

The sixth annual dinner of the Rifles Snow Shoe Club was held on Monday evening at the Queen's Restaurant. The Rifles have the happy faculty not only of enjoying themselves immensely, but also the gift of making others do likewise. During the past few months the club have well maintained their enviable reputation. Their weekly tramps have been the most enjoyable of the season. Their races, including the steeplechase race, were very successful, and everything they have undertaken has been attended with marked success. The annual dinner proved one of the most enjoyable ever given by the club. Among those occupying seats of honour at the head of the table were Capt. Evans, president of the club, and chairman of the evening, on his right Mayor Stewart, and on his left Capt. Gourdeau, of the Dragoon Guards; Col. White, Mr. Louis Dauray, President of Le Canadien Club; Major Stewart, of the Field Battery; Major Walsh, Capt. Josh Wright, Dr. Scott, Lieut. Wright, of No. 2 Company 43rd, Capt. Parker, Capt. Sherwood and Lieut. Bradbury. The opposite ends of the tables were presided over by Mr. Greenfield, bandmaster, and vice-president of the club, and Colour-Sergt. "General" Grant.

Lieut. S. M. Rogers has gone on a trip to Bermuda, for a change of air and scene, he having been in poor health lately. He is accompanied by his wife. They will probably return in about six weeks, when the popular young officer's friends hope to find him restored to his wonted good health.

#### TESTIMONIAL TO GENERAL LORD RUSSELL.

There are in Ottawa at the present day several of the old members of "the Prince Consort's Own," who in 1867, 1868 and 1869 were stationed in the city under Col. Lord Alex. Russell. The retirement and return to England of this popular officer has been made the occasion of the presentation to him of a handsome gold-headed cane inscribed "Presented to Lieutenant-General Lord A. G. Russell, C.B., by Old Riflemen late of the 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade, Ottawa, 1888," and which has just been sent with the following address:

*Lieut.-General Lord A. G. Russell, C.B., Commanding H. M. Forces in British North America.*

MY LORD: We, the undersigned, late of the 1st Battalion, P.C.O. Rifle Brigade, have learned that you are about to return to England, and having had in our youthful days the pleasure of serving under Your Lordship's command, we cannot now, considering the deep respect we entertain for you, allow Your Lordship to leave this country without making known to you and Lady Russell our humble but earnest and sincere wishes.

We therefore beg to offer Your Lordship a cane as a slight token of our esteem, which no doubt we owe you for the many kindnesses we have heretofore received, when serving under your able command, and consequently most respectfully ask your acceptance of it.

We notice with great pleasure that when Your Lordship recently visited Hamilton (that ambitious city of the west) the riflemen there did not allow you to leave without testifying their marked respect and regard for their veteran chief.

In conclusion we unanimously join in saying that we shall ever watch Your Lordship's future career, and we pray that our hearts may be gladdened by hearing that it is a bright one, and that you and Lady Russell may be spared for many years to enjoy all the felicity this earth can afford, and hereafter the heavenly reward of a true, generous and brave soldier.

Signed—Charles Strolger, James Carter, Henry J. Allen, William Kibby, George Gale, Frederick Dunn, W. T. Odell, George Thomas, Patrick Stringer, William Schwitzer, William Booker, John Maroney, William Reynolds, Geo. Simms, William Taylor, Robert Bugg, William March, John Wiltshire and Frederick Hart.

#### Montreal.

ON Saturday evening 24th inst., a match between teams from the Royal Scots and the Victorias was shot in the armoury of the latter and was won by the Rifles with a score of 545 to 498. Particulars were: 10 men each side, 500 and 600 yards, 7 shots each range. Up to near the end the match was very close and exciting. The scores made by the Scots' team, some members of which had no, or but little, practice with the Morris tubes, justify them in considering that a return match, which has already been spoken of, would probably have a different ending.

The Victorias, however, from having had plenty practice are able to put on a strong team of almost any number and feel quite confident of holding their own against all comers.

