

Records of our Militia Corps.—X.

The Sixth Fusiliers.

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"Vestigia nulla retrorsum."

(Continued from page 804.)

GENERAL orders of May 7th, 1880, confirm the following as badge, crest and motto of the battalion: Badge Quarterly—First, *or*, a beaver proper on a mount, *vert*; second, gules, a lion *passant*, *or*; third, *azure*, a grenade, *argent*, embellished, *or*; fourth, *argent*, a sprig of three maple leaves proper. The whole within a garter, *azure*, buckled and fimbriated, *or*; Crest, An Indian warrior proper, holding a bow in his dexter hand, and having a quiver of arrows over the sinister shoulder.

MOTTO: "Vestigia nulla retrorsum."

On May 22nd, 1880, left Montreal for Quebec per steamer at 7 p.m., arriving at 5 a.m., 23rd. Attended Divine service at English cathedral. On the 24th marched to the Plains of Abraham and took part in the review and sham-fight along with the Quebec local force, the Montreal brigade and 62nd battalion, the Governor-General, Princess Louise and Prince Leopold being present. Left Quebec at 6 p.m. 24th, arriving in Montreal at 6 a.m. 25th.

Two prizes being offered by the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society of Montreal for the best drilled companies of volunteers, the competition took place on the Shamrock Lacrosse Grounds, Montreal, on the 21st September, 1880. Nos. 1 and 3 companies of the 6th, and detachments picked from the 1st Prince of Wales' Rifles and 65th Mount Royal Rifles competed. The judges awarded No. 1 Co. 6th, (Capt. Massey's) 1st prize, \$100; Prince of Wales' squad 2nd, \$40; third place taken by No. 3 Co., 6th, (Capt. Mooney's) and 4th place by the Mount Royal Rifles' squad.

In October, 1880, Major-General Luard, commanding the militia, inspected the battalion. In his address he said: "I compliment you for doing what no other volunteers attempt to do, and am satisfied that Montreal has one well-drilled battalion."

At the annual inspection by Lieut.-Col. Fletcher, D.A.G., same month, that officer was pleased to say, "The 6th is the finest volunteer battalion I have ever seen."

On 17th May, 1881, Lieut.-Col. Martin resigned the command after a service of 19 years, dating from the formation of the corps, Major and Brevet Lieut.-Col. R. Gardner, jun., succeeding to the command.

On 19th September, 1881, the Troy Citizens' Corps, of Troy, U.S., visited Montreal, and were the guests of the battalion. This fine corps, uniformed with scarlet double-breasted tunics and bearskins, numbering 200, had to cut their visit short owing to the death of President Garfield, which occurred on the night of their arrival. The 6th gave them a trip down the Lachine Rapids, all that was possible on account of their abrupt departure.

In 1882, their being no military celebration of H. M. the Queen's birthday in Montreal, the battalion left for Cornwall by steamer on the night of the 23rd May, arriving in time to fire a *feu-de-joie*. After marching past, etc., Lieut.-Col. Darby Bergin, M.P., commanding the 59th battalion, who had received the salute, made an address saying, "Although a Toronto man, I am naturally willing that the praise should belong to Toronto, but I admit that having seen the Fusiliers beside the Queen's Own and other smart regiments, I am obliged to give the palm to the 6th, and think that General Luard was not mistaken when he called the 6th Fusiliers the crack regiment of the Dominion." Leaving Cornwall Montreal was reached at 7 p.m. The officers with the corps were: Lieut.-Col. Gardner, Majors Sinton and Blaiklock, Capt. Massey, Mooney, Gray, Fair and Nelson, Lieuts. Paterson, Stephen, Hood and Burland, Surgeon Cameron, Asst.-Surgeon Bell, Paymaster Bates and Quartermaster Battersby.

Annual inspection, held on Champ de Mars, October 9th, 1882, Lieut.-Col. Worsley, B.M., being the inspecting officer. In addressing the battalion he said: "I have been soldiering a number of years, and inspecting battalions in all parts of Canada during the last twelve years, and am glad to say that I have never seen a corps pass a better inspection than the 6th Fusiliers has just done. A number of the movements were ones not usually attempted by volunteer corps. Your clothing is clean and accoutrements well put on."

On October 14th, 1882, Major-General Luard inspected the battalion and afterwards spoke as follows: "It has afforded me the greatest pleasure to inspect you, and to notice the highly creditable manner in which you have performed the various movements. Your clean soldierly appearance reflects the utmost credit on you, and I wish that Canada had ten thousand volunteers like the 6th." Col. Dyde, A.D.C., then, on behalf of the citizens' exhibition committee, presented the handsome officers' marquee, given by the National Manufacturing Co., of Ottawa,

to the battalion turning out the strongest, and of the best drill and appearance at the review during exhibition week. The judges unanimously awarded the prize to the 6th. Sergt. Jos. Waters and Corpl. J. W. Marks represented the battalion at Wimbledon this year (1882).

