

Quebec.

THE Eighth "Royal Rifles" assembled at the drill hall Thursday afternoon, the 10th inst., and marched out to the Plains of Abraham, headed by its band, pioneers and signal corps. The muster was large and the appearance and marching of the men was very much admired. Arrived at the plains, it was found that notwithstanding the disagreeable nature of the weather, for the ground was wet and a cold raw wind was blowing, a very large number of spectators had assembled to witness the drill. This consisted chiefly of the various skirmishing movements and were remarkably well executed. The regiment was under the command of Lieut.-Col. Miller. It marched back to the drill hall about five o'clock.

Notwithstanding the very disagreeable weather which prevailed Sunday morning the 13th inst., the 8th Royal Rifles turned out strong for church parade, and marched to the English Cathedral to attend Divine service. As usual the regiment presented a very soldiery bearing both as regards cleanliness and steady marching, and quite a few spectators lined the streets to have a look at the favourites. Cannon Norman preached a very able and interesting sermon, taking as his text the first General Epistle of St. Peter, first chapter, and first verse. During the course of his sermon he dwelt with the noble duties of a soldier and referred in a touching manner to the way in which the volunteers of the Dominion had responded to the call of duty during the North-West rebellion to sustain the honour of this Canada of ours. A large contingent of "B" Battery and the Cavalry Corps were also in attendance.

Montreal.

THE complimentary banquet tendered by the citizens of Montreal to Lt.-Col. Van Straubenzie on the occasion of his leaving this city to take command of the 3rd and 4th military districts with headquarters at Kingston, was held Friday evening last at the St. Lawrence Hall and was a very brilliant affair. Covers were laid in the large dining-room for 140. The gathering was a very representative one, being composed of members of both branches of the service and embracing the liberal professions and commerce and art.

The menu card was very tastefully arranged, showing on the front the obverse, and on the rear the reverse of the North-West medal, with a record of the various engagements in which Colonel Straubenzie had taken part, viz.: Punjaub, Mooltan, Loroykund, Nawardund, Pramghur, Sharkote, China, Pehtang, Taku Forts, Pekin, Crimea, Canada, North-West, Batoche.

Sir Donald A. Smith was in the chair, supported on his right hand by Lt.-Col. Van Straubenzie, the guest of the evening, Captain Douglas, R.N., the American Consul, Ex-Mayor Beaugrand, Lt.-Col. Lyman, Lt.-Col. Henshaw, Lt.-Col. Caverhill, Lt.-Col. Lamontagne, Lt.-Col. Hughes, Mr. S. P. Stearns, ex-consul general of the U. S., and Mr. Hugh Graham. On the left of the chair were seated Capt. Lane, military secretary to Lord Alex. Russell, Judge Davidson, Rev. Jas. Barclay, Mr. E. B. Greenshields, D. Macmaster, Q.C., Lt.-Col. Bond, Lt.-Col. Massey, Lt.-Col. Mattice, Dr. Fenwick, Lt.-Col. Brosseau, Mr. M. Cu villier, Dr. Roddick, and Dr. James Bell. On the other side of the table to the chairman were seated the secretaries of the banquet committee, Captain Clapham and Mr. R. Beaufield, N.P. The vice-chairmen were the Hon. Henry Starnes and Lt.-Col. Oswald, Lt.-Col. McKay and Lt.-Col. de Bellefeuille.

Before the toast list was reached, Madame Van Straubenzie entered the room, accompanied by Lady Smith, Mrs. Gregor Mattice, Mrs. K. C. Douglas, Mrs. Itobert Harris, Mrs. Massey, Mrs. Starnes, Miss Straubenzie, Miss Campbell, Mrs. Edward Greenshields, Miss Holl, Miss Nye, Miss Kate Campbell.

The chairman, in proposing the toast of the evening, expressed his great pleasure in being present even at the express prohibition of his doctor, but his feelings of respect for Col. Straubenzie prevented his taking that advice. Their guest, said Sir Donald, had a grand record as a brave and loyal soldier. It was 42 years ago since he served in the gallant 32nd, and serving under the gallant Sir Colin Campbell, subsequently Lord Clyde, and afterwards in the Crimea, he was brave as any of the brave men present at those campaigns. After that he went to China and served in the looting of Pekin, and then came to Canada, performing brave duty for Canadians and for his country. He had been a good soldier at all times, beloved by those who served with him, whether in the ranks or officers.

After Rev. Jas. Barclay and Judge Davidson had spoken, the toast was drunk with all honours.

