



The Canadian
United Service
Magazine



VOL. IV. No. 1.

MAY, 1898.



By Royal appointment to
Her Majesty the Queen
and
H. R. H. Prince of Wales.

CONTENTS

Annual General Meeting.....	1
Co-operative Defence of the British Empire.....	4
Canadian United Service Club.....	13
Correspondence.....	16
Atbara Poetry.....	19
Hark Back.....	20
The Brave Little Ghoorkas.....	26
The Abyssinian Household Brigade.....	28
Centenarian Soldiers.....	31
A Plucky Woman.....	34
In Hospital—Poetry.....	36
Depot News.....	37
Winnipeg, Man.....	37
Toronto.....	39
Kingston, Ont.....	40
Ottawa.....	41
St. John's, Que.....	41
Montreal.....	44
Quebec.....	47
Fredericton, N.B.....	48
Miscellaneous.....	51

THE CANADIAN
United Service Magazine

PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED SERVICE CLUB.

EDITOR :
DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL F. W. CAMPBELL,
ROYAL REGIMENT CANADIAN INFANTRY.

Vol. IV.

MAY, 1898.

NO. 1.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

CANADIAN UNITED SERVICE CLUB.

OTTAWA, March 24, 1898.

Present : Major-General Gascoigne, patron ; Lt.-Col. Irwin, President ; Colonels Aylmer and Lake, Lt.-Col. Henry Smith, late 14th P.W. O. R. ; Lt.-Col. W. H. Cotton, Lt.-Col. Sam Hughes, M.P., 45th ; Lt.-Col. J. Skinner, 14th P.W.O.R. ; Major Sherwood, 43rd ; Surgeons, Lt.-Col. Neilson and Campbell ; Lt.-Col. J. Macpherson, R. O. ; Lt.-Col. W. W. White, 40th ; Major Hurdman, 2nd Field Battery, C.A. ; Lt.-Col. Cooke, 1st P.W. Rifles ; Lt.-Col. Ibbotson, 5th Royal Scots ; Lt.-Col. Maunsell, Major Rivers, Major R. Cartwright and others.

The President delivered a short address on the present status of the club, its work during the year, and referred to the fact that its objects being misunderstood by some, had caused recent efforts to be made to start a rival organization under the name of the Field Officers' Association.

The Secretary-Treasurer then read his report. On motion of Genl. Gascoigne, seconded by Lt.-Col. Cotton, it was resolved that the Treasurer's statement be accepted as audited.

Surgeon Lt.-Col. Campbell gave an account of the meet-

ing, last night held at the Russell House, for the purpose of discussing the à propos of forming a field officers' association. He thought that a large number of those present, were under the impression that they had come to attend a meeting of the C.U.S. Club, several of whom he saw present at this meeting; the objects of the proposed new organization as explained by the convener seemed so closely in line with ours that they can be considered as identical.

Genl. Gascoigne gave an account of his first acquaintance with this institution under its former name of V.R.I. and its comparatively restricted sphere; it was at the Quebec meeting of February, 1895. There and then it was decided to widen its scope. This was still further enlarged at the St. John's meeting. At the last general meeting, all field officers of the active Militia were made eligible for membership, most rightly so. There can be no doubt that there is no room for two rival institutions—one should be able to fill all useful purposes, in the direction of promoting the welfare of the service. If the proposed organization is likely to be more popular or more useful than the present one, which financially, at least, is already on a firm basis, well, it would be better for the latter to retire gracefully and leave the field to the new.

A discussion followed in which several members took part. Lt.-Cols. Hughes and White said, that at one time there could be no doubt that a strong feeling existed among Militia men against the permanent corps, and as they were exclusively instrumental in organizing the V.R.I Club, this antagonistic feeling, in a measure, applied to it. As the best of mutual confidence and respect now exists, Lt.-Col. White would strongly advise all those who are eligible to become members of the C.U.S. Club. Further, it would be very desirable that if the new organization has actually been started, that a committee from both should meet with a view of amalgamating.

Major Cooke was present last night at the meeting of officers, ostensibly to form a new club. His sympathies, and for that matter, of many others he knew, were with the older organization.

Major Sherwood did not attend last night's meeting; he understood the value of the C.U.S. Club, where matters of general and special interest could be fully discussed and pressed upon the authorities who might be present and, if

necessary, be further thoroughly ventilated in the pages of the Magazine.

Lt.-Cols. Smith and Skinner gave expression to similar views.

The President thought it would serve a useful purpose if the C.U.S. would resolve itself in committees, say, on small arms, clothing, infantry competitions, instructional courses, etc., etc.

It was proposed by Lt.-Col. Irwin, seconded by Surgeon Lt.-Col. Campbell :—

1st, that Rule 7 of the constitution, be for the moment suspended.

2nd, that all field officers on the Reserve List of the Militia be eligible to become members of the Canadian United Service Club.

Both motions carried unanimously.

Moved by Major-General Gascoigne, seconded by Lt.-Col. Maunsell, that another circular setting forth the objects of the C.U.S. Club be edited by a committee, and a copy sent to all Field Officers of the Force.

Colonel Lake said that it must be clearly understood that if the G.O.C., the Q.M.G. and other officers of the Head Quarters Staff, are members of the C.U.S. Club and take part in its deliberations, it is not all with a view of controlling nor influencing its decisions, it is more to prove their interest in the Force and in matters affecting its welfare.

The President was empowered to assemble a committee to draft the new circular.

Major Sherwood, Lt.-Col. Hughes and the General, thought that Lt.-Col. Irwin should be continued as president.

Carried nem. con.

Lt.-Cols. Cotton and Skinner moved that Lt.-Col. S. Hughes be elected vice-president.

Carried nem. con.

The same officers moved that the Editor and Secretary-Treasurer be continued in office.

Carried nem. con.

Moved by Lieut.-Col. Maunsell, seconded by Lieut.-Col. Cooke :—That the present annual general meeting adjourn until six months from now on a date to be fixed—co-incident with the fall meeting in Ottawa of the Rifle Association.

Carried nem. con.

H. NEILSON, SURG. LT.-COL.

Sec.-Treas., Can. U.S. Club.

CO-OPERATIVE DEFENCE OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

On the 19th of April Col. Hutton delivered an address on this subject at a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute. This address, so far as our knowledge extends, is the first attempt which has been made to lay the foundation stone of an imperial system of defense, based upon an Inter-Britannic Confederacy. Whether such will ever be formed, depends upon the dictates of self-interest which more or less influences Great Britain, her Colonies and dependencies. Sentiment would of course be no small factor, but if such a combination is ever to take place, it must be because, when viewed from a practical business standpoint, there is, besides sentiment, a probability of real commercial prosperity. If this could be made an acknowledged fact it would not require a very long period to bring about a federation of the British Empire. A recent writer on this subject says : "We must have more than loyal feelings to bring about federation." "Love in a cottage" often seems to represent all that is needed to secure the happiness of romantic young hearts, but "ways and means" have nevertheless to be reckoned with, and without them the matrimonial speculation is apt to end in disaster. Sentiment, therefore, must be taken for what it is worth ; its value consists solely in a guarantee that, provided the business questions involved can be satisfactorily answered, the parties to the professed contract are willing and anxious to enter the partnership."

In the meantime assuming the possibility of such a confederation it is at least interesting to learn the views which Military men have upon the question of Imperial Defense, which, as a result, must necessarily follow. In this view Col. Hutton's paper is of sufficient interest for us to notice it and briefly give its outlines. He advocates the division of the Imperial forces into three groups.

I. The British Regular Army which he charges with (a) The maintenance of our sovereign rights in all parts of our world-wide dominions ; (b) The suppression of disorder ; (c) The conduct of those military obligations, necessitated from time to time by the natural expansion of our trade and commercial relations. The Regular Army would thus guard "Imperial Liabilities."

II. An Imperial Militia for the "Defense of the Empire

as a whole." This Militia to be furnished upon a population basis by all members of the confederacy, and to be for offensive and defensive purposes. The Swiss Militia to be the model after which this Imperial Militia should be organized.

III. Troops for local defense as distinguished from the protection of Imperial interests at large. Col. Hutton works out the grand total of Militia and local forces at 482,000 of all ranks, of which number, the Active Militia is taken at 173,000, or six Army Corps, complete in themselves and independent of the Regular Army. The Active Militia based on the population, allots, as the share of Great Britain, 140,000, Canada, 14,000, Australia, 12,000, South Africa, 7,000.

Such a combination of Militia and Imperial Regular Army would be a formidable one, and a strong element for the preservation of peace. Great Britain is a commercial nation, and her interests are all against war. A united British Empire would, every one believes, practically be invincible and therefore tend to peace. That this will come about is firmly believed by many, and that within the lives of the younger generation.

In the discussion which followed, Sir Charles Dilke, in the course of some remarks said, "The subject of Common Defense, if the Colonies wanted to keep the fabric of the Empire together, was a very pressing one indeed. They should not imagine that much progress had been made amongst the leading Australian politicians on the subject of the defence of the Empire. The time was past for smooth words, and it was necessary to speak plain words and call upon the Colonies as patriots, to take their part with the Mother Country in the common defence of the Empire."

The troops stationed at the Camp at Aldershot, England, have quite recently had an experience in night marching. An Infantry Division of three brigades and two brigade divisions of Field Artillery, recently converged from widely different points, within a fractional measure of time, after groping their way across very irregular ground intersected by a canal, in total darkness. It then performed the remaining part of a tedious and extremely difficult operation in a perfectly satisfactory manner. His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, under whose directions this was done, in his report says, the darkness was sufficient for a practical test, and that the two Brigade Divisions of Field Artillery, on compass bear-

ings off the roads, were well carried out. The arrangements for keeping up telegraphic communications between the columns was good. The bridges over the canal were well constructed and there was no rattling of the cheeses and baulks. It was found that it would require at least a foot of earth on the roadway to deaden the sound of troops crossing. Staff officers, placed where the enemy's works would have been, reported that they heard the rattling of wheels, which might have been the movements of Artillery. The noise would certainly have attracted attention and caused the enemy to be on the alert. No other indication of the advance of troops was observed from the works which shows that the march was carried out quietly, and that silence was well maintained. It is intended to continue these night manoeuvres from time to time.

It is to be hoped that the promoters of the proposed Field Officers' Association may yet see their way towards uniting their efforts with the members of the United Service Club towards the formation of a really strong and influential organization for the advancement of the efficiency of the Canadian Forces. Inquiry has elicited the information that a very large majority of the officers who attended the initial meeting of the Field Officers' Association were absolutely unaware of the important changes in the Constitution of the United Service Club, by which the latter was thrown open to all Field Officers of the Militia, and many of these officers have since joined the latter Club.

A careful examination of the objects of each Association, as set forth in their circulars, fails to discover any difference of importance whatever in their aims, which are both directed towards the same praiseworthy objects. The United Service Club, however, emphasizes the fact that the Responsible Heads of the Department are in close touch with its aims, and objects, and propose to avail themselves, as far as possible, of the general consensus of opinion, which may be elicited from the members, on subjects of administrative importance, and this co-operation alone should of itself be sufficient to cause all true well-wishers of the Force to join in what appears to be the only practical method of achieving results.

