. P., for Kingston, H. A. Calvin, M. P., Lt-Col. Smith, late of the 14th Batt. P.W.O. R., and Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Commons, and James Swift, saw the Premier, the Minister of Militia, and Messrs. Foster, Costigan, Dickey, Panet, and Gobeil, and urged the right to, and great need of, a proper drill-shed. The ministers admitted the justice of the claims and promised to give them due consideration, but could not promise that the request of the deputation would be granted this year, as the cost of re-arming the militia, purchasing new clothing,

and of drilling the entire militia force, will fully equal the amount of the militia appropriation. A promise was given, however, that the drill-shed will be erected as soon as possible. The Minister of Militia, in answer to a question asked by a member of the deputation, said he did not know why the amount appropriated, in the estimates in 1893, for this purpose, had been cut out, and promised to investigate.

In connection with the promise made to the deputation, it may not be uninteresting to re-call the fact that during Hon. J. C. Patterson's term as Minister of Militia, when, on one occasion, he came to Kingston, to inquire into the necessity for certain repairs at Tete du Pont barracks, he was interviewed by your correspondent, and was asked if there was any likelihood of a drill-shed being built here in the near future. As the files of the MILITARY GAZETTE will show, he stated distinctly, that the department could not think of erecting a drill-shed in Kingston, until after new barracks had been built for "A" Field Battery. "The battery is in urgent need of new quarters, and until these have been provided, we can give no thought to building a drill-shed for the militia." Such were the words, as nearly as I remember them, that the then the minister used. But perhaps the present incumbent sees with a clearer eye, than did Hon. Mr. Patterson. So mote it be!

The 14th Batt. P.W.O.R., is (temporarily) no more. With the sanction of the Minister of Militia, the old corps has been disbanded. The intention is to re-organize it as a battalion of four companies, each of 60 men. For some time past, the corps has been handicapped by a scarcity of officers, and to get over the difficulty it has been decided to do away with the necessity for a larger number than can be obtained. It is intended that the re-organized corps shall be ready for drill when the season opens, re-invigorated, and strengthened by the overhauling.

If the officers desire that the battalion shall become what it should be, one of the best in the dominion, they will see that no secret societies, of religious or