

Northwest Review

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SATURDAY, JULY 8, 1905.

Calendar for Next Week.

- 9—Fourth Sunday after Pentecost.
Commemoration of all the Canonized Popes, solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul.
- 10—Monday—The Seven Brothers Martyrs.
- 11—Tuesday—St. Basil the Great, Bishop, Doctor (transferred from June 14).
- 12—Wednesday—St. John Gualbert, Abbot.
- 13—Thursday—St. Anacletus, Pope, Martyr.
- 14—Friday—St. Bonaventure, Bishop, Doctor.
- 15—Saturday—St. Henry, King.

MILITARY JUSTICE

On the second of last June His Honor the Lieutenant Governor's private secretary wrote as follows to the Rev. J. Dugas, S.J., Rector of St. Boniface College: "I am directed to say that the Lieutenant Governor desires to offer a set of forty rifles to be competed for by the best drilled companies of the Winnipeg and St. Boniface schools and the Students of St. Boniface College. The rifles to become the property of the school securing the award. The competition to take place at the Annual Drill competition of the Winnipeg Public Schools and judges to be selected for the occasion." Father Dugas replied, gratefully accepting the generous offer of Sir Daniel McMillan. The date chosen was the 21st of June in the evening. Although the closing exercises of St. Boniface College took place the previous evening, the cadets of the college who might have left for their homes on the morning of the 21st remained here the whole day for the sake of the military competition. We insist upon these facts, for they prove that it was distinctly understood that they were to compete, on equal terms, with the Winnipeg public schools.

The Free Press, of June 22, thus describes the result.

The proceedings last evening were of an additional interest owing to the fact that the Lieutenant Governor was presenting a set of rifles for the smartest company in addition to the usual competition for the Millican rifles.

The boys of St. Boniface College had entered for Sir Daniel's prize, and smart and soldierly was their turnout. Led by their drums and bugles, with colors flying, the lads from across the river, some fifty strong in rank and file, were the first to march past the saluting point. With a steadiness which would have done credit to an old established volunteer corps, did they go through the various movements, and a general anticipation was formed that the first past the saluting point would have been the first on the list when the judges made their award. They were much bigger and older than the public school cadets, however, and possibly this was considered when the awards were being made.

This feeling, general among the spectators, that the St. Boniface cadets were superior to all the other competitors, was still more strongly expressed by the Tribune of the same date, as follows:

To some of the unbiassed it was rather a surprise that the St. Boniface cadets, numbering fifty all told, did not win the coveted laurels.

These cadets were nearer manhood's estate than the boys of the other companies and possessed the distinct advantage of being residents in the college and able to drill continuously. They were the first to parade, with a flourish of trumpets, past the saluting point, where the companies were reviewed by the Lieutenant Governor's party.

They were distinct in many features and in certain points unique. The uniforms were more serviceable than attractive, and they carried regulation rifles which they used in a manner auguring ill to the invisible enemy.

They wore dark suits, with leather belts and white gloves, and it was probably these latter which lost a point in their favor. They marched in that easy manner which is permitted only by the swinging of the free hand, a practice characteristic of the French soldier, but in two or three of the members this was overdone and the white gloves made the defect very noticeable. Apart from this minor detail their movements elicited great admiration, especially the determined manner in which they prepared for cavalry and the rapidity in which they fixed the sights at 500 yards and extended in skirmishing order.

When the signal to parade was given, the St. Boniface company unfurled the tri-color and the union jack and with four buglers and three drummers playing a stirring march they led the way across the field amid great applause. They were under the command of Capt. Alphonse Paradis, Sergeants A. McDonald and N. Laplume, first and second lieutenants William Charette and Leo Fretz. The standard-bearers were Charlie Beecher, bearing the union-jack, and Arthur Couture, the tri-color.

So strong was this persuasion that the captain of the Norquay School cadets, after being adjudged the winner, came over to the Captain of the St. Boniface cadets and assured him that his (the St. Boniface) company should have received the coveted prize.

The alleged greater size and age of the St. Boniface cadets was more apparent than real. Several of the Winnipeg school boys were taller than several of the St. Boniface boys, but they appeared shorter and younger because of their childish uniform and knickerbockers, whereas the St. Boniface boys wore a serviceable and truly military (not spectacular) uniform and wore long trousers. Quite a number of the Winnipeg school cadets were distinctly taller than their commanding officer, Major Billman.

It had been expressly announced beforehand that the word of command should be given by the captain of each company and that the competition should turn on regular, not on fancy, drill. Neither of these conditions were fulfilled by the Winnipeg School cadets; all the orders, except minor ones, were given by the regular instructor, Major Billman, and most of the drill was decidedly fancy. On the other hand, Captain Paradis did all the commanding for the St. Boniface cadets, whose drill was altogether practical and soldierly.

To be sure, it would never do, if the decision were given against Major Billman's own boys. But the fact is that connoisseurs found they made a great many more technical mistakes than the few that escaped the St. Boniface cadets.

As to the strange adjudication, in which the St. Boniface cadets were not even classified, it is but fair to say that Lt.-Col. Evans, being merely referee, could not control the decision, which was the joint production of Lt.-Col. Chambre and Capt. Thacker and Ketchen.

In order to give an air of plausibility to so extraordinary an award the size of the St. Boniface cadets has been steadily exaggerated until we find the Free Press Saturday reviewer of military events throwing bouquets indeed at St. Boniface, but placing them, as a convenient excuse for the evident partiality of the award, "in a class above the school boys." This is the passage we refer to in the Free Press of June 24:

Additional interest was lent to this year's manoeuvres owing to the fact that His Honor the Lieutenant Governor was presenting a set of rifles for competition between the school cadets of the city and the cadets of St. Boniface College. The young fellows across the river have developed much keenness in the cadet movement during the last four years, owing largely to the influence of Rev. I. D'Orsonnens, S.J. This gentleman was born, so to speak, with the military blood in his veins, being a son of the late Col. D'Orsonnens, for many years, a prominent member of military circles in Old Quebec.