The absence from its meetings of the official heads of Departments, has been stated by some supporters of the

Field Officers' Association, as a positive advantage, as tending towards more free criticism and outspoken expression of opinion. As a possible vent for restrained feelings of discontent at some real or fancied hardship or wrong, this view of the case may have its advantages, but, in the main, and with a view to real progress and removal of abuses, it has been generally found that such criticism is apt to defeat its own object, and by promoting feelings of soreness and resentment, to increase, rather than diminish, friction between the various parts of the rather complicated machinery of the Department. It ought to be remembered that the officers of the Head Quarters and District Staff, have a most difficult and thankless task in providing for the wants of a Force which is daily becoming more imbued with modern ideas and requires more up-to-date equipment and appliances. The Regulations and Orders are as yet almost mediæval in their scope and structure, and the restrictions upon any expenditure, not directly authorized therein, are so great as to be almost insuperable, except by the use of a personal or political "pull." To remedy these defects, and to strengthen the hands of those who are responsible for the government of the Force, ought to be the object of every officer who has the true interests of the Militia at heart, and outside the columns of the daily press, no room should be found for carping criticism or grievance mongers.

Surgeon Lieut.-Col. Neilson, Director-General Medical Staff, returned to Ottawa on the 19th of April, having made official inspection of all the stations of the Permanent force, and of the Medical, Surgical and Camp equipment of the various districts whose headquarters were in the towns he visited, which included Halifax and Montreal, in addition to towns where the Permanent force is stationed. Wherever possible he met the Medical Officers of the Militia and consulted them on certain changes, which he proposed making in the Medical Staff. Although Lieut.-Col. Neilson has not decided definitely on the new arrangements, yet, as outlined to the Surgeons of the Montreal force, it may in brief be stated as follows: He recognizes the impossibility in Canada of doing away entirely with the Regimental Medical officer. There would therefore be allowed one Surgeon for each Battalion, who would at once take rank as a Surgeon-Major, on appointment, and after Service, as at present,

given the rank of Lieut.-Colonel. A Medical Staff Corps would be established in each district, into which the supplementary medical officers of Battalions would be permitted to enter, carrying with them their rank,—in fact any medical officer, who might so wish could be transferred to this Corps. New officers joining it would enter as Surgeon-Lieuts., and promotion would take place within the corps. In each district a bearer Company would be formed—the greatest strength being sixty men—in the minor districts the number would be less. This Company would be commanded by a Surgeon-Major, Surgeon-Captain and Surgeon-Lieutenant. Upon the whole it may be said that the proposed change was well received, especially when it is considered that it contemplates a breaking of ties which are coeval with the establishment of the Canadian Militia. Such a radical change, it was not to be expected, would be received without at least some opposition, but it was so mild and so kindly put that we feel Lieut.-Col. Neilson has achieved even more success than he had reason to expect. This was due largely to the way he put the scheme before the meeting, and his earnest desire to meet the views of every one, so far as it was possible to do so, the general welfare of the Militia being always the first consideration. It is not intended to deal with the matter at once, so ample time will be given for its full consideration. Our own opinion is favorable to its adoption.

The Marquis of Lansdowne, Secretary for War, has announced that, after mature consideration of the views laid before the Government by the British Medical Association, and the representatives of the various medical teaching and examining bodies, it has been decided to give army medical officers his plain but full title of Lieutenant, Captain, Major or Colonel, and to form all branches of the Army Medical Service into a Medical corps. The various military journals, commenting on the above, very generally express satisfaction, and the hope that the large deficiency which now exists of medical officers will soon disappear. In connection with this, we have heard it stated that the War Office intends, in the near future, to look to Canada for medical officers, and that arrangements will be made, whereby the necessary examination will be passed in this country. The idea is a good one, and, we have no doubt, would result in at least a

dozen or more good officers being obtained yearly in Canada. We presume that our Director-General will, in due time, recommend the same alteration, as to title, be given to Canadian Medical Officers.

The detachments from the Permanent Force for service in the Yukon mobilized in Ottawa on the 4th May, when their equipment was completed. On the 6th of May, after being inspected by His Excellency the Governor-General, Major-Gen. Gascoigne having made his inspection the previous day, the contingent took train for Vancouver; at Winnipeg a halt of an hour and a half was made and the men were marched to the Barracks, where they took dinner. Both going from and returning to the train the streets were crowded, and the men were loudly cheered. At Vancouver, they were handsomely treated, and in great form, the contingent took its departure on the 14th of May, on the S.S. "Islander." Some have blamed the Militia Department for the delay which occurred in forwarding this force for the Yukon, after the call for them had been made. The truth is there is not the slightest blame attached to the Department. At the time the call was made, it was intended sending them over the winter road then being made by the contractors for the Yukon railroad. The failure to get that bill through the Senate, upset the arrangement, and it required some considerable investigation before the new route could be decided upon.

The resignation of Major General Gascoigne as G. O. C. of the Canadian Militia, has been learned with deep regret by the large majority of the force. Most courteous in his treatment of all with whom his official duties brought him in contact, he made very many friends, and those will view his coming departure with feelings of pain. In many ways his services to the Militia were very marked and he will leave on it the impress of his hand. He did much to widen the views of the Canadian United Service Club and help it along in its work. We believe he also did much when times looked critical, to show the Government the necessity of arming the Militia with modern weapons. It is a pity he is not to complete his term of office, but will leave us as soon as his successor has been appointed. He will carry with him the best wishes of hosts of friends.

Surgeon Lieut.-Col. Borden, Minister of Militia, who is a graduate of Harvard University, had the *ad eundem* degree of M. D., conferred upon him by the University of Bishop's College, at its convocation, held in Montreal on the 13th of April. Dr. Borden made an excellent address to the convocation. We congratulate him upon this honor,—for we have reason to know that, though he is an excellent Minister, he is not the less an excellent doctor, enjoying the confidence and respect of those among whom he so long practiced his profession.

The war between the United States and Spain lends special interest to a report just presented to the Senate at Washington by the Acting Commissioner of Pensions. From this document the extraordinary fact appears that seven widows and nine daughters of men who took part in the revolutionary war are still on the pension roll, though it is 115 years since peace was signed. The war of 1812 contributes four actual participants and 2,547 widows. Then follows the Mexican war, with 10,312 veterans and 8,076 widows. The Indian wars, from 1832 to 1842, account for the presence of 2,183 survivors and 4,130 widows. Finally, the civil war, though the last shot was fired 33 years ago, accounts for 723,506 army invalids, 210,892 army widows, and others, 19,115 navy invalids, 8,188 navy widows, and others, and 644 army nurses, making a total for that war of 962,345, and a grand total of 989,613. That was the figure on February 28th, and very likely the number by this time has reached seven figures. The annual amount paid to the pensioners is about £30,000,000. A joke is current to the effect that a man who fell out of a window while reading a story about the war, and thereby broke his leg, was deemed to be qualified for a war pension. It is a fact that a certain veteran who draws a salary of £12 a month for work done in the Patent Office at Washington has had his monthly war pension increased by a complaisant Congress from £2 to £2 9s., then to £3 5s., and next to his present figure, £5, and that he is now asking a further increase of £10. "The truth is," that the entire list needs to be rigorously revised."

A trial of a specially prepared shot from Messrs. Vickers, Sons, and Maxim's 6 inch quick-firing gun was made at the company's range at Swanley, recently, in the presence of the

representatives of the Admiralty and war Office. The interest of the occasion lay in the fact that it was a trial of an appliance by which it is sought to overcome the falling-off of velocities, due to erosion and other causes, after a number of rounds have been fired. Four rounds were fired with this specially prepared shot and four with the ordinary service shot, and it was found that the whole of the energy of the gun was restored after upwards of 250 rounds had been previously fired. The actual ballistics obtained were 2,694 ft. per second for a pressure of 13 tons with a 25 lb. charge of cordite. By increasing the charge by a moderate amount, and slightly increasing the initial chamber pressure, a velocity of 2,900 ft. per second could reasonably be expected. It is claimed that this simple application is capable of being applied to almost any design of shell at a very moderate cost; and by its application it is confidently expected that guns after firing many hundreds of rounds will be equally efficient, as far as energy is concerned, to a new gun.

As showing the number of British soldiers now serving with the colours under twenty years of age, it may be mentioned that at the commencement of the present year the total "effectives" of the cavalry was 16,674 of which 2,156 were under twenty; field artillery 12,912 effectives with 2,113 under twenty; and a total garrison artillery of 16,282 effectives, of which 2,000 were under twenty. The figures for the infantry of the line were: Establishment, 132,237 effectives, with over 20,000 under twenty years of age.

We are sorry to have to inform our readers, that for the present the story of Blighted Love must be suspended, the people therein mentioned, having joined the Yukon Field Force. When they return, which we hope will be in about two hundred years, the thread of this thrilling narrative, so rudely broken may be spliced, and a fresh start made.

We hear that Lieut.-Col. Maunsell and Major Rivers, who for some time have been engaged in revising regulations and orders, are making good progress, and that its appearance may be expected in the near future. It is being eagerly looked for. The question of dress regulations has been fully decided.

It is stated that the British Government will spend £25,500,000, in keeping up the Navy, during the financial year, commencing the 1st of April last.

A strange instance of red tape is recorded in the *Regiment* of the 2nd of April last, and which has caused a great deal of indignation among the British public. It appears that Col.-Sergt. Walker, of the Royal Scottish Fusiliers, who was recently captured, and during six weeks held prisoner by the Afridis, was tried by Court Martial, for absence without leave. He was acquitted, but ordered to lose his pay during his time of enforced absence. Such action seems more than extraordinary, and requires explanation.

The British War Office has decided that this year manœuvres upon a scale, much larger than has hitherto been held, will take place. On the 15th of August next 50,000 men, embracing all branches of the Service, will assemble on Salisbury plain.

The quick-firing guns, which the United States Government recently purchased in England for the defence of its Atlantic Seaboard, are now being delivered and placed in position. From Maine to Florida the important strategic points are fortified in the main with 5-in. and 6-in. weapons of the latest quick-firing pattern. The principal points selected for the mounting of these armaments are Portland Head (Maine), Boston Harbor, entrance to New York harbor, Fort Delaware and the entrance to Baltimore, Fort Caswell in North Carolina, Savannah, Georgia, Fort Barraneas in Florida, Key West, Pensacola, Mobile, New Orleans and Galveston.

In writing of the return of the 100th Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadian) to Halifax, where it arrived on the 11th of May, the *Navy and Army* of April 23rd says: "The fine old corps has not been in Canada since it was raised in Canada, in 1858." This is an error; the regiment was in garrison in Montreal and Ottawa in the sixties.

CANADIAN UNITED SERVICE CLUB.

[CIRCULAR.]

The Canadian United Service Club, with a view of fully explaining its organization, constitution, aims and objects respectfully submits the following information to the Field Officers of Canada, and invites their cordial co-operation.

The United Service Club is the outcome of the V. R. I. Club, formed several years ago among the Officers of the Permanent corps.

Its Patron, the General Officer Commanding, recognizing that the field of practical usefulness of the V. R. I. Club was capable of being enlarged, suggested, with the approval of its members, that its constitution and objects should be broadened and extended so as to render the Club of the greatest service to the Militia Department and the force in general. Accordingly, one year ago the name was changed to the "United Service Club," the membership being extended to include all Officers of Field Rank, combatant or non-combatant, of the Head Quarters and District Staff, Permanent Corps, Active and Reserve Militia. The Club is not exclusive, the holding of Her Majesty's Commission being the standard of qualification.

