

The Canadian Militia Gazette

THE POPULAR ORGAN OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

(Adopted as their official paper, by the Dominion Artillery Association, the Ontario Artillery Association, the Canadian Military Rifle League, and the Royal Military College Club.)

VOL. VI.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 29TH JANUARY, 1891.

No. 5.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

AN announcement worthy of more than passing note was made at the annual gathering of the Royal Military College Club, reported elsewhere in this issue. We refer to the application from the British East Africa Company for graduates of the College, to enter their service in Africa. The Marquis of Lorne, a warm friend of the Dominion and its institutions, is intimately connected with the management of the Company, and to his interest is no doubt due the compliment paid to the College by this application. We understand that some graduates have already tendered their services, and no doubt others will be heard from, as the opportunity seems a favourable one for the profitable exercise of their professional skill as engineers and surveyors, with a spice of adventure added. We believe the Company stipulate for a three years engagement; offering a salary of 335, 390 and 450 rupees per month respectively for each of the three years, with a bonus of 150 rupees and an increase of 50 rupees per month in salary upon passing an examination in the Swahali language and approval of qualifications for the service. The company pay the expense of a first-class passage from Canada to Mombaza and return, upon termination of service, as well as travelling expenses while in their employ.

To the Royal Military College Club we feel greatly indebted for their kind action in adopting this as their official paper, and in return for the recognition and endorsement thus given we hope to be able to render them useful service. With the co-operation of the graduates, an endeavour will be made to secure regular communications from all those who, by reason of the services in which they are engaged, some in the most remote quarters, have become of special interest not only to their old friends of the College but to the numerous body of admirers who know them only by their worthily won reputations.

IN the line of the suggestion contained in last issue, we are happy to learn that there are good prospects of a great military celebration at Ottawa this year, the officers of the Governor General's Foot Guards having taken the matter in hand. Amongst the corps invited to participate and not unlikely to accept, are, we believe, the 13th Battalion of

Hamilton, the 57th Peterborough Rangers and the 5th Royal Scots of Montreal; and when others are heard from no doubt the list of likely visitors will be largely swelled. Whether or not anything is done in the meantime to give shape to the larger project of an annual celebration under Dominion auspices, the gathering of a considerable number of outside officers together at Ottawa will afford a good opportunity for discussion of the project.

CREEDMOOR may see a Canadian team compete for the Hilton Trophy this year, even though the great meeting there is fixed for the same week as our D. R. A. matches. The Trophy is usually contested for on Saturday, and as our meeting can be brought to a close Thursday evening there would be just time for a team picked at Ottawa to reach Creedmoor. Such a team would be at the disadvantage of shooting on a strange range immediately after a long rail journey, but the experiment would be worth trying for one year at least. An exchange of visits like this would do much to foster the international good feeling which fortunately already exists. To read some of the fire-eating newspapers one would almost fancy it dangerous to allow the fighting men of the two countries to come together; but we are convinced that the sentiment of the great mass of the people of the United States is in harmony with the motto of the Canadian militia—"Defence, not Defiance," and that the better acquainted the two peoples become the less danger there will be of hostile interference with each other's affairs.

QUARTERMASTER BLISS writes very warmly in behalf of the Commissariat of 1885, but we are sure he has put upon the former letter on the subject a construction never intended. "T's" contention was for a trained commissariat, and in support of his case he alleged that a supply of trained men would have ensured a more satisfactory service in the Northwest in 1885. It is not a serious reflection upon a commissariat officer to say that he would likely improve with experience.

CAPT. WEEKS' letter in our correspondence columns would lead one to infer that the Charlottetown riflemen are not to have a range unless they pay for it themselves, but this surely cannot be the state of the case, especially in view of

the tendency manifested strongly of late to give greatly increased encouragement to rifle shooting. We feel sure that there is something yet unexplained to account for the seeming indifference to the interests of the riflemen, and trust that the publication of his letter will lead to an official explanation calculated to soothe the irritation which the tone of the letter would make it appear is felt in Charlottetown.

THE CAVALRY case elsewhere stated by Major Dunn, is a strong argument in favour of our plea for organization. Why is there such a complete absence of encouragement? The answer is, because no organized effort is made to secure it. What influence would the riflemen have without their associations, and how could the artillery accomplish anything to speak of had they not a managing body of their own choosing?

Who are these politicians of whom our correspondent writes in his criticism of the plan of the Militia? Are they not closely identified with the force? We are afraid the politicians are not to be got rid of; and such being the case, the best thing to do is to imbue them with proper ideas of the needs of the force, so that their interference may be for good.

AN ARRAY of testimonials as to the favourable standing of this paper with its readers in all parts of the Dominion was published a few weeks ago, but one more eloquent than them all has since been received. It came from a non-commissioned officer in Toronto, and was a cheque for four years' subscription in advance, sent in response to a bill for the one year just then commenced. No words were wasted—the cheque spoke for itself. Occasional incidents of this kind stand in strong contrast with the experience of a representative of this paper who undertook a few years ago to personally solicit the officers assembled in a Western brigade camp, to enrol themselves upon its subscription list. One Lieut.-Colonel being waited upon for the second time, according to appointment, said he had talked the matter over at a meeting of his officers, and, to be quite frank, they said they did not care to subscribe as the paper might not live for more than a year. He subscribed himself, however, and was altogether so polite that the pessimism—so to speak—of his officers was almost forgiven.