On H.M.'s birthday, 1883, attended garrison review, Lieut.-Col. Van Straubenzee, D.A.G., reviewing officer.

On October 6th, 1883, paraded at the Victoria rink for the purpose of being presented by H.R.H. Princess Louise with the "British Challenge Shield," the gift of the auxiliary forces of Great Britain to the Canadian militia, and which the 6th had the honor of winning at the first competition; the team consisted of Color-Sergt. Waters, Sergt. Currie, Corpl. Marks and Ptes. Riddle and Phillips. H.R.H. was accompanied by H. E. the Governor-General, Lieut.-Col. De Winton, Major Collins, Capt. Bagot, Lord John Hervey and ladies. After the salute the royal party passed down the ranks, then the battalion marched past and performed the manual, firing and bayonet exercises (the latter at the express wish of H.R.H., who remarked that she "was highly pleased with it"). H. E. the Governor-General was pleased to say: "The 6th looked as well as any regular regiment, while their drill was fully equal to any volunteer regiment I have ever seen in the mother country." H.R.H. to this added: "I do not wonder at the high encomiums which Gen. Luard has passed upon the regiment; my own first favorable impression of it was formed at Quebec some three years ago, and the men have fully come up to my expectation." After the shield had been presented His Excellency the Governor-General addressed the battalion as follows: "Col. Gardner, officers and men of the 6th Fusiliers. We have witnessed the exercises of this afternoon with the greatest satisfaction. The various movements have been executed with a certainty and steadiness and a precision that have called forth the hearty commendations of the officers around me. It gives me great pleasure, therefore, to present this prize to so fine a representative of our citizen volunteers, and in so doing I may be allowed to make a few remarks in reference to the prize itself. This shield was subscribed for last year by both the active militia and volunteers of Great Britain, as a prize for competition among the active militia of Canada. The volunteers of Great Britain have much the same duty as those in this country, and they are frequently called upon to make sacrifices on the altar of patriotism, and suffer much pecuniary loss. The desire is that the shield will act as an emblem of fellowship which I hope will always exist between the two forces. The custom of musketry practice is not an old one, and the first target practice I believe took place at Malta while the troops were on their way to the Crimea. Since then rifle practice has become very common and popular in England. Some of your representatives have won high prizes in England, and I am glad to say that there is now in Canada a central meeting at which last year there was distributed some \$4,000 or \$5,000 in prizes. Let us hope that the meeting will increase in greatness and importance, and that we will have before long \$15,000 given away in prizes. This year the shield has been won by your regiment, and I now present it to you, very glad that so fine a regiment as the 6th Fusiliers has been the first to receive it." H.R.H. then pinned on the breast of each of the team miniature silver counterparts of the shield, the gift of H.R.H., and also presented the prizes won at the recent battalion matches. The officers of the battalion attended the departure of H. E. and H. R. H. from the Bonaventure station, where after kind farewells being exchanged, the vice-regal party left *en route* for England. The officers present were Lieut.-Col. Gardner, Majors Blaiklock and Massey, Capt. Mooney, Nelson, Fair, Gray, Anderson and Patterson, Lieuts. Pettigrew, Denison, Engelke and Stewart, Paymaster Bates, Quartermaster Battersby, Surgeon Bell and Assist.-Surgeon Stephen.

On 28th June, 1884, the battalion left for Toronto for the purpose of assisting at the celebration of Toronto's semi-centennial. At Trenton the train collided with a freight train, fortunately resulting in no injuries of consequence to any of the men, although the locomotive and a few cars were badly smashed up. After a delay the journey was resumed and Toronto reached about 11 a.m. on the 29th (Sunday). Encamped on the Jarvis St. Lacrosse Grounds. Monday was spent in visiting Niagara Falls. On Tuesday (Dominion Day) took part in the review, the 6th being the only Quebec corps present. There were also Toronto's local force, and corps from Hamilton, Welland, London, Kingston and from the counties of York, Ontario, Peel and Wentworth, in all about 3,700 men. Left Toronto at 7 p.m., arriving in Montreal at 9 a.m., 20th July.

Private Jas. Riddle represented the battalion at Wimbledon this year (1885), and was one of Canada's Kolapore team.

In March, 1885, orders were received to prepare for active service in the Northwest, but to the disappointment of the members of the 6th, the services of the battalion were not required.

In July of the same year the 6th took part in the review held in honor of the Montreal brigade of garrison artillery and 65th battalion, who having served on the Northwest expedition had returned home.