

GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

The Fifth Military District's Lack of Shooting Facilities.

The Eight Royals' Officers' Annual Meeting—The Foot Guards' preparing for Dominion Day Visitors—Montreal Field Battery Association Meeting—Inspection of the M. G. A.—No. 3 District's farewell to Col. Villiers.

Lieut.-Col. Henry V. Villiers, D.A.G., lately transferred to No. 10 District, with headquarters at Winnipeg, was entertained on the 30th ult. at a farewell banquet at Cobourg, given by the officers of the Royal Military College and of the 3rd Military District, of which Col. Villiers has been in charge for seven years. Col. D. E. Boulton, of the 3rd Cavalry and Major-General J. R. Oliver, Commandant of the R.M.C., were joint-residents. The other guests, about seventy-five in number, included representatives of all the corps in the district, as well as prominent civilians. The first toast calling for speeches was that of "The Army and Navy." General Oliver replied first, referring to his seven years in Canada as an exceedingly pleasant part of his 32 years' service. Col. Van Stranbenzee, D.A.G., who succeeds Col. Villiers in the district, followed with similar testimony concerning thirteen years he has spent in Canada out of a total service of forty-two; and Col. Deacon of the 45th Battalion, told with pride how that 1889 would be his jubilee year in the Imperial and Canadian service. In response to the toast of "Our Guest," proposed by Col. Boulton, Col. Villiers made a feeling speech, complimentary to the force of No. 3 Dis., and expressing regret at parting with the many kind friends he had found there. Other toasts honoured were to "The Royal Military College," replied to by General Oliver; "The Parliament of Canada," spoken for by Col. Kirkpatrick, Mr. Adam Hudspeth, Mr. Barron, and Capt. Ward, M.P.'s; and the health of the new D.A.G., Col. Van Straubenzee, to which that officer made a fitting response.

When a lad, the present Lieut.-Col. Henry V. Villiers, D.A.G., received his first commission in Her Majesty's 81st regiment, in which he served for some years; then exchanged in to the 1st Royals, now known as the Royal Scots, and next into the 83rd, with which he served many years India and in various other parts of the British Empire. On retiring from the Imperial service he came to Canada, and here took a very active and energetic part in the formation and instruction of the volunteer force. For some years he had command of the Hamilton Field Battery, relinquishing this on appointment as brigade major in No. 2 district. From this post he was promoted to be D.A.G. of No. 3 district.

Montreal.

In company with the sat-upon members of other Montreal regiments the Vics are now rejoicing in a little stir being made through the local press on the subject of the want of rifle ranges, and fresh hopes of something being done are springing up. What a state for the important district No. 5 to be in, with about 60% of recruits in the several corps and no known available range nearer than Ottawa. The greenest recruit can afford a smile at the parody on soldiering made by marching past, review exercise, and "general salute! present arms," when he thinks of the \$20,000 per annum paid for it, and the practical part of even knowing how to bang off a rifle left to imagination for want of a range. Last year brought out more new shots than any preceding one, and so far at least as the Vics are concerned this summer would have been ahead a long way still, but most of the members are now making other arrangements for their Saturday half holiday, and the winter's practice and encouragement with the Morris tube is wasted. No doubt the department has reason to be economical, but the Montreal volunteers take it hard that they should be the sufferers, and this in spite of the well-known sentiments of the General in command of the militia, and the representations made by the last and the present D.A.G.'s on the subject of proficiency with the rifle.

The competition for the Adjutant's prize offered for best average attendance at regimental drills, and which closed with the inspection parade, was won by No. 6 Co., with a showing of 19 files—No. 5 second with 17.

The annual meeting of the Montreal Field Battery Association was held last week at their rooms in the new drill hall. In the absence of the president, Lieut. Hooper, the chair was taken by Sergt. Walker, the vice-president. The secretary-treasurer read the annual statement, which showed the handsome balance of \$300.85 at the credit of the associa-

tion. A special committee was appointed to act along with the standing committee, in making preparations for the annual sports and games, to be held on St. Helen's Island at the close of the annual camp of the battery. The date has not yet been fixed, but will probably be about June 29. The chairman announced that the association hoped to be able very soon to put the battery in possession of a new uniform. A vote of thanks, as well as a handsome remuneration, were tendered to Bombr. G. W. Adams, for his services as secretary-treasurer. The following were elected a committee for the ensuing year: Lieut. Hooper, Sergt. Walker, Qr.-Mr. Sergt. Mowat, Bombr. Adams, Gunners Hayes and McWood, Driver Convery, all re-elected, Gunners Keizer and Darling.

