

cruiser, and supplied with six guns and a crew of 110 officers and men, has just made a satisfactory trial after considerable alterations at the yard of Messrs. Thmeon, at Clydebank. She has been lengthened 55ft., increasing the cargo space and allowing room for additional boilers and extra coal. Improvements in machinery, propeller, &c., have also been made whereby the power of the ship has been increased and a higher speed can be obtained. Advantage has also been taken of the lengthening of the vessel to effect alterations and improvements in her passenger accommodation, which, it is believed, will make her one of the most popular vessels in the South African trade. The "Moor," when taken up in 1885, proceeded on a cruise on the East Coast of Africa, and was the only merchant steamer which was armed and commissioned abroad under the command of a naval officer, and actually hoisted the pennant.

At Portsmouth recently an experiment with the "Speedy" and the "Havock" came to a satisfactory conclusion. On the previous day these vessels had been out for an eight hours' run, acting as the scouts of an imaginary fleet, and when they came into harbour for the night they were ordered to bank fire. On Wednesday they received orders to start immediately on a forced draft full-speed run of two hours, the only condition being that they kept company. They soon got within a fraction of twenty knots an hour, and maintained this speed without the smallest friction, but eventually the "Havock" went well ahead, and left the "Speedy" far in rear. It was the rehearsal of an incident which would be common in war time, and was most successfully carried out.

The Mediterranean Squadron, which is expected in June in the Adriatic, will visit the Austrian ports in two divisions, the first to call at Polazara, Klek, and Cattaro; the second at Trieste, Fiume, Spalato, and Ragusa.

The endeavor to remove the stigma hitherto placed upon Irishmen in Ireland by the withholding from them the privilege of forming volunteer corps continues to be the principal aim of the patriotic body calling itself the Irish Volunteer Association. At a meeting of the president (Lieutenant-Colonel Morrison) and the secretaries (Messrs. Leachman and McLaine) of the new institution, held at the Dublin Mansion House the other day, over two hundred applications to join the Infantry battalion proposed to be raised in Dublin were received. The candidates for enrolment represent various sections of the community, not a few of them having served in volunteer corps in England and Scotland. When a sufficient number of names have been received—one thousand are required—application will be made to the Lord Lieutenant for his sanction for their formation into a volunteer corps.

Lord Wolseley is desirous that the troops in Ireland should have every possible opportunity for tactical training during the coming season. A scheme is now being drawn up by which the force under Lord Ralph Kerr's command, at the Curragh, will gain a good deal of useful experience by means of flying columns.

### Toronto.

Last night the sergeants of the Royal Grenadiers celebrated the anniversary of the battle of Batoche by a dinner at Webb's.

Nine years ago the Canadian militia swept up the slope of Batoche under a withering fire from the rebel rifle pits, and amongst them the redcoats were the most dashing in the charge.

#### A Military Gathering.

The gathering last night at Webb's was a notable one. Covers were laid for 120 guests. The tables were very prettily decorated, and the scarlet tunics of the Grenadiers lent a rich glow of color to the scene. This was admirably relieved by the uniforms of the guests from the other corps of the city.

#### At the Tables

The chair was occupied by Sergt.-Major J. T. Cox, who was supported by Lieut.-Col. Mason, commanding the Grenadiers; Lieut.-Col. Grasett, Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, Q.O.R.; Lieut.-Col. Dawson, late colonel commandant of the Grenadiers; Mr. E. F. Clarke, M.P.P., Dr. Ryerson, M.P.P., Mr. Joseph Tait, M.P.P., Mr. Barlow Cumberland, Mr. William Marrow, Mr. Alexander Muir, president of the Army and Navy Veterans; Rev. W. Johnston, Western Congregational Church; Col.-Sergt. Geo. Cooper, Q.O.R.; Staff-Sergt. Marrie, 13th Battalion, Hamilton, and Staff-Sergt. Sayer, Dufferin Rifles, Brantford. The vice-chairs were filled by Staff-Sergts. Ewart and Johnston.

#### Toast List.

The chairman proposed the health of "The Queen," which was received with musical honors.