The object of the Club is the better efficiency of the Militia in all its branches. It is believed that this object can be attained by the following means:

1. The mutual association and co-operation of all Officers eligible for Membership.
2. An Annual General meeting at Ottawa during the Session of Parliament, and such other Special Meetings as in the opinion of the Executive may be necessary, at which all members are invited to be present and take part in the proceedings, and at which it is hoped that, in any event, representative members from each Military District will attend. It is proposed that the Annual Meeting be held on the date of the Annual Meeting of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association, and the Semi-Annual Meeting during the Dominion Rifle Matches.
3. The promotion of good-fellowship, mutual intercourse, and thorough understanding amongst officers of all branches of the Force, by their meeting at an Annual Dinner held on the same date as the Annual Meeting.

4. The publication of a Magazine devoted to the interest of the Militia, and in the compilation of which each unit of the Force, and every member is invited to co-operate.

5. The preparation, delivery and consideration of articles on military subjects.

With reference to the above objects it is hoped that much good may result to the Militia by the presentation to the proper authorities, of the combined and well matured opinions of officers of experience, on subjects of general interest to the Force, through the medium of the Club. The Club will thus practically be advisory as well as educative and critical.

It has been felt for many years that much needed reforms have been delayed, if not entirely hindered, by the absence of any such system of united representation, and by the insistence of matters of purely local interest and limited application, to the exclusion of matters of more general importance.

It is now proposed that members be invited to submit their views and opinions upon such subjects as may from time to time be referred to them by the Club, through the medium of the Officers of its committee resident in the several Districts, or through the columns of the Magazine. These reports should be forwarded to the Secretary, and by him, and under the superintendence of the Executive, be collated, classified, and finally submitted for the consideration of the Military Authorities. Questions relating to the welfare of the Militia will come under review of the Annual and the Semi-Annual Meetings.

The Association has the strongest reason for believing that such a concensus of opinion as is here indicated will be gladly welcomed, will be of great inherent weight, and cannot fail to result in beneficial influence on future legislation.

The publication of the Magazine will, it is hoped, enable subjects of importance from a military point of view, relating to armament, equipment, education, tactics and strategy, or military history, either contributed by members, or collated from other military periodicals, to be placed in a readable form before the public; and it is also hoped that articles of a lighter nature may continue, as before, to increase general interest in the publication. This Magazine, being published

quarterly, is not intended to, nor will it in any way interfere with any other military publications which are principally devoted to current and local military news.

The annual membership fee is \$2.00, which includes the subscription to the magazine, at present published quarterly, under the editorship of Deputy Surg. General F. W. Campbell, R.R.C.I.

Applications for membership should be addressed to the Secretary, Deputy Surg. General J. L. H. Neilson, Militia Dept., Ottawa.

The Executive Staff for 1898 consists of the following officers:

President.

Lt.-Col. D. T. IRWIN, Reserve List, R.C.A.

Vice-President.

Lt.-Col. S. HUGHES, M.P., Comdg. 45th Victoria Bn.

Members.

Mil. District.

No. 1. Lt.-Col. W. W. WHITE, Comdg. 30th Wellington Rifles.

No. 2. Lt.-Col. J. MASON, Comdg. 10th Royal Grenadiers.

No. 3. Lt.-Col. J. S. SKINNER, Comdg. 14th Princess of Wales.

No. 4. Lt.-Col. A. P. SHERWOOD, Comdg. 43rd Ottawa Rifles.

No. 5. Lt.-Col. E. B. IBBOTSON, Comdg. 5th Royal Scots.

No. 6. Lt.-Col. J. W. HARKOM, Comdg. 54th Battalion.

No. 7. Lt.-Col. J. S. DUNBAR, Comdg. 8th Royal Rifles.

No. 8. Lt.-Col. G. W. JONES, Comdg. 3rd Regt. Can. Artillery.

No. 9. _____

No. 10. _____

No. 11. _____

No. 12. _____

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN UNITED SERVICE MAGAZINE:—

Sir,—The war with the United States and Spain which is now being waged, has already been the means of giving us Canadians an object lesson, and before it is over may give us more. It is therefore with pleasure that I have noticed in the daily papers that our government intends sending representatives from the Canadian militia, to be attached to some of the army corps of the United States. These representatives are to be members of the combatant and non-combatant branches of our service. The former will, no doubt, note the various means which are being used to mobilize and make ready for the field, the volunteer levies, which are being mustered into the service, while the non-combatant will observe the means, which advanced science has made possible to prevent disease, and succor the wounded. The only enemy which Canadians have ever been called upon to cross swords is the United States, and though the good feeling now so marked towards our Mother Country seems to render its recurrence a remote contingency—yet it is a contingency which we must not cast aside. I have occasionally heard it stated that in the event of trouble between Great Britain and the United States, before we could receive succor—our country would be over-run with United States soldiers. Those who make this statement seem to forget that Canada to-day, has relatively, the same proportion in population to that of the United States, as it did during the war of 1812. We, on the other hand, are possessed of a much better trained militia than we had then, directly under Dominion control, and which experience has shown us can be posted on our frontier, in four-and-twenty hours from its call. The object lesson which the present war has already shown us, is that it would not be possible for the United States to invade Canada with any large body of men, inside of at least a month. It may be said that the regular army of the United States might at once be utilized for such a purpose. But I ask, is it at all likely that they would invade a country without having at their immediate back a very considerable reserve? Where is this reserve to come from? I answer, from the volunteer militia of the various

states. This state control of its volunteers is the curse of the American Militia system. This has been clearly shown during the last few weeks, when more than one regiment of the National Guard has refused to volunteer for the war unless they were allowed to fight under their own officers. Even when regiments of this Guard have volunteered, it has been in numbers very much below their strength, and it has been found a matter of some difficulty in getting recruits to bring them up to the required number. At the time of writing, it is more than three weeks since the call was made for over 100,000 volunteers, and it is admitted that that number has not yet been obtained. Such as have been obtained, have been mustered at various points in large camps, where days were passed in putting the men through the required physical examinations, and when this was about completed, resulted in a disagreement between the surgeons of the Volunteer corps, and the higher medical officers of the Regular Army, who claimed that men utterly unfit had been passed. Then the drill sergeant has taken hold of this motley crowd of partially drilled and undrilled men, and the task of turning them into soldiers has been going on for the past two weeks. From a friend who quite recently visited the camp at Peekskill, N. Y., I learn that a large number of the men there were un-uniformed and had but little the appearance of becoming soldiers inside a very considerable period. That they have not been moved towards the front, shows that the United States government does not wish to repeat the mistake of 1861 when it put raw levies in the field and suffered such disaster as took them months to get over. Sincerely, indeed, do I hope that it may be many a long day, before the Canadian militia is called upon to defend its soil from the invader. If the day ever comes, events now passing, in my opinion, show that it would be a month or more—provided things are as they are now—before we would see ourselves menaced by a force, which we ought to be prepared to meet, even unaided. An alliance between Great Britain and the United States is, indeed, to be wished, but we must remember, that even in my life time, there has been without alliance, a strong *entente cordiale* between these two countries, when suddenly from a clear sky a bolt has flashed which brought them to the very brink of war. Let us keep our militia force in the best possible condition, ever bearing in mind its motto "Defence not defiance," and we will be ready for any emergency.

FIELD OFFICER.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN UNITED SERVICE MAGAZINE :—

Sir,—I was one of those who attended the meeting held in the Russell Hotel, Ottawa, on the 23rd of March, last, with a view of forming a Field Officers' Association. I must say that I was in favour of forming such an association 'till I heard the remarks which fell from Surgeon-Lieut. Col. Campbell, who, by request, addressed the meeting, and who so clearly showed that the United Service Club was not then, and would be still less so in the future, under the control of any of the officers of the Permanent force. I have, therefore, made my allegiance to the old club, for after mature deliberation, and learning its membership—I am convinced that every object which was contemplated to secure, by a new association, can be much better accomplished by it. I, therefore, ask my brother field officers to look well into this matter. If they do so, I am convinced that they will act as I have done.

Yours,

MAJOR.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN UNITED SERVICE MAGAZINE :—

Sir :—

I am of opinion that the Editor of the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE of which I am a subscriber, is not doing the Militia any good by its persistent denunciation of the Hon. Minister of Militia and the Head-Quarters Staff. I have many occasions on which business with my Corps calls me to meet them, and others where correspondence is necessary, and I must say I have invariably found them considerate and anxious in every way to meet my views. At times when I did not get all I wished, it was clearly shown me that it was not their fault. I am positive it would not be possible to meet with a more courteous gentleman than our A. G. Col. Aylmer. As for our Q.M.G. Col. Lake, it is not possible for me to say enough. It is with great regret I have heard of his retirement, but hope I may live long enough to see him return to Canada as our G.O.C. Col. Cotton and Major Cartwright are new brooms; they will always sweep as cleanly as now. How Col. Panet ever gets through his work, with his constant interruptions, has been a marvel to me. He must certainly possess a good temper. I have left the Minister for the last, and will only say we never had a better.

MILITARY DIST., NO. 5.

ATBARA.

8TH APRIL, 1898.

By J. ARTHUR ELLIOTT.

Author of "Balaclava (O, 'tis a Famous Story!)" &c., &c.

FORWARD they marched in proud array,
The gallant Camerons first,
The pipers playing all the way
Till battle's music burst,
Then with a rush that swept aside
The wild and swarthy host,
They crush'd for aye with Highland pride
The Mahdi's taunting boast.

One brief half-hour; yet in that space
Of time they wove a wreath
Of glory destined to erase
The gloom of Gordon's death.
Now Britain's best can breathe again,
Assured that when they die
For her it will not be in vain,
Tho' we a world defy.

Say, who was best and bravest here
In this fierce desert-fight?
Briton—Egyptian—without fear
Struck well for freedom's light
"Remember Gordon!" was the cry—
Along the line it ran
As on they swept to victory,
And rescued the Soudan.

Each piper—private—all did well,
With Sirdar, 'neath that fire
Which belched as from the mouth of hell
With all hell's hot desire.
Both "black" and "white" joined in a race
To add to Britain's fame,
And spilt their best blood there to trace
The glory of her name.

Then cheer we for our British lads!
Who show what they can do
On Afghan hills or Egypt's sands—
Who're aye to Britain true.
That one dark stain upon her shield
They've nobly blotted out,
And Gordon's glory shines revealed
Above yon rebel-rout.

The Regiment.

HARK BACK.

Your well-trained hunter has carried you, to your entire satisfaction, over a sporting country with a fast pack of hounds, a good fox in front. Bank and ditch, stone wall and brook safely past, there is a "check." Your horse is refreshed, yourself not sorry for time for reflection. A cast to right and left is made in vain. The master of foxhounds gives the command, "Hark back!" and soon the eager hounds take up the scent; you tighten the girths; your horse settles down to his work with renewed vigor; you are once more in the "ruck;" you follow on to the death. No such question remains in your mind as "Is life worth living?"

With feelings such as these, as an old sportsman who had gone far afield to fish every available salmon river, every well-known trout stream, having shot his legal number of moose, caribou and red deer, within reach of his wigwam in eastern Canada, I succeeded in securing a few days for reflection, rest and relaxation amid the "toil and moil" of this period of unrest of the nineteenth century; I decided to "hark back!" and take a canoe voyage of about 200 miles in a well-known chain of lakes in New Brunswick—the Squattick, Toledi, and Temiscouta—connected by the Madawaska River. Here

"At each sweet pause
From care and want and toil,
When dewy eve her curtain draws
Over the day's turmoil."

