

## PRESENTATION AND DISPOSAL OF THE Original Colours of the "100th or Prince of Wales' Royal Canadian Regiment."

The following is a full account of the first presentation of Colours to the 100th Regt., taken from *The Illustrated London News*, of Jan. 23rd, 1859:—Page 94.

The first public act of the Prince of Wales was performed last week at Shorncliffe. On Monday, 10th inst., his Royal Highness presented Colours to the regiment raised in Canada, and called the "100th or Prince of Wales' Royal Canadian Regiment of Foot."

The Prince of Wales and Duke of Cambridge, attended by their respective suites, arrived at the Camp from Folkestone under escort from the 11th Hussars, at two o'clock p.m. His Royal Highness was received by a Royal salute from the troops on the ground, consisting of three batteries of Royal Artillery, one Squadron of the 11th Hussars, two troops of the Military Train, one company of Sappers and Miners, the 11th Regiment of Foot, the 100 Regiment, and the Royal Dublin City Militia.

The Chaplain (the Rev. E. J. Parker) having read the form of prayer for blessing the Colours, the two Majors, Lieutenant-Colonel Robertson and Major Dunn, took the Colours and handed them to the Prince, upon which the two senior Ensigns of the Regiment (C. McD. Moorsom and J. G. Ridout) advanced and kneeling before His Royal Highness, received them from him, and rising remained in that position whilst the Prince addressed the Regiment as follows:—

"Lord Melville, Colonel de Rottenburg and officers and soldiers of the 100th Regiment, it is most gratifying to me, that, by the Queen's gracious permission, my first public act since I have had the honour of holding a commission in the British Army, should be the presentation of Colours to a Regiment which is the spontaneous offering of the loyal and spirited Canadian people, and with which at their desire, my name has been specially associated. The ceremonial in which we are now engaged possesses a peculiar significance and solemnity, because in confiding to you for the first time this emblem of military fidelity and valour, I not only recognise emphatically your enrolment into our national force, but celebrate an act which proclaims and strengthens the unity of the various parts of this vast Empire under the sway of our common Sovereign. Although owing to my youth and inexperience, I can but very imperfectly give expression to the sentiments which this occasion is calculated to awaken with reference to yourselves and to the great and flourishing Province of Canada, you may rest assured that I shall ever watch the progress and achievements of your gallant corps with deep interest, and that I heartily wish you all honour and success in the prosecution of the noble career on which you have entered."

Colonel de Rottenburg, who is in command of the Regiment, replied as follows:—"May it please your Royal Highness:—As the immediate Commanding Officer of your Royal Highness's Canadian Regiment, I tender my humble duty to your Royal Highness for the honour which you have done the Regiment this day in condescending to present its Colours, and for the gracious terms in which you addressed the Officers and men. I assure your Royal Highness that we are all deeply grateful for this act on the part of your Royal Highness. The great Colony in which this Regiment was raised, and amongst whose ranks hundreds of its sons are serving and all who belong to it are more or less connected with Canada, will also feel most grateful for the honour which the first Regiment raised in a Colony for general service abroad has received from your Royal Highness, and I assure you that at the call of our Sovereign, Canada would send ten such Regiments as this one in defence of the Empire, should such an emergency ever arise requiring their services. The 100th Regiment has received its first Colours in the most honourable manner such could be bestowed, viz, from the hands of the illustrious heir to the throne of this Empire. It rests with the Regiment to maintain their Colours always with honour. I confidently assure your Royal Highness that they will do so. If these Colours are ever unfurled in the presence of an enemy, the officers and men of the 100th Regiment will be ready to shed their blood in the defence of their Colours, of their Queen, and of their Country. I again humbly thank your Royal Highness for the honour you have done the Regiment."

FORT WILLIAM, CALCUTTA.

From the Officer Commanding 1st Leinster Regiment:—

To the Adjutant General, Horse Guards, London:

SIR:—Lieut.-Colonel Collum, 1st Bat'n, Leinster Regiment, shortly proceeding to England on urgent private affairs, has kindly consented to take home the old Colours of this Battalion, which were replaced by new ones on the 21st ultimo.

The old Colours were the gift of the Canadian Government to the 100th Regiment which it raised in 1858. H. R. H. the Prince of Wales presented them to the Regiment in January, 1859.

It is the unanimous wish of all ranks of this Battalion to offer these Colours to the Dominion of Canada, with a hope that they find a resting place in some suitable place, such as the House of Parliament or Cathedral.

Lieut.-Colonel Collum is the oldest officer left with the Battalion who belonged to the 100th Regiment.

If the Government of Canada accept of the old Colours, the Regiment would feel much gratified by Lieut.-Colonel Collum being sent to Canada to hand over the Colours. He has fifteen months leave on private affairs.

I have, etc.,

(Sd) D. W. MACKINNON, LT.-COL.,  
Commanding 1st Leinster Regt. (Royal Canadians).

THE WAR OFFICE TO THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

WAR OFFICE, 26th April, 1887.

SIR:—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Stanhope to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a letter from the Officer Commanding 1st Battalion of the Prince of Wales' Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) representing that it is the unanimous wish of all ranks to offer the old Colours of the Battalion to the Dominion of Canada, in order that they may be deposited in some suitable resting place in that country, in which the Regiment was originally raised in 1858.

Should Sir Henry Holland see no objection, Mr. Stanhope trusts that the necessary steps may be taken to ascertain what are the wishes of the Canadian Government in this matter.

With reference to the last paragraph of the letter of the Officer Commanding, it might be advisable, in order to prevent any misunderstanding or disappointment, to point out that in the event of the Canadian Government accepting the old Colours, Mr. Stanhope regrets that it will not be possible to send Lieut.-Colonel Collum out to Canada in charge of them at the public expense.

I have, etc.,

(Sd) RALPH THOMPSON.

Extract from a Report of the Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency on the 27th February, 1888.

On a Report dated 20th February, 1888, from the Minister of Militia and Defence, stating with reference to the Minute of Council approved by Your Excellency on the 19th July, 1887, upon the subject of the offer to the Dominion of Canada of the original Colours of the 1st Battalion, Leinster Regiment (The Prince of Wales' Royal Canadians) as mentioned in the despatch dated the 30th April, 1887, from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that he has received from the Officer Commanding the 1st Battalion of the Regiment, through the High Commissioner and the Secretary of State for Canada, the original Colours of that Regiment.

The Minister observes that Lieut.-Colonel Collum, who was deputed on behalf of the Lieut.-Colonel Commanding, the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the Corps to present the Colours to the Canadian Government, has accompanied them with a very courteous letter, expressing the most cordial sentiments on the part of the Regiment towards the country of its origin, and a desire that the ties of its connection may be bound closer by some practicable means.

The Minister recommends that a copy of this letter be published in General Orders, for the information more especially of the Militia Force of the Dominion.

The Committee advise that Your Excellency be moved to convey the cordial thanks of the Canadian Government, through the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies; and the proper military channel to the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the 1st Battalion, Leinster Regiment, (the Prince of Wales' Royal Canadians) together with the intimation that the Library of Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, at Ottawa, has been selected as the final resting place of these Colours, which form such an interesting link in the historical connection between Her Majesty's Army and this portion of Her Empire.

The Committee further advise that the High Commissioner for Canada be informed of the action taken by the Canadian Government in answer to his despatch of the 12th September last, with reference to the subject under consideration.

All of which is respectfully submitted for Your Excellency's approval.

(Sd) JOHN J. MCGEE,

Clerk of the Privy Council.