

After the close of the concert the officers held their annual supper, the district staff, county members of Parliament and several ex-officers with a few friends being guests. Unfortunately the D.A.G., with his staff, had to leave by train at 11.40 p.m., and so disappointed the officers' mess to some extent. However a very pleasant evening was spent, and at a reasonable hour the officers parted fully satisfied with the day's proceedings.

B Company 5th Royal Scots.

The fifth annual dinner of B Company "Royal Scots of Canada" was held in the Vendome Restaurant, Notre Dame street, on Friday night, the 16th. About 50 n.c. officers and men sat down to an excellent repast. The guests present were Lieut.-Col. Caverhill, Major Lyman, Capt. Hood (A Co.), Paymaster Foulis, Quartermaster Foster, Capt. and Adj. Lydon, Quartermaster-Sergt. Deacon and Colour-Sergt. McGilton (D Co). After the usual loyal toasts had been drunk, the evening was most pleasantly spent in songs and recitations. A song by Quartermaster Foster and a recitation by Capt. Hood were much appreciated. A pleasing feature of the evening was the presentation of handsome walking sticks with suitable inscriptions to Colour-Sergt. D. Kennedy and Sergt. White. Lieut.-Col. Caverhill, in a neat speech on behalf of the company, made the presentation. This recognition of the many sacrifices made for the welfare of B Company by these two n.c. officers, particularly the Colour-Sergt., is a proof that their labours are appreciated by their comrades. The company owe a great deal to their present officers, Major Blaiklock and Lieut. Cantlie, who are ever ready to advance the interests of their men. A few remarks were made by the adjt. to the n.c. officers and men, calling attention to the disturbing elements that were likely to cause trouble to our national existence, and reminded them that it was the duty of all loyal Britons to speak out with no uncertain sound their determination to defend our connection with the mother land even to the extent of fighting foreign invaders or exterminating annexationists in our midst, and urged the rank and file to fit themselves for the struggle, so that when the time comes, if it does, the Royal Scots will be found in the front rank of the fighting line. A vote of thanks was tendered the chairman (Sergt. White), who ably filled that responsible position. All joined hands and sang "Auld Lang Syne," and closed a very pleasant evening with "God Save the Queen."

Ottawa.

The vacant second lieutenancy in the Field Battery has been awarded to Lieut. Moorhouse McKeand, lately of the Winnipeg Field Battery, but now residing in Ottawa, where he is establishing himself in the wholesale grocery business. Mr. McKeand wears the medals and star for service in the Soudan with the Canadian voyageurs, of whom he was a foreman. He is a brother of the late Lieut.-Col. McKeand, who for some time commanded the 90th Winnipeg Rifles.

On Thursday last No. 2 company of the Guards had their annual outing, taking a tramp to Aylmer, where Capt. Toller, in the name of the company, presented to Col.-Sergt. Geo. A. Mailleue, a handsome Field Martini rifle, in token of appreciation of his unselfish efforts to promote the welfare of the company.

There are no less than four company club rooms being conducted here this season. In New Edinburgh ward No. 5 company of the Guards and No. 6 of the Rifles each have a room. Uptown No. 1 of the Rifles have secured the hall, over Major Woodburn's printing office, formerly occupied by the Orangemen; and No. 6 of the Guards have opened up in the premises just vacated by the Y.M.C.A. A miniature shooting gallery is one of the attractions in the last named.

A change has just taken place in the leadership of the 43rd Rifles, band, Mr. John Greenfield, who has been bandmaster since its organization, having retired by reason of ill-health. He is succeeded by Mr. James Carter, a musician well known throughout Canada, he having been for a good while bandmaster of the G.G.F.G. Mr. Carter is an honorary member of the 13th battalion band, Hamilton.

Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the militia.]

