

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A Weekly Journal devoted to the Interests of the Active Force of the Dominion.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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Comment and Criticism.

THE annual general meeting of the members of the Ontario artillery association will be held at the Rossin House, Toronto, on Thursday, the 13th January instant, at 2 o'clock p.m. sharp, for election of officers and the transaction of business generally. Certain proposed alterations in the constitution will also be considered at this meeting. The adjourned meeting of council will be held at the same place at noon of same day.

THE "affinity of great minds" is illustrated by the letter we publish this week suggesting that the records of corps should be kept in the shape of clippings in regimental scrap books. The same suggestion we made editorially last week, and a day or two later received the letter we now publish from a point far east in the Dominion before the writer could have seen our comment. The suggestion we think so good that we are glad to have it spontaneously endorsed by an outsider, and again to urge it on the attention of commanding officers.

YESTERDAY'S Ottawa Citizen states that there is a good prospect of Col. Powell being gazetted to the new distinguished service order, and we sincerely hope our contemporary has some authoritative grounds for the statement. We have several times spoken of the good work performed during the rebellion by the staff officers of the militia at head-

quarters. The campaign was a great success, and a large measure of that success may be attributed to the indefatigable energy with which the action of the troops at the front was seconded by prompt attention departmentally to their manifold requirements; in doing this Colonel Powell was conspicuous, and it seems desirable that efficient service of this kind should be recognized equally with service before the enemy, which, while more prominently before the public and more exciting, than office work, is not one whit more necessary to a successful issue.

IN our issue of the 9th ultimo we had something to say about the annual course in engineering for militia officers, at the Royal Military College. There seems to be some discrepancy in the regulations, which throws a doubt upon the question whether any officer possessing a short course certificate, obtained after a three months' attendance at a school of instruction, is eligible for this course, as one paragraph seems to indicate that it is only intended to be part of a twelve months' long course. However, paragraph, 521 to 526, R. and O., embodied in the regulations for the schools of military instruction, issued in pamphlet form last year, seem to indicate that any officer possessing a short course certificate can enter, and it is sincerely to be hoped that this view of the case will be accepted by the Department, for it is so desirable that our officers should keep up with the improvements of the age, that every facility should be given them to obtain additional instruction rather than obstacles put in their way.

ONLY those who have no settled employment or who are of independent means would be able to spare the time to take a twelve months' course, whereas many of our best officers and these are usually the men whose time is of the most valuable would make an effort to attend for three months, if by so doing they obtained the necessary certificate; consequently, we sincerely hope that the regulations, if they need any change, will be changed in this way, and also that arrangements should be made for having more than one course during the year, as we before suggested. Once more we would urge every qualified officer who can spare three months from the 10th March next to apply for admission for the long course; he can in no other way learn so much, and so much of sterling value, in so short a time.

"VOUCHER'S" letter once more voices the great grievance of the officers of the permanent corps; the almost absolute absence of promotion and the fact that although they have more responsible duties and presumably are better qualified than officers of the ordinary active force, they have no seniority over them; so that it often happens that a green youngster who has perhaps attended one twelve days' camp may take command over a man with as many years of constant service. The instances cited in "Voucher's" letter are not mentioned, we take it, in any spirit of fault-finding with those promotions,—if we thought so we would at once join issue, for we can readily see that the occupation of certain officers should carry with it fitting rank,—but are brought forward to show how in other places promotion can take place without any

vacancy occurring. We earnestly commend this matter to the attention of the authorities as being a point that requires some change, either in the direction of brevet promotion after stated periods of service, by compulsory retirement with pension, or in some other way that would place the older officers of the permanent corps on some more satisfactory footing than they now occupy.

A CORRESPONDENT in the N. W. M. Police, commenting upon the improved cavalry bridles and saddles, described in our columns some time ago, writes us: "Military bridles are not bothering us so much as saddles and the best method of carrying the carbine when mounted. We use several kinds of bits in this force, Whitman, Pelham and ordinary cavalry bit and bridoon. By the addition of a nose band a great deal of power and very little weight would be added to the proposed bridle for English cavalry. But a great deal depends upon the proper breaking and mouthing of a young horse; the wildest broncho if properly broken can be ridden simply with a rope in his mouth and reined on the neck, while some of the Canadian horses I have seen in the force require the severest curb to keep them in bounds."

IN our regimental notes we give a short synopsis of Col. Macpherson's excellent lecture on field fortifications. His scheme is to induce every one of his officers to read during the winter a paper on some branch of military work or duties, and we would commend the plan to all the city corps. The papers would do good to all who heard them, even though they might not be particularly erudite, and the reading necessitated in working them up would be of the greatest benefit to the several authors. We hope to hear of the same course being adopted by every other city corps in the Dominion this winter.

WE received from our friends, the Dufferin Rifles, a very well executed Christmas card, specially designed for themselves, which is worthy of mention. Printed in rifle colors it depicts, under a border of holly and mistletoe, a camping scene, with the usual accompaniments of tents, marching troops, and groups off duty. In the upper left hand corner is the badge of the regiment, and a suitable inscription completes a most artistic production. We thank Colonel Jones for remembering us, and in return wish the Dufferins, in common with the whole Canadian force, a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Personal.

The Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Territories and Mrs. Dewdney are in town. Mrs. Dewdney assisted Lady Macdonald at her New Year's reception.

His Excellency the Governor-General held his annual reception at his office on New Year's day. The officers of the headquarters staff and city corps made their calls in uniform, in accordance with a district order. Lieut.-Col. Macpherson and officers of the G.G.F.G. afterwards proceeded together to Earncliffe and paid their respects to Lady Macdonald, and also lunched there.

Just now everybody is anxious to hear as much as possible of Capt. Page, who has just reflected lustre upon our Dominion by being the first inhabitant of "Greater Britain" to gain entrance to the new Distinguished Service Order. We learn that his official record in the Department of Militia and Defence is as follows: Charles Willoughby Henry Page, born in 1850, was provisionally appointed lieutenant of No. 2 company, 90th Winnipeg Rifles, on the organization of that battalion on the 9th November, 1883, and resigned his commission on the 17th October, 1884.

Lieut. Ross, who was lately appointed to a second lieutenancy in the Winnipeg Field Battery, is well known in Winnipeg, being prominently connected with the rowing, football and St. George's snowshoe clubs. He is employed in the Bank of Montreal. He went to Winnipeg in 1882, where he immediately joined the field battery as a gunner. Out of the detachment of seven on No. 4 gun, four are now officers, the No. 1 being Lieut. J. N. Kennedy (son of the late Col. Kennedy), now of the Royal Engineers; the corporals were Henshaw and Worsnop, the

first being now a major in the 1st Prince of Wales' Rifles in Montreal, and the second a captain in the 90th. Lieut. Ross, the fourth officer, served as a sergeant during the rebellion, and was present at all the engagements in which the corps took part. His appointment has proved a most popular one.