The chairman in very happy terms then proposed the toast of "The Canadian Militia." He paid a warm tribute to the devoted services of Lieut. Col. Grasett and Dawson, the former commanding officers of the Grenadiers. These references evoked enthusiastic cheers from the company, evidencing the popularity of these officers.

#### Would Increase the Militia.

Lieut.-Col. Grasett, in response, returned thanks for the honor done him. The Canadian militia had every reason to feel proud of its history. They had always been ready to respond to the call of duty. The part played by the Grenadiers in the past was most creditable to them. The militia of Canada could look to Toronto for an example in soldier-like qualities, and the standard was becoming higher every year. Ten years ago the regiments in Toronto were not nearly so strong as they were to-day, nor was the military spirit so high. He was sorry the government did not show a disposition to support the militia as readily as the old militiamen would desire. The vote for the militia passed readily enough, but he would like to see it much increased. Although not on the active list now, he retained his affection for the old corps. (Applause.) He complimented the sergeants of the Grenadiers on their efficiency. The sergeants were the backbone of a regiment. (Applause.)

#### Congratulated the Sergeants.

Lieut. Col. Dawson was accorded a most gratifying reception. He congratulated the sergeants on the success of their annual

gathering. Formerly the corps labored under difficulty in not having a proper drill shed and armories. Now they had a new drill shed, and every modern convenience. There was no reason therefore why they should not go on increasing in efficiency. The regiment was lucky in having a good sergeant major. (Applause.)

The company then sang "They Are Daisies."

Staff-Sergt. Johnston proposed the toast of "Our Officers," which was received with musical honors.

#### Lieut.-Col. Mason's Reply.

Lieut.-Col. Mason, the commanding officer, replied, and was accorded a most gratifying reception. He observed that he felt like congratulating himself at being the commanding officer of such a fine battalion as the Grenadiers. He endorsed the sentiment that the sergeants were the backbone of the regiment. He had found and appreciated the value of non-commissioned officers. They were the connecting link between the commissioned officers and the men. He complimented the regiment for their services in the North-west under such an officer as Lieut.-Col. Grasett, and also spoke highly of the services of Lieut.-Col. Dawson, the late commandant. In regard to the new quarters provided by the government, the effect would be most beneficial to the Grenadiers and other regiments. For the new drill hall they were much indebted to Mr. Clarke and other citizens. (Cheers.)

Major Bruce also replied.

Dr. Ryerson, M.P., who was enthusiastically cheered, made a very happy speech. He said the mettle of the young men of Canada had been severely tested in 1885, and it was shown that they were ready to lay down their lives for a united country. One of the most trying experiences was the march across the north shore of Lake Superior. On that occasion, however, as at other times, the hardness of the Grenadiers was strikingly manifested.

Capt. Irving also made a humorous response.

#### Other Toasts.

Staff-Sergt. Ewart proposed the toast of "8 Star Corps."

Appropriate responses were made by Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, Q.O.R., Rev. William Johnston, honorary chaplain to the 12th Battalion, and Lieut. Curran, 12th Battalion.

Color-Sergt. George Scully submitted the toast of "Our Guests."

Mr. Barlow Cumberland made an eloquent response and referred interestingly to his former connection with the regiment.

Mr. E. F. Clarke, M.P.P., and Mr. Joseph Tait, M.P.P., also replied.—*Empire*, 12th May.

The Grenadiers turned out over 540 strong on the 10th for the usual weekly parade, under Lieut. Col. Mason. After an hour's drill at the college grounds the regiment returned to the drill shed. On Queen's Birthday, the regiment will go to Galt. The following appointments were made: To be corporal, provisionally, Pte. L. A. Kirkland, A company, vice Goodall, discharged; to be lance corporal, Pte. W. White, A company.

The regular monthly meeting of the Army and Navy Veterans was held in Occident hall, Queen street west, May 8th. The president, Alex. Muir, occupied the chair. The chief feature of the business disposed of was the arrangement of a church parade, in recognition of the Queen's birthday, to be held on Sunday, May 20th. The men will assemble on Clarence square at 3 p.m., and will march to the Congregational Church on Spadina