

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The MILITIA GAZETTE aims at being the recognized medium of instruction and information for Canadian militiamen and rifle shots. Communications on the subjects to which its pages are devoted are respectfully invited. Anonymous communications will not be regarded. No name will be published, except with the writer's consent. The editors will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.

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COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

Will our subscriber in Ottawa who remitted a year's subscription last week but forgot to sign his name, please give us some clue to his identity.

A good deal of discussion is going on just now respecting the advisability of sending a regiment of Canadian Militia to take part in the Queen's jubilee. The Royal Scots, 6th Fusiliers, and 65th Rifles of Montreal; the Queen's Own and Royal Grenadiers of Toronto, have already taken some steps in that direction, and one of our local papers advocates the sending of the Governor General's Foot Guards. We would be glad to see the force represented on so important an occasion by one of our best regiments, but there are difficulties in the way which would require to be surmounted. In the first place, the question of expense is a formidable one and, unless the Government takes upon itself the whole cost, we do not see how it is going to be met. Taking as a basis the usual cost of transport, it would require for the voyage and return at least one hundred dollars per head for the officers, and half that amount for the men. This for five hundred men—and it would not be worth while sending a weaker regiment—would come to, including transport to and from the points of embarkation and debarkation, about thirty thousand dollars. The time occupied would be not less than, say, forty days. The pay and subsistence for this period would come to about twenty-five thousand dollars more. Allowing five thou-

sand dollars for unforeseen expenses, we may place the whole cost at sixty thousand dollars.

For such a trip, and to do honor to our beloved Queen on such an occasion, we feel satisfied that every man in the force would make every reasonable sacrifice, but we very much doubt if there is a single regiment in which all the officers and men would find it possible to leave their usual avocations for so long a time, even if the selection of one regiment to the exclusion of others were possible. This would necessitate the bringing in of men from other regiments to fill up the vacancies, and the temporary retirement of those whose places they filled. This being accomplished, the next business would be to work the battalion into shape. Even the most ardent admirer of our city corps will not pretend that the best of them, as they now stand, could hold their own in the company they would meet at the great review. They do remarkably well considering that they drill only at nights during a portion of the year, but that is not enough. If the people of Canada are going to foot the bill they would require that the selected regiment should uphold the honor of the country in a creditable manner, and that the physique, drill, discipline of interior economy and behaviour, both public and private, of the corps should be such as would win the warm applause of all those by whom they were seen, or with whom they came in contact.

This would be a crucial test that could not be stood without much hard work, and a most efficient organization. No commanding officer could hope to pass through it unless he not only received every aid and assistance from the militia authorities in the shape of money, clothing and equipments, but also had the necessary time and opportunity afforded him of putting his men through a thorough course of instruction. Every one would require to be perfect in his drill and duties before going on board ship; little, if anything, could be done afterwards. If the scheme be taken up by the Government there will be no difficulty in carrying it out. It is one in which all parties could unite. If they do so, and the weight of public opinion is found to be in its favor, we have no doubt that our energetic Minister of Militia will carry it out in a manner that will reflect the highest credit on the country. If, however, it is left to the regiments themselves to raise the necessary funds we do not think the project will ever get beyond the region of talk.

By the fixing of the opening of Parliament for the 25th instant it is decided that the annual meeting of the D.R.A. will take place on the 17th March; and, consequently, it is high time that those interested in the Association should cast over in their minds any points which they would like brought before that meeting. It is very desirable that there should be a large attendance this year, for many important points will probably come up, of which we hope to speak later, but it is not absolutely necessary that a member should attend in person to ensure his views being ventilated. Each province has representatives on the Council resident in Ottawa, and if these members have any duties to perform we presume they include enunciating the views of the riflemen in the sections for which they were nominated. Consequently

we should advise each individual member who has any ideas to propound to write to one of the members of Council for his province and ask him to bring the matter to the attention of the general meeting, or of the meeting of Council which usually follows it.

The cartridge commission has been summoned to reassemble in Kingston on Friday next, the locality having been decided mainly because Prof. Bayne has been experimenting there on the powder used in the Dominion made cartridges, and it is probable that before separating on this occasion the commission will prepare a final report for submission to the Militia Department. It is satisfactory to learn that a definite conclusion is being arrived at, for the commission has been silent so long that there was some apprehension that it had sunk into oblivion, while the time is rapidly drawing near when something definite must be done. If we are to use Dominion made ammunition, there is no time to spare in securing the proper brand of powder, for certainly our marksmen will not be satisfied with such ammunition as was served out to them last year.

The encouragement of rifle practice by the militia force in general is a problem deserving of the best attention of all the militia authorities, and we direct attention to "an old rifleman's" remarks on the subject, which should be taken in connection with his letter in No. 37, and our comment thereon. We should be glad to receive and to publish the views of others upon this most important subject, as something might be brought up that would commend itself to the authorities, while the D.R.A. meeting would furnish a suitable opportunity for giving publicity to any good points.

We devote considerable space this week to affairs in the Sudan, partly because it is refreshing to read of a thoroughly successful attack, in which all the subordinates seem to have won golden opinions from their commander; partly because Canada should be interested in Lieut. Hewett's success, as, six months before commanding a company of regulars in the engagement, he was a cadet in our Royal Military College. The letter from him which we print gives a graphic account, not only of the fight, but of the feelings of a youngster in his first engagement, and demonstrates anew the value of the institution which prepared him for the army.

The 40th Northumberland Battalion are in somewhat of a dilemma, as will be seen by consulting our regimental notes of this and last week. They inherited a set of colors from a defunct volunteer corps, which were transferred to them under certain conditions. These conditions, it seems, have been violated, and now the donors re-claim the colors. The lesson to be learned from this little dispute is twofold and obvious, first that a battalion should have not only a nominal headquarters but also a substantial building at that headquarters in which all regimental property would be secure, so as to obviate the necessity of a commanding officer carrying it home for safe keeping; and secondly, that nothing should be accepted hampered by conditions, as differences of opinion are sure to arise sooner or later which may be the means of breeding endless harm. In this particular case we sincerely hope that a pacific solution of the difficulty may be reached.

The officers who were at the front will certainly experience no difficulty in procuring miniature medals. We have already informed them of two channels through which they might be secured, and now we have received the following letter from Messrs. John Martin & Co., military outfitters, of 457 St. Paul street, Montreal, which we have

much pleasure in publishing. If it were any advantage to Messrs. Martin, we should advise our subscribers to patronize the Canadian firm; as, however, they are not going into the matter for profit, we dare say it will be unnecessary for us to say anything: "Sir,—We notice in your issue of February 2nd reference to the supplying of miniature medals (North-west campaign) and in this connection we might state that it is our intention to supply the medals at cost. We have already written to many of our friends intimating the above, but as the convenience of procuring medals, clasps and ribbons in Canada may be of more general importance, perhaps you may care to notice this matter in your next issue. P.S.—Enclosed please find sample of the medal ribbon."