Farquharson's Range Finder.

WHEN in Montreal a few days ago we had the opportunity of inspecting a pair of instruments invented by Col.-Sergt. Wm. Farquharson, of the 5th Royal Scots, and for which he has obtained patents in Great Britain, the United States and Canada, their object being to facilitate the determination of distances and vertical heights.

The first of these instruments, which is an improvement on the ordinary cross-staff, consists of two telescopes fixed at right angles to each other, and so mounted that the one revolves exactly on the axis of the other, which itself can be elevated and depressed, revolving on the axis of the first. With this improved cross-staff a right angle can be set out with the greatest celerity, with absolute accuracy, and in any required plane, instead of in a horizontal plane only, as would be the case were a theodolite used.

The second instrument, which Mr. Farquharson has christened the Distancer, is intended to be set up at a predetermined distance from the cross-staff—the inventor has chosen 50 yards as a convenient base—and consists of a circular plate around which an index hand revolves; this hand being geared to the pivot of a telescope also surmounting the plate, similarly to the two hands of a clock, or in such a way that one revolution of the telescope will revolve the index hand or pointer twelve times. The edge of the plate is graduated so as to show the length of the perpendicular between the cross staff and the object, and which will be of course proportional to the angle measured by the telescope. Both instruments are set upon tripods, and provided with all necessary fittings, such as parallel plates, ball and socket joint, set screws, tangent screws, verniers and spirit levels, to facilitate their exact use and to adapt them for general use as surveying instruments.

To find the distance of any required object from the operator a convenient base is chosen and the cross-staff set up. The act of aligning one of its telescopes on the object sets out with the other a base at right angles to this line quite independently of the horizontality of the plane: this base is measured off, and the distancer set up with its circular plate exactly in the plane determined by the cross-staff, and with the transverse axis of the telescope in the line of the base. Now by turning the telescope on the required object a certain angle is made with the base, which increases with the distance, and as the telescope turns the index hand multiplies this angle twelve times, and indicates the distance previously graduated on the circular plate.

In measuring vertical angles for heights the distancer is worked like a theodolite.

Major Pratt, R.A., in a discussion lately, asserted that it was credibly stated that nine artillery officers out of every ten had at one time or another invented a range finder, consequently we are not prepared to say that the one under discussion is unique, but it certainly has two strong points: the facility with which a right angle can be set out by the improved cross-staff in any plane, and the ease with which the distance can be read off in consequence of the exaggerated angle traversed by the index hand.

New Publications.

Mayor's Key to Clery's Tactics.—We have received a copy of this useful little work, of which the second edition appeared in 1885.* Although primarily intended for the use of officers of the English auxiliary forces preparing for the tactical examination, it is eminently adapted for the instruction of all militia officers in tactics, being prepared in catechetical form, the answers embodying the information contained in Clery's minor tactics. The text is accompanied by numerous very clear diagrams. We should like to see it generally studied in Canada.

The Discipline and Drill of the Militia.—Major Frank S. Arnold, Assistant Q.M.G., Rhode Island.

We met Major Arnold during a visit he paid to our city a few days ago, and have since perused with pleasure a little work which he wrote in 1877 for the instruction of the militia of his state in the fundamental principles of military duty and discipline. We find that change of nation in no wise alters these principles, and that most of what he says might be profitably applied to our own country, and we hope at a future

*Key to Clery's Tactics. By Capt. Edgar J. Mayor. 2nd edition. T. G. Johnson, 121 Fleet street, E.C., 1885. Post free, 2s. 10d.

time to reproduce some of his remarks. He has struck the right note in insisting that attention to petty details at the start is the important point to be observed. After explaining the military institutions of the country and deducing some lessons from past military experience, he speaks of discipline and subordination; books and papers; elementary drill; the future method of attack; hints to officers, and some other miscellaneous matters, including the duties of guards and sentries, and all is so thoroughly explained as to commend itself to the veriest tyro.

Vick's Floral Guide for 1887.—Vick, the enterprising Rochester seedsman, sends out every year a catalogue that is a work of art. The one now to hand is a masterpiece of the printer's art and contains nearly 200 pages, including, we might almost say, *full* instructions for all descriptions of gardening, and illustrations of every flower and vegetable of which he sells the seeds. We know him and his seeds to be *thoroughly* reliable, and if you have a garden and cannot get the best seeds at home send ten cents for a catalogue to James Vick, Rochester, N.Y., you will get a book worth three times that and if later you order anything he will refund the ten cents.

The Repeating Rifle.

ONE of the news associations is responsible for a statement to the effect that Herr Schuloff's visit to this country from Vienna is solely for the purpose of being present and giving his assistance at the experimental trials of the new repeating rifle by the military authorities. This announcement is calculated, if not intended, to convey an impression that Herr Schuloff's magazine rifle is the type that has been selected for trial, although the authority we have quoted is careful to add that "nothing has yet been settled as to the introduction of the rifle into the British army." As a matter of fact, it has not even been settled whether we are to arm our infantry with any sort of repeating rifle, and the experimental stage suggested by this news agency as the sole reason for Herr Schuloff's presence in England is yet afar off. It may be said emphatically that English officials have, so far, shown not the slightest bias in favor of the Austrian engineer's invention, which has not yet found so much favor as would be likely to lead to its adoption by the army of his native country. We believe Herr Schuloff came to England with this repeating rifle some years ago, but failed to make its merits "understood of the people" who control the wires at Whitehall and the war office. At that time, however, nothing would be looked at that was not adapted to take the service boxer cartridge. Now, however, happily, even official opinion on this point has changed under pressure, and each system of mechanism has some chance of being allowed to stand on its merits alone, not handicapped by stringent rules that would make it subservient to the necessities of an obsolete and worthless projectile. Since that time nothing has transpired to demonstrate the superiority of the weapon invented by Herr Schuloff, except, may be, some semi-official trials at Vienna, to which Major-General Keith-Fraser lent the lustre of his presence, but as to the result of which we know nothing beyond what some American papers have told us in vague words of indiscriminate praise. No doubt Herr Schuloff will make another attempt to convince the obdurate official mind of the superiority of his over all other forms of repeating rifle, and probably that is the object of his visit to England just now, but that he has any reason to hope for more than a fair trial in competition with others we do not believe. It is much to be wished that some ignorant prejudices long held by a few military men, and to which they still cling obstinately, were as obsolete as the boxer cartridge. One reason they try persistently to cram down the throats of reformers, as if it were unanswerable, is that soldiers waste ammunition enough with a single breech-loader, and, *ergo*, would waste six or eight times as much if armed with a magazine weapon. Now, this is one of the most flagrant and patent fallacies ever entertained, even by the official mind. Practical soldiers know well enough what makes men waste ammunition, and they know also that the only means of preventing this in future warfare will be to arm our infantry with repeating rifles of some kind. Victory, henceforth, must rest with the army that can bring the most withering and ceaseless fire of small-arms to bear on certain points at critical moments of a battle. That is a tactical proposition which we challenge any amount of sophistry to disprove. But it may be asked, what about accuracy of fire? This involves other considerations, some of which may be summed up in a dogma. We hold strongly to the opinion, heretical though it may seem, that for the ordinary rank and file there should be no fiddling with delicately-adjusted sights or attempts at nice accuracy of aim. They should be allowed to shoot at nothing more distant than four hundred yards, and they should be taught snap shooting by volleys, so that they might learn to cover an object at point-blank range instantly with unerring certainty. All this is just what might happen in any fierce fight, and the sooner we recognise it the better. For any shooting requiring more deliberate aim at ranges over four or five hundred yards, we may have to

