

**Victoria Bridge**, first railway bridge across the St. Lawrence, formally opened by the Prince of Wales, May 25th, 1860. The first stone of the bridge was laid on July 20th, 1854. The first Coffor Dam was ready for masonry on August 2nd, 1854. The bridge was open for traffic December 12th, 1859. The first train with passengers traversed it on 17th December, 1859. It is 9,184 feet long, is built of iron on the tubular plan, has 23 spans of 242 feet, with one in the centre of 330 feet, each span starting from a pier of solid masonry. The tube through which the track is laid is 22 feet high and 16 feet wide. The bridge cost \$6,300,000. Robert Stephenson was the Engineer in charge. The bridge belongs to the Grand Trunk Railway system. In order to bring it up to modern requirements it has been enlarged and otherwise improved, the work having been done this present year (1897). (See also "C. P. Railway Lachine Bridge," "Coteau Bridge," and "Cantilever Bridge.")

**Victoria Hospital**, established in Montreal in connection with the Queen's Jubilee, 1887, by Sir George Stephen, Bart., (now Lord Mount Stephen) and Sir Donald Smith (now Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal) who gave \$500,000 each.

**Volunteer Force**—The first attempt to form a regular force in Canada was in 1792 when the King authorized the raising of a regiment in each of the provinces and permitted them to take the title of "Royal." The first regiment to be raised was the Royal Nova Scotian Regiment, which by June 1793 was complete. Its officers were men of considerable means and they served without pay. They led the way in obtaining the desired distinctive title as is seen in the fact that Sir John Wentworth, in Dec. 1893, returns thanks for the permission to use the word "Royal." About the same time a Royal New Brunswick and a Royal Newfoundland Regiment were raised. In 1794, the Regiment of Royal Canadian Volunteers was recruited and officered by Canadians in the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. The First Battalion was largely officered by French-Canadian gentlemen. The Second Battalion was chiefly officered by Glengarry men. In 1799, Sir John Wentworth informed the Home Authorities that the Royal Nova Scotian Regiment had voluntarily acceded to a proposal that they should serve in all parts of British North America. As Commander-in-Chief in North America the Duke of Kent, the Queen's father, wrote to Major Louis de Salaberry, under date Halifax, N.S., Oct. 12th, 1799:

"His Majesty has thought proper to make it known that he would be pleased if all the provincial regiments would offer to serve in all the American colonies in place of being confined to the one whose name they bear. In consequence of accepting this offer they would be placed on the establishment as the Fencibles are in England and as is the Newfoundland—that is to say the officers would rank through all North America the same as they do at present in their respective provinces, and the Adjutants and Quartermasters would be sure of half pay in case of reduction, and the regiments would be commanded by officers taken from the line who would be proprietors. I believe it is the intention of forming a Brigade of Canadians after the manner of the 60th of which the Commander-in-Chief of the Troops in North America would be Colonel, as the Duke of York is of the 60th. The proposition has been made already to the Nova Scotian and New Brunswick Regiments and both have expressed in the most

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