The ribbon in question is very pretty, and will show up well, especially on dark uniforms. It is of corded silk, $1\frac{3}{16}$ inches wide, of a color that we have not satisfactorily decided, even with the help of our lady friends; some describing it as peacock blue, others as slaty blue, with a strip of cardinal a quarter of an inch wide, beginning a sixteenth of an inch inside each edge.

General Luard's many Canadian friends will be glad to read the following from the *Army and Navy Gazette*:—A distinguished-service pension of £100 has been granted to Lieutenant-General R. G. A. Luard, lately commanding the Canadian Militia. General Luard entered the Army as Ensign in the 51st Foot in 1845, and, passing through the successive grades, became Colonel, August 4, 1864; Major-General, January 11, 1870; and Lieutenant-General, December 1, 1884. He has filled many positions on the Staff, including Assistant-Inspector of Volunteers, 1860-65; Assistant Military Secretary, Nova Scotia, 1873-75; Assistant-Adjutant and Quartermaster-General, Manchester, 1875-77; and Major-General commanding a brigade at Aldershot. General Luard served in the Crimea with the 77th Regiment, from March, 1855, and on the Staff as Brigade-Major to General Straubenzee, and Deputy Assistant Adjutant General at headquarters, from June, 1855, including the siege and fall of Sebastopol (medal with clasp, brevet of Major, Sardinian and Turkish medals, and Fifth Class of the Medjidie); served in China as Brigade-Major, 2nd Brigade, in 1857-58; and mentioned in despatches as being the first person on the walls of Canton (brevet of Lieutenant-Colonel, medal with clasp).

COL. WYNDHAM'S MILITARY COLONIZATION SCHEME.

Lieut.-Col. Wyndham, 12th York Rangers, is urging upon the Government a scheme for establishing a Military Colony in the North-west which certainly, if it were carried out, would be the best arrangement yet devised for creating a permanent military force in that district. The proposition, submitted to the Minister of the Interior reads as follows:

"I offer to raise from four to eight hundred men, to form a military colony. The men to receive from the Government a grant of land, and a military outfit, and to be placed with their families on the land with suitable provision. The men to serve from seven to ten years, doing one month's drill in each year, half in camp, half in garrison, a small garrison to be always in charge of stores, to keep their own ponies, to be drilled as mounted infantry and scouts, to have their own transport arrangements, and to be able to move at a few hours' notice, any distance at the rate of fifty miles a day. The Government to give them when called out to active service the same pay allowances as the other militia, but when doing their month's drill only to receive rations, a paid staff always on duty. These could do other duties, give out Indian supplies, act as magistrates and do any service the Government might require.

"The Government would thus have at their disposal a force that would cost little to keep up when not employed, that would soon have a complete knowledge of the country and people, could be made just as

efficient as might be required, and that would give confidence to the settlers and cause the rapid settlement of the country.

"By making such a settlement the Government would have all the force they would require in the country, and as it would be done in the way of settlement, our neighbors across the line could not say we were afraid of another Indian rising, and by such rumors bring settlers to their country instead of ours. The settlement I propose can be placed any where the Government think desirable and the land good."

The only question in all this seems to be whether settlers could be got willing to accept these somewhat onerous conditions, but the Colonel assures us that there is no doubt on that point, and that he has already more volunteers than he requires. We should imagine the Government would not hesitate to secure a large powerful military force at a mere nominal cost, and at the same time help to colonize the country, and we should also desire to point out that if this scheme, or any similar one, were adopted, there could not be a better time for inaugurating it than now, at the beginning of a new agricultural season, and when a certain amount of uneasiness as to the attitude of the Indians tends to render the settlers now in the country unsettled, and to prevent immigrants from choosing it as their future home.

A CANADIAN RIFLEMAN'S VIEWS OF AMERICAN MATCH RIFLE SHOOTING.

In our issue of the 29th December last we published a letter showing up what the writer considered the weak points of rifle target practice as at present generally conducted by our American cousins, this communication being to a certain extent a sequel to a previous letter from the same correspondent, ridiculing the "fads" of English riflemen. Our Boston contemporary, the *Rifle* (which is, by the way, the most neatly got up periodical on our exchange list) has published "Smith's friend's" letter in full, and makes some comment upon it, which we have much pleasure in reproducing, as this is one of those questions on which there cannot be too much discussion, provided it is friendly. The *Rifle* says:

There is much in the above statement which will greatly amuse not only the riflemen of Boston and vicinity, but of the entire country where shooting with the match-rifle is popular. Smith's friend, who sees the folly of rifle-shooting with a match-rifle, through the statement of his friend who came to Boston and heard somebody else tell about the manner some other fellows shoot, and through this slightly roundabout channel, has grasped the whole question and pointed out its absurdities in the above communication.

There is one point it would be well for such correspondents to be informed upon, which is the ability of a practical rifleman, skilful in the use of the match-rifle, to apply that knowledge to the crudy military arm, by which the strength of nations is so largely measured.

To illustrate our meaning we would call attention to the work performed by Mr. F. J. Rabbeth, who has probably fired as many shots from a match-rifle, such as Smith's friend calls fancy work, as any man in America. When the last international team was made up this gentleman contested for a place upon the team, and made, with a military arm, the highest average shooting made by any individual contesting. With a military arm at rest (on the skirmish line soldiers need a knowledge of rest-shooting) he has made the highest score ever made in America.

Another skilful rifleman is Charles W. Hinman, who seldom shoots at short range anything but a match-rifle. He shot on the last international team which contested with our British cousins at Wimbledon, and had the remainder of the team equalled his score the match would have resulted in a victory for the American team.

At the last meeting of the Massachusetts militia, competing with the picked riflemen of the State, this gentleman led with a score over all competitors.

We would also mention Mr. George F. Elisworth, one of the best and most enthusiastic match-rifle shooter, who probably has never fired a hundred shots from a military arm, recently borrowed one of these weapons, and before he had fired twenty shots scored 33 out of a possible 35, at the 200-yard range. Still another case is cited of J. B. Fellows, who recently scored 80 upon the standard American target, counting 47 out of 50 Creedmoor target; and this before he had fired a score of shots. Many other similar cases might be mentioned.