revert to an ancient system of tactics—as old in principle as the history of British victories—and that is the establishment of rifle companies, into which all the best marksmen of a battalion should be drafted. These should be armed with single shooting rifles of the deadliest accuracy, but, needless to say, of the same calibre as the more rough-and-ready magazine weapon. Whether this tragical suggestion be adopted or not, it is certain that sooner or later our infantry must be armed with some sort of repeating rifle. We are far from desiring that there should be any undue haste in selecting a type, and still further from advocating the adoption of any foreign pattern. Our own gun-makers and mechanical engineers are just now devoting their attention to the subject, and we venture to predict that, if assured of government encouragement, they will succeed in producing a weapon better than any with which continental armies are yet armed, or likely to be for some time to come. Two gunmaking engineers of known reputation, who have already done much towards the improvement of our military weapons, are producing magazine rifles that will probably be ready for trial within a month or two. One of these we have been allowed to inspect. It fires twenty-five rounds a minute with perfect freedom from anything that could cause a cartridge to jam, even were the weapon being used by the most careless or nervous soldier, and it has the crowning advantage of remarkable simplicity in all its details. —*A. & H. G. Gazette.*

The Status of the Canadian Force.

(From the "Manitoban's" Military Column.)

THERE is a pretty general misapprehension of the position occupied by the Canadian militia and the term "volunteers" is frequently misapplied to them. The Canadian militia as it at present exists is the creation of an Act of the Dominion Parliament, passed in 1868, which was framed by the late Sir George Cartier, and is strictly and literally militia, and not volunteers, as the term is used in England and generally understood here. It may be of interest to point out the difference which exists between the two, and it may here be noted that because a force is raised by voluntary enlistment, it by no means follows that it is a volunteer force. England's standing army and militia are raised entirely by voluntary enlistment, although in time of need the latter (the militia) could be augmented by a *levee en masse*. A similar provision exists in Canada, in fact every male subject between the ages of 18 and 60 is liable to military service. The volunteer force of Great Britain as it is at present constituted is a volunteer force in fact as well as in name, and is the result of a strong feeling of insecurity which prevailed in Great Britain about 1857. Corps of rifles were then raised in various counties, Devonshire having the honor of being the first, and Middlesex the second. In 1863 an Act of Parliament was passed placing the force on the footing it now occupies. This act provided that a sum of thirty shillings per capita for each efficient volunteer and fifty shillings for each proficient officer and sergeant should be paid to the respective corps. This capitulation grant is used to provide uniforms, etc., the government only supplying arms and belts. Neither officers nor men receive anything for their services, the grant being entirely absorbed in the expenses of maintaining the corps. The volunteer movement spread wonderfully, and there are now about 260,000 volunteers in Great Britain. The force is divided into mounted rifles, garrison artillery, engineers and rifles. Every volunteer to become efficient must attend at least thirty drills and the inspection the first year and six drills and the inspection every year thereafter. The greatest drawback to a military appearance is the variety of color affected by the different regiments in the uniform. Grey is the most prevalent, but this is of all shades, from the darkest slate to the lightest butternut. Scarlet is also largely in use and some corps stick to the rifle green. Of late years the force has greatly improved, and, no doubt, would prove a most important factor in case of invasion. It cannot, however, be sent out of the kingdom, and is for defensive purposes only. Commissions therein are granted by the lieutenants of counties on the recommendation of the commanding officer.

The Canadian militia consists of two portions, active and reserve. The latter consists of all males between the ages of 18 and 60 not enrolled in the active militia. For convenience of embodiment the Dominion is divided into brigade, regimental and company divisions. This, however, has not yet been done in Manitoba, British Columbia or the Territories, the sparsity of population hitherto having prevented it. Enrolment of the reserve militia has not taken place for many years. The active militia force of the Dominion is maintained by compulsory and voluntary enlistment, each section of the country being liable to be called upon to furnish its quota. Hitherto there has been no necessity to compel enlistment, as the force has been kept up to its standard by numbers of active and patriotic men who believe that they are fulfilling a duty to their country in serving in her forces. The government supplies new uniform every five years and furnishes sufficient supply of arms

and accoutrements to every corps on its organization. Officers, however, have to equip themselves entirely at their own expense, an outfit costing from \$250 to \$600 according to the branch of the service. Officers and men are paid for their services according to their rank, the militia act providing that not more than sixteen days drill per annum should be paid for, the usual number of days drill now being twelve. In most of the principal corps this drill pay is turned into the regimental fund in order to bear the expenses not provided for by the government, which in a first class corps are very heavy. The militia are liable to be called out at any moment for active service in case of invasion, insurrection or riot, and for such service are paid according to the rank. It is unnecessary to specify the occasions on which the force or portions of it have been called to arms as most of our readers can well remember them. Commissions in the militia are issued in the name of the Queen under the hand of the Governor-General. There is no doubt but that Canada produces splendid material for soldiers, and in case of necessity the Canadian militia would form an important portion of the defence of the empire on whose flag the sun never sets and to which we are so proud to belong.