THE man who ought to but won't subscribe is bad enough, but what should be said of the man who subscribes and won't pay? We've got a little list of men of this kind—some rather widely known too, and some day perhaps we will exhibit it. Not a list of well intentioned folk who merely procrastinate, but dyed-in-the-wool offenders who take no notice of the accounts sent them and when at last by the relatively expensive process of a bank draft we induce them to declare themselves, make some flimsy excuse for its non-acceptance. They continue, however, to accept the paper, and no doubt are its harshest critics in their several localities.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

THE COMMISSARIAT OF 1885.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—In your issue of the 1st January I am sincerely sorry to read over the signature of T a slur on the commissariat department of the staff of 1885. As I was personally engaged on this staff all through that lamentable trouble I am compelled to ask your correspondent to state over his own signature facts proved by records of the militia department, of negligence, insubordination or any crime which can be traced to the brave boys and noble civilians who were with us during that campaign.

The fact of the publication of a slur of this sort on our militia force shows more completely that my long training under militia men of the old school is correct, as I was taught to receive and carry out orders and not comment on them.

My excuse in this case for violating a sound principle in this matter is that the contents of a portion of a communication in your journal signed by T. is quite wrong, and I can assure you, sir, that if he belonged to a corps of any respectable standing his commanding officer would be fully justified in placing him under arrest for the use of such language.

To my mind a journal of the standing of the GAZETTE should be very careful in reference to the use of its columns in matters of this sort, slurring as it were the standing of the militia of Canada. In the face of the present Indian troubles now calling the serious attention and sacrifice of our brothers in arms on the other side of the lines, we, as Canadians, here should show the best front we can, and not lower our dignity as officers in Her Majesty's service as I have noticed some do.

Yours faithfully,

GEO. P. BLISS,

Quartermaster 91st Battalion.

19th January, 1891.

THE CANADIAN CAVALRY.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE: Sir,—As a reader of the GAZETTE, I was very much pleased to notice your proposal in October last for a Cavalry Association or something of that sort in order to improve the arm of the service to which I belong. Referring again to the *Broad Arrow's* comment upon the "Cavalry revival" in last week's issue, brings this subject once more before your readers, with this disadvantage to us, however, that unless some explanation is given, the general reader will be under the impression that something must be radically wrong with our Cavalry officers. In order therefore to put ourselves right in this matter, I desire to point out one or two causes for the present state of affairs, and in order to do so, I would like to commence at the bottom of what I consider goes a great way to discourage the force. Prior to 1866, provision was made in the Militia Act for paying the Militia when called out on active service, in the same ratio as were the officers and men in the British army. This would give the mounted man about 11c per day more than his Infantry brother in arms. Although this provision was made in the Act, it was never paid, and in the present Militia Act, there is no provision of the sort. Now why in all honesty should the mounted man be compelled to clean and care for his horse, his saddlery, and after this his own accoutrements, for the same pittance that pays our Infantry, who have each less than one-third of the work to do that a mounted man has. We will next take the case of escorts, of which my own corps forms a good many. First, the saddlery has to be

issued, and it will take a pretty smart troop that can get the saddles issued in an hour; it will take another hour to return those saddles into store, thus taking five hours on an average for which he is paid the amount that Infantry gets for a similar service performed in three. This unfairness in reference to pay has been pointed out on different occasions, but all to no purpose.

You say in your article in the October number: Our Cavalry should take into serious consideration the very unsatisfactory position they occupy in the Canadian Service owing to lack of organization. This, it appears to me, should be lack of encouragement, instead of organization, and as a proof of this, you admit it, further on, by saying there are no prizes, no competitions, etc.

Your copying the comments in the *Broad Arrow*, in reference to General Middleton's enthusiasm for Garrison instruction, will explain the reason, perhaps, why he took so little interest in our Cavalry force whilst in command here. As for our own corps, it never was inspected by him, and although he has frequently passed through the Old Fort on his way to the new Garrison, I am not aware that he knew where our saddlery and arms are kept. Enthusiasm is all very well for an officer commanding any one branch of the service, but my impression is that a commanding General over our Militia should be an enthusiast for his whole Army instead of one branch of it.

Closing with these few remarks for the present.

I am yours, etc.,

ORLANDO DUNN, Bt.-Major,
Governor-General's Body Guard.

THE PLAN OF THE MILITIA.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—The letter in your issue of January 15th, 1891, signed "District Camp Staff," throws out a few good, sound suggestions for the improvement of our Militia, but so long as the Militia is governed and managed to suit the whims of politicians, I am afraid that all such suggestions will prove to be of little service.

Speaking of unqualified officers, surely our new Commander-in-Chief, when he looked over our Militia list, must have noticed how the Regulations and Orders have been carried out in this respect, and I do hope that he will be able to influence the powers that be, for the good of the service, to a greater extent than some of his predecessors have done.

While suggesting improvement, we must, of course, remember our finances, and there is no doubt but that the Militia might be made far more efficient than it is to-day without one cent of additional expense.

To my mind, the most important part of "District Camp Staff's" letter is his reference to rural corps. His suggestion is an excellent one to modify the present wild system of drilling these skeleton battalions. I would go even further and say that a great many of them should not exist at all, for money is wasted upon them year after year that might be so usefully expended with either independent companies at towns and villages or city corps, where you always have your men available in cases of emergency.

