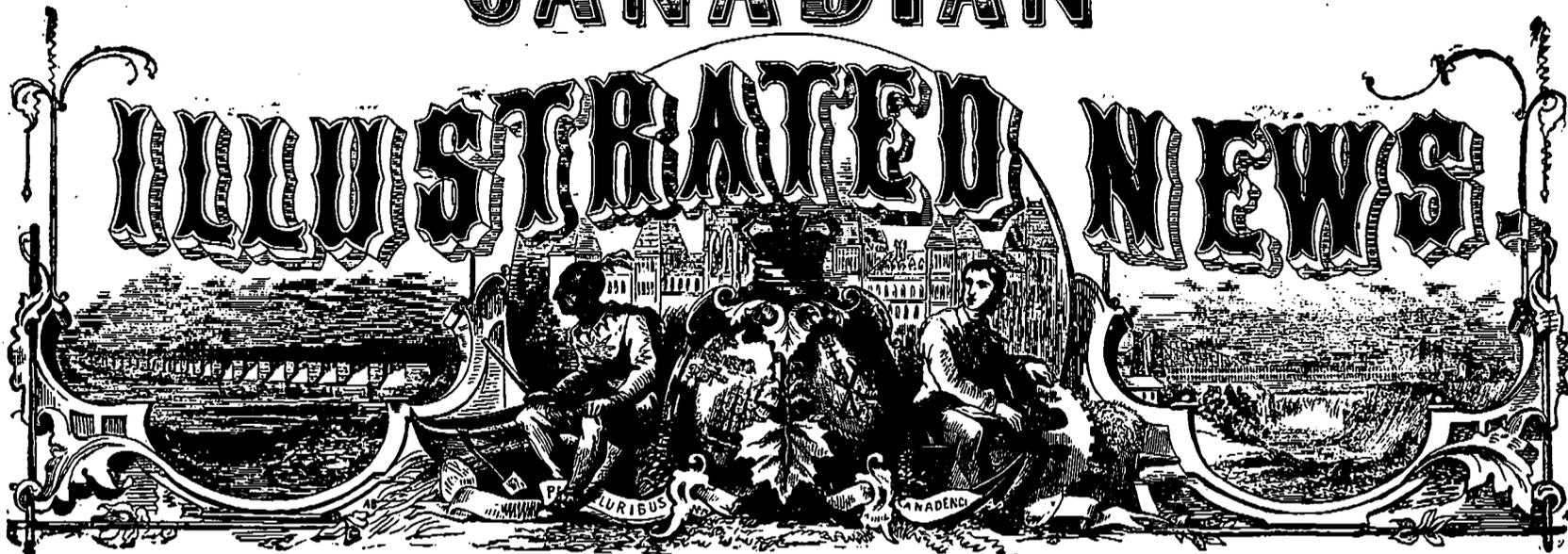


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BRIGADE MAJOR KING.

Brigade Major Charles King was born in Liverpool in 1819. His father was Captain of an East India merchant ship; his mother, the sister of the late Thomas Morecroft, Esq., of Rock Ferry, near Liverpool.— Though having no relatives by whom he might be supposed to have inherited a partiality for military life, or through whom he might have been induced to adopt it, yet he manifested at a very early period a desire to enter the service. He had, in 1832, been apprenticed to an engineer, in which profession his relatives designed he should be educated; but in 1837 he abandoned engineering and enlisted in the Royal Artillery. He served in various parts of the globe over twenty-six years. His first promotion was in 1840, and gradually, step by step, as the well earned and merited reward of soldierly qualities and conduct, he has reached his present position. It was his good fortune to attract and maintain the friendship of the superior officers under whom he served, some of whom are, to the present, more his personal friends than his patrons. Major King has attained his present position by steadiness, a correct appreciation of his duties, by promptly and faithfully discharging them—a course of conduct which secures success in almost every profession; but which in the army, if somewhat slowly, is sure ultimately to have its reward. These qualities were not only appreciated by his superiors, but by his companions in rank, and his juniors: for, on leaving Gibraltar in 1858, after twelve years stay in that garrison, he was presented with a superb tea service by the non-commissioned officers of the Royal Artillery. The commanding officers also gave him most flattering testimonials, accompanied with marks of personal esteem.

Previously, in 1857, while serving in the same garrison as Quarter-master Sergeant, he was presented with a silver medal and a gratuity by the Commander-in-Chief, and, still later, while in Quebec, he was rewarded by Her Majesty with another silver medal and an annuity for long and meritorious services. In 1862 he was selected to discharge the duties of Town Major for Montreal during a period of much excitement, caused by the Trent affair. Subsequently he was appointed to the Bri-



BRIGADE MAJOR KING; MILITARY DISTRICT No. 10, CANADA EAST.

gade-Majorship of Military District Number Ten, Lower Canada, an appointment on which he immediately entered. When he assumed the duties of his present position, the number of volunteers in his district, including all ranks, was 415. There are at the present time 734, besides 11 companies, numbering 638, waiting to be gazetted. In addition to these, there were eight companies in course of

formation comprising 464 men, when he received orders to discontinue raising volunteers. Summing up in all 1856 officers and men, with five drill associations.— Through his means a rifle association had been established in the District, which gives promise of the best results. At its first meeting for competition, in October last, the value of the prizes awarded was \$415, the amount subscribed being \$648. The match was open to all, and competitors were invited from all parts of the Province; and, though very many attended, outside of the district, yet only two prizes, and these second class, were taken by gentlemen from Montreal, the rest by volunteers in the district, who had the benefit of the Major's instructions. Such results are highly creditable to Major King, considering the brief period he has been in charge of his District, and show he has entered heartily into the discharge of his duties, and has brought to their performance zeal, judgment, industry and great military experience.

With such qualities judiciously applied, he must prove an efficient officer. He seems to have been singularly fortunate in securing the confidence, even the friendship, of his former commanding officers. We have perused testimonials vouching for high character and military attainments, from Gen. Sir W. F. Williams, Gens. Gordon, Dacres, Willis, Major Wilmet, Commissary Young, Woolwich, and several others. Many of these, especially from the higher officers, are not mere formal vouchers of character and efficiency, but written in that kind tone and language inspired by a sentiment of friendship, rather than of mere justice. Of course the Major must set a high value on such honorable attestations of character, and it must be with considerable pride that he can refer to them. It is scarcely possible but that with such long effective training as he has undergone and in such a school as he received it, he must be peculiarly qualified for the office he now fills. This success, since he was placed in charge of his District, must be gratifying to himself, and to those who recommended his appointment.

Two thousand head of cattle and mules are estimated to have perished on the plains during the late severe cold.

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS. It is reported that the Finance Ministers will be able to lay the Public Accounts on the table of House the first week of the coming session—this, we believe, is considerably earlier than they have been presented to Parliament on any previous occasion.