Cavalry Remounts

THOSE officials to whom has been entrusted the responsibility of purchasing horses for our cavalry and artillery are surely pursuing a shortsighted and dangerous policy, in directing their attention to the development of foreign or colonial importations rather than encouraging the enterprise of British stock-breeders. Their only claim to justification, so far as we can see, is the old, mean, tradesman's motto. "Buy in the cheapest market," and it is doubtful whether that claim can be sustained. Even the tradesman does not carry this principle into all the affairs of every-day life; but, recognising the fact that his own prosperity depends in no small degree on the general welfare of the town or village community to which he belongs, he buys many things of neighbors at home, though fully aware that it is by no means the cheapest market. It is no doubt both wise and seemly that we should make friends with our colonies, and draw closer the bonds of mutual interest between the mother-country and her stalwart sons; but the best way to achieve those desirable objects is not by sacrificing the special interests of anybody in particular. We are told that it is necessary to go farther afield in search of suitable animals, because the horses to be found in Great Britain and Ireland are either not of the stamp most suitable for a trooper, or they cannot be procured in sufficient numbers, and are consequently much too dear. We venture to doubt these propositions; but even if substantially true, they can hardly be of more than temporary application. Careful inspection of the troop horses recently imported from Canada, and a comparison of the prices given for them with the rate paid to English, Scotch, or Irish breeders, convince us that no appreciable improvement of class has been secured nor any real saving effected. True, the average prices are a little lower, but these Canadian horses have been bought in many cases without the severe and prolonged trial that would have been insisted on by officers purchasing troopers in any part of the United Kingdom; the risk of injury during a voyage across the Atlantic is so considerable that a wide margin will have to be allowed for horses from that source; and the Canadian horses do not look like standing the wear and tear of rough work so well as the majority of those bred at home. It must be confessed, however, that they are free from the taint of many hereditary imperfections that disfigure and disqualify a very large proportion of British-bred horses. But the blemishes here referred to are simply the outcome of faulty methods that might easily be corrected by recourse to an intelligent system. The British Isles are still the home of the highest and most perfect breeds of horse the world has ever seen, and here we should at least continue to raise stock for every national purpose, and especially for all military requirements. Probably, in order to secure this end, the best means would be the establishment of stud farms, not after the example set by any continental nation, but in accordance with our insular peculiarities. We want to foster, and not stifle, individual enterprise. Therefore each stud farm should be simply the nucleus for an improved system of breeding in a given district. The studs should be subsidised by a government grant or supported wholly by government, and farmers resident within certain limits should have the use of horses belonging to the stud of their district at a nominal fee, but only on condition that they send only mares perfectly sound in health and free from hereditary faults. Eight or ten such studs might be established in different parts of Ireland, where they would probably serve a political object of some use at present, and be accepted as a boon by all except malcontent agitators, a similar number in Scotland, and perhaps twenty in various counties of England and Wales. The details of management might be very easily organised, and perhaps it would be well that the government should reserve for itself the "first refusal" at a stipulated price of every foal so bred when it reached the

age of three years. By establishing a system something after this model we should be keeping the horse supply in our own hands, and encouraging a national production that would be certain to develop in a few years to such an extent that we need never have recourse again to foreign countries or our colonies for artillery and cavalry horses.—*A. and H. G. Gazette.*

Captain Page's Services.

THE Canadian militia is the first branch of the auxiliary forces to receive the new Order of Merit. Captain Page, of the Dominion service, gets the decoration for the battle of Giniss. The Canadians should, and no doubt will, appreciate the honor done to them through their representative in Egypt, and it should act as an incentive to the colonists to prepare themselves to play their part in any military operation in which the mother country may engage. The selection of Capt. Page was in every sense a wise one. It will give a fillip to "amateur" soldiering throughout Her Majesty's dominions, for it is in effect an assurance from the throne that where duty is done by a subject it shall be fittingly acknowledged in whatever capacity the subject may serve in the face of an enemy.—*Army and Navy Gazette.*

"Among the recipients of distinction under the new Distinguished Service Order is Captain Page, of the Canadian militia. Captain Page was engaged in action at Giniss in the course of the Soudan operations, and it is for his services on that occasion that he receives the present distinction. The Giniss engagement, it will be remembered, took place at the close of 1885, when General Stephenson, commanding a detachment of British and Egyptian troops, attacked the Soudanese, and, after a sharp encounter, repulsed the rebel force." Captain Page, whose distinction is above recorded, is an old Winnipegger, and was a lieutenant in the 90th battalion, resigning to go to Egypt with the Canadian voyageurs. When the majority of the latter returned to Canada, Captain Page remained in command of a small armed steamer, the "Lotus," engaged in transport service, reconnoitring, etc., on the Nile. The news of his decoration will be a source of great pleasure to his many friends here.—*Canadian Gazette.*

The Military Governor of To-Day.

TALLEYRAND has described an ambassador as a person who lies abroad for his country's good. The illustration is capable of application to our soldiers who act as governors of military strongholds like Malta and Gibraltar. The notion is steadily permeating the Horse Guards that our generals should sit abroad to be civil to afternoon callers. On this point it is not our intention to lay unpleasant or disparaging inferences. The sentiment of the system is well understood, and it certainly does not synchronise with the old pious or Puritan doctrine that from him to whom much is given much shall be expected. It is a very common thing now to hear in a drawing-room some such reminiscent confessions of travel as this, "Oh, yes, we enjoyed ourselves immensely. General Blazer—he's the governor you know—was most kind to the Earl, reviewed all the troops for us, though the sun registered 150 degrees; and placed his aide-de-camp at our service. Most good, was it not? And the aide—such a nice man, who showed all his interest in Georgina, poor dear." This is the age of globe trotting, and the present season promises to carry an unusually strong contingent of visitors by the overland route. Four earls, a marquis with his royal wife, and half-a-score of illustrious commoners have either booked for India or are upon the point of doing so. Consequently the Governors of Gib. or of Malta, or elsewhere, are promised exceptionally numerous opportunities of showing their civility to their countrymen.

We are not, of course, going for a moment to quarrel with what has been, and may be our turn next. A military governor, who looks after the fortifications rather than his guests, is not a desirable person. He becomes essentially a bore. A former Earl of Lonsdale was in the habit of spending the greater part of each day in bed in his ancestral hall. This sorely troubled his more active brother; but the earl met each fraternal complaint that the place was going to the dogs, with the half-somnolent growl, "You should lie in bed as I do, Cecil, and then you wouldn't see it." So with General Blazer; if he went poking about, it would be to discover weaknesses in the armour of his fortress. Being a conscientious officer, he would reduce his discoveries to paper; his despatch, demanding half a million or so of expenditure, would inevitably possess the double disadvantage of adding to the already sufficiently multiplied troubles of the Secretary of State and the "Duke," and of getting himself voted a pragmatist busybody, in Pall Mall. As a crowning mortification, his despatch, or a synopsis of it, would fall into the hands of one of "those damned newspaper fellows," who would print it, and thus bring Parliament itself down upon the fortifications of the