PRESENTATION TO MADAME VAN STRAUBENZIE.

The chairman then said in the exercise of a very pleasing duty he had to present Madame Straubenzie, as a mark of esteem of her honoured husband, with a solid silver tea and coffee service, subscribed for by his many friends. Sir Donald then, accompanied by the Colonel and most of the guests, adjourned to the end of the room where the ladies were seated, and presented Mrs. Straubenzie with a beautiful bouquet and the service, consisting of teapot, coffee pot, sugar basin, cream ewer and tray, of fluted pattern with ebony handles. On the tray was the following inscription:

"Presented on the occasion of Lt.-Col. Van Straubenzie's transfer from Montreal to Kingston by citizens of Montreal to Mrs. Van Straubenzie, as a mark of their esteem, and as a tribute of their appreciation of her husband's long and gallant services to his country. Montreal, 11th May, 1888."

THE COLONEL'S REPLY.

Col. Straubenzie rose to reply, deeply affected. He said he felt he was undeserving of all the kindness heaped upon him; he had simply tried to do his duty as a soldier. He came to Montreal seven years ago as an old man, but had made many friends, and he would always look back to that time with pleasure. He had never had an unpleasant word with an officer. When they deserved censure or praise he had given, and never had a murmur. He called to mind every kindness he had experienced from all, high and low, rich and poor. It was always very hard to say good-bye, and he did so now with the deepest regret. He referred to the kindness of Mr. Hogan, the host of St. Lawrence Hall, where he had lived for seven years, and where he first registered 31 years ago. The force was in good order when he came to Montreal, but he left it better, which he attributed not to himself, but to the cordial co-operation of the officers, and he had felt proud in commanding them. There had been a good many changes since he had been there but every officer had done his duty honestly and straitforwardly. He sincerely thanked them on behalf of his wife, and assured them he hoped their handsome present would be handed down to future generations for many years to come (loud and prolonged cheers).

VICTORIA RIFLES.

There is more solid work than play going on now at the armoury, and the regiment is getting into excellent shape. Four companies have now rolls showing over 55 men, and the two remaining ones are close up. Recruiting stopped on the 10th instant, at which date 432 men of all ranks were on the strength. The "boom" might have been kept on indefinitely but the near approach of inspection date, which is fixed for Saturday 26th inst., caused the stoppage in order that the large num-

ber of recruits already in might get more attention. A very superior class of recruits have offered this year, and they are making great progress under careful handling, with musters for drill, in spite of bad weather for the last two fixed dates of over 300 men. The Sergeants' Mess has lost a very popular member through Staff-Sergt. Shaw having been elected to a commission in his own company, No. 6. Mr. Shaw has always proved a most indefatigable worker in all regimental affairs and the promotion is a well earned reward.

The second series of spoon competitions has been brought to a close by Pte. J. Cooke winning the 6th and last of the series with a score of 46 points out of a possible 50. The following is the first three highest scores:

Pte. Cooke.....	46	Lieut. Desbarats.....	45
Lieut.-Col. Bond.....	45		

The following is the aggregate scores of the first seven competitors, in four out of six competitions, in two of which the firing from the shoulder standing was compulsory:—

Pte. Cooke, Vics.....	184	Sergt.-Major Rodden, Vics.....	170
Lieut. Desbarats, Vics.....	179	Lieut. Shaw, Vics.....	168
Pte. Tabb.....	174	Lieut.-Col. Bond, P.W.R.....	168
Staff-Sergt. Brocklesby.....	171		

The following are the two highest scores for the green aggregate in the same series:—

Pte. Reynolds, Vics.....	155	Sergt. Morris, Vics.....	152
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THE COLONEL'S MEDAL.

The third match for the medal presented by Lieut.-Col. Henshaw, of the Victoria Rifles, was shot for on Saturday evening at 200, 500 and 600 yards, 5 shots at each range. Capt. H. Becket proved the victor by seven points. The following are the six highest scores:—

Capt. Becket.....	64	Pte. Cooke.....	56
Lieut. Desbarats.....	57	Lieut. Shaw.....	55
Staff-Sergt. Brocklesby.....	57	Sergt. Baillie.....	52

No. 1 Co. held a match on the 15th inst., open to green shots only, for which two prizes were offered. Ranges were 200 and 500 yards, 5 shots each range. Winners were as follows: Colour-Sergt. Belcourt 1st with 39 points; Pte. Lewis 2nd with 30 points.



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