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### Church Lads' Brigade Cadets.

On Thursday evening at the Headquarters of the Battalion First Nfld. Regiment of the Church Lads' Brigade Cadets, the annual dinner of the W.O. and N.C.O.'s Mess was held at 8.30 p.m. Punctually all were present in full kit, and the chair was occupied by Regt. Sergt. Major Rowland Williams. The menu was a choice one and prepared in first class style by Regt. Cook, Roberts, Corp. Cook and Harry Butler who wore their magnificent mess uniforms. After the dinner was thoroughly enjoyed by everybody, the following Toast List was drunk:

The King--Prop., Chairman; Resp., "God Save the King."

The Companies--Prop., Rev. E. H. Fletcher; Resp., "A" C.S.M. Rendell, "B" C.S.M. Colton, "C" Corp. Smith.

Recreation--L.C. Dicks.

The Officers--Prop., Sergt. Best; Resp., Lieut. Motty.

Song--Lieut. Fletcher.

Song--Sergt. Clifford Earle. ....

Absent Friends--Prop., Corp. Ewing. (Drunk in silence.)

Recreation--C.S.M. Colton.

Our Guests--Prop., Chairman; Resp., A. G. Williams.

Chairman--Prop., C.S.M. H. Rendell; Resp., Chairman.

"God Save the King."

The officers present were Rev. (Lieut.) Fletcher, the most popular man in Topsail Camp, and Lieut. Motty and Miles, honorary members of the mess. The most outstanding feature of the dinner was an oration by Sergt. Earle Best on his proposing the toast of the officers, and we give his remarks in verbatim herewith. It shows more than anything the undoubted Brigade spirit and the loyalty existing in the rank and file to those in command at present, and the unquestioned appreciation of all ranks to those commanding officers who pioneered the organization in its infant days of trial, and blazed the trail for the grander events, the proudest privilege the members ever had in serving their King and Country on Flanders fields and on the decks of the British fleet in the North Sea. Col. Franklin, D.S.O., Col. Outerbridge and Col. R. G. Rendell, C.B.E.'s memories are green in the hearts of the rank and file to-day, their record is one which will never be obliterated from memory; they have builded better than they knew, when the hours they snatched from business and pleasure were devoted to the upbuilding of the Brigade organization, and to-day the lads are still grateful. Sergt. Best spoke as follows:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,-- It is with mixed feelings of "fear" and "honor" that I rise to propose the important toast of "The Officers" this evening. Honour--That one so young in years and Brigade matters generally should be selected for so important, to my mind, the most important toast of the evening. Fear--That my inexperience as an after-dinner speaker, will render me incapable of doing this toast the justice which it deserves. However, I shall do my humble best, and crave your indulgence for any shortcomings of mine in this respect. I suppose it is only natural that outstanding figures in life are indelibly photographed on our minds and stamped in our memories. Particularly so is this also in Brigade life, and, owing to the short time at my disposal and my inability to deal adequately with each individual case, I shall refer briefly to one or two of these outstanding figures in the life of the C.L.B. in Newfoundland, and whose names and persons are familiar to even the youngest member of the Brigade. Who can forget the sturdy frame and soldierly bearing of Lt. Col. Franklin? Who can forget the smart appearance and well ordered discipline of the boys under this distinguished soldier's charge, and lastly what C.L.B. man forgets or does not take pride in Col. Franklin's glorious record in the World War so lately concluded.

Succeeding Col. Franklin, we next come to a gentleman, who, though probably not so versed in military tactics as Col. Franklin, nevertheless his name lives and is held in reverence as long as the C.L.B. exists, I refer to Lt.-Col. Sir Joseph Outerbridge, under whose wise guidance the Brigade was kept to the highest point of efficiency, whilst his benefactions and gifts to the Brigade are too well known to you to need any extended comment from me; and it is a source of the greatest satisfaction to us all to know that Sir Joseph is as keenly interested in us to-day as ever. We next come to a gentleman, at the sound of whose name, I feel sure you will want to cheer, viz., Lt.-Col. R. G. Rendell. For the years Colonel Rendell had charge of the C.L.B. were years of progress and go-aheadism. Himself an indefatigable worker, he imbued all under him, from his second-in-command to the youngest recruit, with the same spirit; and to-day, this our splendid Armoury stands as a living monument to his burning zeal and patriotism in matters pertaining to the welfare of our Brigade. Last, but by no means least, we come to our present Commander-in-Chief, Lt.-Col. R. F. Goodridge. Words utterly fail me to express our appreciation and esteem of Col. Goodridge. Suffice it for me to say we all feel that the C.L.B. will, under his able guidance achieve a success hitherto never accomplished in its long and prosperous career. It is impossible, much as I would like to give an individual meed of praise to each and everyone of our officers, yet I would consider these few rambling remarks rather incomplete, if I did not mention the name of that "King" among men in Brigade matters, Major G. R. Williams, whose years of hard work in our behalf has so materially assisted us to the proud position we occupy to-day. Gentlemen, in asking you to rise, charge your glasses and drink to the health of "The Officers," I can with a full heart, ask you to drink the health of as gallant a body of gentlemen as any Brigade or any other organization were ever blessed with. Gentlemen, "The Officers."

Long may this loyalty and devotion exist. We were glad to see our old friends Q.M.S. Arthur G. Williams and Sergt. Major Mat. Noseworthy present who revived old memories of the past. We congratulate the W. & N.C.O.'s Mess on their successful dinner.--Q.

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