island of Ambrosia. So the great thing is to send out a general who will not worry. General Sir "Plushly Velveteen" is a deuced nice fellow, and will make things pleasant. So Sir Plushly goes. The historical fact that his cellar is excellent does not of course influence his appointment to Ambrosia, though the fame of his fine old Tawny or the reputation of that magnificent Indian brown sherry, which His Royal Highness tasted on the Malabar hills, is certainly a strong recommendation in a general who is expected to be civil to travellers and do honor to the hospitable traditions of his country. What will Wolseley say? Oh, bother Wolseley! He cannot complain. He has done well by those who did well for him. If Wolseley were sent to Gib, or Malta, the estimates would go up in a manner to lose the government nearly all the boroughs. If Wolseley has to go out and fight Russia—well, he must fight and make the best of it. But the estimates *must* and *shall* be kept down just to appease the Treasury fiends and save the English boroughs. No, Sir Plushly Velveteen's the man. A capital officer, he will make the most of his resources and keep us easy here in London. London is a worrying place even in the depth of the profoundest peace. As if the kidnapping of Prince Alexander, with its concomitant perils of almost certain war, were not enough, we had to be plagued with a long mendacious rignmarole about corruption in the Ordnance department. So Gen. Sir Plushly Velveteen is appointed. He goes out with the reputation of an estimable man, a true courtier and a delightful host. He is favorable to sport, and notwithstanding his fifty winters, or the bang which he got upon the knee from a spent bullet in the Crimea, still dances divinely. Besides, he deserves his appointment. India has so few prizes of her own to offer. Sir Plushly left his liver in the Punjab; he may find a substitute for it in the brisk breezes of the Straits. He will look quietly after his fortifications, do his best, and give no trouble at home; and if, when the big war comes, anything unpleasant should happen to Sir Plushly's command, well, the fault must be laid upon the shoulders of the right victim—the Treasury fiend who stood between the safety of the Empire and the sordid prejudices of the English boroughs.—*Broad Arrow.*

Modern Languages in the Army.

THE results of the first examination in modern languages, which are published in the December issue of general orders, are disappointing and unsatisfactory. At the beginning of the year regulations were issued with the view of encouraging the members of the commissioned ranks to register themselves as proficient in the languages they knew. It was certain that a large proportion of officers spoke French and German—as their Sandhurst and Woolwich records proved—but the authorities had no official record of the fact beyond the information—too vague to be reliable—given in the annual confidential reports. It was therefore provided that an officer might present himself for examination in any language he chose. Two standards were fixed, the lower, the "pass" for which the candidate was noted as having a knowledge of the language, and the higher, the "further," on passing which he was recorded as eligible for an interpretership. For passing their second examination, money prizes were in certain cases offered. An officer qualifying as an interpreter in Russian, Turkish, or Arabic, was to receive a hundred pounds. It was generally thought that a good number would carry off these special rewards, while several hundred would at once qualify in German and French. But the results of the examination go to show that the army has not troubled its head about the matter. We believe about thirty or forty officers presented themselves to be examined in October last, and of these only seven have qualified as interpreters. An artillery captain passed in French, German and Russian. Three others of the same arm passed in Russian only. A Royal engineer and a linesman passed in French, while a second linesman qualified in German and Dutch. And this was all. It is absurd to suppose that there are not hundreds of French and German speaking officers in the service, and it can only be concluded that the invitation of the authorities to come and be examined has not been considered worth the trouble of accepting. This is a pity. The general order was framed in a manner seemingly calculated to attract candidates, and in those cases where an officer would have to apply himself specially to study, a reward was offered. More than this indeed, for it was announced that on "passing" in Russian, Turkish or Arabic, special leave would be given to travel in the country, with a view to the candidate preparing himself to get through the "further," and thus become a registered interpreter. But the whole scheme has so far fallen flat. Perhaps this is because it is not sufficiently understood. In this case the attention we are directing to the subject will no doubt have an effect. But we fear that the service is not alive to the real importance of the question. The mother tongue no doubt answers perfectly well for every-day work, both at home and abroad. But on active service the knowledge of languages is not only valuable but necessary; and this being the case, officers should not only keep up their French, German, or any other language they may happen to have acquired, but they should let

the horse guards know it. This is so clearly in their own personal interests as in the general interests of the service, that it is difficult to account for the dearth of candidates in the examinations held the other day. However, the examination in question was the beginning of a new system, which may develop as time goes on. Meanwhile, what will our French and German friends say when they can read that in the whole British service only two officers can speak German and three French? Perhaps this reflection will bring candidates forward. The examinations are to take place twice a year—in April and October—and presumably in the expectation of a rush the authorities were more than a year making arrangements for holding them. Let us hope that the next examination will show good results. The last is almost a disgrace.—*Broad Arrow.*

Mess Room Yarns.

THE GENERAL AND THE BANSHEE.—BY TIM DALY.

"FAIX, thin, that's the truth anyway, praise be to Balaam's ass for the same," said Tim Daly, interrupting a conversation that was running on the literature of the season. "Shure, now that Christmas is on us, we'll be deluged wid ghosts—may chaste Joseph stand betwixt us an' harm!—but the most illigant ghost story, and moral and instructive too, mind yez, that iver I heard tell of happened with General Daly that time when me saintly mother—may the angels rock her in the cradle of bliss for iver and iver, amin!—wint home to England wid meself, that's wan, and me two twin shisters, that's three, all as babies, to ould Ireland, to dhrink the Milesian air that makes the foineest men and woinin or childher that iver was or will be, glory be to Pathrick. Well, boys, it was all in a hurry an' a consternation that the General and Mrs. Daly were in whin these twins came on thim at wance, for sure it was foive-and-twinty years they were wedded, and the divil an heir to ther throne at all at all. An', begorrah, the General couldn't git lave to go home with his conshort of a sudden, so, faix, it was behind in India he had to stay. . . . It was lost he'd have been only for an ould friend, be name Costello, and a collecthor widout chick or child. Whin Costello he seed the General, the frind ov his youth, wid the corner of his mouth pulled down and his nose twitchin' loike the fayture of a German doll that is moved by strings, and all for the frettin' afther Mrs. Daly, he took him to his house, whin, bedad, wid anglin' and the port wine, the General began to grow himself again, though his narves was not oversthrong. Well, boys, it was about Christmas-time, and the ould General and Costello were out, as I've told yez, whin two cadets, the divil's own fry, named Clinton and Macnamara, came to Madras. Costello he give the two boys a shake-down, lint them a boat, and inthertained them illigantly, tho' it was but a small istablishment he had as an ould bachelor, barrin' port wine, but of that he had a godown full, and, begorrah, perhaps more. Well, soon these couple of boys began a-plotting mischief, whin nothin' would serve the sacrilegious young viliyans but to take a rise out of the General himself, the Apostle protect us!

"It was wan sich night, Christmas Eve I am tould, that the General and collecthor got talkin' of the Banshee, and, the wan being a Connaught man and the other an Ulster man, it was only natural that they should thry which could hate aich other wid the spirits belonging to their rishpective families. It was awful the stories they had to tell on all the terrors that the Banshee brought on them that were their blood relations; but on wan point they agreed, and that was that the only mortal protection against the Banshee was running wather.

