

Captain of Team, and Sergt. Hills and Lance-Corporal Forbes, Auditors.

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The officers of the Halifax Provisional Battalion, which served in the North-West Rebellion of 1885, held their anniversary dinner at the Halifax hotel, on the evening of 11th inst., to commemorate their departure on active service. Surgeon Tobin, as president of the mess, was in the chair, and Col. Macdonald acted as vice. A most enjoyable evening was spent. Many of the incidents connected with their departure were related, and some funny stories told of matters relating to the campaign. Letters of regret were received from Rev. Mr. Gordon, who during the campaign was Chaplain to the 90th, from Colonels Bremner and Murray, Major Gordon and others, for inability to be present.

Speeches were made by Captain Duffus, Lieut. Flowers and others, and good singing by Captain Cunningham, Hechler and Whitman.

Before adjourning it was resolved that next year the celebration be made by a dinner, and the present committee, consisting of Major Garrison, Surgeon Tobin, Captains McCrow, Whitman and James were appointed to carry it out. It was also decided that a certificate of discharge be provided for all the men engaged in the campaign. It seems fitting that the battalion should celebrate this anniversary, as although they were not permitted to do any fighting, yet the men who went to the front not only sacrificed their own comfort for what they conceived their duty to their country and their duty to themselves, but many of them made great sacrifices in a pecuniary point of view.

After the toast of "Our next merry meeting" was drunk, and "Auld Lang Syne" sung, the members and guests separated, and thus terminated the most successful dinner by far that has been enjoyed by the officers of the Provisional Battalion.

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By a strange co-incidence, while the above dinner was going on, Rev. D. M. Gordon was telling a large audience in Park street church school room last evening of his campaigning in the North-west during the rebellion. He outlined the causes of the rebellion—the dissatisfaction of the half-breeds. Mr. Gordon's description of the battle of Fish Creek and Batoche was graphic, and held his hearers spellbound.

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On Wednesday evening, 5th inst., Sir John Ross gave a dinner for Col. and Mrs. Hill, who are leaving for the old country. Colonel Hill has received an appointment in Scotland worth a very comfortable sum, and likely to lead to future ones. On the previous evening he was given a farewell dinner at the Artillery and Engineers' Mess, and made a very telling speech in reply to the complimentary ones which were sincerely tendered him by his brother officers. Colonel Hill is a man very highly esteemed in military circles both in England and Halifax.

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The farewell tea given on the afternoon of 7th inst. at the Artillery Park by the officers of the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers to Colonel and Mrs. Hill was one of the most crowded, and also one of the brightest functions which could possibly be imagined. The Royal Artillery Mess has a reputation for the excellence of its cake, and it has ever been whispered that the average subaltern is as particular about that sweet morsel as is the average school girl. So that it is quite enough to say that the cake, tea and ices were as good as they always are at this hospitable mess. Mrs. Hill was looking particularly bright and charming.

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The members of the Royal Engineers' N. C. O. Mess, with their naval, military and civilian friends, had a very enjoyable smoking concert in their mess rooms at South Barracks on night of 6th inst. Q.M.S. Reeve ably presided, the vice-chair being filled by Sergt. Mulholland. The following is the toast list:—

"The Queen," "The Army," "The Navy," "Our Military Visitors," "Colonel and Mrs. Hill," "The Officers of the Corps," "Our Civilian Guests," "The Chairman and Committee," "The Musical Quartette," "Our Next Merry Meeting."

The programme was carried out most successfully, the songs and toasts being interspersed with music by the

quartette. The pleasure of the evening was the honour done the members by the attendance of Colonel Hill and the officers of the Royal Engineers on the station, the occasion being availed of to bid good-bye and success to their much esteemed and respected commanding officer, Col. Hill, R.E., who was to leave for England the next day.

The mess premises were beautifully decorated with flowers and bunting. A very handsome ornamental motto bearing the words "Success to Colonel Hill," was placed in a conspicuous place, on either side being the photographs of Col. Hill and Col. O'Brien, both presentations to the mess.

The punch bowl, a present from Major Bagot, R.E., which figured very conspicuously and required no invitation for patronage, was presided over by Sergt.-Major Snelling, R.E., an adept in the art.

The company dispersed at 2 a.m. after spending a very pleasant evening, for which the committee, consisting of Q.M.S. Reeve, Sergts. Mulholland, Reeder and Widgeley, deserve to be congratulated.

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Colonel E. P. Leach, V.C., C.B., R.E., has been granted leave of absence until the 13th of April, on which date he embarks for Halifax on appointment as commanding Royal Engineer.

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Prior to leaving this station, Major-General Ryan and the officers of the Leicester regiment were given a farewell dinner at the R. A. and R. E. mess. In connection with the function several volleys of musketry were fired, which considerably excited the curiosity of outsiders who heard the reports.

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Major Waldron, R.A., left on 31st ult., with a detachment of 95 men from this station for Liverpool, England.

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Colonel Isaacson has been appointed to the command of the Royal Artillery in Nova Scotia, in succession to Major General Ryan, who vacates that appointment on promotion.

SHERBROOKE.

The first parade of the 53rd Battalion, for annual drill, took place Tuesday evening, 4th inst., at the drill shed, and notwithstanding the cold wet state of the weather, there was a good attendance of the boys in red, also a large number of visitors. Major Worthington took command, (in the absence of the Colonel, who was confined to the house through illness,) ably assisted by the Adjutant, Capt. Fraser. Several of the officers were also absent from sickness, but there were present Capt. Thos. Rawson, Lieuts. G. K. Addie, J. P. Wells, and W. B. Neil; these with the efficient Sergeant-Major McAllister and company sergeants were sufficient to direct the movements necessary for first night. The fine band of the regiment, under Mr. Cline, rendered effective service, by playing several pieces of music in good style. The parade was very satisfactory, and the corps is determined to make a good showing at inspection this year.

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A writer in the *Sherbrooke Gazette*, quoting the letter headed "Manufacturers and the Militia," which appeared in the *Toronto Empire*, and subsequently in the *CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE*, gives the following local instances of manufacturers who evidently do all in their power to encourage volunteering among their employees. He says:—

"In this town we are blessed with some employers whose example is well worthy of imitation. Take Lucke & Mitchell as an example, and we find nearly every one of their large staff prominent as volunteers, and also as lacrosse and hockey players, because they are encouraged by the firm to take a delight in all manly exercises. Then there is the Jenckes Machine Company, and as one captain said lately, their "boys" are to the front every time, in all manly exercises. Other firms are also encouraging their men towards the same end, and from present indications it is expected that at least one company of volunteers will be recruited from the staff of the Paton Manufacturing Co. This is as it should be, and we hope to see the 53rd Battalion take even higher rank than it did last year, in the militia returns (86½) an excellent showing."