A visitor to Walnut Hill will frequently witness men who have never fired a shot from a military rifle, in their first trial surpass the soldier who had given much attention to practising with this arm, and scoring from 42 to 48 out of a possible 50, rarely going below the first figures. The same is doubtless true of all other clubs throughout

the country where the match-rifle is chiefly in use. In England and her possessions, most of the finest rifle shots belong to the military; in America, as a rule, the finest marksmen are civilians; but could a team be made up of picked men, noted for their skill with the match-rifle, from the clubs of East and West, we believe, with one hundred practice shots, they could be led on at victory at short range, with military arms, against any team the world could produce. The highest skill is necessary, to secure prominence with a match-rifle, and proficiency with this arm can readily be utilized in the use of the military rifle.

Our correspondent is not to be put down by these facts. We had scarcely received our copy of the *Rifle* before we received the following characteristic epistle from Smith's Friend:—

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—Smith, of Kazubazua, drove in to-day in spite of the thermometer being down to 20° below zero, and called on me in a state of absolute despair. I managed to pacify him at last, and then learned that he had received from Boston a copy of the *Rifle* for February, in which some comments appear on the statements made in your paper some weeks ago anent the habit of shooting with fancy rifles in fancy positions at 200 yards which prevails to some extent south of 45°.

These statements were transferred squarely and fairly from the columns of the *Rifle*, and if there were "absurdities in the * * communication," such absurdities must not be charged to Smith, who is greatly pleased to learn that the editor of the *Rifle* acknowledges them to be such.

Smith is an out and out advocate for shooting with the rifle and ammunition served out to the militia of Canada, and at the ranges and targets determined and fixed by authority, because he believes that the object of practice is to make him proficient in the use of his weapon, and thus of service to his country. Smith is well aware that during the late trouble in the North-west the shooting done was principally at a shorter distance than 200 yards, and that no man was safe to stand and deliberately fire from the shoulder without endangering his life, and that all were obliged to obtain shelter and cover.

Smith acknowledges that the shots who are being celebrated in the *Rifle* may do good work with a military rifle, but states that his object in calling attention to the fancy weapons and positions used at Walnut Hill and other ranges was to show to his brother riflemen in Canada their absurdity from a practical and military standpoint.

In the January number of the *Rifle*, appeared a letter from Mr. James Duane, who is as bad as Smith, as he pokes fun at the system of loading, etc., in vogue, thus: "Now that we are in a fair way of adopting a common-sense target, would it not be well to adopt a common-sense cartridge to shoot at it!" The style of loading now quite generally in vogue, may be briefly described as follows: A patched bullet is inserted at the breech, and pushed into the rifling in front of the chamber by a stick of the proper length. The shell loaded with powder, usually confined by a wad, is pushed in after it, and the gun fired. What do we do next! Repeat this rather cumbersome operation! By no means. A grand general house-cleaning must first be inaugurated. Scrubbing brushes, mops, and an assortment of utensils more varied than a char-woman ever dreamt of, must be called into requisition. . . . I must stigmatize this style of loading as being utterly "impractical." I must, in this one instance at least, agree with Major Merrill, the great advocate of the muzzle-loader, when he claims that the breech loader so charged is but a servile imitation of the muzzle-loader." Farther on in his letter Mr. Duane states: I hope that in the near future all our Rifle Associations and Clubs will put at least one match on their programmes requiring "fixed ammunition. No cleaning allowed." Who can doubt that the encouragement thus afforded would be productive of immediate good results, and that very soon we should all be armed with that grand desideratum, an accurate rifle capable of shooting a compact water-proof cartridge an indefinite number of rounds without cleaning." Smith holds out his hand to Mr. Duane and says, "shake."

Smith wishes me to quote, as apropos to his idea of "Fads," the following from page 10 of the *Rifle* for February, being questions asked by a correspondent relative to scores made by J. A. Frye: "Will you please inform me the calibre of his rifle, charge of powder, and whether weighed or measured, and if measured, how measured; weight of bullet, and whether patched or grooved. Was bullet seated in shell or placed in barrel? Kind of front sight used, and whether coarse or fine; was rifle fired with or without cleaning? Did an interval elapse between each shot, so that the barrel of rifle was always at a uniform temperature, or were the shots fired in rapid succession? Was any allowance made for wind, and if so, was the allowance constant, so no further alteration had to be made to wind-gauge? What kind of rest is used—simply a muzzle-rest, which does not support the body in any way, or something which permits the shooter's right arm and side to lean upon some support?"

Verb. Sap.

SMITH'S FRIEND.

Now the long and short of the whole question is, that the *Rifle* and the GAZETTE are looking at it from different points of view, the former regarding rifle shooting as an amusement pure and simple, while we look upon the amusement as merely a means to an end, that end being the training of our militia in marksmanship. We are more anxious to see a hundred of our men tolerably good shots with the rifles that the Government have placed in their hands, than to see one of them a phenomenal shot with a rifle and cartridge built to suit himself. The present development of rifle shooting amongst the Americans is a legitimate outcome of their laudable desire to attain perfection in everything they undertake; but that very perfection, involving as it does a considerable expenditure of time in practice, and of money in procuring the best appliances, often specially made, necessarily limits the pastime to the few who can afford luxuries. These, we are willing to admit, would be found efficient with military weapons, but they are not a large enough fraction of the population to make the system a success, from a military

point of view. The consequence is that our friends are forced to complain of the poor attendance at their principal military matches, and cannot probably muster more expert rifle shots out of their population of fifty millions than we can medium ones, with inferior weapons, out of our population of five millions.

BEAUSÉJOUR.

BY W. HAGUE HARRINGTON.

Along the Missaquash which forms the boundary line dividing Nova Scotia from New Brunswick, and situated in the latter Province, is a chain of low hills which terminate before reaching the Bay of Fundy. Along their summits stand the houses of those who farm the great marshes which lie at their feet, and which are among the richest lands in the Dominion. A little village near the S. end of the range bears its name, Point de Bute, apparently a corruption of the old name Pont de Buot. Having occasion last year to visit this locality, I took advantage of a fine autumn afternoon to drive, with three friends, through a small part of the surrounding district, which is one of the most noted in Canadian history. We spent a pleasant hour on the ruins of Fort Cumberland, as it is now termed, but which in the troublesome times of old was known as Beauséjour. Situated on the terminal bluff of the above mentioned range of hills it commands the wide expanse of splendid dyked lands known as the great Tantramars marsh, and offers a most extensive prospect to the spectator. About five miles distant on either hand are the flourishing towns of Sackville, N. B., and Amherst, N. S., towards which one looks across a sea of waving hay, unbroken by fence or furrow, and dotted with barns and stacks. On every hand are evidences of comfort and prosperity, and enquiry reveals the fact that the owners of these rich acres reap where they have not sown, for some sections of the "marsh" have been cropped for a century. A section of the dyked land upon which to raise hay, and some upland around the margin upon which to pasture cattle, enable the owner to dispense with much of the ordinary labor of farming.

