

PUBLIC SCHOOL CADETS AT TAMPA, FLORIDA.

was delivered by the Governor, who reminded the audience that the Cadets were the first foreigners to go through the United States bearing arms since the "War of 1812."

When in Chicago on the return trip the boys were permitted to march through the Board of Trade building during business hours, a privilege never before accorded to any uniformed company.

While in Florida the party were guests of the State and of the City of Tampa at the celebrated Tampa Bay Hotel, and received many official and private courtesies, notably from Mr. and Mrs. Plant, through whose kindness a most enjoyable trip was taken on Tampa Bay, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Manatee River, in Mrs. Plant's private steamer, "Marguerite."

The soldierly bearing and the gentlemanly conduct of the Cadets merited and received the highest praise during the trip. They were officially reviewed in Tampa by Governor Bloxham and his staff and by Mayor Bowyer of Tampa. In Detroit they were reviewed by the Civil and Military authorities along with a company of volunteers

who had fought at Santiago, and in Port Huron they were reviewed by the Mayor and Corporation. In Chicago they gave an exhibition drill in connection with the Armour Cadets. In all places their drill was marked by precision, grace and dignity.

The widespread interest in the Cadets was shown by the great crowds that filled the streets and Armouries to welcome them back to Toronto, and by the number of invitations they received to visit other places in Canada.

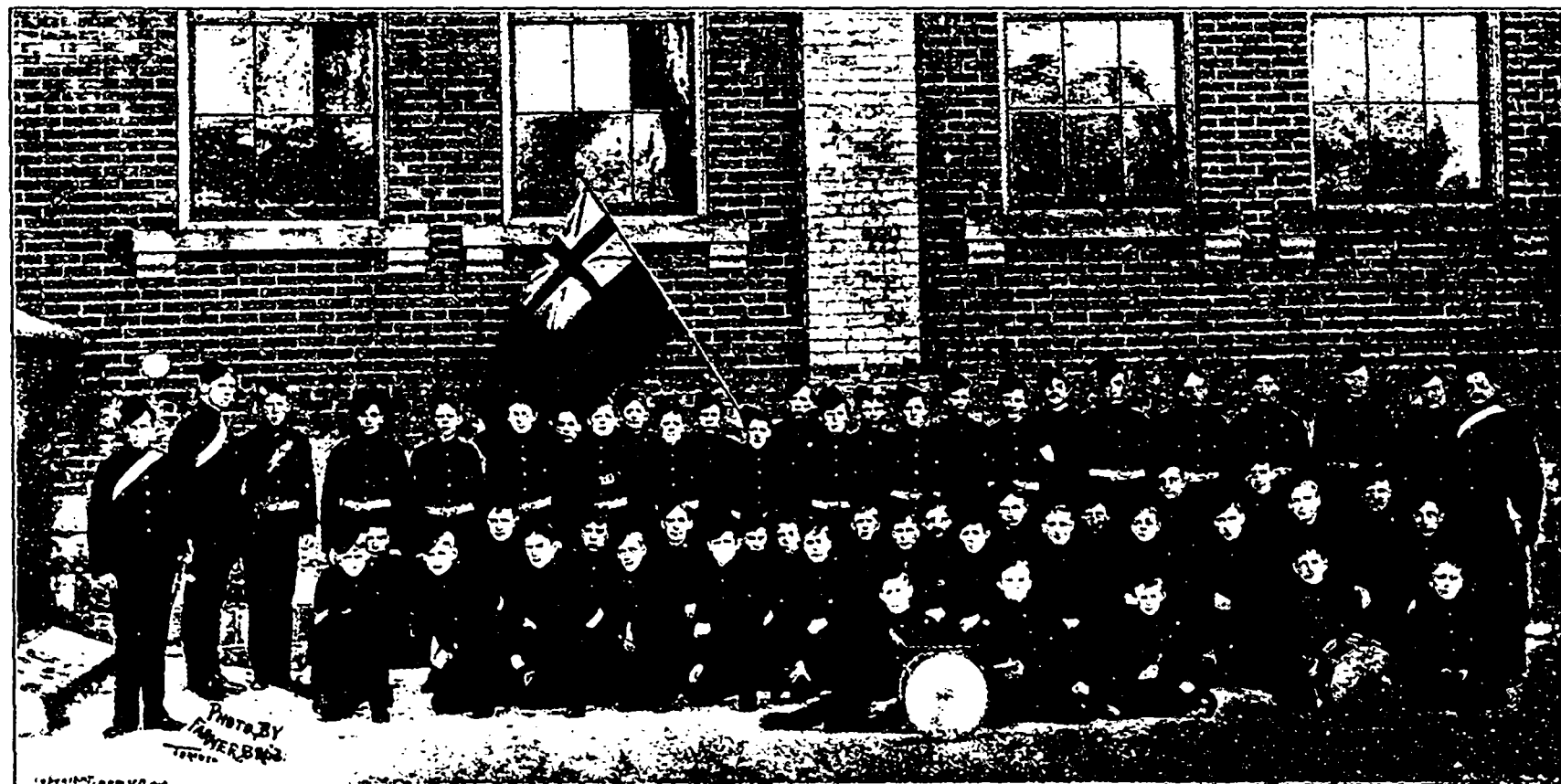
Inspector Hughes recommended military drill in 1874 so that it has been regularly taught in Toronto Public Schools during the past twenty-five years. Major Thompson has been the instructor during the whole of this period, and the splendid results are due to his interest and efficiency.

There are now forty-one companies regularly organized and well drilled in connection with Toronto Public Schools. These companies constitute four battalions. It is the custom to have an annual parade and review by Col. Otter, D.O.C., on Decoration Day, when the pupils of

the Public Schools decorate the monuments of those who fell fighting for their country. The Public School Brigade has been reviewed by Lord Aberdeen, by two Ministers of Militia, Sir Mackenzie Bowell and Hon. Mr. Patterson, and by General Gascoigne.

The results of the drill have been most satisfactory, not only in qualifying the boys for efficient service in the volunteer regiments, but in the physical, intellectual, and moral development of the boys. Physically the boys are trained to hold their bodies in proper position, to stand well, and to step with ease, grace and dignity. Intellectually they have to be alert in receiving instructions, clear in comprehending them, and definite and intelligent in executing them. Nearly all school work fails at the most important part of intellectual development, the training of executive power. Drill is one of the few departments of school work that develop the tendency to execute and the power of prompt accomplishment. This fact makes drill a most effective moral agent by cultivating the habit of intelligent obedience, and especially the habit of executing the purposes defined in the mind. The most universal weakness of the human race is lack of executive tendency to accomplish its revealed purposes. There is a great moral stimulation in the transformation of a loose jointed, round shouldered, indolent, awkward boy into a well poised, alert cadet with free, vigorous, definite action. The mind undoubtedly dominates the body, but it is equally true that the body in its action helps to develop the brain and the mind.

Drill has a most important moral influence on the character of boys, because of its engrossing interest during the period of adolescence. There is no time of a boy's whole life which has such a dominant influence in defining and forming his character as this period. The moral safety of a boy, and his true moral development, depend more on his opportunities for becoming intensely interested in occupations, or games, or operations adapted to his stage of evolution than on any other causes. Every real boy at this period feels in his deepest nature the real thrill of heroism, and the fullest opportunities should be afforded him for expressing this feeling in such a way that true, active heroism may become a permanent element in his character. Drill and out-door sports are the most engrossing interests of a genuine boy's life, and they have in them on this account the greatest possibilities for the physical, intellectual and moral evolution of true manhood during the "boy stage."



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