

The Boys Banquetted

Khaki Lads Were Royally Entertained Last Evening by the City.

Mainland Men of the S. A. Contingents Left on the Charmer.

Last evening the series of entertainments provided for the khaki contingent, which for the last few days has been in the town, was brought to an appropriate close by an informal banquet and smoker was tendered them in the supper room of Assembly hall. The occasion was as unique in its way as such ceremonies at the House earlier in the afternoon. The official representatives of the city and of the province sat about the same board, and dined and smoked with the boys in British history a ruler who claimed such loyalty like the late Queen. It was not one of the liberties of the subject for which they were prepared to die, but it was the sentiment of "A United Empire."

There were several incidents which set the blood tingling in the veins of even the civilians present. One of these was when Captain Burstell, who formerly commanded the men and who is now here recruiting for the South Africa Constabulary, entered the room. The moment his frank, soldierly face was seen through the doorway there was a shout from the men in brown that told of the unanimity of their regard for that officer. The whole company sprang to their feet given him, terminating with the singing of "He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

It was the spontaneous tribute of a body of men no longer bound by any military ties to their superior officer, and was a recognition of the right he had established to wear the badge of rank of a captain, by his work with the "Fighting First."

Another feature was the warm words which were employed in eulogy of the Shropshires, the Cornwalls, the Gordons and the 74th Field Artillery, the corps with which the Canadians were brigaded. There was a lusty shout of approval when one of the speakers said that he didn't envy any man who said a word against the Canadians among the men who attempted to discipline the regiment named in the presence of a Canadian soldier, who had been brigaded with them.

But the incident which will live most vividly in the minds of those who composed the little company last night will be that which occurred at the conclusion of the festivities when a silent toast was offered to the heroic dead. Every member of the contingent felt that the memories of these brave fellows should thus be honored, and it was at the solicitation of his comrades that F. Finch-Smiles rose just before midnight to offer the toast. The task could not have been confided to better hands. Amid absolute silence he said: "Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen: We have had our feast of words and jollity together, but there comes a time when sad thoughts will intrude themselves. Capt. Burstell told us this afternoon how well he would like to command us in the 'Fighting First' and how ready and glad to follow Capt. Burstell anywhere; but there are those of our number who will never again serve with the colors. We remember those who are no more, and those who shared their last piece of hard tack with us, with whom we had many a jest and many a grog, with whom we sometimes disagreed, but who were nevertheless the best comrades we had of whom there is only left a little heap of stones in South Africa, with sometimes a white slab erected to mark where Canadians fell. I ask you to raise your glasses for those whose 'last post' has gone, and for whom 'lights out' will sound no more—our absent comrades."

The whole company rose and touched their untasted glasses to their lips in silence. The Banquet. It was shortly after 9 o'clock last evening when the guests at the citizens' banquet to the members of the South African field force took their places around the board. The dinner was necessary informal in character owing to the court being in mourning, and such a short space of time being available in which to make the arrangements. It was nevertheless a representative company which assembled in honor of the boys. The city was represented by the mayor, city solicitor, aldermen, business men, etc. Messrs. Turner and McBride represented the government, and Messrs. Hayward, Helmecken, McPhillips and others the House. The dinner, a most appetizing one by the way, was provided by Mrs. Greenwood, of the Victoria Cafe, who, in spite of short notice and other discouraging features, provided an excellent repast. In fact one enthusiastic mounted rifleman said the tables here more eddies than they saw throughout the entire campaign. The mayor presided, and in opening referred to the fact that through the kindness and foresight of the provincial government they had as guests the men who had served the country so faithfully and well in the campaign. It had occurred to the citizens to show their appreciation for these services in the old British way, by providing a good dinner. He explained that the gathering was informal owing to the national sorrow at the death of the Queen. For the first time in the city the new toast was about to be offered, that of the King, whose reign, although necessarily shorter than that of his predecessor, he believed would be equally illustrious. "The King, God Bless Him," was drunk with enthusiasm, and was followed by the singing of the National Anthem. W. H. Price, in a very brief but appropriate speech, offered a toast to the "Navy and Army." He took occasion to say that he believed some kind of Kitchener and Roberts were among the guests of the evening. E. Crow Baker responded to the toast, mentioning the fact that it was now nearly forty years since he had taken the Queen's shilling. Col. Gregory

responded for the military end of the compliment. He was at this point that Capt. Burstell entered and was tendered such an ovation. After the cheering had subsided he said: "Gentlemen and comrades who went with me in South Africa: I can't tell you how glad I am to be with you all again. I am glad to find the same good feeling prevailing between us here to-night which has obtained all through the campaign. I am glad to see you home again, and I am glad to be back myself."

Dr. Robertson sang a solo with great acceptance and was obliged to repeat with chorists in which all joined. "C. H. Lugin offered a sentiment represented by the campaign and by the boys in khaki. It was not one of personal loyalty to the sovereign, although there had not been in British history a ruler who claimed such loyalty like the late Queen. It was not one of the liberties of the subject for which they were prepared to die, but it was the sentiment of "A United Empire."