Not always, however, has such prosperity and peace been enjoyed by this region: the waves of war and rapine have surged fitfully where now in summer the sea of grass is rippled by the strong southerly winds from Fundy. The whole region lying between the Bay of Fundy and Baie Verte was long disputed territory, and is studded with such points of interest as Beauséjour, Beaubassin, Pisiquid, etc. The eighteenth century was a stormy one on this continent and there were few years in which British, French and American troops were not fighting against one another, or against the Indian tribes.

In the middle of the century the roar of cannon echoed frequently along the shores of Fundy, and many brave lives were ended in the wooded hills and grassy meadows. Time has not permitted me to go very fully or carefully into the history of the foundation of Beauséjour or forts which once sprinkled the isthmus, and the sketch I propose to offer is of the roughest and faultiest.

In 1751 the French commenced to erect a fort at Beauséjour, and in the following year the new Gov. of Canada (Marquis Duquesne Menneville) sent an officer of artillery (JACQUIN DE PIEDMONT) to fortify it. Around it were gradually gathered many families of French Acadians, enticed thither by the notorious Abbé La Loutre, who directed all his energies towards bringing the surrounding country under French domination. In 1753 M. du Chambon de Vergor was appointed to its command. At this time the ownership of the country was disputed by the French and British. The former claimed the greater part of Nova Scotia, including all the lands bordering on the Bay of Fundy, except Port Royal, which they admitted had been handed over under the treaty of Utrecht. The British on the other hand claimed all the territory lying east of a line running north from the Kennebec to the St. Lawrence. The treaty of Aix la Chapelle had provided for an international commission to settle the question of boundaries of Acadia, but although the commission had been appointed and had met at intervals during five years, nothing beyond reports of formidable size resulted. It had been agreed that pending the decision of this committee no changes should be made in the disputed districts, but this understanding was ignored and both parties built forts and made other warlike preparations. In August 1754, La Loutre demanded from Governor Lawrence (nominally for the Micmacs) all the land "from the south of Bay Verte, including Fort Lawrence, and the lands dependent thereon, as far as the entrance of the Bay of Mines; thence running into Cobequid and including Chigabencady (Shubenacadie), leaving this last place remounting and descending as far as the river Mouskedabouek (Musquodoboit), and from that place, which is eight leagues east of Halifax, passing by the Bay of Islands, St. Mary's Bay, and Moukodome (Country Harbor) as far as Cangeau, and from Cangeau by the passage of Fronsac (Gut of Causo) as far as the said Bay Verte." The Governor and council

naturally enough considered that this demand was "too insolent and absurd to be answered" and directed the commander of Chignecto to inform the Indians that they must come to Halifax to treat for peace, which would be granted on liberal conditions. Meanwhile the French Acadians around Beauséjour were becoming discontented with their condition, and would willingly have returned to the deserted fields in other districts, had not Vergor prevented them. The fort, in the form of a pentagon, was at this time built of earth faced with stone to the height of the ditch, which was palisaded. There were five bastions with 32 small cannon and one mortar mounted. In addition there were eight eighteen pounders not mounted, while the garrison consisted of six officers and sixty men—regulars. This was a very small force, but it was estimated that within 48 hours there could be assembled 1400 or 1500 men from the different districts of Beauséjour, Baie Verte (400 Indians), St. John's Island, Chipondy, Petitcodiac, Memramcook, Gediaque (Shediac), Ramsheik, etc.

1755 opened quietly, but it was only the calm before the storm, for Sir Wm. Shirley, acting under orders of July, 1754, from Sir Thos. Robinson, was engaged in raising a force to attack the French forts in Nova Scotia, with a view to breaking the power of that nation in the country. On the 20th April he embarked 1,800 men, but the force was detained at Boston waiting a supply of arms from England until the end of May, when it sailed under the command of Col. Monckton. The squadron comprising in all 35 or 40 sail arrived at Fort Lawrence and disembarked the troops on 2nd June. Two days later they left their encampment and marched towards Buot, where entrenchments had been raised by some Acadians to prevent the passage of the Missaquash, but in an hour they were routed by the British, who then laid a bridge, and, crossing the river, camped about half a league from Beauséjour. While the inhabitants of the fort worked vigorously to strengthen its defences, the besiegers erected batteries, which commenced shelling it on the 13th, and carried forward trenches. The shells wrought considerable damage and a large one thrown on the 16th fell on one of the casemates, destroying it and killing four persons, of whom one was an English officer who had previously been taken prisoner. This demoralized the garrison and they capitulated upon the following terms: "1. The commandant, officers, staff, and others, employed for the king, and the garrison of Beauséjour, shall go out with arms and baggage, drums beating. 2. The garrison shall be sent direct by sea to Louisbourg, at the expense of the King of Great Britain. 3. The garrison shall have provisions sufficient to last until they get to Louisbourg. 4. As to the Acadians—as they were forced to bear arms under pain of death—they shall be pardoned. 5. The garrison shall not bear arms in America for the space of six months. 6. The foregoing terms are granted on condition that the garrison shall surrender to the troops of Great Britain by 7 p. m. this afternoon.

"(Signed) ROBERT MONCKTON,
"At the camp before Beauséjour,
"16th June, 1755."

The occupants of the fort—officers and privates alike—seem to have pillaged it pretty thoroughly before it was handed over, and no great regret at their loss seems to have been felt by the French, as on the evening of the surrender Vergor gave a supper to the victors. The French marched out on the following day, and Col. Scott occupied the fort and hoisted the English flag.

The British strengthened the fortifications and armament, and changed the name to Fort Cumberland. Twenty years later, during the unsettled, and to the British disastrous, period of the American revolution, the country surrounding Fort Cumberland, in common with the greater part of Canada, was greatly disaffected, and very many of the inhabitants were actual rebels. Again was seen (in 1776) an expedition from Massachusetts supplemented by volunteers from other points, marching against Beauséjour, not, however, in aid of Britain, but to wrest from her, if possible, her control of the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. This force, under Col. Eddy, appeared before the fort about the end of November, and was so far successful as to cut out a vessel from under its guns, and to capture a large number of its garrison, which consisted of Col. Graham and 260 men of the Royal Fencibles. Reinforcements, however, arrived from Windsor, and on the 28th November a sortie was made which completely routed the rebels, who, abandoning their stores, fled to the wood and retreated homeward through New Brunswick. The local rebels laid down their arms under promise of pardon, and this attack on British power was happily rendered futile. The fort was kept in repairs for many years, but has long since been abandoned. The grass-grown earthworks are in fair preservation, but the buildings within the enclosures are rapidly falling to pieces, and the magazine without the gates, a massive stone structure, is splitting and falling. The guns were recently sold for a trifling sum, and in Amherst I saw two of them transformed into ignoble gate posts.