The authorities do not seem to favour independent companies, and the tendency appears to be to disband as fast as possible the few that remain. I think that this is a pity, because a well-looked-after independent company in a town or village is of some permanent good to the force.

I am well aware that there are in Canada a few rural battalions whose companies are well organized, and whose men are available at other times than when the corps happens to be under canvas, but these are very few, and I have seen a corps go into camp for twelve days' drill with scarcely enough of "last year's" men to make non-com. officers. In case of sudden trouble I think it would be quite as easy to enrol a new battalion as to resurrect one

of these shells, and bear in mind that these "shells" draw the same pay per man each year they drill as our city corps, besides the additional expense of a twelve days' camp.

Yours, etc.,

"IMPROVE."

HARD LUCK FOR CHARLOTTETOWN RIFLEMEN.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—With your kind permission I wish to lay before your readers a matter of vital importance to the welfare of the militia of the Province of Prince Edward Island, and to endeavour thereby to redress a grievance which it appears cannot be reached through the regular channel.

The facts of the case are as follows: We have for a long time been in the enjoyment of a rifle range conveniently situated both from its proximity to the City of Charlottetown and from its freedom from danger arising from stray bullets. For the use of this range for annual target practice by the city companies and for the camp of rural battalions held at Brighton near by, the Department of Militia has heretofore allowed the Provincial Rifle Association the sum of \$80 per annum, which was then paid over to the owners of the land. Two years ago this tract of land, consisting of 80 acres, was sold to an Association for the purpose of an Exhibition Ground and Race Course. A portion of which, about one-half part, including the range site, not required by the company, was sold for a larger figure to Mr. Warburton, who proposed cutting it up into building lots. The purchaser gave notice to the Rifle Association that the previous arrangement of \$80 per annum would be terminated, and that owing to the increased value of the land the sum of \$150 would have to be charged.

The officers of the Militia in the District then requested the Brigade Major to communicate with the Department, stating the facts and to request that the annual rent of \$150 be paid. I have been informed by him that he did write in compliance with our request but received no reply, he wrote again, but received no reply, he telegraphed but received no reply, he wrote again, accompanied this time by a strong appeal from Lieut.-Col. Moore, commanding the Brigade of Garrison Artillery of Prince Edward Island, but to this he received no reply.

Finding the militia of this district would have no range for annual target practice, for League matches, or voluntary practice he undertook to pay the rent himself, expecting, of course, the Minister of Militia would not refuse his reasonable request.

Again the Brigade Major wrote urging that the loss of this range would be a serious blow to the interests of our Militia, and that a feeling of strong dissatisfaction would be engendered if something were not done. To this at last came a reply curtly refusing the request.

In view of these facts, and as I learn that the recommendation of Lieut.-Col. Irving was strongly backed up by the D.A.G., the Adjutant-General, the General of Militia, and the Deputy Minister, we have fair cause to appeal through the columns of your valuable paper for a just recognition of our claims.

WILLIAM A. WEEKS,

Captain of the Charlottetown Engineer Company.
Charlottetown, P.E.I., January 22nd, 1891.

R. M. C. MATRICULATION.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I have read with much pleasure the article on the R. M. C. Matriculation in your issue of the 15th inst., and am glad to see that a move has been made in the right direction, namely, raising the standard of efficiency for entrance to the college. Now that you have taken the initiative in calling attention to this important question, I think this is an opportune moment to

touch on a few points which appear to me to have been hitherto overlooked. In the first place you are probably not aware that the text-books recommended to candidates for study in the syllabus issued at headquarters, are not the same as those in use at the R. M. C. It is therefore evident that a cadet on entering is at a disadvantage, more especially in mathematical subjects, which are the very ones in which there seems to be a deficiency. I also think that the obligatory mathematics should be made to include all that now specified under the voluntary sections, and I have to support me in this assertion the opinions of some of the former professors and many ex-cadets. It is my experience that the only cadets who have done well at college are those who were capable of taking up voluntary mathematics on entrance, the less advanced ones being heavily handicapped. I beg to take the liberty of dispelling a wrong impression which may be created by the last paragraph in your article, which says that cadets "who have passed highest at the matriculation examinations, and keep up their studies, are rarely overtaken by those who obtained only enough marks to pass." This statement, although partly true, is not entirely so, as I know of numerous cases where cadets passed very creditably and came out just the reverse. The excellent training given in some of our schools makes it easy for many to pass with honours in classics, literature and history, but all this is to the detriment of mathematics and the latter being the most important, in fact the keystone of military education, renders it impossible for those who owe their high standing on entering to knowledge in these branches to maintain it during their college course, and any attainments therein cannot therefore be factors in the success of the future cadet. Hence, every man seeking distinction at the R. M. C. must prepare himself by devoting most of his time to mathematics, and just enough to other subjects to enable him to pass. By the following remarks I do not wish to insinuate anything derogatory to the Board of Examiners, several members of which I have the honour of knowing personally, and for whom I have the greatest respect and admiration, but it appears to me that those who are best fitted to conduct entrance examinations for the R. M. C. are professors of that institution, each in his own department. No one will question the perfect knowledge these gentlemen have of all the requirements, as those who manipulate the raw material from entrance to graduation must be more favourably situated to judge of the qualifications of matriculants than any one else. Thanking you sir for your valuable space,

I am, your most obedient servant,

"EX-CADET"

Kingston, January 23rd, 1890.

