

### A Field Day at Toronto.

When Ontario's two crack corps agree to burn powder against each other in a friendly way, there is certain to be something interesting in it. The sham fight which took place between the Queen's Own Rifles and the Royal Grenadiers at High park was an event of more than passing interest. The weather was all that could be desired.

The scene of the encounter was the northern part of High park. It was bounded on the east by the Indian road, on the west by the fence, and on the north by Bloor street. No better spot anywhere near the city could have been selected. There were open spaces bounded by ravines, and hills in some places heavily wooded. Parallel with the Indian road was a deep coulee which opened out in places to comparatively level patches of ground. A couple of paths crossed it several hundred yards south of Bloor street leading to the open common on the west. To the west and south lay the Grenadier pond and a winding road which lead from the lake shore up through the park to Bloor street.

Between Bloor street and West Toronto Junction the country was admirably adapted for the advance southward of the attacking party—the Queen's Own. They represented the advance party of a brigade engaged in feeling for the enemy. No doubt the heavy growth of scrub oak that covered the country aided them materially in their stealthy advance. Their dark uniform, too, was an advantage to them as much as the scarlet was a disadvantage to the Grenadiers. The latter could be detected as far as a man could see, while with the Queen's Own it was difficult to distinguish a soldier from a stump amongst the brush unless the distance was short. The Rifles, therefore, had certain important advantages of which they were not slow to avail themselves. On the other hand, the Grenadiers had the advantage of acting on the defensive and of selecting the best natural positions in which to await the enemy.

The Grenadiers paraded 354 strong under Lieut.-Col. Dawson, Majors Harrison and Mason. Shortly after 10 a.m. they proceeded to occupy a position suitable for defence. Scouting parties were sent out to the front and flanks with instructions to watch the movements of the enemy and to report thereon. All along the line the outlying pickets were engaged in watching for the enemy. No one knew where he would first make his appearance, and every man was burning for an opportunity to distinguish himself. The patrols of "H" company penetrated as far north as Bloor street and the Indian road. "C" company was to the south of "H," and "A" company to the south of "C." The reserve was posted in a naturally strong position on the road leading up through the centre of the park, and in a direction nearly south-west of High park avenue. The patrols of "F" company felt the country to the north of the reserves and west as far as the park boundary, "E" company being about midway between them and the Indian road, and some five hundred yards south of Bloor street. "D" company was still further to the south, and "B" company had its position on a trail which crossed the ravine and led up by the base of a small hill to the reserve. Of course "E," "G," "I" and "B" companies were acting as supports to those in their front.

By noon the patrols on each side began to catch glimpses of their enemy, and now and then a shot would ring out from the underbrush. This would be the signal for a rush by the small boys, who crowded the militiamen on every hand. In fact it was only necessary to watch the boys to know how the patrols were moving, a fact which did duty for both sides.

The Queen's Own Rifles under Lieut.-Col. Allan, with Major Delamere and Capt. Sankey, acting Major, paraded 551 strong at 8.30 a.m., at the drill shed, all the officers wearing service belts. The officers decided that the battalion should march out to North Toronto Junction instead of going by train, and after the day was over they were quite satisfied with the result, as it proved a good test of the endurance of the men, and showed what could be expected of them in actual warfare. Between the march out and back and all the manoeuvres about twenty-six miles were traversed. After arriving at the Junction all were given a short rest previous to making the attack. The disposition was then made for the attack. Every officer in the regiment carried in his pocket a photographed typographical map of the country lying to the south, the work of Capt. Sankey. A deep coulee, well wooded, runs from the Junction to Lake Ontario, striking High park a little to the west of the Indian road, which forms its eastern boundary. The coulee is admirably adapted for the operations of riflemen, as most of the trees are evergreens, and a man in rifle green can march through unseen by the pickets of the enemy until within a few hundred yards. Down this ravine Col. Allan determined to direct the attack, extending his formation so as to touch the whole northern boundary of the park. In this order the companies were extended: on the extreme right A company, under Capt. Thompson, and then within easy reach of each other to the left, in the following order: Companies E, C, B, F, I, K and G. Each

