

Randolph Churchill's committee pointing out the enormity of paying £7 5s. each for soldiers' head-gear before us, cannot picture a Guardsman without his bearskin. It certainly would not be the same thing, and the change would not be a change for the better. A reform of the kind cannot, moreover, be carried without the personal support of the Commander-in-Chief, and this, in this instance, Mr. Stanhope would not have. No, we think the bearskins of the Guards will have to be retained, even if the foreign supply fails, and we have to breed bears ourselves to produce them."

The Skeena Indian Troubles.

C Battery held in reserve whilst the Special Constables endeavour to effect a Settlement.

Victoria, B. C., July 30—H.M.S. Caroline, Capt. Sir Wm. Wiseman, arrived at Esquimaux from Skeena yesterday with the latest news concerning the Indian troubles. The Caroline arrived at the entrance of the Skeena on Thursday 19th inst. She first enquired as to the condition of affairs at Hazelton, which is 140 miles from the mouth of the river, and distant ten days by canoe, the river being a mad torrent enclosed by lofty canyons. The steamer met Harkin, who arrived the day before from Hazelton. He stated that the reports about the Hudson Bay Company's agent and others were totally unfounded. With the exception of the missionary at Hazelton, all the white residents had entered the shelter formed by the Hudson Bay Company post and the Indians are very threatening and are still excited over the killing of Kit-Won-Cool-Jim by Constable Green, who is now said to be a deserter from the American Army. It was the opinion of Harkin that serious trouble will probably ensue unless special police immediately proceed to Hazelton. Two more Indians have been killed in some trivial feud. A letter from Constable Washburn at Hazelton, sent to the government, contains an account of the killing of these two men. An Indian named Tobas shot the father-in-law of Kit-Won-Cool-Jim, then went mad, threatening to kill the head chief of another tribe. The latter claims that self defence compelled him to kill Tobas. Washburn and three constables went to the village, arrested him and gave him in charge at Hazelton. Green is also under arrest for killing Jim. From the statement of an Indian eye witness it would appear that Green wantonly shot Jim. The latter was in a house with a dozen others. He twice asked the three constables to arrest him. He had a pistol in his hand and they did not move. Jim suddenly walked out of the back door, the constables after him. Green went out at the front, almost colliding with Jim, whom, when he passed, he shot in the back. Jim, who lived an hour, claimed that he was about to give himself into custody when the shot was fired. Green's action is generally condemned, and he will be tried for manslaughter.

The day after the arrival of the *Caroline* the steamer *Boscowitz* arrived with Superintendent Roycroft on board, and after some difficulty in securing a crew of six Indians, Roycroft and twelve special constables started up the river for Hazelton. The trip will take nine or ten days up, and as soon as the facts are ascertained a messenger will be forwarded to Commandant Holmes of "C" battery. If trouble occurs the battery will at once start up the river. If everything is settled amicably they will return to Victoria. The battery is encamped at Port Essington at the mouth of the river. The men are in good spirits and are pleasantly situated. No accident has overtaken anyone so far. The officers and men are attired in brown dark miners' costume. The general belief is that the matter will be quietly settled. It is, however, asserted that the fact of a war vessel being in the river and the presence of the "C" battery there will have a salutary effect in deterring the Indians from further outrages.

Regimental Notes.

Montreal.

On Saturday, 21st July, the Vic's Cricket Club played a friendly match with the "West End Club" on the Island Park before a very large crowd. Among those to be seen on the grounds were Lt.-Col. Mattice, Brigade-Major, Major Radiger of the Vic's and others. There was only one innings played, at the end of which the score stood: Vic's 89; West End, 28; leaving a majority of 61 for the Vics.

Arrangements are being made for the battalion matches of the Vics, but these can only be held in the event of ranges being completed at a reasonably early date, and at present we are completely in the dark as to when that shall be.

Sergt. Baillie, of No. 2 Co., has been promoted by Lt.-Col. Henshaw to be Orderly Room Clerk in the place of ex-Staff-Sergt. Brocklesby (Busby). Staff-Sergt. Baillie is one of the workers of the regiment,

and no doubt will perform the duties of his new office with his usual ability. The appointment is a very popular one.