In an address before the Royal Statistical Society, Sir Charles Dilke, in saying the total failure of the French in 1870 to obtain even a momentary success, with an army of splendid courage perfect training, drew the moral that, whatever the peace expenditure, war cannot be commenced with a fair chance of winning by a nation which waits until war to make her organization perfect.

The story of the rise and progress of "The Active Militia of Canada" in *Outing* for February, completes the history of the most notable of the Quebec regiments. Future chapters of this series will embrace the record of the volunteers in the Canadian North-West in 1885.

We cannot all be first, but T. A. SLOCUM, of 186 West Adelaide St., Toronto, Ont., must feel more than ordinary pride in the success of his valuable preparation for the cure of lung diseases, viz: SLOCUM'S OXYGENIZED EMULSION OF PURE COD LIVER OIL. Their Laboratory at 186 West Adelaide St., Toronto, Ont., is kept constantly going, and every druggist in the country is supplied with the famous remedy.

CANADA'S EARLY MILITARY HISTORY.

(Toronto Mail, 13th January.)

Many military men gathered together in the cosy room^s of the Canadian Military Institute, at 94½ King street west, last evening. In the smoking room and the reading room there was much smoke before eight o'clock, but it was only the smoke from a few batteries, as a prelude to the general engagement which followed the real event of the evening.

More comfortable quarters than those of the Military Institute could not be wished for by any gentleman of warlike proclivities. The rooms are handsomely appointed throughout, with military portraits and pictures on the walls and interesting military relics and trophies picturesquely bestowed. The corner of the smoking room is a spot which seems made for two grizzled and weather-beaten old colonels, on the retired list, to draw their easy chairs together and fight their battles over again, with the accompaniment of volumes of tobacco smoke and frequent touchings of the button which makes the little gong tinkle in the steward's room.

The occasion which brought together such a gathering last evening was the third of the monthly re-unions at the Institute, to hear an address by Lieut.-Col. R. Z. Rogers, of the 40th Battalion, Cobourg, the subject of which was set down on the programme card as "Incidents in the Early Military History of Canada, with Extracts from the Journals of the Officer Commanding the Queen's Rangers during the War of 1755-1765."

Among those whom Lieut.-Col. Otter saw before when, as chairman, he introduced Lieut.-Col. Rogers to the assemblage were Lieut.-Col. G. T. Denison, Lieut.-Col. Shaw, Lieut.-Col. Jones, Lieut.-Col. Dawson, Lieut.-Col. Scoble, Capt. Manley, Major Leigh, Major Villiers Sankey, Capt. McDougall, Lieut. L. Homfray Irving, the honorary secretary of the institute, Surgeon-Major Ferguson, M.P., Surgeon-Major Keefer, of Bengal; Capt. Mutton, Surgeon-Poss, Capt. Trotter, Major McSpadden, Capt. Symons, Major Dunn, Capt. Baldwin, Capt. J. E. Hughes, of Kidderminster, England; Capt. Kenneth Miller, Capt. Boyce Thomson, Lieut. Heward, Lieut. Fleming, Lieut. Jones, Lieut. Matheson, Capt. Michie, Lieut. Crean, Capt. McMurrich, Major Mead, and others. Lieut.-Col. Otter introduced the lecturer of the evening briefly.

Lieut.-Col. Rogers was received with applause, and addressed himself at once to the story of the Queen's Rangers, that most notable colonial volunteer corps, which was first organized in the New England settlements before the British conquest of Canada by his great-grandfather, Major Robert Rogers, who was its first commanding officer, and was succeeded in 1777 by Col. Simcoe, afterwards the first Governor of Upper Canada.

At the outset of his lecture Lieut.-Col. Rogers showed several interesting relics of his great-grandfather, which were examined with the greatest interest by all present. The first was a large photograph of the painting of Major Rogers in the British Museum. This portrait in oils was ordered to be painted by George III., to whom Major Rogers was presented. It represents a group of Indian warriors behind the redoubtable chief of the Queen's Rangers. Another relic was the sword which the Major wears in the portrait, in which he also carries, as his chief weapon, a flint-lock musket. "In the old days of bush warfare," Lieut.-Col. Rogers remarked, "both officers and men were liable at any moment to find themselves in a man to man conflict, each man standing behind his tree and watching an Indian behind a tree also. Things are changed greatly nowadays, when officers are not allowed at all to take part in firing."

Another relic which was handed around and admired greatly was the powder-horn of James Rogers, the brother

of Major Rogers. It had cut on it, evidently with a knife, this inscription in carefully-constructed capitals:—"James Rogers, his powder horne, Dartmouth, April ye 19th, 1747." One side of the powder horn bore a scar made by a musket ball. The scar had a story.

Once, in one of the bush fights with the Indians, where James Rogers and a red warrior had ensconced themselves each behind a tree, Mr. Rogers conceived a most excellent strategic idea. He took off his cap, placed it on his powder horn, and cautiously held it out a few inches from behind the tree. The Indian promptly "potted it," and, in doing so, exposed himself injudiciously to a shot from Mr. Rogers, which ended all earthly warfare for him.

THE WAR FOR THE CONQUEST OF CANADA.

In the course of the lecture Lieut.-Colonel Rogers frequently read from an old volume published in London in 1765, being the Journals of Major Robert Rogers. It contains a narrative of the events of the seven years' war that preceded the conquest of Canada, which brought the whole of the continent of North America, except Mexico and Florida, under the British flag.

