

## A VETERAN OF '37 GONE.

We sincerely regret to have to announce the death on 24th ult., of Major Alex. Daly, a Loyalist of 1837-8, and who has taken the lead in having the petition to the Queen signed by all the surviving Veterans in this Province, praying for some measure of practical recognition of their services at that critical period. Major Daly died on 24th ult., after a very short illness; to the last, his thoughts were on the work he had set himself to do, and he was most earnest in requesting that the petition be forwarded with as little delay as possible. He had attained the great age of 86, but looked remarkably hale and hearty; he was an Irishman by birth, and came to Canada about 1830, settling first in Montreal, and subsequently in the township of Rawdon, Terrebonne County, at that time largely inhabited by English-speaking residents. A few weeks before his death, he prepared for us a short account of his services during the rebellion; we append some extracts from this, as of interest from a military and historical standpoint. As will be seen by reference to our editorial pages, the work of obtaining further signatures to the petition, and of forwarding it as soon as possible to the proper authorities, has been undertaken by the editor of this paper, and no efforts will be spared to carry out to a successful issue the praiseworthy work begun and so nearly completed by the loyal-hearted old veteran who has so recently gone from us.

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Speaking of the insurgent party, prior to the outbreak, he says:—"They publicly, and in day time, assembled for drill near St. Denis street, near the St. James Church. Their drill instructors were some of the old volunteers of 1812, who defended Canada against the American army in 1812, and some of the old veterans of Waterloo. I have seen these parties at drill and plenty of the soldiers of the British army looking on. This state of things could not last long. Emissaries were sent to the country parts to raise the people by making speeches, etc., and then came the tug of war, the election of Papineau and Nelson, the Liberal candidates, against Walker and Danlan, the Conservative or Tory candidates, which gave the two parties a chance to meet in mortal combat. I was writing one night during the election when the Liberal party, three or four hundred strong, made an attack on the Conservative party in their stronghold in McGill street, routed their apparatus, spilt the liquor, went through the house, set fire to the house, and retired. The retreating party rallied, faced their opponents, a street fight took place with sticks and stones; the Liberals retreated to the Quebec suburbs or St Mary street, and Main street, St. Laurent, their stronghold. Later on many street fights took place at public meetings and on the streets."

Referring to a later date, after the first fighting he says:—"In the meantime active organization took place all over the country, amongst those who did not join the insurrection in Montreal and all through Lower Canada. I here refer especially to the Townships of Rawdon and Kildare, and other Townships north of the River St. Lawrence. Rawdon, a township ten miles square, raised five companies, forming a battalion of nearly five hundred strong. Rawdon is situated about 40 miles north of Montreal, in rear of the seigneurie of St. Esplée and Lavaltrie. It was then settled with emigrants composed of Irish, English and Scotch, with a population of about twenty-eight hundred souls. Immediately on the breaking out of the rebellion they assembled together to see what was best to do; a great many of them sympathized with the Liberal or Canadian party, but through the advice of their clergy they took the oath of allegiance, and took up arms in defence of the Government. They had no arms; but about 75 or 100 of them marched to Sorel in the month of November, 1837, through bad roads, crossed the river, (covered with floating ice,) obtained muskets and other equipments, and returned home, musket in hand, which surprised the country people as they passed along; the women and children were shocked at the sight of an armed force. The commissioned officers of the five companies, about 20 in number, went into drill under a drill instructor, and soon learned the manual and platoon exercise. In a short time they became well-disciplined and received the praise of their commanding officer, Major Swinburn, of the 83rd Regiment of Infantry, an excellent officer, who pronounced them a fine formidable body of men, fit for any service. In the spring of 1838 they were allowed to return home to their work, they re-

ceiving in cash the full amount of their board while they were in barracks. The men received pay, clothing and uniform the same as the regular soldiers in the army."

## A MANLY OFFICER.

The lightning of criticism might strike almost anywhere in the militia service and expose necessity for reform. Canadians are fortunate in having had a General given them who has courage to point out grievous blunders in the militia, and skill as a strategist to recommend remedies. Col. Denison may, from his place in Parliament, talk contrary to the written opinions of General Herbert of efficiency in the militia. It is more than likely that he has Canada's best rifle regiment in his mind's eye when he speaks of efficiency. It is an excellent regiment. What would be the use of one fine corps in case of a sudden call for a campaign, no matter how brief? Paper boots and rotten harness would certainly not help them. That gun carriage which went to pieces at Cut Knife Creek, after a few rounds, so that the gun was useless afterwards, is only an incident. Men who have been compelled to stand in the mud and rain of a country road because of breakage of new but rotten harness of the field gun in advance of them would soon dispose of the matters suggested as necessary for reform in the General's report. "I am thoroughly convinced that if the country is to receive an adequate return for the military expenditure, a reorganization of the staff is necessary." This the General puts in italics, as though he desired to have it strike Parliament like a bugle blast. He should be trusted to see the reorganization made. The whole militia force requires reorganization. The rank and file are just as good men as ever citizen soldiers were made of. What they want is officers to properly lead them. As for the political contract system which General Herbert strikes at, it has always been the bane of the force. Fancy a camp being chosen in a swamp for troops supposed to be in face of the enemy, when high ground alongside was left unused, because the owner belonged to the less favored side of politics. This is the system pursued in giving the clothes contracts. If each regiment were permitted to purchase its own uniform, within regulations, as the General suggests, it would stop one leak in the militia service, even if the election fund suffered. General Herbert can be trusted to do his duty; that is plain.—*Montreal Witness.*

## MANUFACTURERS AND THE MILITIA.

The following appeared in a recent issue of the *Empire*, and is well worth careful reading:

To the Editor of the *Empire*:

Sir, - While reading President McNaught's admirable address to the Manufacturers Association, I thought he might have sounded a warning to the manufacturers throughout the country, that they might be a little more liberal in assisting captains of volunteer militia companies to fill up their ranks with a desirable class of men who are willing to enroll themselves, but in many cases cannot get the consent of their employers to do so. It is to these men the militia look for some support in return for what they obtain in the way of protection to their manufactories. If these employers do not encourage the militia, from whom may we expect it? Take, for example, a manufacturer employing 100 men; a captain could get say 10 or 20 men in this establishment who are patriotic enough to enroll themselves as volunteers, but when the employer is approached he says emphatically that he cannot spare a single man, and adds that he does not see the use of the militia anyway, and discourages them all in his power. Yet he expects the Government to encourage his business by steadily protecting it. If the manufacturers would make up their minds at their annual meeting to allow a certain percentage of their men to put in the 12 days biennial drill the militia throughout the country could certainly make a much better showing.

Yours, &c.,  
A CAPTAIN.

Toronto, Feb. 24.