THE RELIEF OF KOSHEH.

The following is the *Soulan Times'* telegraphic account of the engagement which took place on the Nile on the 30th December last, between the English and Egyptian troops under General Stephenson, and the Arabs:—

"The force moved out from camp at Kosheh at five this morning. The 1st Brigade, under General Butler, swept round in the desert for three miles in a south-easterly direction. The 2nd Brigade moved in echelon with the 1st Brigade about a mile from the river. A portion of the 2nd Brigade, under Colonel Huyshe, including the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and the blacks, advanced from Kosheh Fort along the river bank. The 2nd Brigade wheeled to their right on reaching the ridge above the fortified houses which have been held by the enemy, and which are within 2,000 yards of Kosheh Fort. At 6.15 a.m. Major Whateley's battery opened fire, and the enemy replied with musketry. The Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment) then opened fire. Meanwhile, the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and the Egyptian battalion advanced in attack formation along the river bank from Kosheh. When within charging distance Colonel Whateley's battery ceased fire, and the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, with the Egyptians, took the houses at the point of the bayonet, killing about fifty of the enemy. The enemy stuck obstinately to their loopholed mud houses. Meanwhile General Butler, with the 1st Brigade, had wheeled to the right about three miles beyond the 2nd Brigade, and found the enemy in force on the ridges above Ginnis. His infantry, advancing under a heavy fire and in line, took ridge after ridge by assault, the enemy fighting with great determination and bravery, and charging to within ten yards of the infantry. Gen. Butler had despatched his cavalry to cut off the retreat of the Arabs in a southerly direction. The two brigades gradually converged upon the village of Ginnis, where the rebels had pitched their headquarters. The enemy were soon completely routed, and fled southwards, leaving all their camp and banners. General Butler captured two guns, twenty standards, and the whole of the Arab camp. The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and the Egyptians captured one gun and two standards. The English and Egyptian artillery made excellent practice. The Egyptians behaved exceedingly well. The enemy fled in the utmost disorder, throwing away their ammunition and baggage. The force occupies Attab to-day, about three miles to the south of Ginnis. The casualties include Lieutenant Soltau, of the Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Berkshire Regiment), killed; Lieutenant Wignan, of the same regiment, wounded; one officer of the Egyptian army killed, and about fifty of the combined forces killed and wounded. The enemy's loss was very severe. The hostile Arabs on the west bank also retreated to the south."

In reporting this action to the Khedive General Stephenson congratulates him on the fine behaviour of the Egyptian troops, who, perhaps for the first time, proved themselves more than a match for the enemy in the open, and who captured all the four guns that were taken.

In his official report to the Horse Guards Stephenson's words are: "Grenfell commanded division, and to him alone is due, with those under his command, the whole credit for all arrangements and operations of frontier force, including yesterday, which have been made and carried out by him for some months past with very great skill and intelligence, and unceasing energy. Butler commanded his force remarkably well, and completely carried out his portion of plan; he had the brunt of the fight."

In addition to this formal account of the battle the *Kingston News* has published some most interesting letters from Lieut. E. Hewett, son of Lieut.-Col. Hewett, Commandant of the Royal Military College, one of the cadets who left the college last year to take a commission in the Royal West Kent Regiment, now doing duty in Egypt. As will be seen, he has had some lively experiences already, and both he and his father are to be congratulated on so auspicious an opening for his chosen career. Two letters graphically describing the country and his experiences in Egyptian campaigning precede one describing his part in the battle, which alone we can spare space to reproduce, though all are equally well written:—

Abasis on the Nile, Jan. 7, 1886.—I expect you will be rejoicing by this time over my having passed through my first battle all correct, and I think I may say with truthfulness that I did not funk once, even when the niggers charged. We left Firket and marched for three hours, then brought up within two miles of Kosheh, which we intended to relieve. There were two brigades: 1st West Kent, Berkshire, Durhams; 2nd Cameron Highlanders, Yorkshire, Black Battalion. At two the next morning we fell in and started on our march, our brigade, No. 1, to surround the village of Guinness. It was fearful work marching in the dark. The ground was stony ravines, and all the time

we were scrambling over hillocks of very crumbling rock, as we stumbled along—the men marched well. The advance was in *echelon* of battalions with the camels batteries and provision camels on our left. Our regiment had the lead. As daylight increased, the sight was very weird; the tall camels with the guns on their backs, or bundles of blankets, and boxes of food, stood out against the red sky, while the dark moving mass of infantry looked like a wild dream. We all have gone into red; so, officers, not having red patrol jackets, took the soldiers' red jumpers and just stuck officers' badges on the shoulder straps. There were some queer fittings among us. We were only strong enough to have an officer to each company and I still kept my command.

At 6 a.m. the first gun was fired from Kosheh fort, at the village. This was the signal to advance the second brigade, which was to attack. We wheeled to the right and advanced up the ridge. This ridge was lined at 6:30 a.m. Here the game commenced, and I got my baptism of fire. The Arabs were in swarms, from 400 to 1,200 yards distant; all along our front; and their riflemen, having previously got the range, sent a shower of bullets over the ridge. We were marching in quarter column, so we extended into line and opened fire by volleys by half companies, mostly. Just as I had ordered my company to lie down, I saw an officer of the Berkshires shot through the head. He was killed instantaneously, and more men commenced dropping all along the line and were carried to the rear to the doctors. It was here that we lost heavily, and here the toughest fighting of the day occurred. My sensations were of an intensely confined excitement, only kept down by my having to control the fire of my company. The men behaved splendidly, but they wished to be letting off their rifles all the time. We had to be walking up and down the line seeing that the men kept down; and fired steadily, while the bullets whizzed past our heads like fan. I did not see an officer duck, while for myself I would not; nor did I see any officer of my regiment lie down, and after a time I took no notice except to direct my fire more carefully. I did not feel flurried at all, or think of a chance of being shot. I suppose it was the example of our colonel, who sat on his horse, only every now and then going slowly down our line to say something to one of us youngsters. It was exciting watching the enemy dart from one shelter to another. They are magnificent skirmishers, taking advantage of every particle of cover. Soon after 7 a.m. the Egyptian camel corps surprised some of the Arabs in a ravine, and shot them all; but the noise brought down the mass of Arab spearmen, who had, previous to this, been behind a ridge out of sight. About 600 spearmen rushed out and chased them right into our lines, and, at the time, I thought they would get around the left of our line; but, luckily, Major Jones swung back his company on my left, and the Egyptian camel corps men retired through the gap. The poor bag-gers had only twenty rounds and had expended it.