There is not space here even to indicate all the operations, ambushes, reconnaissances, forced marches, escapes, and "imminent deadly breeches," in which the Queen's Rangers bore their part bravely. It is to be regretted, indeed, that last evening's lecture was not delivered in one of the city's public halls, and listened to by a large audience of Canadians. There could be no more effective means than such a lecture as this to foster a national spirit and a pride in Canadians that they are Canadians.

One instance may be cited of the manner of fighting in those old days. The Queen's Rangers were equipped each with a firelock, sixty rounds of powder and ball, and a hatchet. The eighth paragraph of their regulations reads as follows:—"If the enemy pursue you in the rear, take a circle till you come to your own tracks, and then form an ambush and give them the first fire."

When Lieut.-Col. Rogers read this, several of the officers remarked that it was decidedly a superior scheme, and there was much laughter.

These regulations, taken all together, formed an interesting code, and had a great influence, no doubt, in forming the regulations of later years for skirmishing drill.

THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR.

Among the many interesting things recorded was the escape of Major Rogers at the rock on Lake George, still known as "Rogers' Slide." There were many stories of hard fighting, and of the devilish cruelties and tortures to which the Indians put their prisoners, and of forced marches on snowshoes. Amherst, Abercrombie, Wolfe, and Haviland were the British generals in whose operations the Queen's Rangers had an important part. In the great engagement at Fort Ticonderoga, in July, 1758, in which Lord Howe was killed, the British lost 1,944 officers and men. In this battle the Queen's Rangers were among the best troops on the British side. From Quebec to Detroit their deeds of bravery, adventurous daring, and endurance were among the most important events of the campaign.

In June, 1760, Major Rogers, with his Rangers, went to Detroit, with the news of the capitulation of Quebec, to receive the submission of that fortified place. On his way he touched at the "mouth of the Toronto harbour." He writes in his journal: "I think Toronto a very convenient place for a factory."

In January, 1776, Major Rogers was appointed Governor of Mackinaw. A few years later he went to England, where he died in 1784.

CROWN PATENTS FOR LORDLY HERITAGES.

Before closing his address, Lieut.-Col. Rogers, in speaking of the aspersions cast upon the United Empire Loyalists,

declared that many of them had made immense sacrifices to come to Canada. He showed two broad parchments, the original Crown patents granted to his great grandfather, the one for 22,000 acres of land in Vermont, the other for 3,000 near Lake George in the State of New York. He had been in possession of these properties for some time, when he gave them up and came to the Bay of Quinte, where he and those who accompanied him, made the first settlement.

The lecture was immensely interesting and Lieut.-Col. Rogers was interrupted frequently by applause.

At the close of the lecture Dr. Ferguson, M.P., moved a vote of thanks to Lieut.-Col. Rogers, to whom he paid a warm tribute. Lieut.-Col. George T. Denison seconded the resolution. He said that the lecture should be published and made accessible to all Canadians. "One reflection occurred to me this evening," he said, "while I listened, and that was that our forefathers, the United Empire Loyalists, in coming to Canada, buried themselves in a wilderness, where they worked, away from the world, to make homes for us, and while they toiled their history was written by their enemies. It is time we should have the truth."

Lieut.-Col. Otter, in tendering the vote of thanks, told at what pains he had been to overcome Lieut.-Col. Rogers' modesty and prevail on him to speak before the Institute.

In making his thanks, Lieut.-Col. Rogers presented the Institute with the photograph of the painting of his great-grandfather.

Last evening's reunion was the most successful in the history of the Institute. Next Saturday evening there will be a smoking concert, and on the 26th instant the annual meeting will be held. On February 16th, Capt. Ernest Cruickshank, of the 44th Battalion, will read a paper on "The Battlefields of the Niagara Peninsula during the War of 1812-14." A larger hall than that afforded by the Institute should be engaged for that meeting.

THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE.

The annual re-union of the Royal Military College Club was held at Ottawa on Saturday last, the 24th inst., when there attended a good representation of the ex-cadets from various parts of the Dominion. In the afternoon, the annual business meeting was held at the Russell, those present being: Capt. S. A. Denison, president; Mr. F. W. White, secretary-treasurer; Capt. E. F. Wurtele, Major A. B. Perry, Capt. D. Macpherson, Capt. E. W. Hubbell, Messrs. G. Bowie, L. M. Lambe, D. C. Campbell, J. White, W. J. Stewart, T. W. Chalmers, B. Fraser, E. T. Gillmore, F. B. Emery, J. Houlston and A. J. Matheson.

Much interesting matter was contained in the annual report, presented and adopted. This noted the fact that steps have recently been taken to have the College recognized as an Engineering School by the British Institute of Civil Engineers; that the Quebec Government had been requested to place the College graduates on the same footing as those of the Universities, with respect to entering upon the study of the professions; and that notice of motion had been given before the Benchers of Ontario to give the same recognition with respect to the study of law. The very gratifying fact was stated that the British East Africa Company have recently made application for graduates of the College for service in Africa.

Amongst the communications considered was one from Mr. J. D. Taylor, publisher of THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE, inviting the use of this paper as a means of communication between the members of the Club, and for the discussion of all matters of interest to the College and its graduates. The invitation was unanimously accepted, and the MILITIA GAZETTE was formally adopted as the official paper of the Club, until such time as the publication of a journal of their own may be deemed advisable.

