

News of the Service.

NOTE.—Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Without we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the doings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, so long as not enclosed in an envelope, for one cent. At any rate, forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades. Address,

EDITOR, CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE
P.O. Box, 387, Montreal, Que.

Ottawa.

The Governor-General's Foot Guards turned out in good force on Sunday, May 16th, for the purpose of decorating the graves of Ptes. Rogers and Osgoode who fell in the battle of Cut Knife Hill. The roads were muddy and when the regiment formed up in the drill hall the sky promised anything but agreeable weather. Both bands were in attendance and behind the bands marched ten of the detachment of sharpshooters who went to the Northwest Territories insurrection in the spring of 1885. They were dressed in civilians clothes and included Captain Gray, Captain Winters, Pte. Cameron, Pte Wiggins, Staff-Sergt. Newby, Captain Bell, (43rd Battalion), Bugler Wilson, formerly of A Battery, and Bugler Cowan. The march to Beechwood cemetery was performed in column of half companies. The route, which was by Theodore, Chapel and St. Patrick streets, was lined with spectators, and numerous favorable comments were heard on the soldierly appearance and bearing of the men.

Arriving at Beechwood cemetery the regiment formed three sides of a square, the officers and bands taking their stand in front together with the detachment of sharpshooters under Captain Gray.

Col. Toller, who was in command, then delivered a feeling address. "We marched out here," he said, "to perform what I trust will be a pleasant duty—to do honor to the remains of our deceased comrades, Ptes. Osgoode and Rogers. Last Wednesday was the ninth anniversary of the fight at Cut Knife Hill. Twenty men, under an officer, went with a column to that place and were under fire some five hours. Two men were killed and two wounded, making a heavy percentage. These men died with their faces to the foe in defence of their Queen and country. Whatever may have been the result it is well-known that had not this fight taking place Poundmaker would have joined forces with Big Bear, and the campaign prolonged most likely with more serious consequences. To the young men of the regiment, who have joined since the death of these men I would only say take these men for example, and if in the future you are called upon to take up arms you should readily do so and if necessary die for Canada as true Canadians have always done and will do. Sentiment in these days is not thought of, but the man who would not fight for his country and flag is, in my opinion, no man at all. I thank you for turning out, and also the members of the sharpshooters who have accompanied us. In conclusion I would like to quote these two short verses, which I believe were written on the walls of Bodajoz house:

"When war is rife
And danger nigh
God and the soldier
Is all the cry.

"When war is over
And wrongs are righted
God is forgot
And the soldier slighted."

Col. Toller then asked Capt. H. H. Gray to place a wreath upon the grave. In doing so Capt. Gray expressed his thanks and deep appreciation to those who had given the floral tribute. The ceremony

reminded him of a similar ceremony observed by the Guards in London, Eng., who in November of each year decorated the graves of their comrades who had died in the battles of the Crimean war. He hoped this Sunday would see this initiation of a practice that would be carried out every year not only in Ottawa, but other parts of the Dominion. He related how his dead comrades both volunteered to go to the Northwest before the trumpet call of duty was sounded. He could never forget how gallantly they fought under his command and all that he could say of them was that they lie dead on the field of honor.

Capt. Winters placed a second wreath on the graves. He thought that this practice should have begun earlier. The regiment had been slow in the matter. While remembering those brave fellows that lay under the sod before them, he asked a remembrance for other true British soldier that had died for their country.

A narrow strip bearing the words, "Our Comrades," was encircled round the tombstone, after which at the command of Col. Toller the regiment saluted.

MAJOR W. E. HODGINS' ADDRESS.

Major Hodgins was then called upon by the colonel. In response he said: "It is with much diffidence that I comply with the request of the colonel to say a word or two before this interesting ceremony. I am pleased to see such a large muster of the regiment to evince by their presence here to-day their interest in the event which has brought us together and which I hope, for several reasons, may be an annual occurrence in the regiment. It is a recognition, in a small measure, of the sacrifice made to the call of duty by these two men whose dust now lies before us. It will, I trust, bind us together as brother soldiers and foster amongst us, who remain, a feeling of camaraderie and good fellowship, and stimulate that esprit du corps, which cannot fail. I feel sure, to be of benefit to us, not only as soldiers of the Canadian militia, but as members of the G.G.F.G. whose uniform Osgoode and Rogers so worthily wore in the far North West, and who met a soldier's death on the field of Cut Knife Hill on that eventful morning of the 2nd May, 1885. But few of us now remain in the regiment who remember that day in March some years ago, when the little contingent from our regiment left this city for the scene of action, under command of Capt. Todd. We watched with interest their progress over the gaps on the C. P. R. and across the province towards Battleford, their point of destination. How eagerly we awaited "news from the seat of war," so to speak.