It was grand to see the rush of the fanatics, the swordsmen swinging their two-handed swords, hamstringing the camels. The Gypies fought well, slipping off the camels and bayoneting the niggers. I saw one Gypsy shoot a spearman, and, just as he was getting in another cartridge, a big Arab, with a spear like a shovel, sent it right through his side; but, at the same instant, another Gypsy camel corpsman bayoneted the Arab three times in the body, after which he again tried to send his spear into his victim, but fell back dead. I was awfully frightened that my company would fire, but luckily I kept them from it, and the camel corps men got into our lines and formed up, while we poured a volley into the Arabs, which made them rush to shelter. Several were killed behind my company. They don't seem to care for death a bit. One Arab advanced within fifteen yards of our line, brandishing his sword after his comrades had retired. The hatred between the Gypies and the Arabs is awful to see, the Egyptian camel corps blowing the brains out of dead and wounded alike. One wretched Arab was found wounded, so one of them fired his rifle into his body, so that it set his clothes on fire. The poor wretch got up and tried to show fight but three Egyptians ran up and fired three rounds into him. It was a terrible sight. The Arabs cut up every Egyptian they killed; I saw some horribly gashed. There was no quarter on either side during the battle. The Arabs cannot be trusted, for they sham dead, and when you pass they jump up and spear you.

At about 8 o'clock the enemy's fire slackened, and at last our shell and rifle fire made them retire. The whole line then advanced and wheeled to the right into the second position, and then fired volleys into the village, while the Egyptian camel gun battery poured shell after shell into it. At about 900 yards we again halted, and the Arabs again tried to rush out in swarms, but volley after volley was fired into them till they were driven back, and retreated behind the river bank, as we afterwards found out. We advanced to within 100 yards of the village, and our marksmen were told off to pick off the remaining riflemen. After waiting from ten to twenty minutes, we went into the village with

bayonets fixed. We captured ten or twelve banners, fourteen boxes of field gun ammunition, thirteen brass six pounders and heaps of boxes of Martini and Remington cartridges. The village is about one mile long, of scattered mud huts, along the bank of the Nile. Here we piled arms at about ten, and buried our dead. We then had dinner and started in pursuit and marched until sunset, when we camped. Next day we started again and got here in the evening. Here we stay for two days, while the Berkshires and Durhams go on for one day's march in order to make the Arabs think we are after them; but, as they travel two miles to our one, of course we will never catch them, unless they wait to fight, which I don't think they will, as they are very much demoralized. Here we, therefore, remain for a week awaiting orders whether to advance to Dongola or go back. I must say that our black troops fought splendidly; they are like tigers; they never spare any of the natives, and they wanted to burn the prisoners alive.

There are some amusing incidents which occurred during the fight. One man came up to one of our captains and begged to be allowed to have a shot at a native (we were not then firing) as he said, "sir, I have been four years in this — country, and haven't even dirtied my rifle against one of the niggers yet." He got his shot. The number of close shaves was wonderful; one chap had three shots through his helmet. We have received all kinds of congratulatory telegrams from the Queen, General Roberts, the Sec'y of State, &c., and Generals Stephenson, Grenfell and Butler wrote grand addresses to us in general orders next day. Here we pay two shillings for a tin of jam, and fifteen shillings for a bottle of whiskey, and other prices in proportion. The Greeks follow the army and make a tremendous lot out of the men and officers, but they are very useful, as they are the only means to get anything beyond our rations. I will copy my sketch properly, when I have time, but really I cannot do so now, for I have but very little time off duty. The Arabs here are not naked as the pictures make them, they are bundled up in a kind of uniform of skins, and many colored cloths. They are fine brave men and game to the last. Remember me to every one at home and to the staff and cadets.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF SHOOTING IN BATTALIONS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—In your issue of the 19th ult. you were good enough to publish a letter from me on "the encouragement of shooting in battalions," and in commenting upon it, to say that it contained some good ideas, though you did not think the scheme could be carried out in its entirety. Mentioning certain weak points, I was in hopes that your last issue would have some further comments by outside members of the force, but as none appeared, and I am anxious to have the matter well discussed before Parliament meets, I take the liberty of again addressing you on the subject, and hope to be able to show that the weak points alluded to can easily be overcome. To my mind the only weak point is the money; if that can be obtained, the others can easily be provided against.

The first objection taken is that there is no assurance that all the men will turn out. Neither have we any assurance that all the men of any company will turn out for the annual drill, and it frequently occurs that captains of companies have to recruit just prior to going into camp, when they really have plenty of men on the roll, and could, were they so disposed, force these men to attend, and doubtless would do so, but that any such action would make it difficult to recruit when the three year's service expired. Now there is no way of overcoming this difficulty so easily as by making the men feel an interest in the corps, and anxious at all times to take part in the duties required of it, and one great step in that direction is to have occasional meetings either for drill or target practice at company headquarters. In rural corps to meet for drill purposes, except as a preparation for camp, has proved to be a failure owing to the want of drill sheds. But for target practice it should be different; most men who would care to become permanent members of a corps would like to shoot well. They like shooting, and if they were given a chance to have a fair amount of practice without cost to themselves, would take a good deal of interest in it, and many would go further and buy ammunition for practice. The fifty cents a day would enable them to get something to eat, and as most of the men would be within easy distance of their homes, all, or nearly all, would cheerfully turn out and put in two days. No member of a corps should be allowed to participate in the actual target practice unless he is an efficient member of the active force, or has been on the roll for at least six months prior to the date of such practice, and intends to attend camp if required to do so that year. (To obviate the necessity of recruiting in rural corps before going to camp, the actual strength of companies should be considerably in excess of the strength required for drill, thus providing against sickness or other unavoidable causes for leave of absence). So much for "turning out."

Now as to adequate instruction, &c.

I think the drill allowance to commanding officers of corps and companies could be utilised here, and to better purpose than in camp; and if the corps or company has not within itself sufficient qualified instructors for the work, they could be obtained from other corps or from the different schools—but I take it that each corps should contain within itself sufficient talent of this description. To guard against a superficial carrying out of the same, the officers commanding corps should be made responsible, and be required to supervise either in person, or by a proper representative.

The third weak point mentioned is the encouragement given for the "misappropriation of ammunition;" I should hope that in these times there are very few, if any, officers of the force who would, under such an arrangement, thus appropriate

it; but, to guard against this, make it imperative for officers certifying to its proper use to make affidavit thereto—(this is done in other branches of the public service—and where it can be proved that a misappropriation has been perpetrated, let the perpetrators thereof be immediately dismissed the service.