A discussion took place as to the mode of electing officers,

and it was decided that in future the election should be by ballot, the ballot papers to be distributed to the members of the Club three months previous to the annual meeting.

It was decided that at future meetings any member desiring to do so might read a paper on any subject connected with the interests of the Club, provided it were first submitted to and approved by the Managing Committee.

The fact that graduates unacquainted with each other frequently meet and part without their common bond of interest being discovered, was discussed, and it was resolved that for the future each member of the Club shall wear a distinguishing token by which he may be recognized by fellow members.

The election of officers for 1891 resulted as follows:—

President—Capt. S. A. Denison, London (re-elected).

1st Vice-President—Major A. B. Perry, Battleford.

2nd Vice-President—J. Houlston, Three Rivers.

Secy.-Treas.—Fred. W. White, Ottawa (re-elected).

Committee of Management.—L. H. Irving, Toronto; Capt. Duncan Macpherson, Montreal; Capt. Ernest F. Wurtele, Quebec; W. J. Stewart, Ottawa; L. M. Lambe, Ottawa.

THE DINNER.

The annual dinner took place in the evening, at the Russell, when a few friends residing in Ottawa joined the graduates. Amongst these were Major W. E. Hodgins and Lieut. D. A. Macpherson of the Governor-General's Foot Guards. The toast list was not extensive, but brought out some very happy speeches, particularly from Capt. Denison, Major Perry and Mr. Fred White. The latter made some exceedingly timely and tasteful remarks on the position and work of the club.

One most interesting episode of the evening occurred in connection with some reminiscences of the North-West rebellion. This was brought on by a reference made by the chairman, Capt. Denison, to certain attacks that used to be made upon the College in its earlier years. He remarked that after the rebellion broke out, some one writing to a Hamilton paper asked where the cadets were—how was it that the graduates of that much-vaunted institution, the R. M. C., were not in the North-West serving their country? "I was able to reply," said Capt. Denison, "that out of 44 men who had graduated at the College up to that time, no less than 27 were serving in the North-West field forces."

"Yes, and others volunteered whom the Government would not send there," remarked one of the ex-cadets at the table, "and I was one."

"And I another," said another member.

Mr. Fred White—"Gentlemen, the records of the Militia Department show that out of the 44 graduates of whom the chairman has spoken, 41 applied to be sent to the North-West. (Cheers.) Of the other three, two were in South America, and the other in Texas." Mr. White said further that the ex-cadets went to the North-West in a spirit of unselfish patriotism, for, far from claiming precedence there over volunteer officers, though better trained for service, the majority served throughout as junior lieutenants attached to volunteer corps, in some cases declining promotion over their volunteer comrades lest it might cause jealousy.

Capt. Hubbell said that when the rebellion broke out, the two senior classes at the R. M. C. volunteered *en masse*, not for positions as officers, but for anything.

After the regular toast list was disposed of at the dinner, several impromptu toasts and songs followed, and a most enjoyable evening was spent until midnight, when the gathering broke up with Auld Lang Syne and God Save the Queen. During the evening a number of well-known names of ex-cadets came in for warm mention, among them of course that of "Billy" Stairs, the right-hand man of Stanley in Africa.

REGIMENTAL.

Capt. C. F. Winter, the newly appointed Adjutant of the Governor General's Foot Guards, is about to resign his commission in the regiment, greatly to the regret of his brother officers. His military and civil service have been found to conflict—hence his intended retirement from the former.

A grand military review is mooted as a feature of the Queen's Birthday celebration in Quebec, General Herbert being said to take a personal interest in the affair. The General visited Quebec this week in company with the Minister of Militia, and was cordially received by the officers there.

The best Morris tube record at the 43rd Rifles gallery in Ottawa is now 103 out of 105 possible. It was made by Pte. J. G. Lyon last week, in a match for a prize offered by himself. The two points were dropped at 200 yards. Pte. Lyon having thus won the prize promptly offered it for another competition.

The officers of the 21st Essex Fusiliers will hold their annual meeting on the 10th February, at their headquarters, Windsor. The turnout for the district camp expected to be held there this year will likely receive a large share of attention. The annual meeting of the regimental rifle association will be held on the same day, and the advisability of again entering a team to compete in the matches of the League will be considered.

Rumour has been busy with the name of Capt. C. C. Newton, of the Fifth Royal Scots, in connection with the command of another Montreal city corps slated for re-organization. There appears, however, to be no good foundation for the report, as it is understood that Capt. Newton proposes leaving Montreal shortly for an extended absence in Germany.

Capt. Chas. M. Wright, of the 43rd Battalion, has been elected by acclamation an alderman for the City of Hull. His cousin, Major Joshua Wright, of the 43rd, has been an alderman for some time, and Assistant-Surgeon W. F. Scott, of the same corps, was Mayor of Hull for 1890—a pretty good representation for the battalion. Dr. Scott has now retired from the Council, and started upon a trip round the world.

Following his recent commanding officer, Major Lyman is said to be about to resign his commission in the Fifth Royal Scots, after a long service in which he has made hosts of fast friends amongst brother officers of the Militia. His retirement will make Major John Hood senior officer of the regiment, and it is understood that the latter will very shortly be Lieut.-Col. Hood. Should the officer be as fortunate—if that is the word—in his management of the regiment as he has been with the rifle team for the many years the captaincy has been in his hands, the Scots may be expected to excel even their past creditable record.