As the other shooting regiments are importing tubes, targets and ammunition and intend rigging up ranges for practice another winter's shooting may try our mettle more.

"Linch-pin" shows up some lamentable deficiencies regarding the medical department of "our army," and the regulation medicine chests seem to be, in some cases, at least, useless baggage. Hospital Sergeant Birks, of the Victorias, has, however, made his regiment independent in this particular, he having made and afterwards stocked at his own expense, one of the most complete portable field cases it is possible to conceive. Certainly it could not, from its size, serve as a regimental chest for a campaign, but for all requirements at such duties as a city corps on short service, or in camp, is likely to get it would be found to fill the bill. The case, besides being ornamental, is both strong and serviceable and well protected from damp by an outer leather covering. The ingenuity displayed in packing away so much as it contains, in so small a compass, and all arranged so as to be immediately available, is not the least praiseworthy item in the whole. Staff-Sergt. Birks has his ambulance corps well up in their drill and duties and is now giving them a course of lectures on the different points of this highly important branch of field service.

BUSBY.

In a recent issue it was inadvertently stated that the detachment of the Prince of Wales regiment firing the salute on the 10th inst., in honour of the Prince of Wales' silver wedding, was under command of Major Cook. It should have read Major Butler.

#### A BUDGET FROM THE STAR.

The following letter appearing a few days ago in the *Montreal Star* is republished by request:—

Lieut.-Col. Oswald retires from command of the Montreal Garrison Artillery, after commanding it with marked success for the past seven years.

Every member of that brigade deeply regrets that their popular commanding officer should feel it incumbent upon him to resign. That Col. Oswald has been a successful commanding officer is indisputable. He took command of the M. G. A. when that regiment was at a very low ebb, and to-day he hands it over to his successor, Major Turnbull, in first-class order in every respect. I am sure Col. Oswald himself feels deeply having to withdraw from a command that does him infinite credit, but those who have served under him sincerely deplore his loss, and are all of the opinion

that the treatment he received at the hands of the Militia department when fighting for the good of the service leaves him no alternative.

To Col. Oswald's generosity, indomitable pluck and perseverance, must be attributed the success of the Dominion Artillery Association and all the Shoeburyness teams that brought such honour and credit to our Canadian gunners.

The entertainment by the M. G. A., in the Academy of Music last week, in aid of the armoury fund of the Vics, was a grand financial success. It is certain a handsome balance will be handed over to this popular corps, by their brothers in arms. Too much credit cannot be given to Capt. Lane, who worked night and day for several weeks to make the entertainment a success.

I have to repeat that if our popular D. A. G. will call a meeting of commanding officers at once, a grand review for May 24th (Her Majesty's birthday) is assured.

Nearly all the city corps are drilling, and great enthusiasm pervades all ranks, notwithstanding the lack of encouragement from the Department of Militia and Defence.

It is said that the Vics especially are making strenuous efforts to surpass themselves at the coming annual inspection. I know one other corps at least that will fight them hard for the first place.

The Minister of Militia is still undecided as to the changes in the district staffs, as noticed in the *Star* of the 22nd ult., and in the meantime these officers must suffer any amount of inconvenience, simply to please the whims of the Minister of Militia. It is unjust, it is cruel, and I don't hesitate to state no military organization under heaven would mete out such treatment to the permanent staff; but it is in keeping with our present militia system.

"RIGHT ABOUT TURN."

#### St. John, N.B.

THE Annual meeting of the officers of the New Brunswick Brigade of Garrison Artillery was held on Saturday evening, 17th inst., at the Victoria Hotel, King street, all the officers in the city being present with the exception of one; Lieut.-Col. Armstrong in the chair.

The regimental committee submitted their report accompanied by a full statement of the financial status of the brigade, which showed a very considerable balance to their credit with no outstanding liabilities. The report was received and adopted, subject to a later report from the audit committee, which committee is composed of Lieuts. R. R. Ritchie and J. E. E. Dickson.

