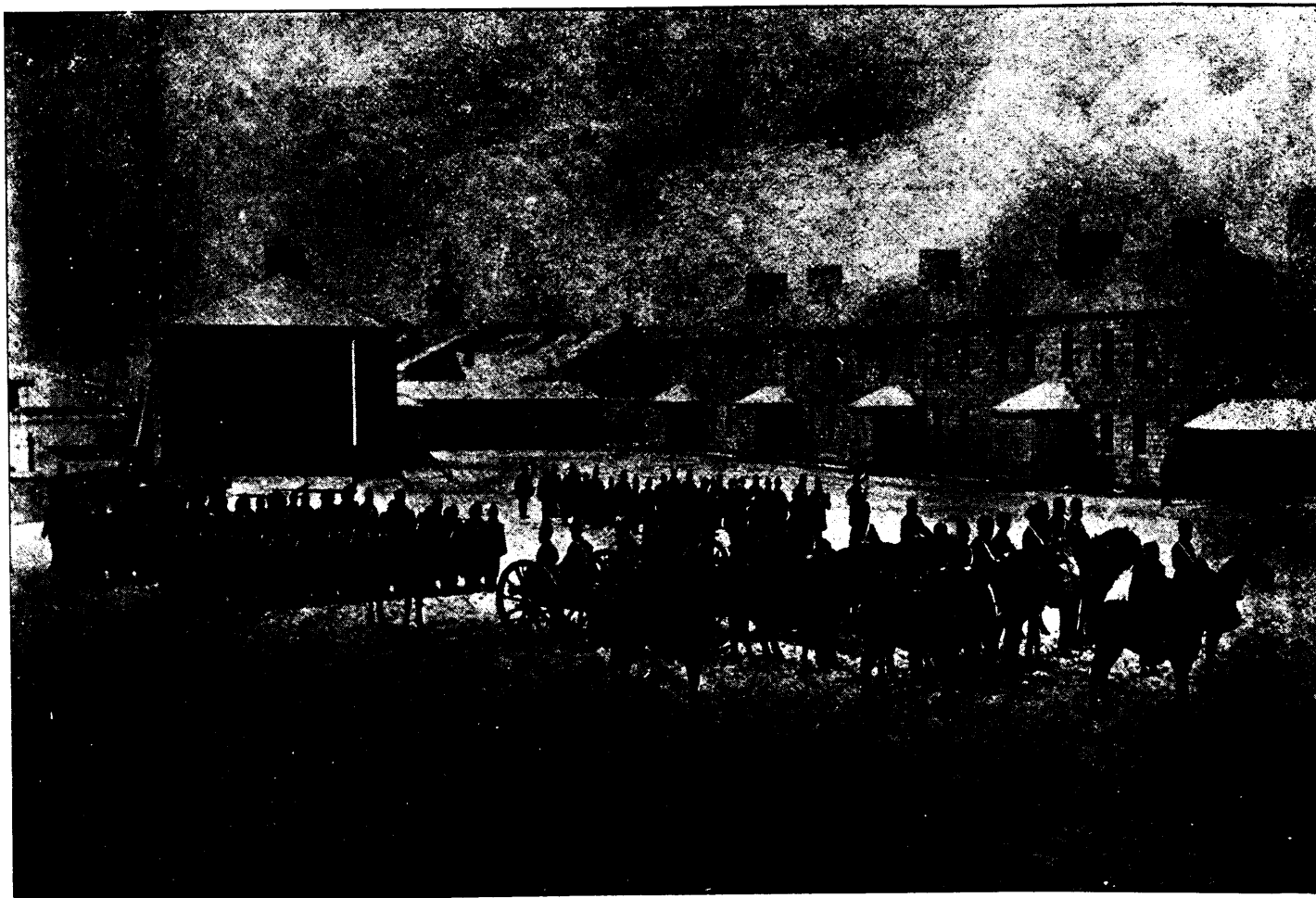




"A" BATTERY, R. S. A., ON PARADE IN TÊTE-DE-PONT BARRACK-YARD, KINGSTON.

The Dominion Commercial Travellers' Association.