On the principle of distance lending enchantment to the scene, I had previously passed these lakes by on the other side without a thought. To these happy fishing grounds I bent my steps in September last in search of that well-earned rest and relaxation which can best be found in forest and stream.

All sportsmen know by heart the preliminary details as necessary for the canoe voyage, the autumn moose call or the winter still-hunting of caribou or deer; but few, however, realize the importance of the proper selection of the *companion du voyage*—the comrade in tent or wigwam, on barren or in green wood. This has been brought prominently forward in *Forest and Stream* in the delightful essays on "Men I Have Fished with." I can with truth say that looking backward through a long vista of years of the many men I have

fished with, my "pal," my comrade on this occasion, my friend in the hour of need or in the bright sunshine of summer day sport was the "survival of the fittest." When you combine the qualities of keenest sportsman with the rare talents of geologist, entomologist and ornithologist, one skilled with pen and pencil, ever ready with camera and kodak, and possessing the never-failing secret of "how to keep his temper" under circumstances the most trying, you have an ideal man, hard to find, one you are loth to part with. Such a man I found, and sad it was to say the last farewell, as but recently he sailed with his regiment for the West Indies. Let his name here be Blank, though it will ever remain fresh in my memory. Moreover, we were fortunate in the selection of Indians (two)—Michell and Banard. These we secured at the Indian camp near Edmunston.

We made Edmunston our base of operations. Here we secured our supplies; here we obtained the last "tip" as to the killing fly for the Squattick lakes; here in the "cooperative store" of the place, where everything from a needle to an anchor can be purchased, we learnt of the difficulties of the route in prospect. These were painted in the darkest colors, and here one of our Indians drank "success to sport" in the vilest of prohibited liquors. From this point (Edmunston) to Otterburn on Temiscouta railway, thirteen miles, you have your choice of means of locomotion, road, river or rail. At Otterburn, however, you leave all traces of civilization behind, save the rudely constructed means of transit with man and horse, for our two canoes—a sort of bob-sled with skis attached, built on the river bank while our mid-day meal was being cooked.

The Portage to Mud Lake—prosaic name—is long and tedious, eight miles over tortuous road, if road it can be called, over hill and dale, and through alder swamp, the whole route being through ever-varying forest. At last, before night set in, the cheering sight of the lake caused us to quicken our steps until we reached the spot selected for our first camp.

It is needless to describe the theory and practice (the result of experience) of pitching tents (two), collecting fir boughs, cutting firewood, and settling down for the night. Oh, the delight of the first night in camp. The first meal has been a veritable feast. It may consist of the simplest of camp rations, but memories of that meal linger long in the

heart of man, while the choicest cooking in New York's palace hotels or its most fashionable clubs is soon forgotten.

After such a camp repast you lie flat on your back on the spruce bough couch; smoke from the fragrant weed curls slowly from your mouth; you build delightful castles in the air, and you are in no hurry to knock them down. Here no tumult of sounds, the constant rumble of street cars or other motors, the shrieks of peddlers or newsboys, or the questionable music of street organ or street band, assaults your ear. The noiseless moose bird perches on the bough above your head. Your overtaxed brain is relieved from strain; worry has fled to the winds; you are out of reach of telegraph or telephone, newspapers, or hourly mail delivery; you are a free man. Oh, the delights of freedom in this free country after such an evening of repose! How sweet the sleep! How fresh the awakening! How fit the physical frame after the morning bath and the hearty breakfast. The breaking up of camp is not a tedious operation. There is always a sigh as you leave behind your picturesque camp; each spot on which you pitch your tent seems more picturesque than its predecessor.

Now we are busy with the welcome paddle in crossing this pretty lake, and you wonder why it received so suggestive a name as Mud Lake. Soon, too soon, you learn how to appreciate the name. The steersman in each canoe points to a low mud bank, and again you wonder where is the exit. There is an imperceptible passage through the bank hidden by interwoven alders. Oh, how interwoven! Through these in a narrow stream—if stream it can be called—we push the canoe. We push, we pull, we drag. Again and again a springy alder strikes us on the face or head as it flies back from the bow man. My comrade is put to the test, but he never fails to keep his temper. For four weary hours this "hide and seek" through alder bushes continues, and at last—happily at last—each canoe is carried directly westward and downward by the swift current of a clear stream—one with open gravel banks and gently rising hills. Here the graceful elm and hardy oak succeeded the network of alders. We can now breathe freely as we glide swiftly down this lovely stream leading into Squattick Lake No. 4 to the cheeriest song of the now happy canoeist.

The only thing to be regretted in this part of our voyage is that in full enjoyment of rapid transformation as compared

with the slow progress of our alder bush experience, we passed over without a "try," many good trout pools. The gentle angler, too, must be reminded that at this time of year—early in September—trout are not "grouped" in pools at the mouth of cool springs, as is the case in midsummer fishing, where large "scores" are made, and where the "scales" are often resorted to with the view to the record as regards large trout being broken. No, every inch of water, so to speak, had now to be carefully fished in order to secure a "bag." We found this the case as we pulled up for the midday meal at a lonely spot at a bend in the stream—an ideal trout stream. Here we fished carefully, but the trout rose short, and it required the long cast, and quick striking with frequent change of fly to secure enough pan fish (no large trout) for the meal.

After this delightful break in the journey (we were loth to leave a spot perfect in picturesqueness and affording fair sport) we pushed on in order to reach Squattick Lake No 4 before night set in. How we enjoyed this "gently downstream" experience! No hurry or undue excitement; no train to be caught; no business engagement to be kept; no ringing up of "Central," to put you on the track of some unoffending mortal, who, like yourself, prefers peace and quiet to the whirligig of business life. No, you simply move gently down stream in this ideal means of transport, a milicete canoe. You fish or let it alone at your sweet will. This is the poetry of existence.

Before reaching the lake the stream widens; and is less rapid. The waterlily, affording ample concealment for trout, is seen in abundance now in full bloom of autumn. Here by long casts from the canoe we picked up as many trout—several of them large—as the most ardent admirer of Izaak Walton could desire—and it was only the sun's sinking to rest behind the forest-clad hills that reminded us that we must "fix camp" ere night set in. Our camp that night at the head of the lake after a day full of enjoyment, ending with a swim in the lake, was one long to be remembered.

We were desirous of camping next night on the shores of Squattick Lake No. 3, within sight of Sugar Loaf Mountain, of which we had heard much regarding its beauty, as we had heard much too, of the large trout in that lake. We therefore broke camp and pushed on at an early hour next morning. We had a strong head wind, and

white men and red plied paddles in vain to reach the still waters leading to lake No. 3, before the midday meal, we were therefore forced to seek shelter on the lake shore for that purpose. After the much needed refreshment we put on a spurt, and were amply rewarded before sun down on suddenly coming in view of Sugar Loaf Mountain. Of the many well-known European and American bits of Mountain scenery none have made such a lasting impression on my memory as this Sugar Loaf Mountain, with the deep forest clad dells and recesses at its base, the most beautiful of the Squattick lakes, studded with islands beneath and the setting sun of early autumn beyond. It required more than one call from our guides to detract our attention from the view, and fix it on the fishing grounds we had approached. Here we made many casts without success—the fish merely breaking the water to sport with our fly—until my comrade tried a fly given us by a friend at Edmunston. On this he hooked a monster as compared with any fish previously taken. I made a similar change of fly, with similar success, and soon we had fish and fishing to our hearts' content. At last we pointed the bows of our canoes for the camping grounds, the most picturesque beneath the shadow of the Sugar Loaf Mountain.

After dreams, in which our favorite bits of Swiss mountain scenery seemed blended harmoniously with angling and anglers of Canada, we were early astir, to return to the sport of the last evening. In our eagerness we found that we had long to wait before the rising hour of the slumbering trout. When, however, that hour did arrive we were amply rewarded. After well earned breakfast we again returned to the favored spot, and again "in him" was the only audible sound that interrupted our reverie. A sporting friend with two French guides, whom we had expected to meet in these parts, and who had started for this lake from the opposite direction, nor appeared on the scene, and after friendly greetings and comparing of notes we were as a party similarly occupied in having excellent sport, when one of the guides discovered a splendid specimen of male caribou, with wide spread antlers, swimming directly toward us. The first impulse at such a time is to seize one's rifle; the second thought is whether it is the close season for caribou. Prudent second thoughts prevailed on this occasion, and we merely admired the scene as this denizen of the forest swam proudly across this picturesque lake, though one canoe party struck out, using every

exertion in trying speed with the caribou, and simultaneously caribou and canoe reached the lake shore, when the proud animal leaped gracefully on the bank and was soon lost to sight in the dark forest.

Fain would we linger long on the shores of this lovely lake—I strongly advise the gentle angler not to hurry past such happy fishing grounds. But our limited leave of absence necessitated our pushing on; we therefore struck camp one bright autumn morning and steered our barque for Squattick lakes 1 and 2, pulling up to fish every likely spot and we were neither disappointed at the sport, nor at the picturesqueness, ever varying, of the country through which we passed. Our midday meal was at the forks, where the Toledi River joins the outlet from Squattick lakes. Here we were having excellent sport with large trout, when a thunderstorm set in. Such a thunderstorm—rain coming down in bucketsful. Hoping it would clear and knowing of good trout pools at the outlet of Eagle Lake we plied pole and paddle to reach that lake before evening had set in. We accomplished this but the thunderstorm continued, and in vain we cast our brightest flies—May flies; wings painted red, green or blue would not fetch the trout, so we decided with no angelic temper to spread our own wings as angels, now seriously despoiled by rain, and fly from this spot. In carrying out this resolute we neither left behind the steady downpour of rain nor our much ruffled temper. Down stream—a now swollen stream—we dashed at no ordinary speed, making for a settler's house fifty miles from nowhere at the forks. Nothing so successful as success; we reached it as dark was setting in. There was, however, sufficient light to discover the dirt and discomfort in this hut, 18ft. x 18ft., and the presence of ten or twelve brats of boys and girls of ages ranging from one to ten years. You could not take a step to the front without tumbling over a boy or girl. We beat a hasty retreat, and with much difficulty, amid the long-continued thunder shower, cooked an evening meal. With the morning dawn, the long-wished-for dawn, there was a clear sky, all evil thoughts had fled to the winds, even the dozen boys and girls, who came to cheer us as we glided down the rapids, or to fling one last stone at us, seemed comparatively clean. Down the Toledi stream we went, through lake and on river; now coming across a flock of flappers; now stopping off to fish; now taking a snap shot at an ideal trout

pool—or last, not least, to cook the inevitable midday meal. It was toward evening ere we reached Lake Temiscouata, and we were once more on the outskirts of civilization. Here and there a settler's hut could be seen, and there were evident signs of that spoiler of the picturesque the lumberman's axe. Nothing, however, even the appearance of the railway train from Rivière du Loup, or the advent of a bike on the road of the western shore of the lake, could quite mar the scenery of this grand lake, with hill and dale, forest and stream, as background for its blue waters. Happily in this country we have not yet reached that stage of overcivilization spoken of in Merrie England, where at a bend of a trout stream (the Itchin) the angler sees on a board the advertisement in big letters :

IF YOU CAN'T CATCH 'EM WITH QUILLS
TRY —'S PILLS.