There was a large gathering on the Champ de Mars Saturday afternoon when the annual inspection of the Montreal Garrison Artillery took place, many ladies being present. The brigade mustered about 260 strong and the inspection was most satisfactory and creditable. The inspecting officer was the new D. A. G., Lieut.-Col. Houghton, who was accompanied by the Brigade Major, Lieut.-Col. Mattice. Among the officers of sister corps who witnessed the inspection were Lieut.-Col. Oswald, late commander of the M.G.A., Lieut.-Col. Massey and Capt. Burland, Sixth Fusiliers; Lieut.-Col. Stevenson, Field Battery; Major Radiger and Lieut. Shaw, Vics; Major Lyman, Capt. Hood, Gault, Ibbotson and Lydon, Lieuts. Vaughan, Linton and Ibbotson, Royal Scots.—*Star*.

Hamilton.

The following orders were issued by Major Van Wagner, H. F. B. on the 3rd inst. "The battery will parade as follows: The left division on Tuesday evening, the battery on Thursday evening, the battery on Friday evening, and Monday evening, June 11, in marching order, helmets, leggings, haversacks and overcoats rolled."

The 19th June has been set apart as the day on which the Hamilton Field Battery will do their annual firing at camp.

The committee of the Horticultural Exhibition to be held in the Pavilion, Toronto, on 18th and 19th July, have already engaged the 13th Battalion band to play on those dates.

Mr. Alex. Leith has been appointed a provisional lieutenant of No. 3 Co. (Binbrook), of the 77th Wentworth Battalion. Mr. Leith's many friends in Hamilton will be pleased to learn that he has donned the Queen's uniform once more—this time the scarlet. Mr. Leith served a number of years in Her Majesty's R.N., and if his official reputation as an officer of the 77th becomes as fully established as his record as a jolly messmate and genial fellow now is he will be a decided acquisition to the mess of the 77th.

GIRTH.

Ottawa.

On Sunday last the Dragoon Guards, Field Battery and 43rd Rifles joined in their annual church parade, attending service in the afternoon at St. George's Church. The sermon was preached by the pastor, Rev. P. Owen-Jones, who lately accepted the post of chaplain of the 43rd Rifles.

The Foot Guards practised "the attack" on Monday evening, on Cartier Square, much to the edification of a great throng of on-lookers, deeply interested in the firing, which made a great display owing to the prevailing darkness. The series of grand "final rushes," and the attendant cheering—in a truly business-like fashion—were witnessed and heard with particular interest. The Guards are rapidly getting into shape for their inspection, which will take place on Monday evening next.

The sergeants of the Guards met on Tuesday evening to make arrangements for the entertainment of those of the 14th Battalion, of Kingston, on Dominion Day.

An invitation has been extended to the Fifth Royal Scots of Montreal to visit the Capital on Dominion Day, or should that be impossible, to at least send representatives to compete in the military sports.

Capt. John Hood of the Scots, visited Ottawa this week; and taking advantage of the first opportunity offered this season—Montreal having no range—snatched time for a brief practice at Rideau range.

Quebec.

The annual meeting of the officers of the 8th Royal Rifles was held in the orderly room, drill hall, on Wednesday evening, 30th May, 1888, there being present: Lieut.-Col. H. J. Miller, Capt. Ernest F. Wurtele (adjutant), G. E. A. Jones, J. S. Dunbar, E. Montizambert, C. Miller, T. Inglis Poston and T. H. Jones (paymaster); Lieuts. J. Peters, W. Wood, C. Dunn and O. B. C. Richardson.

Capt. T. H. Jones read the statement of receipts and expenditure and Lieut. Wood the statement of the band committee, from 1st May, 1887, to 30th April, 1888, both of which were very satisfactory.

The following committees were elected for the current year:

Band Committee.—Capt. G. E. A. Jones, J. S. Dunbar, T. Inglis Poston; Lieuts. Wood and Richardson.

Regimental Committee.—Capt. E. Montizambert and Ernest F. Wurtele, Lieut. C. Dunn.