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NEWS OF THE WEEK

The birthday of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, was celebrated in Ottawa in a right loyal manner. Shortly after midnight the citizens were awakened out of their slumbers, by the continual rattle of fire-crackers, pistols and guns, giving evidence that our young people are as fully imbued with the spirit of loyalty as that of their forefathers, and as ready to shed their blood, if required, in defence of their beloved Queen and Country.

The morning of the 24th dawned auspiciously, and everything betokened the passing of a glorious, happy day. The national ensign was floating from all the public as well as from many of the private residences of the citizens, giving to the City a picturesque and holiday appearance.

At ten o'clock the Fire Brigade, consisting of five Steam Fire Engines, with a band of music accompanying each company paraded through the principal streets of the City. The procession was a most imposing one, and universally admitted to have been the best ever held by the firemen of Ottawa, both as to numbers and appearance of the men and their engines. Before separating the brigade marched to the residence of Mr. John Langford, ex-Chief Ottawa Fire Brigade, and presented him with an oil painting of himself, accompanied with an address to which Mr. Langford made a suitable reply.

But the chief attraction of the day was the parade of the Governor General's Foot Guards, on Jacques Cartier Square, who presented a very handsome appearance in their parade dress uniforms, and their soldierly bearing did not fail to elicit the praise and admiration of all who witnessed them. Their commander, Lieut. Col. Thomas Ross, put them through a number of evolutions, which were executed in a very creditable manner.

A few minutes before 12 o'clock Major General Smyth, accompanied by his Aid-de-camp, Capt. the Hon. Miles Stapleton, made his appearance on the ground, and was appropriately received.

After saluting the officers present, Major General Smyth made an inspection of the troops, addressing a word to the men here and there, after which the *feu de joie* was fired, the band playing "God Save the Queen" between the volleys.

The men were again put through various movements, under the direction of Major General Smyth, who expressed himself highly gratified with the manner in which they were executed.

The men being drawn up in square, Sergeant Stroulger was summoned from the ranks in order to receive a medal for long service and good conduct, according to directions received from Her Majesty's representative. The order was read by Captain Hescott, after which Major General Smyth made the presentation, accompanying it with a few short but appropriate remarks. He said it afforded him great pleasure to present a medal for long service and good conduct. He had in his military career been frequently brought into contact with the 65th Rifles, of which Sergt. Stroulger was formerly a member. He had been on terms of great friendship with the commander of that regiment, and also with the captain of Sergt. Stroulger's company, who had been killed at the battle of Inkermann. The presentation of such a medal was one of the highest distinctions which could be bestowed upon a soldier by Her Majesty, and he trusted that if ever the wearer were tempted to do wrong the sight of it would at once deter him from committing any act by which it would be dishonored.

Addressing Col. Ross, Major General Smyth remarked that he did not consider it necessary that he should make any address to the men under his command at that time, as he had so frequently met with them of late. He was about to depart in a few days, and before his return would probably have journeyed across the American continent. He might reiterate his former statements, however, as to the appearance and general behaviour of the men, with which he was greatly pleased. He had no fault to find with them, but he would like to give them a word of advice in regard to one or two matters concerning their duty as a Guard of honor. This, however, he would reserve for a less public occasion, and concluded by again expressing his high opinion of the men of the Governor General's Foot Guards.

After Major General Smyth and Staff had left the ground, Colonel Ross drilled the men for a short time longer, the band of the regiment meanwhile enlivening the proceedings by playing the British Grenadier's and other appropriate military airs. At the termination of the drill the regiment was formed in marching order, and headed by their excellent band, paraded through the principal streets, and then back to their armoury where they were dismissed.

Matches of cricket and base ball, as well as other sports were indulged in but want of space prevents our particularising. Suffice it to say, the day was spent in a most hilarious manner by all, and terminated without any casualties to mar its enjoyments.

The *Polynesian*, having on board His Excellency the Governor General, the Countess of Dufferin, and suite, arrived at Liverpool on the 29th.

We understand that Major D. A. Macdonald of the Adjutant General's Staff has been offered and declined the position of Aid de Camp to His Honor the Lieut.-Governor of Ontario. The selection of Major Macdonald would have been a good one, had it been to his advantage to have accepted the position.

The Hon. A. B. Foster has succeeded in negotiating the loan for the Georgian Bay Branch and Canada Central extensions railways on very favourable terms.

It is stated that Sir Hugh Allan has also succeeded in floating the greater portion of his Northern Colonization Buloat bonds in Germany.

Mr. R. Kimber has succeeded Mr. R. E. Kimber, his father, as Usher of the Black Rod. The appointment will be generally approved of.

The annual inspection of the 8th Battalion took place on the evening of the 15th. The regiment was highly complimented on its appearance and efficiency. There were a large number of spectators.

The Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Mackenzie left Ottawa on Thursday last for Quebec, from whence they sail on Saturday by the Steamer *Moravian* for England.

Mr. Sheeby, passenger agent of the Michigan Central R. R., who has been in Ottawa for the last couple of days, has forwarded a detachment of 10,000 Mennonites as far as Moorhead, on their way to Manitoba. The contract entered into with the Government was carried out strictly, and those placed under his charge express themselves as well satisfied. Arrangements have been made for the transport of the remainder of the Mennonites over the same route.

Major General Selby Smyth and Captain Hon. Miles Stapleton, A. D. C., left Ottawa on Monday Evening for Prince Edward Island, on his annual inspection. The General will not likely return to Ottawa till after his overland trip from Manitoba to British Columbia.

The *St. John Telegraph* says that the state of the Intercolonial Railroad is now such that but for the delay in completing a bridge over the northwest branch of the Miramichi, we might get a trip not to Chatham only, but to Quebec, over British territory, by means of the Intercolonial Railroad and other lines by about the first of August next.

Prince Amades of Italy is engaged in writing a history of his reign in Spain, and is assisted by his wife, the Princess Marie. The work will be entitled "Souvenirs of a King."