We camped that night on the lake shore opposite the village of Notre Dame du Lac.

We made an early start next morning with the view to reach Edmunston (thirty miles), the starting point of our trip, before sunset. At St. Rose, the outlet of the lake, we were surprised at the large size of the trout taken in the Madawaska River, and from that until we reached Edmunston we were kept busy with rod and landing net. Here at Edmunston endeth, not our first lesson in fishing, but a trip to which in winter evenings or on summer days one can "hark back" to as among the most enjoyable of autumn holidays.

BEAVER.

FREDERICTON, April 1898.

THE BRAVE LITTLE GHOORKAS.

These brave little hill-men from Nepaul have fought so magnificently for us, side by side with British troops, on the North-West Frontier of India, that a few words concerning them, their origin, habits, &c., will not appear out of place at the present time.

They are, probably, some of the bravest troops in the world, as they positively have no fear of death in any shape or form, and will follow their English officers anywhere, being very tractable and amenable to discipline, and having an innate love of fighting.

They like to be brigaded and associated with British troops, with whom they chum and fraternize in a most extraordinary manner, especially on active service. It is a popular error to suppose that they don't possess caste, as there are at least some dozen different castes amongst them, but directly they go on service they drop all caste prejudices, and eat and drink with English troops without reserve. They will accept tobacco or a cigar from an Englishman, but a man of one caste must not smoke in company of a man of another.

The Ghoorkas trace their descent from the Central Indian Rajpoots, the Thappas and Gurungs especially claiming to have the bluest Hindoo blood in India running in their veins. They have, however, intermarried for generations with Mongolian women, and one would have supposed that in process of time, a distinctly new type would have been evolved, combining the leading characteristics of both races, but as a matter of fact, this is not so, as most of the Ghoorkas have either the Aryan or Chinese cast of countenance.

Europeans generally suppose that all Ghoorkas are short, squat men with broad nostrils, high cheek bones and deep-set narrow eyes, but this is not the case.

The 1st and 2nd Regiments of Ghoorkas who have covered themselves with glory in the present campaign, have a large number of Thappas and Gurungs in their ranks, who are of a slight build, with beautifully chiselled and sharp features, thoroughly Aryan in every way.

Ghoorkas have (2) noted peculiarities, which give them always a very boyish look. They are short of stature, and in spite of great care, never are able to cultivate much hair on their faces.

It is on record that when Lord Roberts was marching through the Kurrum, the Pathan women and children stood and jeered at the little boyish Ghoorkas, whom they thought he was leading to certain destruction; but they changed their opinion when the Afghan army was driven headlong from the Piewar Kotal with the aid of the same little hill-men.

A story is told of an Afghan, who travelled a long way to see the terrible soldiers who had defeated his countrymen in so many battles. When he saw the little boyish Ghoorkas standing on guard at the "Bala Hissar" in Cabul, he committed suicide in "very shame," at least—and this is the best

part of the story—so the guard declared, when asked to explain the presence of the dead body.

It is not generally known that an association has been formed for the purpose of providing for and educating the orphan sons of Ghoorka soldiers who have died in the service, or been killed in action, and the sons of Ghoorka pensioners of good and deserving character, residing in India, who are in destitute circumstances, with the view of their entering the army of other Government employ. Each of the (15) Ghoorka battalions in the Indian Service has a Widow and Orphan Fund, to which all ranks subscribe.

The Maharajah of Puttiala has given land required for an asylum, and the Nepaulese princes and others have given financial help also.

A distinguished Indian officer writes:—"People at home cannot realize, I fear, that the Ghoorkas are just as much theirs in India as we are, and that they are (partly on this account) almost the only absolutely reliable troops in the native army, in case of rebellion."

The Regiment.

THE ABYSSINIAN HOUSEHOLD BRIGADE.

As it must interest all Guardsmen to know what their brethren are like in foreign Armies, even though the Army be as far removed in colour and almost everything else as that of Abyssinia, I propose giving a short—very short—account of the Household Brigade of the Emperor Menelik, and a few remarks as well as to the rest of the Army.

To start with, it is difficult to say much on the subject, as I know very little about it—(not that that always matters, by the way). But during our short sojourn of seventeen days last year at Addis Abbaba—the present capital of Shoa, and therefore, now of all Abyssinia—we did not have much time to investigate, and had not the opportunity of finding out much about the Household Brigade.

The Negus's Body-Guard, then consists of about 2,000 men, infantry, all armed with rifle and sword, and sometimes with shield as well. There is no distinction in dress from the rest of the Army; the only difference is that all Guardsmen carry their rifles inside red cotton bags. This seems an odd sort of distinction, and the reason thereof we were unable to discover. However, it confers an immense prestige upon the

men, and they hold their heads, in consequence, even higher than the rest of this proud nation. They are chosen from the rest of the Army for having distinguished themselves in fighting, and always accompany Menelik on his journeys. During peace-time they are quartered in and near the Gebi, or Palace, a collection of large huts on the top of a low hill, surrounded by a fifteen-foot wooden palisade. Their commanding officer is a fine big man of over six feet in height, who, on gala occasions, wears a golden tiara, large gold earrings, and golden armlets, and his blue velvet shield is also heavily ornamented with gold.

The Household Cavalry is an irregular body of men, armed in the same way, and occasionally carrying in addition a couple of short spears, one for throwing and the other for jabbing at close quarters. They have rather more decoration about their person than the remaining horsemen of the Army, and are mounted on small native horses. The Artillery of the Guard are, on smart occasions, dressed in red turbans and red or green jackets embroidered in colours or gold threads, but as to their organization or constitution it was difficult to find out any details. It seems that they, with the rest of the gunners, are trained in the service of small mountain guns, but the dividing line between what are Guardsmen and what are not is not very clearly defined.

It is the same with the rest of the Army. Their organization cannot be compared with that of any European Army, as the whole system is radically different. Instead of being divided up into regiments, brigades, or companies of equal size, the units vary greatly in strength, for they are merely groups of retainers following their own chiefs. When war is declared, the Ras or Governor, of each Province raises an Army by summoning the chiefs under him, who are bound to bring all their own armed retainers into the field, and to summon the head men under them to do the same. Thus bodies of men are formed under their own chiefs, and combinations of these bodies form the larger units. It is a rough-and-ready feudal system, but it brings large quantities of men into the field in a very short time, and as there are immense numbers of every sort of breech-loading rifles in the country, the resulting Army is a formidable one. The total armed strength of Abyssinia has been calculated at 200,000 men or more, of which about three-quarters are armed with good rifles. Out of these 200,000, about 70,-

ooo are kept permanently under arms, and form Menelik's new creation of a Standing Army. Each man of this permanent force is supposed to receive ten dollars (about twenty-six shillings) a year, besides allowances, but as a matter of fact, he may consider himself lucky if he receives four dollars, and his allowances amount to only seven handfuls of grain per month, which do not go very far.

The Abyssinian soldier's ordinary dress is not very attractive. It consists of a white linen shirt down to his knees, and a pair of tight linen trousers to half-way down his calf. Over this he wears a belt of folded linen, and, as a rule, a "shamma," or white cotton sheet, draped round him. None of these garments are ever washed, so that they rapidly assume a dingy brown hue; and, as no native ever washes himself, and his only toilet consists in rubbing butter into his hair, once a fortnight, the aroma from a large body of men is not precisely pleasing. No shoes, stockings, or head-coverings are worn.

The Officers and all who can afford it wear a shamma with a broad red stripe, called a "jano," and on high days and festive occasions every variety of clothes are produced, of all colours in the rainbow. Cloaks of blue, red, green, yellow, or violet, ornamented with rough embroidery, leopard skins, sheep-skins and even lion skins, are worn on such days by the Officers and small Chiefs, and on these occasions the Army presents a noble show. Any man who has killed a lion or an elephant, or has distinguished himself much in battle wears an aureole of lion's mane on his head, and for each five men he has killed he wears a silver band on his sword-scabbard. The highest recompense for valour is a sort of velvet top-hat ornamented with silver, and great Officers are given shields covered with velvet and ornamented with gold or silver.

The swords are worn on the right-hand side, and are very much curved, almost sickle-shaped, and sharpened on both edges. These are used for everything, from killing people down to cutting off mouthfuls of beefsteaks. The rifles are of every sort of single-loader (except Martini-Henrys), and a great many repeating rifles were taken from the Italians at the Battle of Adua in 1896; but, as far as we could find out, their musketry would be improved considerably by a bit of regular target practice.

As for the men themselves, they are tough and sturdy

but not big; their skin is of the colour of mud, and their features and hair are distinctly negro-like, though they have straight noses as a rule. They say that the Northern Abyssinians, against whom we fought in 1868, are much finer and handsomer men. There is certainly room for a higher type, for the Shoans are not beautiful.

One word about the ladies before concluding. They are, I regret to say, decidedly unhandsome according to our ideas, and their only form of personal adornment seems to be to tattoo their hands and gums blue, which does not add to their attractions. Their costume consists merely of a large white sheet. They mostly do their hair in little tight plaits close to the head, and these plaits are dressed with a mixture of rancid butter, mud, and cow dung.

Altogether, I should say that the British Guardsman had a better time of it than his Abyssinian brother-in-arms.
—*Guards Magazine.* G.

CENTENARIAN SOLDIERS.

TOMMY ATKINS, they say, is destined to enjoy a long span of life, but whatever truth there may be in this, it has been proved that the average number of a soldier's years, irrespective of battlefield mortality, is higher than the civilians. A glance into the annals of the past will reveal many instances of soldiers attaining a great age, and in some cases generals have commanded armies in the field when they have nearly approached the hundred years. Perhaps this longevity is due to the fact that soldiers are constantly in the open air, their manly exercise produces a "set-up" which is seldom found in the civilian; all this tends towards a healthy life eventually terminating in old age. Moreover, some of the centenarians named below suffered from the wounds received on the battle-field, and yet survived for many years afterwards.

The oldest soldier of the modern times of which we have any authentic record was John Effingham, who expired in 1757, at the great age of 144 years. During the Revolution in the reign of James II. he was pressed into the service, and fought under the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Eeversham. Later on he joined Schomberg's Army, and was present at the Battle of the Boyne, where his great daring gained him the rank of corporal. But this was not the end of his war services, for he was at Blenheim under the Duke of Marlborough. During

the battle a musket burst and he lost the sight of one eye, and the majority of his teeth were knocked out. He still served on, however, until he was discharged in the reign of George I. He ascribes his longevity to the fact that he never drank spirits, went to bed just after five in the evening and got up at six every morning. He took plenty of exercise, seldom ate meat, and only a week before his death walked ten miles. Were it not that we have the most reliable authority that this is a genuine case it would scarcely be believed.

Next to this, Private David Ferguson is a good representative in the Army, as when he died in 1814 he was 124 years old. He was the youngest son of a family of fifteen, and enlisted in a regiment which has since been disbanded, called the Glasgow Greys. With them he fought at Sheriffmuir, where he was slightly wounded. Later on he joined the 70th foot.

In 1760 a giant soldier died near Cork, in the person of James Macdonald, aged 111, who besides attaining the height of 7 feet 6 inches lived to be 117 years of age. He served for many years as a private in the Grenadiers, and is recorded to have been gifted with enormous bodily strength. His limbs, too, were of great magnitude, and his appetite was in proportion to his size, for he would demolish four pounds of meat at a meal, and drink large quantities of strong drink without feeling the worse for it.