R. M. C. GRADUATES AND PERMANENT POSTS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Having a son who has just reached that age when he must choose a profession or occupation for life, and he having strong military tastes, I obtained a copy of the General Regulations of the Royal Military College, with a view to meeting his desires if possible and entering him as a cadet. On reading paragraph 1 I found: "The College, as defined by Act of Parliament, is established for the purpose of imparting a complete education in all branches of

military tactics and fortification, engineering and general scientific knowledge in subjects connected with and necessary to a thorough knowledge of the military profession, and for qualifying officers for command and for staff appointment." Admission is obtained by open competition, and the period of service is four years. On looking through the curriculum I found the course, although difficult, very thorough and complete in all branches, and the rules and regulations governing the college all that could be desired. Then I sought for the rewards obtainable, after four years' continuous service, by the successful graduate, and found that he is rewarded with a "diploma of graduation," which entitles the holder to the same militia privileges as a "1st class grade A long course certificate," which last is necessary to be held by all officers holding staff employment or who are confirmed in appointments to permanent corps (par. 126); that four commissions in the army are given annually, those not obtaining commissions in the army being appointed lieutenants in the militia, forming an "unattached list" (vide par. 135). Promotion to a higher rank will be made after a period of service in each rank, and par. 136 reads as follows: "So soon as there are a sufficient number of eligible graduates, appointments to permanent militia corps will be made solely from this list, and after sufficient length of service and rank has been obtained by graduates permanent militia offices will be filled therefrom." All appeared most satisfactory, and I made up my mind to enter my son at the next examination for admission to the college. Not having the necessary "funds" to enable my son to enter the army, I thought he would stand a good chance of military employment in Canada, either on the staff or in one of the permanent corps. As I knew the college has been in existence some twelve years I looked in the Militia List to obtain the number who have been appointed to the staff and permanent corps.

There are, I believe, some 127 graduates. There has been appointed to the permanent corps, since graduates first left the college, 4 captains, 27 lieutenants and 4 quartermasters, and a large number to the staff. Continuing my researches I was amazed to find that out of this large number not one of the captains is a graduate or holds the long course certificate said to be required by par. 126 of these Regulations, and only six of the lieutenants are graduates (one only being in the Infantry School Corps); not one of the quartermasters, not one of the staff. On making enquiries of an ex-cadet as to the cause of this utter disregard of the Militia Regulations, he replied in the one word—"Politics"—the curse of the militia. But, I asked, how can these appointments be made when the regulations are so strict, and pointed out how a month or two ago five lieutenants had been confirmed in their appointments to the permanent corps who do not hold "1st class long course grade A certificates" which par. 126 say require to be held before a permanent corps officer is confirmed in his appointment; and I further enquired why none had been appointed to the staff as brigade major, &c., as I had frequently noticed that such appointments were made, and was told that, although none of these appointees were qualified, the graduates forming the "unattached list" are refused promotion provided for in par. 135 so that they will not reach sufficient rank to qualify for such appointments, although some have been lieutenants on this list for going on nine years. On learning these facts I was not surprised at what I had often heard remarked, that the graduates of the college do not identify themselves with the militia, and I concluded to have my son enter the legal profession, where he might, after being called to the bar, look forward as a reward to the bench, or to enter him in medicine, where none are allowed to practise without being qualified, as it appears it is only in the profession of arms in Canada that qualifications are not only ignored but the qualified are "snubbed" as well. I am somewhat surprised at the Militia Department sending out regulations of such a misleading character.

PATERFAMILIAS.

Nov. 14, 1888.

THE PERMANENT CORPS CHAMPIONED.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—If nothing good can be said for it, the letter signed "Foresight" in your issue of Nov. 1st is certainly remarkable for the hazy military ideas of the writer, who must either be a soldier of recent creation or as yet in his infancy. While I agree with him that the permanent officers should, if possible, be the best in the world, upon what grounds has he the presumption to state that this is not also the wish of the Government?

Why does "Foresight" imagine that the permanent corps officers are not competent to fill their positions? He has either never attended the schools, and is therefore incapable of judging of the efficiency of the instructors, or, if he has, he evidently belongs to that class of ex-"attached" who, having "scraped" through these schools and emerged with perhaps indifferent certificates, consider themselves the brilliant luminaries from whom all should derive their information, at the same time attempting to depreciate the abilities of those to whom they owe