THE MILITARY RIFLE LEAGUE.

The report of a meeting of the Ontario branch of the Executive of the League, which was held at the office of Capt. Bruce, the treasurer, on Tuesday evening, 20th inst., will appear in our next issue, an unexpected delay in transmission having occurred.

The Secretary of the League expects to visit Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec, St. John, N.B., Halifax and Charlottetown during the month of February and will confer with the riflemen of those cities on matters connected with the League.

HAMILTON.

Evidently the boys of the Thirteenth Battalion believe in cultivating a friendly, sociable spirit, and they seem to consider that this can best be done by feasting together. With this commendable object in view the members of the various companies have dined together, or will do so, and last week the Sergeants' Mess—an organization of itself, and

quite an important one, too, in the discipline and appointments of a corps—-assembled in Newport's dining-room and took into its most serious consideration a well-arranged menu. Sergt.-Major C. Athawes occupied the chair, and he was supported on the right and left respectively by Major Moore and Adj. Stuart. The vice-chairs were filled by Staff-Sergt. Goodwin and Staff-Sergt. Mills. Among the guests were Colour-Sergt. Cooper, of the Queen's Own, and ex-Sergt.-Major Shearer, who was connected with the battalion when Lieut.-Col. Irvine was in command. Charles Searles, representing the Army and Navy Veterans' Society, was also present. Regrets were read from Col. Gibson, Major Mason and Instructor Kerley (of the Battery) and others.

After the good things had been creditably considered for an hour or more, the chairman called the company to order and proposed the toast of The Queen, the company rising and singing God Save the Queen. Song, Sergt. Blake—The Death of Wolfe.

The Governor-General—For He's a Jolly Good Fellow. Song, Sergt. Harvey.

The Army and Navy—The Red, White and Blue, by the company. Song, Charles Searles—Hearts of Oak. Song, Drum Major Bennett—The Juice of the Forbidden Fruit.

Lieut.-Col. Gibson and Staff was the next toast. In proposing it the chairman said many complimentary things of the officers in command, and the sentiment was heartily applauded. Major Moore and Adj. Stuart responded.

Major Moore proposed the health of Sergt.-Major Athawes and the Staff Officers of the Regiment. Sergt.-Major Athawes, Paymaster Clarke, Staff-Sergt. Mills, Staff-Sergt. Goodwin and Staff-Sergt. Omand responded. Song, Drum-Major Bennett.

Canada, Our Home—Song, Sergt.-Major Athawes. My Own Canadian Home—Song, Colour-Sergt. Blake.

Our Sister Corps—Responded to by Colour-Sergt. Cooper, of the Queen's Own, and Q. M. Sergt. Madgley, of the Hamilton Field Battery. Song, Colour-Sergt. Bismarck—Canada, Fair Canada.

Our Guests—Responded to by Colour-Sergt. Shearer. Song, Charles Searles—The Minute Gun at Sea. An entertaining story by Colour-Sergt. Cooper. Song, Sergt. Harvey.

The Press—Responded to by representatives present. Recitation, Staff-Sergt. Mills.

The Company Sergeants—Song, Colour-Sergt. Bismarck of A Company—Du Wacht Am Rhein. Responses by Colour-Sergt. Bettles, of B; Colour-Sergt. Silk, of C; Colour-Sergt. Harvey, of D; Colour-Sergt. Skedden, of E; Colour-Sergt. Healey, of F; Colour-Sergt. Stewart, of G, and Colour-Sergeant Blake, of H.

Then all informality was abandoned, volunteer toasts were proposed, songs were sung, stories told, speeches made, and the fun waxed fast and furious until a late hour. Altogether a great time was had, the best of good feeling prevailed, and the first annual dinner of the Sergeants' Mess will certainly not be its last.

The officers of the Sergeants' Mess are as follows: Sergt.-Major Athawes, President; Staff-Sergt. Wm. Goodwin, Vice-President; Colour-Sergt. A. Bismarck, Treasurer; Staff-Sergt. E. J. Mills, Secretary.

LONDON.

The members of the Seventh Fusiliers Band were tendered a complimentary supper by Mr. W. J. Reid Friday evening at the Hub Restaurant. Over 30 members of the band sat down to the tasty spread provided by host Frazer and succeeded in whiling away several pleasant hours. Bandmaster Hiscott occupied the chair at the head of the table and speedily made all feel themselves at home. In introducing the social part of the programme Mr. Hiscott spoke in the highest terms of the members of the band and complimented

them as an organization upon the satisfactory success which had attended them during the past year. Appropriate songs, of the comic variety, were given by bandsmen Mullens, Luttrell and McLeod, interspersed with which were pleasant speeches by bandsmen Pitt and Charlton. The company dispersed at about 11.30 o'clock.

Weather and roads being favourable Friday evening the officers of the Seventh decided that a route march should form the programme for the second weekly drill of the season. It had been generally known that the march would take place, and as a result there was a large representation of recruits on hand. This quality swelled the battalion into four full companies which marched out of the shed shortly after 8 o'clock, under command of Lieut.-Col. Tracy. The bugle band with its lusty tooters gave all ample warning of the militiamen's approach, and consequently the sidewalks were lined with people throughout the entire march. The route was down Central Avenue to Richmond, to Dundas, to Ridout, to York, to Richmond, to Wellington and along Wellington street to the drill shed. If the weather is favourable a second march out will take place in two weeks, when it is expected that the regimental band as well as the buglers will be in attendance.