Inspired by their reverend father and friend, the boys of St. Boniface took hold of the system with much enthusiasm, and although the adjudicators did not see their way clear to award them the rifles presented by Sir Daniel, this was possibly owing to the fact that they were rather in a class above the school boys and not from any laxity on parade.

Given a military uniform instead of the sober suits worn by them the St. Boniface cadets would readily have passed muster as a company of regulars.

Led by their bugle band, and with the Union Jack a-flying; fifty strong in rank and file; they looked indeed a gallant, sturdy band; and as they went through the various manoeuvres with regulation Lee-Metford rifles and bayonets, they were the recipients of many plaudits from the people. Captain Alphonse Paradis handled his men like a veteran and was ably supported by Lieutenants William Charette and Leo Fretz.

Warrant-officer Sparks, C.M.R., who had had the instruction of the college lads in their drill, is to be sincerely complimented on the brave showing made by his pupils.

There remains but one point to discuss—what the Tribune says, viz. that the St. Boniface cadets "possessed the distinct advantage of being resident in the college and able to drill continuously." This is a complete misunderstanding of the facts. The St. Boniface cadets may have been able to drill continuously but they were not allowed to do so. Military drill was never allowed to interfere either with the hours set down for study or with the regular athletic sports. In point of fact their drill was much less continuous than that of the Winnipeg public schools.

Consequently, however skilful the Winnipeg public school cadets may have been in wearing their absurd caps on one ear, in disguising men of five feet ten as boys by means of knickerbockers, in executing frill-drill by numbers—"one, two, three, four," etc, like little girls learning the piano, there is not one real reason why the rifles should not have been bestowed on the St. Boniface cadets. If their greater size put them "in a class above the school boys," why were they not told so beforehand and warned that they would be welcome merely as recognized veterans far superior to the shirt-waist, effeminate-looking school boys? But to invite them to compete on equal terms and then when they have proved themselves manifestly superior, to praise them as a higher, non-competing class, this is the sort of thing we are used to—the same subterfuge is systematically resorted to in the University of Manitoba, where the most ingenious devices are adopted in order to conceal the superiority of St. Boniface candidates—but, honestly, is this British fairplay?

OUR COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

The King of Spain and Beaumont College

When it was decided that the King of Spain should visit Windsor Castle during his stay in this country, his Majesty was asked to include Beaumont if possible in his programme. The Spanish Ambassador in London and the Duke of Berwick and Alba, the latter an old Beaumont boy, attached to the suite of the King, besides the King's young cousins, the Infantes Alfonso and Luis, who have just completed their education, at Beaumont, all interested themselves personally in the project. The King had expressed his desire to accept the invitation, and as late as the time of his arrival at Windsor on Friday last had renewed, in conversation with the Rector, his intention of visiting the College, if possible, in the course of the afternoon. But the wretched weather and the want of time made it impossible in the end to carry out his wish. His Majesty, however, invited the Rector to meet him at his arrival at Windsor Station, and to bring with him the eight Spanish boys who are being educated at Beaumont at present. The party had the privilege, accordingly, of being present with the Mayor and Corporation of Windsor and a few privileged guests on the arrival of the Royal Special conveying the two Kings and their suites to Windsor. It was noticed how on alighting King Edward, after presenting the Mayor to King Alfonso, retired into the background, and appeared to wish that his youthful guest should be the centre of the proceedings. It was an admirable instance of the perfect tact and good taste with which his Majesty is universally credited. After receiving the Mayor's address, King Alfonso turned to the party from Beaumont. The Rector was presented to him, and he in turn presented the boys, each boy bowing and kissing his hand. His Majesty came into the midst of the group, a boy-king among school boys, and chatted with the most unaffected simplicity with his youthful subjects, recognising one boy by his likeness to his father, another by an incident in the boy's family which he recalled to his memory, assuring another of his personal regard for his parents, and sending messages to the families of all, which he begged the boys to communicate. Finally, fearing that the afternoon's programme might be too full to admit of his visiting Beaumont, he told more

than one of the boys to give his kind regards to all their companions (recuerdos a tus compaños), and once more assuring the Rector of his hope that King Edward might have time to take him to Beaumont, he took his leave and in company with his royal host who had been standing by an amused spectator of the scene, entered the State carriage in waiting and was driven to the castle.

The Rector and boys were invited by the Mayor to lunch at the Town Hall, where they heard the King's reply to the address read by the Town Clerk, and were shown the magnificent album of views of Windsor and the neighbourhood, including three views of Beaumont to be presented to King Alfonso as a souvenir of his visit to the Royal borough. When the album was presented by the Mayor to the King the same evening at Buckingham Palace, his Majesty took the opportunity of renewing his regret that the visit to Beaumont had fallen through. And, to prove the sincerity of his regret, he caused a telegram to be sent to the Rector, through Lord Denbigh, asking that the boys might be given a special holiday to compensate them for the disappointment. He had previously promised the Rector that he would certainly pay Beaumont a visit when he next came to England.

The impression he left on those who enjoyed the honour of this informal interview was of a young man of agreeable appearance and of very great charm of manner, with an easy mixture of simplicity and dignity, entirely unassuming and unaffected himself, and able, apparently without any effort, to put at their ease a party of schoolboys, only one of whom was over fourteen years of age, who found themselves, to their surprise, chatting with their Sovereign on terms of perfect equality.—The Tablet, June 17.

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