

couraged. Col. Aylmer said that the Oxford Rifles had the reputation of being the best officered regiment of the most intelligent and patriotic county of the Dominion, and he would not say it was undeserved. He considered it a privilege for any gentleman to belong to such a corps. Col. Aylmer made a very happy response, and the hearty applause which greeted him gave evidence of his popularity with the corps.

"The House of Commons" being proposed, Jas. Sutherland, M.P., Capt. and Paymaster, responded, and expressed his gratification at seeing the D. A. G., the members of the County Council and so many other friends of the regiment present. In commending the remark of the D. A. G. that the militia was for the people he expressed the opinion that the militia had not been treated by the government as they deserved. The militia was maintained at the price of great sacrifice in money and time by officers and men and they should at least have proper equipment. If the force was too large it should be reduced and made efficient and worthy of the people of Canada. He heartily thanked the County Council for their liberality and hoped that the government would so increase the men's pay that such grants would not be required in the future. If it were not for the generosity of the Council in the past the officers might long ago have lost all heart.

The toast of the "County Council" was proposed and received with applause. Warden Durkee in responding said that when he first went to the County Council he had opposed the \$500 grant, not because of any antipathy to the force, but because he believed the volunteers were deserving of a fair day's pay when in camp—\$1 at least—and it should be provided by the government.

Ex-Warden Anderson believed it was a good thing that the county should contribute a portion of the expenses of the volunteer force because such created a local interest that otherwise might not be developed. He thought the officers should not have to beg for such a grant but that the grant should be an understood thing. He would like to see it enacted that the government give one portion and the municipalities another.

R. A. Duncan, the youthful Reeve of Embro, agreed with previous speakers that the pay of the men in camp should be equal to that of their regular avocations, and that it should come from headquarters, but until that was secured he favoured an ample grant from the county. He was proud to say that Embro furnished the pioneer company of the corps and was the home of the champion tug-of-war team of the world, and they could provide a regiment of such stalwart men if such was required. (Applause)

Captain McGlashan, of the Dufferin Rifles, Brantford, sang "The Union Jack of Old England" and was loudly encored, to which he responded with a comic song, which convulsed the company with laughter. Before sitting down he remarked that the Oxford Rifles should thank God for such a county council. He wished that Brant Council was equally generous.

"Our Agricultural Interests" brought forth an eloquent response from Colonel Cowan, of the 29th, who said that the agriculturists were the backbone of the volunteer force. With regard to the pay he said that the Government allowance in Canada was the same as that of the militia in England, and it was all the same whether the money came from the Government or the municipalities. He warmly approved the action of the Oxford County Council, and said the Oxford Rifles was the most hospitable corps in the district, if not the most efficient.

Several other toasts were given and heartily honoured.

The Argentine army is well officered; it has 42 generals, 123 colonels 111 lieutenant colonels, 149 majors, 219 captains, 222 first-lieutenants, 235 second-lieutenants, and 249 sub-lieutenants and ensigns. Total, 1,373 officers for about 5,500 rank and file.

MONTREAL'S FAMOUS MILITIA.

(CAPT. THOS. S. BLACKWELL, IN OUTING FOR FEBRUARY).

With its picturesque costume and in various ways the Fifth Royal Scots is one of the prominent regiments of the Canadian militia. This corps sprung into existence about the same time as the Victoria Rifles and Sixth Fusiliers, of Montreal, in 1861-2. Among the regiments then formed in that city none attained completeness and proficiency more rapidly than the Fifth Royal Light Infantry, by which title it was at first known. The Colonel, Haviland L. Routh, selected for officers men like himself, of wealth, position and education. They in turn chose men with the greatest care, and the regiment made very rapid progress in drill and discipline, being assisted and encouraged by the regular troops then in garrison.

They formed a fine and steady body of men, a proof of which may be referred to in that Colonel Stephenson, of the "crack" Grenadier Guards, then stationed in Montreal, on his first inspection of the Fifth said that they reminded him very much of his own regiment. The military enthusiasm continued long after the war clouds of 1861 which had blurred the azure skies of peace had blown past, and received new life when the Fenian movement began to assume formidable proportions. The first active service done by the Fifth was in frontier duty at this time, when several companies were stationed all winter on the Canadian border to prevent raiders infringing on the neutrality laws. In 1866, when the Fenians actually invaded Canada, the Royals were encamped at Hemmingford, close to the frontier, but did not have any fighting. In 1870 again, during the second Fenian raid, the Royals were out and were brigaded with the regulars in camp at St. Johns.

Up to this time the Royals were uniformed like the British line regiments, in scarlet tunics, dark-blue facings, blue trousers, with shako for head dress in summer and fur cap in winter. Even then there was a decided tinge of the Scotch element apparent—many of the officers and men were Scotch and the left flank company wore tartan trousers and tartan round the shako. A dull and peaceful time succeeding the stirring events of the Fenian raids, all the volunteer regiments became limp and weak, and this continued until 1877, when a few enthusiasts, some of them old officers of the corps, made an effort to restore it to its old-time form, and they succeeded beyond all expectations. To make the corps more attractive it became a fusilier regiment, wearing the bearskin, and the name was changed to the Royal Fusiliers. It had two Highland companies, uniformed like the regular non-kilted regiments. The physique of the men was good, none but well-grown men being allowed to join. When measured for uniforms the average height was found to be five feet nine inches. The Scotch element became so pronounced that very soon all the companies became Highland ones, still wearing the "trews" and tartan plaid. Nothing but the expense prevented the adoption of the kilt, and that in time was overcome and the regiment came out at last in all the glory of philabeg, sporran and all the paraphernalia peculiar to the Highland dress.

The Royal Scots of Canada is the title by which the Fifth is now known, and the regiment takes a high stand in the Canadian militia. Efficient as any corps in the Dominion, popular in the extreme, of very fine physique, strong in *esprit de corps*, and passing every year exceedingly creditable inspections, it holds a high place in the community and is a source of pride to many who have followed its colours in the days gone by.

The regiment, by special permission of the Marquis of Lorne, wears the Lorne tartan. It has a full military band, seven pipers, drum corps and ambulance corps. The badge of the Scots is a boar's head, with the motto "*Ne obliviscaris*" in the garter under it. Col. Frank Caverhill is a most popular commander. The cadet corps of the