The non-coms. of the London Field Battery were entertained at an oyster supper by Lieut.-Col. Peters, and when the guests had succeeded in tucking away the rations provided, their host made a short speech, in which he complimented the non-coms. on their efficiency, especially with respect to their performance of duty at the Stratford camp. The gunners who distinguished themselves in the recent matches were also complimented and the prize money turned over to the winners. Among those present were: Capt. Williams, Sergt.-Major Colerick, Quartermaster Sergt. H. C. Smyth, Orderly-Sergt. Thomas Wilson, Sergeants Case, Mitchell and Taylor, Corporals Warwick, Irwin and others. The toast list called forth appropriate replies from Sergt.-Major Colerick, Quartermaster-Sergt. Smyth, Orderly-Sergt. Wilson and Sergt. Taylor. The musical portion of the evening's programme was supplied by Capt. Williams, Sergt. Wilson and Corpl. Irwin.

THE FIRST MILITARY DISTRICT.

The Windsor *Record* continues to urge that early preparation be made for the military camp expected to be held there next summer. The last issue says:

"The brigade camp for the Western district has been promised to Windsor for the present year. If we wish the Government to keep its promise there is a certain amount of work to be done to ensure the Government of the good treatment of the soldiers and the genuineness of the town's wish. London is the actual ground of the district. There the brigade has a field controlled directly by the Government and fixed by it. To move the camp to any other town entails a certain expenditure upon the town either as a corporation or as individual subscribers to the expense fund. Water pipes have to be laid for the use of the several battalions, stables for the horses and several other buildings and expenses. The cost will be between \$800 and \$1,200, and if the town wishes to properly look for the payment of such expense or a part of it, provision should be made in the estimate of the town's expenditure. Inquiry among some of the leading men of the town by *The Record* gives forth several different first formed views upon the subject.

"John Curry is in favour of the town giving say \$500 and raising the rest by private subscriptions among the ferry company, the hotels and the leading business men of the town. He can see no advantage in calling a public meeting, but thinks that the town should make the grant and place it to the credit of the Board of Trade for proper expenditure. The military should be conferred with as to the expense the camp will be.

"Mayor Fleming said that three years ago the town promised \$500. He would be in favour of an amount something like this. If the expense would be much more private subscriptions would come in. When the camp was mentioned for Windsor three years ago, the ferry company promised \$200 towards the expenditure.

"Geo. Bartlet thinks that the town as a corporation should take control of the whole thing. The opinion of the people is well known and a public meeting is no necessity.

"J. C. Patterson, M.P., said that there was no doubt but that the camp would come here and perhaps be one of the largest ever in the district. It is probable that every battalion will be at camp this year. The Government had promised the camp to Windsor this year and we would certainly get it. The matter of expense should not be neglected too long; the council should follow the custom of other towns.

"Capt. Clinton, of the D. W. & B. I. ferry company, said he had no doubt but that the company he represented would give a grant towards the expense, but he did not like to express any idea as to the amount."

The chemists at the U. S. Torpedo Station at Newport, R.I., are reported to have been successful in the manufacture of a "smokeless" powder, experiments with which "indicate a superiority over other smokeless powders in absence of smoke!"

AT THE NAVY-YARD.--"We cast cannon in here," said the guide, as they stepped inside.

"Do you?" asked the pretty girl. "Now, please show us where you blow great guns. I often hear my naval friends speak of them."

The new explosive compound used for bursting shells by the French artillery is now recognized as a highly dangerous agent, evolving in its combustion a deadly gas, termed oxide of carbon by the eminent chemist, M. Berthelot. In several instances during recent military experiment, the sappers who first entered to examine the cavities in earthworks formed by the exploded shells were either suffocated to death or rendered insensible and restored with much difficulty to consciousness again. M. Berthelot, whose researches were ordered by the Minister of War, states that the fumes of oxide of carbon, which produces the blue flame noticed in ignited charcoal, are of so fatal a nature to human life, that the proportion of merely one two-hundredths of the noxious vapour mixed with ordinary air is sufficient, when respired for a short space of time, to kill an individual. It is further dangerous, that neither by odour, taste, nor sight can its presence be detected.

ONTARIO ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting, for receiving reports, electing officers, and transaction of business will be held at the Canadian Military Institute, 94½ King Street West, Toronto, on Tuesday, the 24th February, at 2 o'clock p.m.

Members are reminded that it is intended, notice thereof having been given, to move a motion to the effect that Clause 5 be so amended as to permit Field and Garrison Batteries to affiliate on payment of \$5 and \$3 per annum, respectively.

L. HOMFRAY IRVING,
Secretary.

Toronto, 26th January, 1891.

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MAIL CONTRACT.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon, on Friday, 27th February, 1891, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails, on a proposed contract for four years, six times per week each way, between Orleans and Ottawa, from the 1st April next.

The conveyance to be made on horseback, or in a suitable vehicle.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contract may be seen and blank forms of tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Hurdman's Bridge, Cummings' Bridge, Orleans and Ottawa, and at this office.

F. HAWKEN,

Post Office Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office,
Ottawa, 3th Jan., 1891.

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