Trooper James Craig, of the North British Dragoons, died at Kilmarnock, aged 111, in 1793, after having played an important part in the battle of Sheriffmuir. When he left the service he worked as a laborer until a few days prior to his death. He had never known what illness was, and he died a bachelor.

A noteworthy case is that of a British Amazon named Mary Ralphson, who lived to be 110, eventually dying at Liverpool in 1808. Her husband was a sergeant in the Duke of Cumberland's Army, and she followed him wherever he went, fighting by his side in several severe battles. She was present at Dettingen, and during the fight dressed herself in the uniform of a dragoon who fell by her side. She then mounted a stray horse and fought with the coolest courage. At Tallahassee, in Florida, a colored man named Tony Proctor, who had been a servant to an English officer at the battle of Quebec, died in 1854. He well remembered the time when the tea was thrown overboard in Boston Harbour, and took

part in the Battle of Lexington. He lived to be 112 years of age, and all the time was in possession of good health.

John Steward died in 1808, after an eventful life covering a period of 111 years. At eighteen he enlisted in the army of the Pretender, and fought at Sheriffmuir in 1715. Then he left the service, but again enlisted in 1745, fighting at Falkirk and Preston Pans in the Stuart cause. At Culloden he received a bullet in the thigh which necessitated his leaving the Army and taking to crutches. He boasted of having had eight wives, but, unlike Henry VIII., he let each die a natural death before leading the next to the altar. After his fighting days were over, he gained a living by making Highland dirks, and a Scottish nobleman allowed him a pension of £10 per annum. Had he not been rather fond of spirit in his old age there is every probability that he would have lived even longer than he did.

Private Patrick Grant attracted the attention of George IV. by living 113 years, after considerable war services. Falkirk and Culloden were his chief battles, but he also took part in the English raid under the Pretender. He was 111 when George IV. came to the throne, and that monarch bestowed a pension of a guinea a week upon him. Two years afterwards the veteran died, but the same allowance was granted to his daughter.

At the close of the Crimean war a soldier died at the age of 108, after having spent his best days in the Army. His name was George Fletcher, and he gave up a farmer's life to don the scarlet jacket. His service was long, and he fought valiantly at Bunkers Hill, and against Napoleon in Egypt, where he was wounded.

We seldom hear of generals living over a hundred years, but Tabot, Earl of Shrewsbury, was nearly that age when he commanded the army at Guienne in 1483. In the same year he was killed at the battle of Chatillon.

The Spanish general, Fuentes, was 82 when he commanded the troops at the battle of Rocroy in 1643. He was unfortunate in being a victim to gout, and had to be carried on to the field of action in an arm-chair, where a bullet killed him, and the Spaniards were routed.

The nineteenth century can claim few centenarian soldiers, but let the reader pay a visit to Chelsea Hospital, and he will see medal-bespangled veterans, some of a great age, who have fought the old country's battles, driven back foes, and who now quietly await the last Grand Parade.

The Regiment.

A PLUCKY WOMAN.

In one of the small contests in the West Indies Colonel Graham was wounded. He had been left senseless in an ambuscade into which he and his party had fallen, and from which, though with much loss, they were at last able to retire; but a few of his men, anxious to recover the body of their gallant colonel, returned to the spot, and carried it back. Believing that he was dead, they rather dragged than carried him over the rough channel of a river, till they reached the beach; observing here that he was still alive, they put him in a blanket, and proceeded in search of a surgeon. After travelling in this manner four miles they carried him to a military post occupied by a party of the Forty-second. All the surgeons were, however, out in the woods with the soldiers, and none could be found. Colonel Graham was still insensible. A ball had entered his side, three inches from the back-bone, and passing through had come out under his breast; another, or perhaps the same ball had shattered two of his fingers. No assistance could be got but of a soldier's wife, who had been long in the service, and was in the habit of attending sick and wounded soldiers. She washed his wounds, and bound them up in such a manner that when a surgeon came and saw the way in which the operation had been performed he declared he could not have done it better, and would not unbind the dressing. The colonel soon after opened his eyes; and, though unable to speak for many hours, seemed conscious of what was passing around him. In this state he lay nearly three weeks, when he was carried to Kingston, and embarked for England, where he arrived, but was still in a most exhausted state from the continued opening of his wounds, and went to Edinburgh with little hopes of recovery; but on the evening of the illumination for the Battle of Camperdown, the smoke of so many candles and flambeaux affecting his breathing, he coughed with great violence; and in the exertion threw up a piece of cloth, left, no doubt, by the ball in its passage through the body. From that day he recovered as by a charm. Being removed to the Twenty-seventh Regiment, he went with it to Holland in 1799, where he was severely wounded in the left eye, of which he lost the sight, but a good constitution again triumphed, his health became vigorous, and he became afterwards a lieutenant-general and governor-general of Stirling Castle. The

soldier's wife who had been so useful to him in his extremity was an uncommon character. She had long been a follower of the camp, and had acquired some of its manners. While she was so good a nurse in quarters she was bold and fearless in the field. When the arrangements were made previously to the attack on the Vizie, on the 10th of June, "I directed," says Colonel Stewart, "that her husband, who was in my company, should remain behind to take charge of the men's knapsacks (which they had thrown off to be light for the advance up the hill) as I did not wish to expose him to danger, on account of his wife and family. He obeyed my orders, and remained with his charge; but his wife, believing herself not included in these injunctions, pushed forward to the assault. When the enemy had been driven from the third redoubt, I was standing giving my directions to the men, and preparing to push on to the fourth and last redoubt when I found myself tapped on the shoulder, and turning round, I saw my Amazonian friend standing with her clothes tucked up to her knees, and seizing my hand,—“Well done, my highland lads!” she exclaimed; see how the brigands scamper like so many deer! Come,” added she, “let us drive them from yonder hill!” On inquiry I learned that she had been in the hottest fire, cheering and animating the men; and when the action was over, she was as active as any of the surgeons in assisting the wounded.

IN HOSPITAL.

BY SIR EDMUND NUGENT, BART. (*late Grenadier Guards.*)

I was only a subaltern, not very tall,
 And with manners ungainly and rough ;
 And was always considered—when noticed at all—
 As distinctly unpromising stuff.
 Yet I'd fallen in love, as I'll try to explain,
 And would often and often aver,
 That I shouldn't have lived altogether in vain,
 If I once could do something for Her.—

'Twas the Colonel's fair laughter had captured my heart,
 And most of my comrades as well ;
 They would chat with her gaily, while I sat apart
 As dumb as a clapperless bell.
 I'd growl when they chaffed me about her at mess
 Like a surly dissatisfied cur :—
 And I wished more and more, though I hoped less and less.
 I could only do something for Her.

I couldn't talk nonsense as some fellows can,
 Though I longed to *raconteur* to be
 Like Captain Fitzjames (how I hated that man !)
 But 'twas out of the question for me.
 I could carry her cloaks, yet I was not content,
 Though I took them without a demur ;—
 For, you see, that was hardly the thing that I meant
 By the sentence " do something for Her."

Ah! Doctor, I know what you mean by that snort,
 You would hint I am talking too long
 And I'd better by half cut these rhapsodies short ?
 And, perhaps, you're not very far wrong.—
 Well, she married Fitzjames, and my hopes got a damp,
 But what goaded my mind like a spur
 Was to think she was bound to that dissolute scamp,
 When I might have done something for Her!

You remember our failure ?—of course ; you were there,
 And can easily call it to mind,
 How Fitzjames shouted " Charge !" with his sword in the air,
 And the men rather dawdled behind ;
 How he fell, and the men with a terrified glance
 Got a panic,—such things will occur ;—
 But I said to myself " Here's a capital chance !
 A chance to do something for Her!"

So I rushed to his aid—" like an idiot " you say ?
 Well, it gave this hole in the chest
 But, somehow or other, I got him away,
 And I hardly remember the rest.—
 Now, your verdict ?—eh ?—" Death !"—what ?—just say it again ;
 Ah ! well ! its the end I prefer.—
 And, Doctor,—I've not lived exactly in vain,
 For,—thank God !—I've done something for Her !—

DEPOT NEWS.

WINNIPEG, MAN.

"B" SQUADRON, R.C.D.

Upon receiving the information from Head-Quarters that fifteen men would be selected from the Squadron for service with the Yukon Expeditionary Force, it naturally caused quite a little stir and excitement, *i.e.*, the prospects of field service. About three-fourths of the strength volunteered. Surgeon-Lt.-Col. Codd had quite a busy time in making the required medical examination, which was very strict and complete.

He selected a fine lot of young able-bodied men of excellent physique and well suited for the service they are called upon to perform. It must not be thought that those remaining are not as good as those selected—far from it—all are good and fit men in the Corps, but those selected being particularly adapted for this special service called for.

Lt.-Col. Evans, who had been at Head-Quarters for a few weeks, returned on the 9th, on private matters preparatory to his final departure at about the end of the month. On the eleventh the officers entertained him and some of his most intimate friends to a farewell dinner at the Mess. It was probably the largest dinner ever given in the Mess quarters and it is needless to say it went off with great enthusiasm. After dinner many complimentary speeches were made referring to Col. Evans personally and the force he was about to command in the far North. Lt.-Col. Evans returned again to Ottawa on the 13th. It is expected the Eastern Contingent will arrive here about the end of the month when our men will join them. It is hoped that time will be allowed the Eastern Contingent to march to the barracks and receive the hospitality of their comrades in the way of some refreshment after their long railroad trip from the East.

Capt. Gardiner was entertained at a farewell dinner on the evening of the sixteenth. Several of his intimate friends and many honorary members of the Mess were present and a

most enjoyable evening was spent. Capt. Gardiner goes as Quarter-Master to the Force, which position he is well fitted to occupy, having had considerable experience in the Indian and Egyptian Campaigns. He expects to be called to Head-Quarters immediately to take over supplies.

The Dragoons Cricket Club have held their annual meeting and are prepared for the ensuing season's work. It was decided to throw open the membership to the honorary members of the Messes, which is expected to more than counter-balance the loss the club has sustained of several of its best players. The following were the officers elected for the coming season :—

PATRONS.

His Honor the Lt.-Governor of Manitoba, Lt.-Col. Holmes, D.O.C. E. L. Drewry, Esq., W. R. Baker, Esq., C. C. Chipman, Esq., and Hon. H. J. McDonald.

Hon. President, Lt.-Col. Evans ; President, Capt. Williams ; Vice-President, Sergt.-Major Ingram ; Secretary-Treasurer, Sergt. Timmis ; Committee, Lt. Sutton, Corp. Dyer, Capt. Rutledge, Trumpr. King and Pritr. Thompson.

Almost summer weather prevails. The Barrack Square and surroundings are tidied up, and the young recruits are being taught the goose step and other rudimentary details of a soldier's duty.

A smoking concert was given on the 22nd for the benefit of the cricket and football clubs. The programme was excellent and the whole entertainment was thoroughly enjoyed. During the evening three members about to leave for the Yukon were presented with some very useful presents, which was a most pleasing circumstance and greatly appreciated by the reciprocants.

Major Evans has been granted the rank of Lieut.-Col. during his command of the Yukon contingent.

TORONTO.