"Soldiers of the Queen" was sung, and then Hon. R. McBride responded. He said there was not one who had followed the progress of events for the last year and a half who did not feel thankful to the boys from British Columbia for unholding the honor of the United Empire on the battlefield. When he saw the guard coming into the chamber in the afternoon he felt proud of British Columbia, and of his own city of New Westminster. He regretted that the death of the Queen had marred somewhat what would have otherwise been a civic festival. Whenever they came back to Victoria, though, they would receive a bumper welcome. A song was given by Mr. Ives, and then F. Finch-Smiles was hoisted on to a table and compelled to give a couple of recitations. These were "Tommy Atkins" and "Bill Atkins," rendered in his own inimitable way. Hon. J. H. Turner offered the health of "Our Guests," and said it was an honor to Victoria to be able to give the first entertainment of this kind to the

returned soldiers. He was proud that he had lived to an age to see young fellows go out from British Columbia to the ends of the world to fight for the Empire. Their guests had distinguished themselves before the world. They had been ranged alongside of the finest troops in the world, those of the British army, and had maintained Canada's honor there, and had helped to paint another little patch of red on the map. Mr. Turner appealed to them as to the truth of the charges made by General Dewet published in the Times last night. Their guests had been associated with British troops and men, if the charges be true, be cognizant of them. If false, as he believed them to be, he hoped the members of the contingents would give a distinct denial to them. Captain Burstell felt it an honor to be able to thank those who had entertained them so well in Victoria. It made him proud to think they appreciated the

say a word against the Canucks to these men. J. G. Brown was loudly applauded for two songs at this point, and then the mayor called on Corp. Lehman, who had survived nine wounds and the attacks of nine widows, to speak for the ladies. The corporal, whose command of English is impaired by German ancestry, read himself a woman hater. He had enjoyed a trip, and hoped it would happen again. He would go anywhere with Capt. Burstell, who he hoped to see a field marshal. Mr. Smiles then offered a toast to the "Dead" and the gathering broke up with "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem. The boys were then escorted to the boat, where the Mainland men embarked for Vancouver. The Conversation. Yesterday afternoon, at the conclusion of the opening ceremony, the men marched back to the drill hall, where they were addressed by Capt. Burstell and dismissed. Two hours were then spent pleasantly at a reception given by the ladies. The decoration of the tables was under the direction of Mrs. H. Dallas Helmecken, Miss Keefer, Miss Galletly, Mrs. Hayward, Mrs. Hazell, Miss Hazell, Mrs. Hiscocks and others. Among the features were runners of red, khaki and blue and small potted palms. The Fifth Regiment band provided a pleasing programme, and among those who contributed to the afternoon's enjoyment were Dr. Robertson, H. Kent, Stenland, W. T. Williams, F. Finch-Smiles and others. The function was enjoyed immensely by the boys who were taken charge of completely by the ladies for the time being. The affair terminated about 6 o'clock.

CHINESE NEW YEAR. Annual Concert in Connection With Presbyterian Mission Last Night. The annual Chinese New Year's concert in connection with the Presbyterian mission was held last evening. The hall was crowded by the Chinese and their friends, and the entertainment was a decided success. Rev. Dr. Campbell occupied the chair, and the following programme was carried out after the devotional exercises: Addresses by Rev. Mr. Clay, Messrs. Shih Shan Chee, Ma Seung, Su Pin, Lam Cheng and Miss Gong; song by Shih Chee, and an instrumental selection by Lin Chew. Tea and coffee with other refreshments concluded a very enjoyable evening. Ng Non Hing, in charge of the mission since Mr. Winchester left, is a graduate of the Presbyterian college at Canton, and is doing good work among his fellow countrymen. It is the intention of the foreign mission committee to send a native missionary in the spring to the Chinese at Nelson and Rossland. The foreign mission work of the Presbyterian church in British Columbia among the Chinese and Indians is greatly expanding.

ONE FACT IS BETTER THAN TEN HEARSAYS. Asst. Doct. Burgess, Supt. Hospital for Insane, Montreal, where they have used it for years, for his opinion of the D. & L. Compound. Get the genuine made by Davis & Lawrence Co., Ltd.

work of the contingents. He was not a British Columbia man himself, although he was here with C Battery for a year. They might be proud of the British Columbia men. Their work all through had been such that was only to be seen to be appreciated. The charges of Dr. Dewet, he said, were deliberately and maliciously false. There were two Boer generals trying to keep handfuls of men together by circulating these charges, and thus attempting to get sympathy abroad. They had been with the Gordons, the Shropshires, and the Cornwalls, and nothing was more contrary to the feelings of these men than to insult women. The present occasion, he said, was a finishing touch to their losing experiences which all appreciated. Rev. R. B. Blyth, addressing the company and his comrades of the contingent, said he had only been in Victoria five days, but he was proud to be a citizen of a city that could give such a welcome to her sons. It gave Victoria a pre-eminent place among the cities of the Dominion. Regarding the charges which had been referred to, they had marched with these men week after week, and had never seen anything to warrant such a base insinuation. "These

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Pte. McKee sang a couple of songs, followed by short speech from Corp. O'Dell, who referred to their address at missing faces of men they would never see again, who slept in South Africa. He made a suggestion that the reunion be made an annual event, the men re-assembling at Victoria, Vancouver, and New Westminster in rotation, and that the date be June 5th—the day Pretoria fell. Herbert Kent gave a couple of solos in excellent voice, and then Pte. Wilkie, the father of seven daughters, as he admitted, toasted the ladies. A number of amusing references to Corp. Lehman's escapades with widows were given, in spite of protests from that non-com, and the speaker took occasion to say that they had been side by side with the Gordons, Shropshires and Cornwalls and 74th Field Artillery, and it would not be safe for anyone to

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