"Well, according to his custom, ould Costello made the two cadets finish their wine by eleven o'clock; and thin whin they had gone to bed wid his blessin', honest man, he and the General sat themselves down for a shteady drink, it being Christmas Eve, and a day to be remimbered, yez see, wid good liquor. The collecthor brought a cooper of port to the front, and they reshumed their discoorsin' on the Banshee, till, begorrah, they frightened wan another so, that whin a rat began to eat the leg of the sideboard the pair of them fell into a thremble like. They opened another bottle, and pertended to laugh at each other, but jist thin the clock struck twelve, and wid the last shtroke there came a cry sich as would hev given yez the cramps in yer belly to hear it. It began wid the howl of a two-year ould child cutthin his back teeth; then it divarged into the coughin' in the last stage of consumption, and it wound up with nothin' more nor less than the pheale which some think is the Indian Banshee; but others the jackal whin he can't sit down at night by raison of a hinderpest to which he is liable in his tail. Well, boys, whin the General heard the awful, ghostly music that seemed to come from the window close by him, he turned as pale as a sheet, and the glass of wine in his hand thrembled so that it broke itself against the decanthur. As for the collecthor, faix he tumbled himself undher the table, where he repayed all the prayers he knew as an innocent child, so loud that it was like a madman howlin'. It was wid great courage that the General sit in his chair suspectin' the next yowl, but bedad whin

it did come from the opposite window—an' if that's possible, worse nor before—he made a demonstrathion to the rear, and small blame to him, and rowled undher the table along with the collecthor.

"Oh then, Ginerol, Ginerol," cries Costello, takin' him round the neck, 'but it's sorrow that's on me to think your time is come. It's forty years now, man and boy, that we've been fast friends; but its goin' yez are, for the divil a wan iver yet heard the Banshee screech like that but was dead and buried widin' three days, ochone, ochone!' 'Begorrah,' cries the Ginerol, resinting the decait the other was puttin' on him; 'is it shure it's not yerself, Mither Costello, that's booked be the dead coach? Be all the blind beggars of Cloncarty's but I'll take my 'varsal oath that that was *not* the screech of the Daly Banshee at all, at all; but of an Ulster spirit. Sure I recognised the Scotch dhronne in her pipes at wance, and the sorra a fear of a mishtake at all."

"Don't, Ginerol—don't be imperrilin' yer immortal sowl wid that delusion," cries the other, eagerly. 'It's as a friend I'm spakin', and be all the saints in the calinther that yowl niver came from the North. Oh, 'Thady, me frind, me frind! Is it goin' to lave me yez air in yer prime too. Ochone! Ochone! And with that he began to bawl out his *paters* and *aves* agin, so that the young blaguards outside, peepin' in through the winder blinds had to run away a bit to have their laugh out—the jocose divils. When they came back again wid a stock of gravity, begorrah, the ould boys were still in the stringth ov their argument undher the table, taken cowl'd comfort out ov the thoughts—the wan that it was the Daly Banshee, the other that it was the Costello spirit. So, just to prevint blows between them, Macnamara, the rogue, gives them another screech, that drew them like badgers from their den.'

"Oh, thin, Holy Mother of Moses, will yez tell me where's there runnin' wather,' roars out Costello, scramblin' from undher the table wid the Ginerol afther him.

"Wather wather,' says he, half mad with the fright that was on him.

"Run to me bath-room, ye sow,' cries the Ginerol; 'there's the big tub there, an', be the Powers, if it is not in it we are in a brace of shakes, it's a hould of us she'll have us, shure as there's frogs in France.'

"Faix, boys, the Collecthor sazed on the idea as if it was starvin' he was for want, and away the two of thim ran to the bath-room, and in wid them into the big tub, sittin' down in the wather, wan at aich ind, like a couple of Robinson Crusoes in a canoe, or Captain Cook and Columbus discoverin' the wurrild. The cadets—the blaguards—stole round to the bath-room window, laughin' fit to split, and there they heard the ould boys confessin' their sins and takin' absolution from aich other as well as they could with the cowl'd, for the wather was up to their chins, do you see, and the-month December."—*United Service Gazette*.

Correspondence.

The Editor desires it distinctly understood that he does not hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

COLLECTING REGIMENTAL ITEMS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

SIR,—What has recently been said in your columns under the head of Queries and Replies reminds one that very little has been done towards preserving the history of each individual militia corps. As time goes on much which is, or will be, of interest is forgotten, and cannot readily be traced. Let any officer who has lately joined the force, endeavor to learn the history of his corps, and he will soon find how little information he can obtain. Two or three incidents of more than ordinary note will be gathered, and the rest will most probably be a blank. As an instance of this, the fact may be cited, that not long since an officer who was giving up the command of the corps with which he had been connected many years, was asked the name of the officer whom he succeeded. He could not recollect, and diligent enquiry has so far failed to elicit the information.

A simple remedy is suggested, which if followed would at least preserve much which would be of future value. Let every officer, and particularly every commanding officer, provide himself with a scrap book, say of foolscap size, to be devoted exclusively to clippings from newspapers relating to military matters which affect his own corps. The press of the day usually record such matters as appointments and promotions, notices of inspections and marches out, regimental sports, and messes, competitions, prizes and band notes, etc. Every paragraph, complimentary or otherwise, in which the corps is mentioned should be cut out and preserved. The number of items collected in this way in the course of a year, especially in the case of city corps will be surprising. When a commanding officer retires his scrap book should be handed down to his successor, who should continue on the collecting, and in this way, each corps will have a history of its own affairs, which in time will be of great value, and which will tend to individualize corps, and to make each one value the more their connection therewith.

A. C. O.

PERMANENT CORPS GRIEVANCES.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette

DEAR SIR,—Not long ago I noticed in your columns a letter from a person signing himself "Cloudy," in which he exposed some of the grievances of the permanent force of Canada.

Lately an event has happened which bears out his statement and shows up with renewed light the unfairness under which this portion of the militia exist. Let me draw your attention to the instances following:

Lt.-Col. McGill joined the R. M. C. as major in 1883; he becomes a lieut.-col. in 1886 after three years' service in the college.

Major Short joined the permanent force in 1871. After fifteen years service, including North-West rebellion and mentioned in despatches, still a major.

Major Wilson joined permanent force 1872. Egyptian medal; still a major.

Capt. Van Straubensee graduated at R. M. C. December, 1880, joined R. E. Appointed instructor R. M. C. October, 1886, and made captain local army rank (this makes him senior to all captains in Canadian militia).

Capt. Peters joined permanent force 1873. Red river third expedition command of detachments A & B batteries; commanded A battery, regiment Canadian artillery during North-West rebellion, 1885; mentioned in despatches; still a captain.

Thus Capt. Peters sees the boy who joined as a cadet while he held his present rank now his senior. There are other officers in the same condition. This is extremely gratifying and encouraging to the officers of the regiment Canadian artillery, and I suppose there are people who will still maintain they have nothing to complain of.

But after a glance at the dates I think we can see a reason for cadets of the R. M. C. refusing anything in the Canadian regular force, when they can obtain anything regular in any other force in the universe.

December 23, 1886.

VOUCHER.

Regimental Notes.

We wish to publish information respecting all the doings of all corps. Will the officers interested, particularly at a distance, assist us by having news relating to their corps promptly forwarded?

