

Alberta in a few years, and a place which everyone in the west agrees will be the largest inland city in the west. The former military experience of the Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel Griesbach, and the company commanders meant much, for work was started right away, and nothing was drilled into the men that had afterwards to be forgotten. Taking these facts into consideration, it is little wonder that General Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia for Canada, when he inspected the battalion shortly after its inception, stated that it was "the best yet," and reiterated this opinion at H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught's review in Ottawa.

Our modesty prevents us from referring at length to the many other bouquets thrown to us in Edmonton during training there. Suffice to say the regiment surpassed all expectations, and Edmonton expected quite a lot.

After persistent rumours to the effect that orders had been received for our departure to England, excitement reached a climax on May 27th, when all the regiment was confined to barracks. The final order to "fall in" with full marching order was given at about seven o'clock on the evening of May 29th. Jupiter Pluvius was doing his worst, but it could not have rained hard enough to have damped the spirits of the men at that time. Few knew of the departure, but there was a small gathering at the siding near the exhibition grounds to wish the boys luck on their journey to—well no one but the C.O. knew where, and he would not tell.

Of the trip east from Edmonton much could be said. Contrary to general expectations there was no monotony on the train. The men were kept in shape by short marches and divisional points. There was plenty of reading matter and games provided by the Y.M.C.A. Trivial inconveniences which must necessarily occur on such a journey were put up with in a manner which reflects the greatest credit on the men, and which spoke much for the discipline of the battalion.

Ottawa was reached on June 2nd, where a break was made in the journey for a day. It was at this place the Governor-General, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, Sir Robert Borden, General Sam Hughes, and other members of the Dominion Cabinet made their inspection. Again our modesty is in evidence,

and we will refrain from repeating the many nice things said of us that day.

Apropos of the review we cannot refrain from telling a story against the Adjutant and the R.S.M. Both these gentlemen marched down the lines to see that every man was spick and span. To their credit, be it said, as any man will testify who has tried to pass without shaving on parade—little escapes their hawk-like eyes. H.R.H. and entourage came next. The Duke had not travelled far down "A" company line when he stopped, fastened a button of one of the men's tunics, remarking "Pay attention to details, young man. It's the little things that count in this world."

After the inspection, the Minister of Militia bought a drink for every man in the battalion. Needless to say, it was nothing stronger than pop.

On June 4th, Montreal was reached, and with little delay the men were embarked on the R.M.S. Metagama. There was a large crowd to bid good-bye, and the boat pulled out to the strains of "The girl I left behind me," and to the waving of handkerchiefs from those on the wharf. Crossing on the same boat were fifty Royal Canadian Nursing Sisters under command of Miss Mildred Forbes, Eaton's Machine Gun Battery, and a draft of the 35th. The weather was particularly calm and good except for a dense fog, which lasted over two days, and there was little excitement on board. Lifeboat, lifebelt drill and the possibility of a submarine attack were the only things that prevented the journey from being monotonous. There were several concerts, the proceeds of which went to the Liverpool Seamen's Orphanage, at which there was no lack of talent.

An alarm sounded at midnight on June 10th should be mentioned. Practically none of the men knew that this was going to take place, so that it proved to be the real thing. All were asleep in their bunks when the siren blew. There was a general rush for deck, but in fairness to all it should be mentioned there was little excitement every man knowing what he was supposed to do in such a contingency, and doing it with the utmost expedition. The most striking feature of the turn-out was the dress of the men, or rather the lack of it. We will not dwell on this rather painful subject, but will content ourselves with saying that it is a good thing the alarm was only for practice.