The sixth annual moonlight excursion of "D" Company Royal Scots, held on Friday evening the 27th of July, was a grand success. Over 700 people boarded the magnificent steamer *Berthier* to avail themselves of the delightful sail. Dancing was the order of the evening. The committee consisted of Corpl. Drabble, Pte. W. H. Johnson; Pte. H. Kerr; Pte. Biggins and Pte. Fraser, to all of whom great credit is due for the success of the excursion.

"B" Company of the same regiment have decided to hold a moonlight excursion on the 10th inst.: Col.-Sergt. Kennedy has been named chairman and Corpl. E. H. Hilliard, Secy.-Treas., of the committee.

Lt.-Col. Mattice on Saturday the 26th July, officially inspected the clothing and accoutrements of the Vic's, in their armoury, and pronounced himself highly satisfied with the same.

A meeting of the Victoria Rifle committee was held in the armoury on Friday the 27th July, Major Starke in the chair. The representatives from the various companies of the regiment were present. The meeting was called for the purpose of considering the matter of the P.Q.R.A. matches to be held in Ottawa on the 7th, 8th and 9th. Although the shooting men have had no practice this season, from the simple fact that we have no ranges in Montreal, it was moved seconded and carried that a team from the Vic's enter to represent the regiment at Ottawa. In the place of ex-Staff-Sergt. Brocklesby, Lieut. Desbarats was named secretary pro tem and Pte. Tabb, asst.-secy., for the ensuing year. There was some discussion regarding the holding of the regimental matches immediately after the Dominion matches on our new range, but no date was definitely decided upon.

The sergeants of the Vic's have decided to hold a moonlight excursion on Wednesday, the 15th August, on the steamer *Berthier*.

STRIPES.

St. Johns Royal School of Infantry.

Lieut.-General Sir Fred. Middleton, accompanied by Capt. Wise, A.D.C., arrived at St. Johns on the evening of the 24th ult. to inspect the Royal School of Infantry. They were the guests of Lieut.-Col. d'Orsonnens, Commdt. "B" Co. I.S.C. and the School.

On Wednesday morning "B" Co. paraded in drill order at 11 o'clock, Lieut.-Col. d'Orsonnens in command. After the General had received the customary salute and the ranks had been inspected, Capt. Coursol took command, and put the company through the manual and firing exercises. Next followed the bayonet exercise, under the command of Capt. Freer, adjutant of the school. It appeared as if these exercises were performed in a manner highly pleasing to the inspecting officer. The company was then marched out to the barrack common, and put through company and battalion drill, Capt. Coursol and Freer taking command during these movements. Lt.-Col. d'Orsonnens then put the company through a number of movements in the "attack drill." In all the above exercises and drills the men displayed smartness and a thorough knowledge of their work. At the conclusion of the inspection they were marched to their private parade and dismissed.

The inspection of barrack rooms, hospital, men's library, etc., took place at one o'clock. The barrack rooms were certainly in a creditable condition, and well deserved the words of praise bestowed on them by the General. No small share of the credit for their appearance is due to the veteran soldier Col.-Sgt. McCrony, late of H. M. 42nd Highlanders (Black Watch). This gallant old soldier carries medals and clasps won on many a hard-fought field in India and elsewhere in the empire. The men's recreation room was highly praised. This room is comfortably furnished, and is provided with a piano and with indoor games of every description, papers, periodicals, etc., and a library containing nearly 1,100 volumes. The sergeants' mess and grounds were next visited; the inspecting officer and those who accompanied him being evidently highly pleased with all they saw, particularly with the grounds, which are laid out tastefully, and contain an abundance of flowers. The inspection of the office, books, etc., was then made and everything found in a satisfactory condition. At 6 p.m. the General delivered a lecture on "Outpost Duties" to the officers and n. c. o.'s of the school. This was instructive and interesting, and no doubt will prove of service to those who had the good fortune to attend.

The General and Capt. Wise, together with a party of officers and citizens, were entertained at dinner by the Commandant and officers of "B" Co. During dinner the band, under Bugle-Major Hardy, played a very pleasing programme.

Capt. Freer, the popular Adjutant of "B" Co., leaves St. Johns in a few days, very much to the regret of all ranks and the citizens of St. John's generally, as during his stay he has by many acts of good will and kindness endeared himself to all; while in his official capacity he has always done his utmost to further the interests and attend to the welfare of all under him. He carries with him to his new home in London, Ont., the best wishes of all for his future success.