CHRISTMAS WITH "B" COMPANY, I.S.C. ST. JOHNS.

St. Johns.—In commemoration of the great festival of Christmas the library of B company, in which the men partook of dinner was tastefully decorated. Wreaths of evergreens were fantastically pendent from the ceiling, streamers of blue and red were arranged on one side of the apartment, while, in striking through pleasing contrast, streamers of orange and pink were placed on the opposite. Conspicuous and brilliant were the stars and shields formed of bayonets, of cleaning rods and chains, and of helmet chains and spikes on silver ground. Mottoes with appropriate inscriptions glittered in the lamp lights. In addition, what with the bunting, almost transparent and light as gossamer, the chains of variegated paper, oscillating with every stir of the air, the festoons of artificial flowers, the flags of many nations, the resplendent glare of the lamps, and the mellow lights emitted by the Chinese lanterns, the scarlet tunics of the soldiers constituted a scene that the beholder would scarcely believe a reality, but would rather fancy it one of which he had read in the "Arabian Nights Entertainments." Nor could he fail to observe the sparkle of medals, the gift of their Sovereign, on many manly breasts, some of which were won beneath the hot suns of Africa, while others were gained by participation in the victory of Batoche. Here, however, the Soudan hero forgets the burning sands of Egypt, and the gallant soldier who was besmeared with mud in the trenches at Batoche now looks clean and happy enjoying the gladsome festival of peace and good will.

At one o'clock, the commandant, Col. D'Orsonnens, with the other officers of the company arrived, accompanied by Madame Coursol, the Hon. Mr. Marchand, M. P. P., Rev. J. F. Renaud, E. R. Smith, Esq., *St. Johns News*, Mr. Decelle, Mr. Heward, Manager Merchants Bank, St. Johns, Mr. Wurtele and other distinguished citizens.

The popular and genial commandant asked if there were "any complaints" and then told the men how sorry Mme. D'Orsonnens was not to be able to visit them on this occasion. He inculcated the necessity of obedience to discipline, and, alluding to the defaulters, said he thought none the less of his "intimate friends," though he was sometimes obliged to award them severe punishment, but this was the fault of the "Queen's Regulations," and having addressed some words of encouragement, he proposed the toast of "Her Majesty the Queen," which was honored in the usual way. The men were sorry for the absence of the Countess D'Orsonnens, who is highly esteemed by them. The Hon. Mr. Marchand then addressed the company, and referring to the period of the Fenian invasion was glad to meet again his old comrade in arms, Col. D'Orsonnens, he complimented the men on their martial appearance, spoke of the good feeling which had always existed between himself and the company, and expressed his belief that B company would compare favorably with any of the permanent Canadian forces. Sergeant-Major Phillips proposed the health of the commandant, Col. D'Orsonnens, this toast was promptly answered by the company rising to their feet, drinking his health and then giving three cheers in his honor. Rev. Mr. Renaud spoke of the happiness of meeting his comrades again, assuring them he wished to be classed as one of the "boys," congratulated them on their fine military appearance, on their general good behavior, expressed his hope that they would often meet on similar occasions, but having observed the men's tunic's slightly too big and also that the tables were groaning under the weight of plum puddings and other good things, he would not further detain them, but would allow them to do justice to the ample repast before them. Sergt.-Major Phillips proposed, in happy terms the toast of the "Citizens of St. Johns." In response, Mr. Smith, the talented editor of the *St. Johns News*, said this was the third time he had had the pleasure of addressing the soldiers on a similar occasion; on the first occasion he addressed words of encouragement, on the second words of approbation, and on the present occasion he had also to address them in approving terms. Complimenting the men on their appearance, their deportment and conduct in the streets, and expressing the hope that the best of good feeling would exist in the future as in the past between the military and citizens of St. Johns, he concluded amid the plaudits which a speech, so gracefully worded, could not fail to evoke.

The dinner consisted of turkey, goose, roast pork, plum pudding, confectionery in infinite variety, fruits of this and of almost all other lands—in short there was nothing wanting. Each man got a sufficient supply of beer or cider as his fancy preferred. Corpl. Walsh, with a sufficient staff of waiters, attended with much satisfaction to the wants of every one.

Delighted themselves, and having given delight to the men, the colonel, officers and guests proceeded to the sergeants' mess, when Sergt.-Instructor Rivest proposed the health of the commandant. The colonel delivered a short but neat speech, in which he expressed a hope that his present non-commissioned officers would serve many years under his command, said "the non-commissioned officers were the link which attached the men to him, and that by their zeal and attention to duties discipline could best be maintained. Sergt.-Instructor Duplessis proposed the toast of "Our Guests." In reply Hon. Mr. Marchand, amongst other complimentary allusions, expressed his belief that in intelligence and other military qualities the non-commissioned officers of B company were second to none in Canada.

Thus was spent a happy time between the soldiers of St. Johns and its citizens. Long may this good feeling continue.

Private Bachand, who is quite an artist, decorated the room under the supervision of the sergt.-major, ably assisted by Sergt.-Instructors Rivest and Duplessis.

Ottawa.—A course of military lectures to be given during the winter months by the officers of the Governor-General's Foot Guards, was inaugurated on Thursday evening last, when before his officers and a few friends Lieut.-Col. J. Pennington Macpherson took up the subject of "Hasty Entrenchments." He began by remarking that it was necessary for the officers of the different branches of the service in Canada to have a fair idea of field engineering as if called suddenly into the field there were so few engineers in the force, only three companies in the whole Dominion, that, if ever so well qualified, they could be of comparatively little use. During one evening it was impossible to do more than to give a general idea of the subject, a full knowledge of which could only be obtained by going through a course of instruction at the Royal Military College. There, every branch of the subject is taught by highly trained officers drawn from the royal engineers and artillery, and the work is actually done either in full or model size. There were a great many interesting points on which he would be unable to touch, but he hoped to be able to convey a fair idea of the manner in which hasty entrenchments and field works were constructed and defended. The objects of fortification were then explained to be: 1st, to provide cover from the fire of an enemy; 2nd, to enable the defending force to deliver their fire and counter attack in the most advantageous manner, and 3rd, to expose the enemy to disadvantage in attacking. The first was done by taking advantage of any existing cover and supplementing it by shelter trenches, field works and redoubts. To attain the second it was necessary that the position of the works should be judiciously chosen. They should have a clear view of the ground in front and be so disposed as not to hamper the defender's movements. The third was accomplished by placing obstacles in the path of the enemy, which would detain him under fire without affording him any protection from its effects. The thickness of various materials considered proof against rifle bullets at fifty yards were then given, as well as the thickness of a parapet to withstand artillery fire, the different kinds of which, both as to its direction with reference to the horizontal plane and its trajectory was fully explained. Col. Macpherson then gave the rules which would govern the selection of the position of a shelter trench, the manner in which the trench should be arranged and the distance to which the ground should be cleared; and illustrated by means of diagrams the different kinds of hasty entrenchments which might be thrown up in from five minutes to four hours, and which afforded protection to men lying down, kneeling or standing. Diagrams of gun pits and gun epaulements were also shown and their construction explained. The conditions which must be observed in the placing of obstacles and the manner in which they were used were detailed, and illustrations given of the construction of military pits, abatis, entanglements, chevaux de frise, palisades, etc. The dimensions of field works were then given, and the manner of tracing, profiling and defilading shown by means of diagrams. The names of the different parts of a work, the angles at which they were constructed, the manner of revetting by gabions, fascines, logs, etc., the construction of casemates, blockhouses, traverses, the defence of walls, and of a house, and the construction of stockades, tambours, machicoulis, galleries, etc., were explained and illustrated. The lecturer also made some remarks as to the manner in which working parties were formed and brought to the site of the work, and stress was laid upon the necessity of taking great pains in all preliminary details, so that the men might arrive properly provided with tools, their task clearly defined and in such formation as would admit of their ready distribution on the work. The manner in which picks and shovels were carried was shown, and the necessity of avoiding any clatter which would betray the whereabouts of the working party pointed out. The ordinary tasks of untrained workmen, the distance at which they should work, the direction in which the pick is to be used were explained, and the lecture was brought to a close with some instructions as to the duties of superintending officers and company officers.

