

QUEBEC.

Lieut. W. E. Cooke, late of the unattached list, and who has recently been appointed to the Canadian Regiment of Artillery, is a graduate of the Royal Military College, Kingston. He arrived here some few days ago and is at present detailed for duty with "B" Battery.

Lieut. Harold Campbell, of the Royal Engineers, and a former resident of this city, left for England on the 6th instant, after having been out on a few months leave.

Lieut. A. Joly de Lotbiniere, of the same corps, will leave here on Sunday night and proceed to India.

The half moon battery, which faced the St. Charles River, and had to be taken down on account of the masonry giving way, is now being replaced with a wooden structure, which will be painted to resemble the adjoining masonry.

One of Quebec's historical buildings narrowly escaped destruction by fire on the afternoon of the 9th instant. The building in question is situated opposite the St. Louis Hotel, and when Wolfe laid siege to the old rock city was the headquarters of General Montcalm.

On Saturday evening, the 12th instant, Staff-Sergt. Dewfall, of the 8th Royal Rifles, was the recipient of a Webley rifle, which was presented to him by the officers of the regiment. The presentation took place in the non-commissioned officers mess rooms. Among the others present were Capt. J. S. Dunbar, E. Montizambert (Adjutant), W. J. Ray, C. J. Dunn, W. C. H. Wood, Ernest F. Würtele and T. Argue (Quartermaster), Lieuts. J. B. Peters, O. B. C. Richardson and W. H. Davidson, Sergt-Major T. P. Ross, Staff-Sergt. J. Mountain, Sergt. Morgan, etc.

Captain J. S. Dunbar, on behalf of the officers, made the presentation, requesting Staff-Sergt. Dewfall's acceptance of the rifle as a mark of their appreciation of his efforts in promoting that most important duty of a soldier, rifle shooting, and wishing him every success in its use.

Staff-Sergt. Dewfall had much pleasure in accepting and thanked the officers for their kindness, stating also that he would in the future endeavour to continue as in the past.

Lieut. W. H. Davidson, of Bisley fame, who has had every opportunity of knowing the services rendered by the Musketry Instructor, briefly stated that the recipient had more than earned this mark of their esteem, as to his knowledge he had on many occasions sacrificed his time to devote same to members of the regiment on the rifle range.

Capt. W. J. Ray, the energetic commander of No. 4 Company, and who had also been a member of the battalion in the old regime, testified to the manner in which Staff-Sergt. Dewfall had then performed his duties in furthering the interests of the shooting members.

The stock of the rifle bears a shield, upon which is engraved:

Presented to
Staff-Sergt. J. Dewfall, 8th R. R.
By the officers of the regiment,
1892.

It may be added that Staff-Sergt. Dewfall has been connected with the regiment for 21 years, prior to which he served with the Quebec Garrison Artillery.

R. M. C., No. 47.

THE NINETY-SECOND HIGHLANDERS.

The following interesting letter appeared in the *Toronto Mail*.

SIR, In THE MAIL of September 14th appeared a special from London announcing that "Scotland was seething with indignation in consequence of a series of letters in the London newspapers concerning the conduct of Scotch soldiers in the last Boer war." Since then I have watched the Old Country papers for some confirmation of the truth of this despatch, knowing well that if it were true Scottish newspapers would not allow her sons to be maligned without some attempt at defence.

As a member of the 92nd Highlanders who took part in the fight at Majuba Heights, I deny that the men of our regi-

ment were guilty of cowardice, and I further claim that in the long list of hard fought battles in which Highlanders have won such glory, there never was greater hardihood shown than was evinced by our men on that day.

We held a most difficult and open position, where we were exposed to a steady fire from a concealed enemy 2,000 strong, the best marksmen in the world, from five o'clock in the morning until 2.30 in the afternoon. Out of the one hundred and twenty-one men of our regiment who entered the fight only fifteen escaped.

The despatch referred to says that "The Scotchmen say that their friends decline to be answerable for the cowardice of Whitechapel Highlanders and cockneys clad in lions' skins." As an ex-member of the maligned regiment I disclaim any such defence; such a reflection upon the courage of my English and Irish comrades with whom I served for years, and whom I knew to be brave as men could be, is not at all acceptable to their Scottish companions in arms. Besides, it is not true that men of other countries preponderated in the regiment. Of the 121 Highlanders engaged at Majuba Hill 90 were of Scottish origin; my immediate comrade was an Englishman and a brave man, who died in my arms on the battlefield.

We were not raw recruits, unused to the fire of the enemy. The majority of us had seen active service, having been for thirteen years in India and Afghanistan—three years under the illustrious General Roberts. In that time myself and many of my lamented comrades had been engaged at the battle of Charasigh; the chasing of the Afghans into Cabul; the expedition to Maidau; the assault and capture of Iskht-i-Shah; the capture of Asmai Heights; the battle of Childukitian; the march from Cabul to Kandahar; the battle of Kandahar, where Sir Frederick Roberts paid us the compliment: "Men of the 92nd, you have done more than was required of you."

And these were the men who, according to your special, acted at the battle of Majuba like a herd of calves.

There were only two newspaper men at the battle, the late Mr. Cameron, who was killed in Egypt, and another whose name escapes my memory. Both of these in their reports at the time had only praise for the conduct of the men. Yours, etc.,

JOHN BOYD,

Late of the 92nd Gordon Highlanders.

Galt, Nov. 7.

The ever-watchful Auditor-General continues to haunt the Admiralty Lords when sleeping. Again has he got them on the hip by calling attention to the Australian Colonies not stumping up the needful to pay for their naval force. The terms of their contract are plain. Payments for the luxury of being secure from attack are to be made in advance. Seven vessels were put in commission before 31st March, 1891. Here are the names and dates: Tauranga, 27th January; Kingarooma, 3rd February; Boomerang and Karrakatta, 14th February; Wallaroo and Mildura, 18th March; and the Katoomba, 24th of the same month.

Now, although on these dates the money should have been remitted, none was forthcoming. In despair Whitehal officials tried on the game of bluff. They said these seven crafts were not in commission in sufficient time for the contribution payable by the Antipodeans to be recovered and brought to account during last year. This chimerical and frivolous excuse would not wash. A shaking-up match followed with golden results. Sums amounting to £71,730 have now been extracted from Colonists' coffers. Victoria bustled up with £38,000 on the 3rd of December, 1891; £20,712 was drawn out from New Zealand on the 30th January, 1892; while £13,018 dropped in from Queensland on the 2nd of February, 1892. *English Paper*.

Marshal McMahon, who was reported recently to be in ill health, was found out shooting by a correspondent who hunted him up to confirm the rumor. The Marshal and a servant had started out after six o'clock breakfast to trudge through the stubble and long lanes, and return at nightfall with a full bag. The ex-President of France is still, despite his age he is eighty-four—a good shot. His hand is steady and his aim sure. He lives at Laforet, in an unpretending country house, the most attractive feature of which, externally at least, is the veranda overgrown with vines.