

made in Canada, and in every case the quality was found to be superior to that of imported goods. In those days, however, when real war seemed imminent, and men went to the front to fight, if necessary, colour of cloth was a secondary consideration, and men were more intent upon acquiring the art of a good shot than to deck themselves in holiday array. And it is almost depressing to look back and see the enormous coil of red tape which was wound round everything. Of this the sending of the Elora company—my model for the purpose of illustration—to the front in 1866, before the Fenian raid, gave ample proof. Although formed some years before, in 1861, that company was sent to the frontier in 1866 without overcoat straps, and had to manufacture them out of strong carpet binding. It was also compelled to use, upon dark-green rifle uniforms, white pipeclayed belts, which could not be blackened until General Napier, who was at Toronto, granted the necessary permission; and then the volunteers were not allowed to make the change, but the old soldiers of the Canadian Rifles, with whom the Elora company was lying in barracks at Chatham, did the work and received the pay. To this no objection was made, and some of the veterans of that worthy corps fought their battles o'er again while disposing of the unexpected windfall.

The old Minie rifle, discarded from the regular service, was the weapon furnished to the volunteers of early days, and some excellent shooting at short ranges was recorded. A plentiful supply of percussion caps was sent with the annual allowance of ammunition, and aiming drill at first consisted of discharging these caps at a lighted candle. Although the distance was short, there were men who could not "blow the candle out," and the steadiness of aim which followed at regular target practice proved the effectiveness of the simple drill. It may not be out of place to state that I was a member of the company at its formation and was gazetted in 1861 as lieutenant. My brother officers, Captain Donaldson

and Ensign Newman, made enthusiastic soldiers, and we were ready to turn out, at short order, a well-drilled company. Its composition was typical of that of many other isolated companies at various points in the Canada of that date. After the Trent difficulty, the Imperial Government sent out to Canada a number of first-class drill sergeants, many from the Guards, who travelled from point to point and were delighted by the rapid progress made by the many close students of the military art. Amongst the recruits were numerous mechanics, clerks, and intelligent young fellows of all classes, who quickly manifested their understanding of the instruction given to them, and their appreciation of the fact that this drill foreshadowed possibilities in the near future, and that the efforts of the instructors were not a waste of time, but really added to the defensive means of one of the finest countries in the world. Whatever the impelling motive, the result of the readiness and aptitude of young Canadians for military life was most encouraging to the statesmen of the country, who felt the heavy responsibilities resting upon them, and a fair interest was properly taken by the Government of the day in the full development of a peace establishment of which as a people we have had good reason to feel proud.

When the test of our loyalty, our common sense and our patriotism came in 1861, the Trent affair set the whole country ablaze. An indifferent people became belligerent in sentiment. Better war, despite our unpreparedness, we as one man declared, than a craven submission to an intolerant outrage. We were at once Canadian and British. Whatever Anglophobia might have taken possession of a few dissatisfied French Canadians disappeared in a single night, and a bright morning dissipated the thin mist which had obscured the evening vision. The people of Upper and Lower Canada were one, and from the mad act of an ambitious but ill-judging American naval captain sprang the united Canada which ended in Confederation, the opening of the Northwest, and

that recognition of a new nation which speedily followed. There was a certain amount of friction or indifference before the event; there was a sympathetic prayer for a recognition of the South and the successful growth of a new power after it. British troops were rushed across the Atlantic in face of coming winter, and that famous march through the snows of New Brunswick passed into history. The country was on the verge of war. Fortunately, upon both sides of the line, there were leading men of ordinary foresight who were able to control the situation, who saw the immensity of the danger, acted cautiously, and skilfully avoided it. Remonstrance was courteously but firmly expressed. While irresponsible newspaper men were attempting to lash the two peoples into fury, the everyday, thinking and acting men of the great Republic took steps towards reconciliation or abeyance of active condemnation, and the final effort for the preservation of peace led to neutral action on the part of the cool heads of British diplomacy, and ended in a simple apology, the liberation of Mason and Slidell, the exchange of courtesies, and the return of old relations between America and Britain, although the latter had been the more severely tried.

The conflict between the Northern States and the Southern Confederation continued until the exhausted resources of the South terminated the unnatural and deplorable war. The struggles of the contending parties ended, as might have been expected, in the gradual and at last rapid decadence of the more thinly populated section of the Union. And while the Southerners fought with undiminished pluck, they could not effect the impossible. Daily were the Northern States pushing men towards the very vitals of the Confederacy, and the inevitable result was not less perceptible to Lee than to Grant. Both must have wished for the culmination. It arrived, and the world rejoiced and welcomed a peace which closed one of the most bloody pages in history.

A Military Banquet in British Columbia

THE Canadian Club of Victoria, B.C., gave a patriotic banquet in the spacious billiard room of the new Empress Hotel on Thursday, February 27th—Paardeberg Day. The invited guests were the men in the city who had served in the South African War and the members of the British Columbia Legislature. The Speaker, Mr. Eberts, was the orator of the day and the affair

was attended by 300 guests. It was expected that there would be not more than fifty men who had been in South Africa in Victoria, but when the advertisement was put in the papers inviting the men to the banquet it was found that over 140 were living in the city. Eleven of these had fought at Paardeberg and are in the front row in the picture. At the close of Speaker Eberts' oration Lieutenant

A. J. Brace, of the Second Canadian Contingent, moved, and Lieutenant Hodgins, a Paardeberg veteran, seconded, a vote of thanks. The room was tastefully decorated with British and Canadian flags and an orchestra discoursed patriotic music. Judge Lampman, the newly elected president of the Club, presided.



THE PAARDEBERG DINNER AT VICTORIA

Bottom row are men who fought at Paardeberg. Reading from the left: Mr. Wm. Hardy, house porter of Empress; Sergt.-Major Macdonald, Messrs. R. W. J. Leeman, A. E. Morbey, G. W. Tindall, Capt. H. J. R. Cullin, Mr. W. Warren, Lieut. Hodgins, Messrs. Stephen Court, J. Stewart, J. H. Dixon, J. Smith. Sergt.-Major Edwards, who marshalled the parade, also fought at Paardeberg. He is seated behind Morbey and Tindall, wearing two medals. Lieut. A. J. Brace, Chairman Campaigners' Association, standing on right. Trooper Winkell, Strathcona's Horse, Secretary of Campaigners' Association, standing upper left corner, with hand on pillar. Twenty-five regiments were represented.