MO. 2 REGIMENTAL DEPOT.

The Batoche Column Association had its annual meeting on the 28th of March. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year :—

Hon. President, Lieut.-Col. Van Straubenzie, Kingston.

Hon. Vice-Presidents, Lieut.-Col. Smith, R.R.C.I., London ; Lieut.-Col. Mason, 10 Grenadiers, Toronto ; Lieut.-Col. Rultan, Winnipeg ; Lieut.-Col. Montizambert, Kingston ; Lieut.-Col. Smith, Kingston ; Lieut.-Col. Coutlee, Winnipeg ; Lieut.-Col. G. T. Denison, Toronto ; Lieut.-Col. Warfing, Sharon ; Lieut.-Col. Turnbull, Quebec ; Major Beattie, London.

President, Major Manley, R. L.

Vice-President, Lieut.-Col. Hughes, 46th Battalion.

Secretary, Cap. Curran, 12th Battalion.

Assistant-Secretary, Serg. H. Allen, 12th Battalion.

Treasurer, Surgeon Lieut.-Col. Ryerson.

The annual celebration took place on the 10th of May and was very successful.

The Battleford Column Association held their annual re-union on the 25th of March, when about one hundred were present. Among those present were Lieut.-Col. Otter.

The annual spring Garrison Church Parade took place on Sunday, May 1st, and as usual was a great success.

The City Council of Toronto have granted \$750 toward purchase of new busbies for the Queen's Own Rifles.

A very interesting lecture was given at the Military Institute quite recently by Lieut. Leslie, R.E., attached to the Royal Military College, Kingston. The subject was "Modern Defensive Works."

The Royal Canadian Dragoons in Toronto, have had presented to them by the 15th Battalion, Belleville, a silver loving cup which is mounted on an ebony stand, and a silver salver. On one side of the cup is "XV. Battalion A.L.I., to R.C.D.;" between cross pennants on the opposite side, is a figure of an officer, between crossswords. The salver has en-

graved on it the following: "Presented to A Squadron Royal Canadian Dragoons, by the officers of the 15th Battalion, A.L.I., Belleville. A souvenir of July, 1896."

Major J. C. MacDougall, R.R.C.I., after an absence of several months in charge of a provisional Infantry School at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, returned to Stanley Barracks early in April.

The Yukon Contingent left here on the 4th of May for Ottawa. They were a fine body of men and received a hearty set off.

The Military Tournament was a great success, and attracted much attention.

Lieut. Col. Davison, late of 48th Highlanders, has accepted the Colonelcy of his old Regiment.

Lieut. Charles Turner Von Straubenzie, 4h Hussars has been gazetted a Lieut. in the Royal Canadian Dragoons and posted to A. Squadron stationed in Stanley Barracks.

Lieut. James Gilchrist Burnham, Retired list, has been appointed a Lieut. in the Royal Regiment. Canadian Infantry and posted to this Station

Lieut. Lister, 27th Battalion, has been appointed to the Royal Regiment, Canadian Infantry, and posted to this Depot.

KINGSTON, ONT.

Capt. Lee of the Royal Military College, Kingston, has been appointed Military *attaché* with the American Army in the present war, to represent the British Army. We hear, *Broad Arm* says, that there are numerous applications for similar positions. On the last occasion when the United States had a war, some very distinguished military men watched the operations, among them the present Commander-in-Chief of the British Army and Col. Fletcher of the Scots Guards.

OTTAWA.

Recently in the House of Commons, in reply to a question from Mr. Monk, Sir Louis Davies stated that the formation of a naval Militia Corps, was receiving the earnest consideration of his department.

The Queen's birthday was celebrated by the Militia Corps marching into the country and doing outpost duty. On their return they had a march part. The City Council have granted \$1000 00 towards the celebration.

Capt. McKay of the 43rd Batt. has gone to the Klondike. Prior to his departure he was entertained at a supper, and was presented with a photographed group of the officers and men of his company.

Lieut.-Col. Bliss has gone to the Klondike with the Military expedition to represent the civil branch of the Militia Department and look after the expenditure.

A bill to pay the G. O. C. the Militia the sum of \$2000 in lieu of allowances has passed parliament without a dissentient voice.

ST. JOHN'S, QUE.

No. 3 REGIMENTAL DEPOT, R. R. C. I.

The following officers are at present attached to this Depot for instruction: Lieuts. Rogers, 11th Batt.; MacDonald, Poitras 64th Batt.; Reeves, 76th Batt.; Bisailon and Contant, 85th Batt.

The Yukon Contingent left for Ottawa on the 3rd of May. They will hold their own, in every way, with those sent from other Depots. A hearty send-off was given them by their comrades, and, notwithstanding the early hour at which they started, a number from the town were present to wish them "God speed." Letters have been received from them at Vancouver, and they are loud in their praise at the treatment they are receiving from the Government.

Sergt. Wilson returned from St. Thomas on the 5th May, where he had been instructing the Cadets of the College.

there. He left again on the 16th of May for St. Hyacinthe, to act as instructor to the 84th Batt.

Sergt. Miller returned from Joliette on the 4th May, where he has been acting as instructor to the officers and men of the 83rd Batt.

Sergt. Lavoie is in Montreal, acting as instructor to the 65th Batt.

Sergt. Major Phillips goes into Montreal twice a week to act as instructor to the 5th Batt. (Royal Scots).

The Annual Regimental inspection of the Depot by Lieut.-Col. Maunsell, commanding the Royal Regiment of Canadian Infantry, took place on the 18th of May. The remnants of the Depot, consisting almost entirely of employed men, were first inspected; then the recruits, then the attached officers, and so on. The Barracks and Hospital were then inspected, after which he lunched with the officers. In the afternoon the Regimental Books were examined. The inspection was said by Col. Mannsell to be thoroughly satisfactory. In the evening he returned to Montreal, and subsequently left for Quebec.

Surgeon Lt.-Col. F. W. Campbell was elected President, and Major Fages, Secretary-Treasurer, of the Depot Mess, at the Annual Meeting, held the end of April. The finances were reported to be in a healthy condition.

Private Randell has been made a Lance Corporal.

Owing to weak strength, a flying Sentry only is maintained on the Barracks gate, with an occasional guard for instructional purposes.

Camp will be held here this year, commencing June 21st. Lt. Col. Roy, D. O. C., is the Commandant.

Surgeon Lieut. Col. Campbell gave a gramophone concert in the Library on the 27th May, which was greatly enjoyed by all present, which included quite a number of friends from the town.

The circular mound on the Barrack Square is fast going to decay. It ought to be removed at once, and the flagstaff placed elsewhere, as it has always been a great interference with drill.

If something could be done to get rid of the round pebbles on the Barracks Square, it would make drilling so much more pleasant, and, what is more, save shoe leather to *Boot*. No oak.

A desolate looking place is this Depot since the departure of the Yukon Contingent, who, we believe, are still to be shown on the strength. A "Tommy," sitting the other evening on the wrecked mound, was observed by a companion to be lost in reverie. Being gently touched on the shoulder and asked what he was thinking about, completely nonplussed him by saying he was thinking of Macauley's New Zealander sitting on London Bridge, contemplating the wreck of the British Empire.

Surgeon Lt. Col. Neilson, Director General Medical Staff, made a very thorough inspection of this Depot on the 18th of April.

Several officers of the Royal Scots (Montreal) have been here lately at various times for a special course.

Capt. Chinie has received the Brevet rank of Major dated 1st February, 1898.

No 1876 Corp. F. Haslewood was on the 23rd of May confirmed in the appointment of District Staff Clerk. This left a vacancy for a Corporal in the Company, filled by the promotion of Lce. Corp. Randell to that rank.

The Contingent for the Yukon Field Force from No. 3 Company, was composed of a very smart body of men, of good physique and able to go through anything. On the day of departure a good many of them were not so pleased as they seemed to be, and, in spite of its drawbacks, a good many of them will have a quiet hankering after St. John's, at times. Reports from individuals on the draft have been very

encouraging, and they all seem to have had a decent time. The Depot is very quiet without them. There was one man who was, at the time, heart-broken because he was unable to go, but subsequent events have acted as a salve to his wounded feelings.

MONTREAL, QUE.

The Military ball which took place at the Windsor on the 15th of April was one of the nicest which Montreal has been favored with for many a long day, although the number present was not as large as had been expected. This was due entirely to it being held so late in the season. The arrangements were excellent, the music delicious, the supper most *recherché*. The Supper Committee deserve especial commendation, for every one was seated and able to enjoy the supper with comfort.

We are to have a field day on the 24th of May, so it at least has been decided. It is intended to have it on a much more extended scale than has been seen in Montreal for many years. Lieut.-Col. Gordon, D.O.C., deserves especial praise for the perseverance he shows in pushing this matter to a successful conclusion. We hope for our usual Queen's weather.

Surgeon Lieut.-Col. Campbell, Royal Regiment Canadian Infantry, gave a lecture in the Military Institute on the 23rd of April on "The Fenian raid of 1866 and the operations of the Montreal Militia Brigade in connection therewith." The attendance was beyond the seating capacity of the room, and many sat in the passages and adjoining room where they were able to hear the lecture. It was intended to include the raid of 1870, but that portion referring to 1866 took up so much time that it was decided to postpone 1870 till the 30th of April. On that date it was delivered before another very large audience. Upon both occasions a hearty vote of thanks was conveyed to the lecturer. These lectures are, by request, to be repeated before the Veterans' Association. We hear also that several other applications have been made for their delivery.

All the city battalions are in full swing preparing for their inspection. The attendance is good and the march out

is followed by the usual crowd of robust young fellows, many, indeed most of whom, ought to be crowding the ranks.

Recruiting for the Permanent Corps is very slow. Both the Artillery and the Infantry have been looking for them, but have only got a few.

The Squadron of Montreal Hussars, under Major Whitley, have been highly honored by receiving permission from His Royal Highness the Duke of York, to call the Squadron the Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars; also to use his Coat of Arms on their accoutrements. This fact was announced to the Squadron on the 9th May after their drill. Congratulatory speeches were made by Lt.-Col. Gordon, Lt.-Col. Cole, Lt.-Col. Ibbottson, Lt.-Col. Barr, Rev. Abbott Smith (Chaplain) and Surgeon Lt.-Col. Campbell, R.R.C.I. Refreshments were afterwards served in the officers' quarters.

The matter of greatest interest to those connected with the Militia has been the *fait accompli*, amalgamation of the 6th Fusiliers with the 1st Prince of Wales Rifle Regiment. This has been long talked about, and during the administration of Major-General Hubert, as G.O.C. would have taken place, but for the very strong opposition it met with. Time seems to have obliterated this adverse current, and then favorable thought

If it were well done
It's well it was done quickly

and acted accordingly. The result was that the order in Council, making the amalgamation was passed, while the matter was known to but few outside of those directly intended. The amalgamated Regiment will be known as the 1st Prince of Wales Fusiliers, will be clothed in scarlet with white facings, and will wear bear skin busbies. Its strength will be:—

Rank and Fyle.....	598
N.C.O.	38
Officers.....	32

A grand total of..... 668

Lieut.-Col. Cooke, late of the 1st P.W.R. Regiment, will assume command, with Lieut.-Col. Machean, late of the 6th Fusiliers, as Senior Major. As we write, a couple of parades

of the new Regiment have been held, and the attendance was encouraging. One naturally feels regret at the blotting out of old historic Regiments, and the Prince of Wales Rifles had a history. Those who directed this movement have doubtless considered the matter fully, and its wisdom must be judged by results. In the meantime we give its new Commander and the new Regiment our best wishes.