company sent forward two patrols two or three hundred yards in advance. Half of each company was extended in skirmishing order, the other half acting as supports. Looking at the woods and ravines north of Bloor street one would never dream that they were filled with riflemen. Occasionally a faint whistle would be heard as the officers exchanged signals. One of the first men of the Queen's Own to emerge from the woods was Sergt.-Major Crean. He dodged behind some bushes, seeing several Grenadiers leaning up against Bloor street fence to the right of him. There was quite a crowd on the road at this point. Just opposite the gate at High park avenue many of the onlookers had taken up a position. Crean looked at the crowd, saw Miss Majorie Campbell talking to Commander Law and other members of her party, and when the Grenadiers had their backs turned he dashed across the road, through the fence, and behind a tree. He looked down the ravine through the woods into the park and saw an occasional red coat there, but that was all. He turned, crossed the road again, and dodged behind a hillock. The small boy then got his work in.

"There's a Queen's Own," some of them shouted to the Grens.

"Where? Where?" eagerly queried the red coats.

"There, in them bushes."

A Gren cocked his rifle, took aim and fired the first shot at Crean. The attack had commenced. Then the Queen's Own skirmishers began to fire along the whole line and the advance pickets of the enemy fell back. A feint was ordered on the right, but the main attack was not on that point. The riflemen swarmed over the fence, and, as the Grenadiers fell back, took up positions well on the left, the object being to turn the right flank of the Grenadiers. Two companies under Adjutant Macdonald took possession of the north-east corner of the park. Then the boys in rifle green penetrated deep and deeper into the coulee, and surprised the enemy by developing a heavy fire on the brow of the hill to the right of the Q.O.R. centre. The red-coats were in an exposed position and they fell back. Two or three of their companies that had been giving some little trouble on the right fell back, and, crossing the ravine, formed a junction with their main body on the right, upon hearing heavy firing on their extreme left, and thinking that that was on the point of the main attack. Some of the Queen's Own scouts, supported by skirmishers, occupied the woods to the right of the enemy, and opened fire on a red-coated picket almost in the rear. Two companies of red-coats came in on the double to the assistance of this picket, and left their line open. Then the bugles sounded "cease firing" at 1.10 p.m. Throughout the whole the Queen's Own and Grenadiers behaved with great steadiness, carefully taking advantage of every tree and depression in the ground.

After the engagement both corps marched to the Pavillion, where they lunched. At 3 o'clock they were again formed up and marched to the spot selected as the ground for the march past, which a detachment of "C" company, R.S.I., under Capt. Macdougall had cleared off the spectators, whose number was estimated at about 10,000.

#### COL. OTTER'S ADDRESS.

After the march past, Col. Otter addressed the two corps as follows:—

#### *Officers and men of the Queen's Own Rifles and Royal Grenadiers:*

Just a few words before I dismiss you to express my entire satisfaction—most unqualified satisfaction—with your conduct and bearing throughout the whole of this day. This inspection has been different from many of those hitherto had, and the departure has been made because I thought it would be to your advantage, and that you would see and learn a little more of the real life of the soldier—a little more of what should be required of you in the field. From the attention that has been paid to-day and the intelligence displayed I am quite satisfied with the result, and I am sure that the move that has been made a beneficial one to you all. The work, no doubt, has been a little hard on some of you, but the cool, quiet and steady manner in which the movements this morning were done must not only give satisfaction to those in charge of them, but will also, I am sure, give satisfaction to those higher in authority.

A certain code of instruction had been laid down for you in the beginning, and I am happy to say that all ranks have carried them out to my entire satisfaction. I do not mean to say that mistakes have not been made in the different movements and the positions taken up during the day, but still those were mistakes that might happen, and would likely happen, among the best soldiers; and what has pleased me more than anything is the strict attention and earnest endeavour that has been exhibited by all to carry out the orders. On a day of this kind the general desire in my experience is an anxiety to rush you on and get you to the end of it, and that the moment the firing begins the feeling is to go on with it and to think that the whole thing is a noise. To-day I have noticed throughout that the firing was at all times completely under the control of the officers, and that all the movements