At the conclusion Major Anderson, 43rd, expressed his appreciation of the lecture, and said that the inception of such a course should be productive of a great deal of good. Major Todd and other officers followed in the same strain, and after a discussion on some points which had been brought out, the meeting broke up. It is understood that papers for the next evening will be prepared by Lieuts. Bowie, Gisborne and Shannon.

The annual dinner of the Ottawa field battery took place last Wednesday evening at the Queen restaurant, when some seventy-five sat down to as nice a bill of fare set before them as the most fastidious could desire. The dinner was got up by the non-commissioned officers of the battery, and therefore Sergt.-Major Peck occupied the chair. The vice chairs being filled by Staff-Sergts. Dunnett and Morson. The chairman had on his right hand Major Stewart, commander of the battery, and on his left Mr. McLeod Stewart, Mayor-elect of Ottawa. Other guests present included Major Stewart of the North-West scouts, formerly of the P. L. D. G.; Capt. Evans, R. L., late of the O. F. B.; Ald.-elect Borthwick, Sergt. Wheatly, Sergt.-Major Thompson, P. L. D. G.; Sergt.-Major Laurie, 43rd Batt. The officers of the corps present besides Major Stewart were Surgeon Bell, Veterinary Surgeon Harris, Lieut. Bliss and Lieut. Gordon. During the evening a telegraphic message was received from Capt. Bliss, from Grand Falls, N. B., expressing regret at his inability to be present on the occasion. Sergt.-Major Conroy, G. G. F. G., was unable to be present owing to illness. Dinner having been disposed of, a distribution to the officers and men of the battery of some of the many prizes won during the past season was made. Mayor-elect Stewart did this in a graceful manner. Those who received prizes were Major Stewart for the whole battery; Corp. Cowan, Sergt. Ingram, Driver Gray, and Drivers Gray and Johnson a drivers' prize. The cash amount of the prizes distributed was \$169, while there were associated with these cash prizes cups and other trophies not yet to hand.

The usual loyal toasts were then honored. In connection with that of the Governor General the pleasing announcement was made to the battery that His Excellency had declined the proffered appointment to the British Cabinet, as he did not wish to sever his official connection with Canada before the natural expiration of his term. The announcement was received with great cheering. The "Army, Navy and Active Militia" was responded to, first by Major Stewart, the organizer of the P. L. D. G., who expressed the pleasure it had afforded him during the late rebellion to co-operate with the Canadian militia, in command of 150 scouts composed of as good and faithful men as could be got together, in bringing about its prompt suppression. Capt. Evans, R. L., for many years of the O. F. B., and Paymaster A. S. Woodburn, O. F. B., made neat and happy replies.

After some other complimentary toasts "The Officers of the Ottawa Field Battery," proposed by Mr. McLeod Stewart, brought a reply first, of course, from Major Stewart, the popular commander, who referred with pardonable pride to the splendid record of the battery in competitions against the Dominion, and to the record of this year in particular, mentioning the following amongst the trophies it had won during the past season: The general efficiency prize donated by the Governor-General; the Dominion Artillery Association prize for picket competition; the 3rd prize in the Gzowski challenge cup competition, an accident on the field depriving them of first; the Oswald cup for the highest score in the Dominion of Canada—all the above competitions being open to the Dominion. The battery also took two Ontario Provincial prizes, these being the first in the Ontario Artillery Association competition and the

Ontario challenge cup presented by Lieut.-Col. Montizambert. Then amongst the individual winnings of members were the D.A.A first prize of silver cross guns and \$15, and the Ontario Association prize of \$15, both won by Gunner Cowan; the 3rd prize in the Dominion competition, by Sergt. Ingram; the fourth by Gunner Gray, and the 18th by Sergt. Pinkerton. Other toasts and speeches followed which we regret that want of space prevents us from detailing, and a most enjoyable meeting broke up at a late hour.

The snowshoe club recently organized in connection with the Governor-General's Foot Guards had their first tramp on Tuesday night. A start was made from the Drill Hall at 8 o'clock sharp, when there were mustered nearly 50 all told, representatives from each company being present. Capt. Hodgins, the captain of the club, took the lead, and Staff-Sergt. Newby, the whipper-in, armed with a tremendous horn, which he vigorously manipulated at intervals, brought up the rear. After nearly two hours' tramping the club proceeded to the residence of the honorary president, Col. Macpherson, where they were received by that gentleman and Mrs. Macpherson, and sumptuously entertained. Supper over, all adjourned to the drawing room, where an hour was very pleasantly spent in song, "Auld Lang Syne" and "God Save the Queen" being sung about 11 o'clock. Outside the house the club heartily cheered their host and hostess. Up Rideau street the snowshoers then proceeded in column, singing merrily on the way. All were enthusiastic concerning the sport in which they had been participating, many for the first time, and the next tramp of the club, which will be in two weeks, will, no doubt, be attended by all those present last evening and many more. The Guards' club has been very happily inaugurated, and from present indications will soon be one of the most flourishing of such institutions in the city.

Regina.—On the 23rd the first of a series of entertainments given by the N.W.M.P., came off very successfully in the large assembly room at the barracks, under the management of Inspector Matthews, assisted by R. S. M. Belcher and Sergts. White and Straton. The programme was a varied one, including instrumental and vocal music, dances, recitations, and farces, all performed by members of the force. These entertainments are doubly beneficial; in keeping the men amused through the long winter evenings, and in furnishing a few dollars for worthy objects.

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Department of Railways and Canals,
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A. CAMPBELL,
 Postmaster-General,
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