Lt.-Col. Cooke, 1st Prince of Wales Fusiliers, has been appointed to the command of the Bisley team, which sails from Montreal on the 18th of June, by the Allan SS. "Parisian." Lt.-Col. Cooke succeeded to the command of the Prince of Wales Rifles on the 30th of March, on the retirement of Lt.-Col. Buller.

Major E. B. Ibbotson was gazetted Lt.-Col. of the 5th Batt. Royal Scots, on the 30th March, in place of Lt.-Col. Strathy, retired.

Major MacLean was promoted to the Lieut.-Col. of the 6th Fusiliers, on the 30th March, on the retirement of Lt.-Col. Burland.

The Sunday Parade of the Montreal Militia Brigade was most successful—the parade slate showing a total of about 1800. The day was fine, though about noon it threatened otherwise. The parade was witnessed by a very large to be number of people.

The sham battle on the Queen's Birthday had to be put-off as the day was very wet.

We note that Militia orders of May 21st, restores to Medical officers of Field rank, their horse allowance. To obtain this they must take a course in equitation and pass the examination.

Surgeon Lieut.-Col. F. W. Campbell, R. R. C. I., is, we hear to be appointed Principal Medical Officer of Military Districts 5 and 6. The new Director General Medical Staff is desirous of decentralizing the work of his office. It is provided that in the future all medical matters of the district will pass through the hands of the P.M.O. before being sent to Head Quarters.

Lieut. Leduc, of the 65th, has been appointed a Lieut. in the R. R. C. I., and has gone with the Klondike contingent.

QUEBEC.

Capt. Panet, R.C.A., has gone to England, to take a course.

Capt. J. H. C. Ogilvy, R.C.A., was entertained at dinner by his brother officers, on the 23rd of April, at the Citadel Mess previous to his departure with the Yukon contingent.

A detachment of 65th N.C.O. and men of the R.C.A., under Major Rutherford, Capt. Thacker and Lieut. de Plessis, left for Halifax on the 17th inst., and were replaced the same day by 100 men of the Royal Artillery from Halifax. This exchange will last for about six months.

The 8th Batt., Lieut. Col. Jones and the 9th Batt., Lieut. Col. Evanturel, were inspected on the 19th of May by Lieut. Col. Maunsell, commanding Royal Regiment Canadian Infantry, inspector of Infantry. The inspection was a good one, and the attendance of spectators immense.

The Yukon contingent of the Royal Canadian Artillery left Quebec on the 4th of May for Ottawa. *En route*, they were under the command of Capt. Ogilvy.

Capt. Prower, who was formerly a resident of this city and commanded the 8th Royal Rifles, has been granted the brevet rank of Major in the Militia Sub Marine Miners (Royal Engineers.)

Capt. Urquhart of the Cameron Highlanders, who so gloriously fell at Atbara (Soudan) in the moment of victory was well known and highly appreciated in Quebec, where he, passed many months, at varying periods during fully four years, while A.D.C. to His Excellency Lord Aberdeen, Governor General. It is only a few months ago since he left Canada to rejoin his regiment.

Lieut. Lemuel Bennett from the Engineer reserve, has received a commission in the Garrison Division of the Royal Canadian Artillery, and on appointment has been promoted Capt. in accordance with G. O. 73 (1896).

It is said that Lieut. Col. Wilson, R. C. A., will be attached to a Division of United States Troops with a view of making observations for the Canadian Government.

Capt. Ogilvie, recently appointed to the R.C.A. and posted to the Kingston Depot, has been temporarily doing duty here. He will return to Kingston early in June. He went to Montreal, and was attached to the 3rd Field Battery, at the Sunday parade on May 22nd and on the Queen's Birthday, during the sham fight.

The R.A. officers and men here are delighted with Quebec. The men say their quarters here are better than those in Halifax.

FREDERICTON, N.B.

NO. 4 REGIMENTAL DEPOT, R.R.C.I.

Lieut. J. H. Kaye from 62nd St. John Fusiliers, and Lieut. A. B. P. Nagle from 66th P. L. Fusiliers, have been posted to No. 4 Regimental Depot, R.R.C.I.

Lieut. Nagle left here for the Royal Military College at Kingston on the 28th February.

Capt. Thacker has been transferred to No. 3 Co. R.R.C.I., from 31st March.

Col. Maunsell paid us a flying visit from the 28th April until the 2nd May, when he left for Ottawa with his family, where he expects to remain for some time.

The 32 non-commissioned officers and men of the Fredericton company of the Royal Regiment, who with detachments from the other companies of the permanent force, constitute the force of 200 men ordered for service in the Yukon country, took their departure for Ottawa on the 2nd May. The men paraded the barracks' square at 1.45 p.m.,

and after being photographed were addressed briefly by Col. Maunsell. A brass band made up of musicians from the 71st and R.R.C.I., played the contingent to the railway station. The sidewalks along the line of march were thronged with people, who commented favorably upon the fine physique and smart soldier-like appearance of the 32 young men selected for service in the far away Yukon country. At the railway station a great crowd had assembled to say good-bye to our brave soldier boys and to unite in giving them a hearty send off.

After a brief period of hand shaking, the work of embarkation commenced, and as the red coats climbed aboard of the beautiful colonist sleeper attached to the train especially for their use, the band struck up "The Girl I Left Behind Me." As the sweet strains of this familiar old air reached the ears of the occupants of the car, the windows flew up simultaneously and hand shaking and farewell greetings were again in order. There were several very touching incidents noticed and not a few tears were shed, particularly by female relatives and friends of the soldiers.

As the train moved slowly out of the depot the band played "Auld Lang Syne," and "Will ye nae Come Back Again," the crowd cheered, and the long journey of nearly 5,000 miles before the detachment, was commenced.

The men embarked from here wearing their helmets, and carrying great coats and valises. At Ottawa, they will be armed and fully equipped with an outfit specially prepared to meet the requirements of the service which they are undertaking. Capt. Macdonnell accompanied the detachment to Ottawa where he will hand it over to Col. Evans, the commandant.

A correct list of the members of the Fredericton detachment is as follows:

Sergeants—F. Nauffts and John Bingham.

Corporals—C. Shaw and F. Bowden.

Lance-Corporal—John W. Coupe.

Privates—W. Betts, W. Baker, H. Brown, J. E. Brownell, J. S. Burns, F. Burt, G. E. Campbell, J. R. Edwards, E. Flewelling, W. P. Gray, R. Harvie, B. P. Hennessy, W. M. Eite, P. Kidston, J. E. Matheson, H. Miller, J. E. Murphy, W. McKenzie, W. McLaughlin, T. Patchell, M. A. Quinn, C. Seymour, H. C. Verge, H. Wakefield, W. Walker, H. Fradsham.

It is not yet known for certain whether the troops will proceed to Fort Selkirk by the Stickine River route, or by way of St. Michaels and the Yukon, but it is likely that the latter route will be chosen. The soldiers are being sent to the Yukon to assist the mounted police in preserving order, and it is thought that they will be kept there about two years.

Bronzed and weather beaten, but looking in prime physical condition, Capt. Eaton, R.C.A., late of the R.R.C.I., reached Fredericton on the 2nd May, after six months absence in charge of a Dominion geological surveying party in the inhospitable regions of Labrador. The Capt. is now on the strength of the Royal Canadian Artillery at Kingston, and expects to join his regiment shortly. He will remain among his friends in Fredericton two or three days, when he will go to Ottawa to take a position temporarily on the General's staff. Capt. Eaton is warmly welcomed back, and there is a stray rumour that this will not be his last visit to Fredericton this year.

Lance Corporal White, of the R.R.C.I., is confined to the military hospital suffering from an attack of measles. His illness lost him his place on the Yukon contingent, which was taken by Lance Corporal Croupe, who has just returned from a trip to England.

One of the members of the R.R.C.I., who left for the Yukon is said to have the sum of \$6,000 ready to invest in mining claims when he reaches the golden north.

Sergt. Major Fowlie of the R.R.C.I., who went to Montreal a few weeks ago, to act as instructor to the militia, is quite ill, in that city, from an attack of his old throat trouble. He has been operated upon and is reported to be improving as a result of the operation.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ALL THE SAME.

An old Irish officer, after a battle, ordered the dead and the dying to be buried pell-mell. Being told that some were alive and might be saved, "Oh, bedad," said he, "if you were to pay any attention to what they say, not one, of them would allow that he was dead."

PAT TO MICK: "I say, shut up that talking in your sleep."

Pat: "I was not talking."

Mick: "You was, I say." After quarreling for an hour or two, Pat said, "Alright, I'll keep awake to-night and see if I do."

NEW TO HIM.

It is told of a certain Highland officer, who shall be nameless, that while dining at the house of a friend he was please to observe that he was the object of marked attention from the son of his host, whose eyes were firmly riveted upon him. After dinner the officer approached the boy and said: "Ah, my young friend, you seem to be interested in me. What is wrong?" "Well, sir," replied the boy, with a glance at the officer's kilt, "you're all right, only won't your mamma let you wear trousers yet?"

MEANT TO FIND HIM.

Two Irishmen of the West Yorkshire Regiment, on service in the West Indies, were nearly distracted by the irritating attacks of mosquitoes. One night they went to bed and tucked themselves snugly in. Pat was congratulating his comrade on their having outwitted "the cunning bastes," when a brilliant firefly flashed its way suddenly into the darkness of the barrack-room.

"Oh, bedad, Mick," groaned the astonished Pat, "it's all up with us. Here's one of the little spalpeens come to look for us wid a lantern!"

DURING the late Matabele War an amusing episode happened between an officer and a private of the Irish Company of Mounted Infantry. The private had previously been cautioned to conceal himself behind a bush, but would not avail himself of any advantage. At last the officer broke out at him again in the following manner:—"Murphy, why don't you get under cover? You'll be killed directly." The private turned to the officer and replied, "Sure, sor, it's cowardly to hide away from these poor black craythurs." "Cowardly be hanged," ejaculated the officer; "it's better to be a coward for five minutes than to be dead all the days of your life."

NOT NUMBERED.

The men of a certain company of the Berkshire Regiment were ordered to show their kits to the company officer the other day, and everything possible was to bear the regimental number of its owner.

Officer arrives at Murphy's cot, on which his kit is laid out to perfection.

Officer: "Now, Private Murphy, has every article of your kit got your number on?"

Murphy: "No, sir."

Officer (furiously): "Didn't I give you strict orders to that effect? What have you got without a number on?"

Murphy: "Me soap and blacking, sir!"

A SOLDIER quartered at Mullingar was brought before the commanding officer for being absent from tattoo till 6 a. m. the following morning without a pass. The C. O. asked Tommy his reasons for absenting himself all night without permission, to which the soldier replied, "Shure, yer honour the roads were that slippery after the recent rains that for every step I took forward I slipped *two back*." "Come, my man," said the C. O., "it is no use your telling me that story, for had that been the case you would be farther from barracks now than ever." Tommy replied, "Shure, an' yer honour's quite correct, and afther a toime I found that out; so I turned me back towards the barracks, and so I slipped in backwards!" Tommy for his wit was admonished, but not to let it *occur again*.