



GOVERNOR BLOXHAM of Florida is one of the most popular governors and most public-spirited men in the United States. He had a better opportunity to study the military conditions of the United States at the opening of the Spanish war than any other governor, and he decided that a better military organization and more thorough military training is necessary under the new conditions and relationships of his country resulting from the war. In order to consider these questions with a view of making recommendations to the federal

and state governments, he called a convention consisting of the governors of the different states and their military staff officers to meet at Tampa, Florida, in February, 1899.

Governor Bloxham believes that boyhood is the best time to receive military training and he determined to secure the attendance of a Public School Cadet Company to give the convention a practical demonstration of the advantages of such training in early life. He learned from his friend, Col. J. J. Wright, who had visited Canada, that Toronto had a more thorough and more comprehensive system of military training in the Public Schools than any other American city, and he therefore sent Col. Wright to Toronto to request

the School Board to allow a company of cadets to visit Tampa during the Military Convention. The Governor during a former term of office had shown the highest possible spirit of international courtesy by instituting an annual State celebration of the birthday of Queen Victoria.



MAJOR J. T. THOMPSON, DRILL INSTRUCTOR.

The invitation of Governor Bloxham was approved by the Toronto School Board and a committee consisting of Trustee H. A. E. Kent, Chairman, and Trustees Stephen W. Burns, J. Burns, J. C. Clarke, J. M. Godfrey, C. C. Norris and Dr. J. Noble, was appointed to make the necessary arrangements and carry them out.

The Company, consisting of fifty boys and a Drum Corps of six members, was chosen from the different schools throughout the city. They were under the command of Major Thompson, Drill Instructor, who was accompanied by Master Bert Thompson in the capacity of adjutant.

The Cadets started for Florida by way of Chicago, St. Louis and Montgomery, going by the Grand Trunk, Illinois Central, Mobile and Ohio, and Plant Railways, and returning by the same roads to Chicago. The return trip from Chicago was made by the Michigan Central and Canadian Pacific Railways. The Cadets were accompanied from Toronto by Mr. Stephen W. Burns, Ex-Chairman of the School Board, Trustees Clarke and Godfrey, and Inspector Hughes. Mr. Burns, who had in his capacity as Chairman of the Board, conducted all correspondence relating

to the trip, very efficiently performed the duties of executive head of the party.

The cordial feeling existing in the United States towards Canada and the British Flag was shown by the splendid receptions given to the party at Port Huron, Chicago, St. Louis, Tampa and Detroit, as well as by the hearty manner in which permission to bear arms was granted by the governors of the ten states through which it had to pass. Formal municipal welcomes were given by the Mayors and Corporations in Port Huron, Tampa, Detroit, and London, Ontario. In Chicago, both going and coming, the Cadets were most enthusiastically received and hospitably entertained by the Canadian Club and members of the St. Andrew's Society and the St. George's Society of that city. The party arrived in Chicago on Sunday morning and were met by leading representatives of the organizations named and the Armour Institute Cadets, who escorted them to the magnificent church of Rev. W. J. McCaughan, formerly of Toronto. Mr. McCaughan preached a special sermon and accompanied the Cadets to dinner at the Grand Pacific Hotel.

One of the most pleasing incidents of the trip was the presentation of an American flag to the Cadets by the Canadians of Chicago in the presence of a vast gathering in the Armoury building of the First Regiment.

The reception of the Cadets by Governor Bloxham and the members of the Military Convention was most satisfactory. The address of welcome



STEPHEN W. BURNS.



INSPECTOR JAMES L. HUGHES.