The report of the band committee was read and adopted subject to report of the audit committee, consisting of Lieut. C. F. Harrison and Dr. White. The favourable report on the band was received with much pleasure, the officers congratulating themselves that their efforts to create a first-class military band had met with so much success, and that the band was now recognized as being second to none in the city. This result is very largely due to the great interest taken in the organization by the bandsmen themselves as well as by the very efficient band committee.

The regimental committee were then elected, resulting in the choice of Paymaster Geo. F. Smith, Surgeon Daniel and Capt. Seely.

The band committee, consisting of Capt. Crawford, Capt. G. W. Jones and Capt. Langan were unanimously re-elected.

On motion the officers unanimously agreed to hand over their drill pay for the year to the regimental committee for brigade purposes.

Reference having been made to the death of Col. Foster and his long connection with the corps, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—Whereas, on the 20th December last, Lieut.-Col. Stephen Kent Foster departed this life, full of years and in the enjoyment of the greatest extent of the respect and esteem of the public; and whereas Col. Foster was appointed lieutenant in the corps April 26, 1834; captain, March 31, 1841; major, August 14, 1848; lieutenant-col., December 6, 1859, retiring in 1884, and thus served as an officer of this corps continuously for the exceptionally long period of half a century, and was for the last 25 years of this period its commanding officer; therefore resolved, That we, the officers of the N. B. B. G. A., hereby express our appreciation of the personal worth of our late commander, and our admiration of his untiring zeal, and the ability he displayed in keeping his corps in a condition of strength and efficiency for so many years—no small achievement and one demanding more than average executive powers; nor would we forget those pleasant traits of disposition which gained for him the affectionate regard of the officers and men under his command, and made his death a personal loss to so many; and further resolved, That the above resolutions be entered on the records of the brigade and a copy sent to the family of the late Col. Foster.

Several officers spoke in complimentary and feeling terms of the late Col. Foster.

The regimental committee were authorized to purchase some of the more expensive works on artillery for the use of the officers, also a range-finder. It was decided to obtain numerals and letters for the shoulder-straps of the n.-c.-o's and men. After other matters of interest to the brigade had been discussed and decided upon, and after a pleasant evening had been spent, the meeting adjourned.

#### SILK RIBBONS!

Those of our lady readers who would like to have an elegant, large package of extra fine, Assorted Ribbons (by mail), in different widths and all the latest fashionable shades; adapted for Bonnet Strings, Neckwear, Scarfs, Trimming for Hats and Dresses, Bows, Fancy Work, &c., can get an astonishing big bargain, owing to the recent failure of a large wholesale Ribbon Manufacturing Co., by sending only 25 cents (stamps), to the address we give below.

As a special offer, this house will give double the amount of any other firm in America if you will send the names and P. O. Address of ten newly married ladies when ordering and mention the name of this paper. No pieces less than one yard in length. Satisfaction is guaranteed, or money cheerfully refunded. Three packages for 60 cents. Address, LONDON RIBBON AGENCY, JERSEY CITY, N. Y.

Having paid so heavy a price for the Brennan torpedo, the English Government are fully bent upon keeping the costly secret of its locomotion. The new buildings for its manufacture at Chatham are now nearly finished, and to insure secrecy the different parts of the torpedo are, it is stated, to be made in different towns, whilst the drawings, together with the one torpedo which has been used for so many experiments, are to be stored in a bomb-proof building at Brompton barracks, where a number of safes fitted with steel doors 3-in. thick have been erected.

Says the *London Spectator*: "There must exist somewhere in the Indian Office, possibly in the secret department, an account by Lord Canning of an offer made to him in 1858-59 by leading Sikhs to become Christians *en masse*, and make Christianity the ruling religion of India. We heard of this strangest of all the strange transactions of that wild period from his own lips."