THE EXCITEMENT WAS INTENSE

when it was learned that twenty of that little company had been in action at Cut Knife, and that two were killed and several wounded. Few of us will ever forget the scene when Rogers and Osgoode were laid, with all the honors of a soldier, in this, their last resting place.

How proud we were to welcome the company home again, knowing that they had honourably done their duty and upheld the credit of the regiment from the day they left till they returned to us again. Of such a record we may be proud. It should beget in us, to whom has been committed the good name of the regiment, a determination to keep the old corps in the front rank of the militia and never to forget that though our meetings together and drilling may be somewhat of a pastime, yet it has a serious side, and that as a regiment we exist not to play at soldiers, but to be prepared again to do our duty as those men did, to our Queen and country. The events of the rebellion of 1885 have now passed into history and with it the gallant and soldierly bearing and behavior of those who formed the contingent of service in the field force under Major General Middleton."

But few traces of it remain, save the graves of those who fell in action and here and there Her Majesty's medal on the breast of those who then formed a part of our country's defenders.

We can look back, as Canadians, with pride and pleasure to the pluck and endurance of that small handful of men who left their homes in that eventful period, and went to the far North West to maintain these the cause of law and order in Canada. Let the example of what they did be an incentive to us who are now serving our country in the ranks of her militia, to keep ourselves in that state of readiness and efficiency at all times, so that if ever the call of duty comes again, it may find us, not only ready and willing to go, but prepared to do creditably and efficiently our share in the work which may be allotted to us.

This, the North West Rebellion, was but of brief duration, and had only for its object, not the repelling of a foreign foe, but of demonstrating to our misguided fellow countrymen, the majesty of the law, yet it developed the same soldierly qualities, the same love of country, the same bravery and devotion to duty as did the other campaigns in which the militia of this country have been privileged to bear apart, and the story of Queenstone's Heights, Lund's Lane, Chateauguay, Chrysler's farm and Ridgeway were repeated at Batoche and Cut Knife Hill. Long may the deeds done in those by-gone days by the militia of this country be treasured by us as Canadians, with feelings of pride and pleasure. Long may the spirit which actuated our forefathers in those stormy times, beat in the breasts of the men of to-day, who are privileged to wear Her Majesty's uniform as soldiers of Canada. That this spirit is not dead amongst us, these graves of our comrades are a speaking testimony. These silent mounds are a witness that Canada will never appeal in vain to her sons when she wants them for her defence and protection.

I cannot close these brief and imperfect remarks without expressing our pleasure at seeing so many of the old company of Guards Sharpshooters present here to-day at this tribute to their old comrades in arms. This pleasure is coupled with regret that the commander of the company (Col. Todd) is absent. All credit to him for the sacrifice he made in 1885, and for the admirable manner in which he commanded the men of the Guards, who formed part of the Battleford column. We are, however, much pleased to see with us the other officers of the company, Corp. Gray, who gallantly commanded the detachments in action at Cut Knife; Mr. Todd and the old Color Sergeant, now Capt. Winter. As a regiment, we owe it to them that our corps was represented in the field, and the very fact that it was represented in the field, and that Rogers and Osgoode died as members of the Guard's Company of Sharpshooters, adds to the prestige of our regiment, and entails on us who are now in the ranks the duty of maintaining the good name and credit of the corps, so long as "The Governor-General's Foot Guards" remain as a regiment of the Canadian Militia.

After the ceremony was concluded the regiment was marched back to the drill shed and dismissed.

Winnipeg.

The parade of the Ninetieth Rifles the other evening was one of the best turn-outs that has been seen on the public streets of Winnipeg for several years. The men were in splendid trim, indicating that the drill instructors and the captains have, evidently, been devoting considerable attention to the various companies. The parade started from the drill hall at 8 o'clock, the line of march being down Broadway to Main street as far as Henry, back to Portage avenue and down Kennedy street to the