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The Late Lieut.-Gen. Luard.

The death of LIEUT.-GEN. LUARD, C.B., calls for more than a passing notice. His military service in a general way has been considerable, he having entered the army in 1845 and served throughout the Crimean and China wars, in both of which campaigns he was specially mentioned in despatches and received promotion for his meritorious services. It is, however, as the commandant of the Canadian militia for five years that he especially demands our attention, and as the first who not only discarded flattery in his various addresses to the officers and men, but who expressed severe censure when he thought such was deserved. Throughout his tenure of office he laboured for the improvement of the force, and no small degree of success crowned his efforts. His difficulties were great; the Department of Militia has really never been well handled since Confederation, the supreme power having been largely in the hands of civilians who, even if they devoted themselves to the interest of the force, have not sufficient technical knowledge of military matters to properly perform the duties. In addition to being hampered by civilian incapacity, his recommendations had to run the fire of a Parliamentary criticism from men utterly ignorant of the military needs of the country and in many cases as utterly careless as to supplying same. On his arrival here, GENERAL LUARD found discipline extremely lax especially in the rural battalions; the stories of the startling attire in which officers were wont to come on parade are founded on fact. On such unsoldierlike practices he was severe, perhaps erring a little in that direction; but such excess of severity was far preferable to the easy acquiescence in slovenly habits which had prevailed to such an extent prior to his regime. At inspections, if the troops did well, he told them so; if they drilled badly, he was honest enough to say so; the consequence was that when a battalion had to parade under his eye every nerve was strained by officers and men to look and do their best. Nothing is more fatal to the efficiency of a volunteer corps

than for its members to be told year after year that their appearance leaves nothing to be desired and that their drill is equal to that of a regular regiment. In the very nature of things the statement is incorrect, and as the men know it to be so they at once lose confidence in the inspecting officer, and care little for his future criticisms. GENERAL LUARD certainly had his faults, but he was a good type of the British soldier, and did his utmost to improve the drill, discipline and equipment of the Militia of Canada.

Montreal Streets.

It is worthy of note that but for the privilege of being able to cross a street dryshod at any point, the present enormous civic outlay in Montreal for paving, etc., will be of little practical benefit to the citizens who trust to their legs for locomotion. We hope that none of our readers will think for a moment that we oppose these improvements; far from it, we cordially endorse the system of improved roadways and other signs of progress. But we contend that too much money is being spent in one direction, and far too little towards reforms that would be of immediate advantage to the average ratepayer, and not exclusively for the one who can afford a vehicle. How is it that while millions are being expended in paving, enough cannot be found to substantially increase the police force and put it on a better footing? The occurrence of brutal assaults on young girls on the streets in broad daylight have followed each other of late with startling rapidity; the total disregard of the average driver for the rights of the foot-passengers at public crossings is getting, if possible, more pronounced than formerly; and the manner in which pedestrians are forced to make the best of their way out into the street to get around obstructions across the sidewalk is a disgrace to civic management. If necessary let less money be put on the surface of the streets and more for the protection of the lives and limbs of the people who are to walk on them; a radical change is essential in the measure of security of our citizens from risk of injury or death. Why is it that during the erection of a new building steps are not taken to enforce a covered pathway around the necessary obstruction, as in Toronto and other large cities; as it is, on St. James and Notre Dame streets to day, pedestrians have to struggle out into the road, incur the double risk of accident from reckless driving and from the falling of material being hoisted up or down, and fight for use of the single plank (the contractors' generous substitute for the sidewalk) with the stream of people moving in the contrary direction. The permitted existence of such a state of things is an outrage; and, coupled with the total absence of policemen at street corners and crossings, would lead strangers to imagine either that we dispensed entirely with such a force, or that the instructions given them were of the most primitive and least useful nature.

"La Patrie" on Imperial Federation.

During the process of sharpening the tomahawk for its daily assault on England and things British, our estimable French *confrère*, *La Patrie*, indulges in many silly mis-statements, the continued reiteration of which betrays either a very limited degree of education on the part of its editorial staff, or a belief in the small measure of intelligence possessed by its readers. In its remarks on Imperial Federation, in a recent issue, it, however, surpasses itself;

as it is not a journal that we think is seen by many of our readers, we reproduce some of its remarks:

"And now, what time is chosen to prepare the absorption of our autonomy by the British Government? The time when that Government has just joined the triple alliance of Prussia, Austria and Italy against France, our Mother Country! At a moment when the Canadians expect it least, they will find themselves compelled to enlist and shoulder the musket to go and fight on the shores of the Mediterranean for the benefit of England, or to invade the coasts of Normandy or Brittany, the sacred land which was the birthplace of their ancestors. With Imperial Federation, we would be, each year, the powerless spectators of a new encroachment on the part of the federal power sitting in London, or at Calcutta, in Asia, at the expense of our dear autonomy. England is seeking sailors everywhere for the war fleet, so much so that the question of converting the young English girls of robust constitution into sailors, is seriously talked of. Thanks to Imperial Federation, England would come to Canada to recruit by force soldiers for its army and sailors for its fleet."

It is needless to say that such rubbish would not be worth reference were it not that *La Patrie* occupies a fairly prominent position among the French papers of this Province, and enjoys a large circulation in Montreal; and it is well to note what species of mis-statements are furnished to our French speaking fellow-countrymen.

The Situation.

Since the death of SIR JOHN MACDONALD a wave of scandal and personal calumny appears to have struck Canada; and we must add, exposure of gross irregularities in public departments. Whatever degree of untruth existed in the evidence adduced at the sessions of the investigating committees, there was enough smoke to indicate a certain amount of flame. SIR HECTOR LANGEVIN'S emphatic denial of all the personal charges which have been laid at his door should set at rest every question affecting his honour; but it is equally evident that some of the officials in his department have been unduly influenced by outsiders, and the public purse and interests have thereby suffered. Much that is questionable has evidently been going on in the department for some time back, of which the Minister has doubtless been totally ignorant. But granting this, the irregularities equally reflect on him, as the responsible party; they affect his capacity as chief of one of the most important sections of the public service. His present action in resigning the portfolio is a wise one, and one that will meet the approval of men representing all shades of political thought. The whole episode will emphasize on Ministers of the Crown the urgent necessity of keeping their departments well in hand, and of being *au fait* with every important detail of its work. It is not improbable, and indeed it would undoubtedly be in the interests of the public that a searching investigation be held into every department of the civil service. Those which are well and economically managed will come through the ordeal with flying colours, and can fear nothing from the test; while the reforms made in those—if any there be—in which the pruning knife is necessary, will result in a substantial saving to the revenue and increased efficiency in the work.

A Literary Attraction.

In the next issue of this journal will appear the first instalment of a brilliant serial, BEATRICE AND BENEDICK, A ROMANCE OF THE CRIMEA, by that well known and popular English writer, Hawley Smart. The DOMINION ILLUSTRATED has purchased the exclusive right of publication of this story in Canada.