In my scheme the arrangement for expending any surplus of the 10 rounds per man after the final practice, or matches, may be objected to, but I think that in practice it would be found to work well, as we often have good shots who are unable to furnish themselves with ammunition for practice; and, moreover, I am of opinion that after a year or two there would be such a large increase in first-class shots that nearly, if not the whole amount, would be required to fire final matches. Officers commanding corps and companies should be required to keep on hand all ammunition in excess of the number of rounds allowed per man of those who actually fired through the first stages in target practice.

The "Noodle," in his concluding paper, says that, "The power that first turns out a shooting army will whip creation, and with half the men." I cannot go quite as far as that, but the advantages on its side would be tremendous. There is one experiment I would like to see tried, viz., of taking 20 military rifles of any kind now in use by the British army and alter the stock so as to give it one inch more droop. Then take 20 rifles of some pattern without alteration; place both on the ground at say two hundred yards from a suitable target. Then march up 40 of our average militia men, or regulars if you wish, sending 20 to each set of rifles without their knowing which is which, or that there is any difference. As soon as the men arrive on the ground order them to pick up their rifles and fire away, either by volley or independently, as fast as they can until all their ammunition is expended—(every ten seconds of time gained by a squad to count ten points)—and note the result. Then let the squads change rifles and repeat the experiment.

I think it will be found that the changed rifles will have a very large preponderance of hits. Where there is time for deliberate aim there would also be a gain at short ranges; but at 500 and 600 yds. I admit that it would not be so, still at such ranges there is generally less excitement in action, and more time in aiming would be taken.

I think I have now said all that is necessary to make myself understood, and I only hope that all our old shots will think this scheme over, and if they can improve upon it, or propound a better, to do so, or if not, give it their support.

And now thanking you very much for previous favors, and trusting that I have not trespassed too far, I remain faithfully,

AN OLD RIFLEMAN.

5th February, 1886.

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

40TH NORTHUMBERLAND BATT.—The ladies of Cobourg have not been long in acting upon the resolutions adopted at the officers' meeting and given in this column last week. They met last week, when Mrs. J. Vance Graveley presided and Mrs. A. J. Van Ingen acted as Secretary.

The President stated that the meeting had been called for the purpose of taking action in reference to certain resolutions which had been sent to Mrs. Van Ingen, as Secretary of the association of ladies representing the original donors, by Captain Snelgrove, Sec. of the annual meeting of the officers of the 40th Battalion, held at Colborne. She explained that the colors of that regiment had been originally given to the Cobourg Volunteers in 1863 by the ladies present and others since passed away. In 1866, the 40th Regiment was formed, and the two companies composing the Cobourg Volunteers were amalgamated with it. The question as to the custodianship of the colors was then raised by the late Mrs. Patterson, wife of the Brigade Major of the district, residing at Cobourg, who opposed giving the colors to the new regiment. It was, however, agreed that they should be handed over to the battalion on the express condition that they should not leave regimental headquarters except with the regiment. They were accepted by Col. Smith and the officers of the 40th on that condition, and have been so retained up to the date of Col. Smith's late retirement and Col. Rogers' assumption of the command. Again the question as to the conditions was raised, and objection was taken by Col. Rogers, who, at a meeting of ladies held at the Council Chamber, finally agreed to leave the matter to his officers at their annual meeting. The question was accordingly submitted, and a resolution was adopted, which by Col. Rogers' instruction had been sent to the Sec. of the Ladies' Committee. (This resolution was then read.) Mrs. Graveley also said she had written to the D. A. G. of the district asking what the Queen's Regulations prescribed as to the control of regimental colors, and had received the following telegram in reply:—

"Colors are kept in officers' mess-room at regimental headquarters, and cannot be altered or surrendered without permission of the General commanding."

Signed,

H. V. VILLIERS, D.A.G.

Resolutions were then submitted to the meeting and carried as follows:

Inasmuch as it has been shown that the colors used for the past 20 years by the 40th Battalion were presented by a committee of ladies in Cobourg to the Cobourg Volunteers, and upon the formation of the 40th Battalion were handed over to that corps on conditions not "inconsistent," but in accordance with the Queen's Regulations for the army, viz., that they should never leave headquarters, except with the regiment,

Therefore, resolved,—That this meeting of original donors of the colors consider that the conditions so imposed on their retention by the 40th, are not unfair to that battalion, being in accordance with the Queen's Regulations. They, therefore, cannot withdraw or relax them in any particular.

Resolved,—That if the officers of the 40th do not desire to retain the colors donated to them on the conditions mentioned in the foregoing resolution, they be requested to obtain the permission of the Major-General commanding to return them to the original donors, who will then take such steps for their final resting place as they may deem best.

Resolved,—That the President of the Committee, the Secretary and Mrs. Kennedy be a committee to take the necessary steps for putting the colors in proper repair; and that Lieut.-Col. Rogers be requested to place them in the shop of Messrs. Hewson & Sons, where they can be inspected by the ladies of the committee above named.

Resolved,—That a copy of these resolutions be sent to Major Floyd, Sec. of the Regimental Committee, as requested by Lieut.-Col. Rogers.

The meeting then adjourned to assemble again subject to the call of the President.

7TH FUSILIERS.—Capt. P. H. Mathews has completed arrangements for a grand military concert by the band of the regiment, to be held in Strathroy to-night (9th,) under the auspices of No. 7 Company. The concert will consist of music by the 7th band, a selection by the 26th band, vocal solos by several local amateurs, and bayonet exercise by members of the company. The proceeds are to assist in the purchase of a suitable head dress for the company.

MONTREAL CORPS.—There is much excitement here just now in military circles over the proposal to send to England a Canadian contingent to attend the Queen's jubilee celebration. It appears that the 5th Scots have gone earlier and more fully into details than any other corps so far; an estimate has been made, and it is believed that the whole regiment could be taken across and back again for \$20,000. Investigations and estimates made by the 6th Fusiliers, upon the same subject, places the amount required at a much lower figure. The officers of the 65th met on Friday the 5th, and discussed the project of reorganization and the adding of two more companies to their strength; they also discussed at some length a scheme for sending a French-Canadian contingent to England. A committee of officers was appointed to make enquiries and report to a meeting of the battalion to be held in a week or two.

41ST BROCKVILLE RIFLES.—Capt. Geo. Cole, who recently resigned the Adjutancy to assume command of No. 4 Company, of which the headquarters have been removed from Merrickville to Brockville, has secured a room over French's Hall as a company armory, and it is now being fitted up for use. Racks are being built for arms and accoutrements, and before long the room will be a model armory.

15TH ARGYLE LIGHT INFANTRY.—Lt.-Col. Villiers, D. A. G., inspected the armories of Nos. 2, 3, 5 and 6 companies on Wednesday last, and found three of them in good order.

13TH BATTALION.—The regiment had its first drill for this year on Thursday evening, in the drill shed, after which the regular annual meeting of officers was held.