Fifteen years ago a meeting of Montreal commercial travellers was held, and what was styled the Dominion Commercial Travellers' Association was organized. This movement was the outcome of a general desire on the part of the fraternity for a closer union of aims and interests. There was no difficulty in securing members. There were enrolled during the first year 251 members. The next year this number was more than doubled, and the membership increased from year to year until in 1883 there were 1,500 names enrolled, and a change in the method of conducting affairs became necessary. Up to this date there was no permanent office, and the secretary was not called upon to devote all his time to the business of the association. In 1883 an office devoted solely to the affairs of the association, and reading-rooms for the members, were established, and Mr. R. C. Simpson, who had most acceptably filled the office of secretary up to this date, being unable, because of his regular business, to increase his duties in that direction, the permanent secretaryship was given to Mr. H. W. Wadsworth, who still retains that important position. Since the permanent headquarters were established the membership has increased until last year there were no less than 2,180 names on the roll.

The first president of the organization was the late Mr. Andrew Robertson, an enthusiastic friend of the association and one who laboured earnestly for its establishment and welfare. He held the office for three years. Mr. C. A. Cantlie was president from 1879 to 1881 inclusive, and the late Mr. Alex. Gowdey held the office during 1882. In 1883 and 1884 Mr. Geo. Sumner presided; in 1885, Mr. Geo. Boulter; in 1886, Mr. R. B. Hutchison; in 1887, Mr. D. L. Lockerby; in 1888 and 1889, Mr. Fred. Birks, and in 1890, Mr. Gustave Piche. As already mentioned, Mr. R. C. Simpson fulfilled the duties of secretary from 1875 until 1883, and Mr. H. W. Wadsworth since that date.

While the membership of the association has increased from 251 in 1875 to 2,180 in 1890 its financial position has improved in even greater proportion. In 1875 the surplus over expenses was \$535, while the funds now in hand foot up the sum of \$92,132.

The idea of incorporating a system of insurance in the laws of the association was early introduced, and has developed and grown in favour year after year. The amount of insurance has been several times increased. At present the maximum amount of mortuary benefit is \$1,200, and the sum to be received in individual cases is graded according to length of membership. Each member is also insured for \$1,000 against accident, the weekly indemnity on account of injury being \$5 per week.

The constant growth in membership and in financial strength is a source of great gratification to the members. The headquarters, situated at one of the finest points in the city, at the corner of St. James and McGill streets, overlooking Victoria Square, afford the members every facility for pleasure while in Montreal. There is a suite of rooms, including office, reading room, chess and other rooms, where members may meet and feel themselves thoroughly at home. The opportunities for strengthening the bonds of good fellowship are not neglected. The secretary, Mr. Wadsworth, is always at his post. He may be regarded as one of the pioneers, having made his first trip on the road in 1865. He is a native of Burlington, Vt., has travelled extensively, and during 1890 represented his association at the great meeting of the T. P. A., held in Denver in the month of June.

It is not necessary to speak words of praise of such an organization as this. There are other similar organizations in the Dominion, east and west. Whether considered from the standpoint of the individual member, or of his family or friends, it is clearly evident that membership in such an organization is a benefit.

The officers of the association elected at last meeting to serve during 1891, are:—

President—Mr. H. H. F. Hughes.

Vice-President—Col. O. P. Patten.

Treasurer—Mr. Fred. Birks.

Secretary—Mr. H. W. Wadsworth.

Directors—

Mr. Jas. Croil,
Mr. E. Dumaresq,
Mr. Geo. Browne,
Mr. Wm. Waugh,
Mr. F. S. Coté,
Mr. John Taylor,
Mr. R. C. Simpson,
Mr. Max. Murdoch,
Mr. D. D. Black,
Mr. F. P. Benjamin.

The Board of Directors for the year just closed consisted of the following gentlemen:—

Mr. S. S. Boxer,
Mr. A. Elliott,
Mr. G. L. Cains,
Mr. Max. Murdoch,
Mr. F. S. Coté,
Mr. Wm. Waugh,
Mr. Geo. Browne,
Mr. E. Dumaresq,
Mr. Jas. Croil,
Col. O. P. Patten.

In this issue we give illustrations of the rooms occupied by the association, and also a sketch taken by our artist at the last annual dinner; this festive occasion was an unqualified success, and the dinner committee are to be congratulated on the happy results of their arrangements. Full particulars have appeared in the daily papers.