11TH ARGENTEUIL RANGERS.—A number of ladies in Montreal and the County of Argenteuil have subscribed sufficient money to purchase a set of colors for the regiment. They will be procured by Lieut.-Col. Martin in England, whither he is shortly going, and it is expected they will be ready by the end of April. It is also intended to organize a monster excursion to Lachute on the Queen's birthday for the purpose of raising funds to provide the regiment with helmets. The officers have also decided to organize and drill in connection with the battalion an ambulance and signal corps.

5TH ROYAL SCOTS.—The badge of a boar's head, with the motto *ne obliuiscaris*, which the Scots have by the last general orders been officially authorized to adopt, has been unofficially worn on the glengarries for a long time past.

B. C. BRIGADE GARRISON ARTILLERY.—Lieut.-Col. J. G. Holmes, D. A. G. for the 11th Military District, in promulgating by a district order the recent Gazetted change of captains in No. 1 Battery, embraces the opportunity to make the following remarks on the retiring commander:—

"The D. A. General commanding the district wishes upon this occasion to express his regret that Captain Pittendrigh has been compelled by the regulations of the service to sever his connection with the force in this district.

"The very satisfactory condition of Captain Pittendrigh's battery during the past two years—last year the best and smartest corps in this district—has been owing to the zeal and energy displayed by him in its behalf, and its condition on being handed over last November to Captain Bole, both as regards the *personnel* and the state of arms, accoutrements and clothing, is deserving of the highest credit, a state which it is hoped the corps will continue to maintain.

"Captain Pittendrigh carries with him the regards and best wishes of the officers, not only of his old corps, but of the district at large."

Captain Pittendrigh served in the Crimean campaign of 1854-6, and has the English and Turkish war medals, with clasps for Alma, Balaclava, Inkerman and Sevastopol. He also organized a large military police force in Scutari, Turkey, which was declared by the late Sir Henry Storks, K. C. B., etc., commanding on the Bosphorus, to be eminently successful.

31ST GREY BATT.—The first annual meeting of a rifle association in connection with this Battalion was held at Owen Sound on Thursday afternoon. There was a good attendance, all parts of the country being well represented. Lieut.-Col. Telford, President, occupied the chair. A constitution and by-laws were adopted, and the following officers were elected:—President, Bt. Lieut.-Col. Telford, Annan; Vice-President, Capt. McDonald, Chatsworth; Secretary-Treasurer, Lieut. McLean, Toronto. Executive Committee—Capt. Rorke, Clarksburg; Capt. Spencer, Owen Sound; Capt. Cleland, Meaford; Lieut. Bennett, Chatsworth; Lieut. Ross, Owen Sound; Sergt. Torry, Durham, and Pte. Benner, Owen Sound. The annual matches will take place in Owen Sound on Thursday, May 27th. Already a number of valuable team and individual prizes have been promised to the association for competition.

AMUSEMENTS.

QUEBEC.—A military ball was given at the Citadel on the 3rd instant, which is described as being "unusually brilliant even in this old fortress which has witnessed so many scenes of uncommon brilliancy." We are indebted to the *Chronicle* for the following description:—

"The main stairways and lengthy corridors were handsomely draped with flags, and the former were lined with an artistic display of muskets with bayonets affixed. Spacious dressing-rooms were arranged for both ladies and gentlemen, and a number of the officers' apartments were set apart for parlors. Over 700 invitations had been issued by the commandant, officers and attached officers of the Citadel garrison, and by far the greater number of them must have been accepted, judging by the large attendance. By the kind permission of His Excellency the Governor-General, the Viceregal ball room was used for the occasion, and this had been handsomely decorated. At intervals along the walls were stars, arches and trophies of bayonets and other implements of war, diversified by spoils of the chase, such as buffalo heads, the antlers of moose, cariboo, etc. Spoils of a more dangerous and exciting chase also decorated the walls, including tomahawks and hatchets of Big Bear and other North-west warriors. The floor was in excellent order, and the best of music was supplied by the splendid band of "B" Battery, under the leadership of Mr. Vezina.

Dancing commenced about nine o'clock, and was kept up until close upon three o'clock in the morning.

At midnight supper was served in the dining hall beneath the ball room, in addition to the light refreshments obtainable throughout the night. Colonel Montizambert, Commandant of the Garrison; Lieut.-Col. Turnbull, Commandant of the Cavalry School, and all their officers, were untiring in their attention to their guests, and left nothing undone that was calculated to promote their comfort.

Amongst the distinguished guests present at the ball were Sir Hector Langevin, Minister of Public Works; Sir A. P. Caron, Minister of Militia and Defense, and Lady Caron.

MONTREAL.—The Royal Scots Snowshoe Club mustered at the McGill College gate for their weekly tramp, and marched to Hague's Hotel, Mile End, on Friday evening, reaching their rendezvous shortly before nine o'clock. After two hours spent in singing, speech-making, etc., they returned in high glee, having spent the most enjoyable evening since their organization.

The annual green steeplechase of the Montreal Garrison Artillery Snowshoe Club took place on Friday evening, the 5th instant, over the Mountain track, and proved a complete success. The following won in the order named: Cokers, Brophy, Fagan and Rodgeron. The prizes were presented by Capt. D. Stephenson.

31ST GREY BATTALION.—The officers are discussing the question of holding an assault-at-arms in Owen Sound in May. There are several good fencers in the regiment, who can handle various weapons, from a bowie knife to a rifle and bayonet, all of which it is proposed to introduce.


The members of Clarksburg Company hold a concert on Tuesday next, which promises to be a very successful affair. Several well known musicians from Toronto have been engaged to assist.

GLEANINGS.

ST. CATHERINES.—The design for the monument to be erected by the city to the memory of Alexander Watson, who was killed while serving with the 90th at the front, is completed. Capt. Clark of his company, to whom it was submitted, has suggested a few changes, and in a letter to Major King, of St. Catherines, thus bears testimony to poor Watson's character. "Personally, I feel grateful to the people of St. Catherines in thus perpetuating the memory of as good a soldier, and as good a Christian as carried arms in the late rebellion."

ORILLIA.—There is some talk of forming another volunteer company in town. A cavalry troop has been suggested.

There are many former volunteers and others in town who require exercise, and it was proposed last summer to form a drill association, with one of the former officers of No. 7 Company or Mr. Croker as instructor. Would it not be well to do so now, and be in time for a creditable march-out in the spring?—*Packet*.


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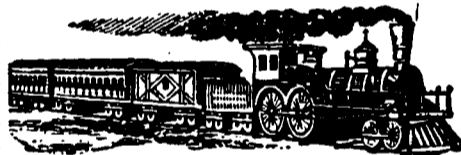
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