

Main Gate, Tete-de-Pont Barracks, Kingston, Ont.



THE buildings shown in the engraving on the preceding page although of comparative recent erection, have an historic interest for Canadians from the fact of their occupying the site of one of the earliest built of the forts of *La Nouvelle France*. When the energetic and capable Frontenac decided to establish a fort and trading house on Lake Ontario, his expedition, on entering that sheet of water on the 12th of July, 1673, was met by several Iroquois chiefs, who informed the Count that the dignitaries of their nation was awaiting his arrival close by, at the mouth of the Kataragou (Cataragou) river. To this spot the French flotilla directed their course, and disembarked their freight of stores and fighting men at the very place now occupied by the Tête-de-Pont Barracks. The keen eyes of the Governor at once took in the admirable situation of the place for his purposes, and the following day his chief engineer, Sieur Raudin was at work tracing out the lines of a defensive post, and the whole party immediately engaged in its erection; with such vigour was this conducted that in four days the fort was completed. A small garrison was left in occupation under the command of La Salle, to whom the buildings and lands adjacent were granted by the King two years later. Many additions and improvements were made to the original buildings during the next eighty years; and Fort Frontenac occupied a prominent part in the history of that period, serving not only as a depot for stores and troops in connection with the military operations west of Montreal, but being also instrumental in obtaining a large portion of the western fur trade, which had previously gone to Albany and New England, thus adding materially to the wealth of the colony. In 1758 it was captured by a strong party of British troops under Bradstreet, who destroyed most of the buildings, the tower in the interior alone being left; this existed until 1827, when it was removed. On the conclusion of the Revolutionary war a large party of loyalists settled in Kingston and the vicinity, and stone barracks were built for the accommodation of the necessary garrison, which usually consisted of from 60 to 100 men. During the war of 1812-15 Kingston played a most prominent part as a basis for military and naval operations and soon after its conclusion vigorous steps were taken by the Imperial Government to render the defence of the town in some way adequate to its strategic value. The building of fortifications was carried on for many years, extending well into the "forties," including Fort Henry, Fort Frederick, Tête-de-Pont Barracks and many other defensive works.

These barracks were garrisoned by Imperial troops until the withdrawal of the latter from Canada, in 1871, one of the finest corps then in the service—the Royal Canadian Rifles—being the last occupants. Since then the building has been occupied by "A" and "B" Batteries Canadian Artillery, the former corps constituting the present garrison.

THE REGIMENTAL INSTITUTES IN INDIA.

One of the most striking changes that has taken place of late years in Indian Army life has been brought about by the establishment of these institutes, says the *Lancet*. It is said that an officer or soldier of a generation ago revisiting an Indian cantonment would be amazed at the change which has taken place. Instead of the canteen being crowded at fixed hours during the day, it is now nearly deserted. Drinking for the sake of drinking has almost died out. The British soldier of to-day can obtain wholesome food amid wholesome surroundings at a very cheap rate through the instrumentality of these institutes, which are one of the practical benefits conferred upon the British soldier in India by Lord Roberts. The "cheap supper" movement is stated to be a great success. The tendency in the present day is to combine recreation with refreshment, and to trust the soldier more. In every regiment there are a sufficiently large number of sober, well-behaved men to see that this confidence and the privileges springing out of it are not abused.

REGIMENTAL NOTES.

QUEBEC.

The many friends of Lieut.-Colonel J. Elton Prower, late C. O. of the 8th Royal Rifles, will no doubt be pleased to learn of his appointment to the corps of Royal Engineers, he having recently been gazetted to the Coast Battalion, Submarine Miners, Falmouth section, with rank of Captain, bearing date 4th April last.

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Mr. J. H. C. Ogilvy, of the Montreal Garrison Artillery, has been spending a few days in this city. Mr. Ogilvy is the only candidate who has presented himself for examination for a commission in the Imperial Army with a view of obtaining one of the six commissions given annually to the Militia of Canada. The results of the examination will not be known for some time as the papers have been forwarded to England.

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On the 30th April the Queen's Own Canadian Hussars and the 8th Royal Rifles had a joint church parade to St. Patrick's church; Lieut.-Col. White of the latter corps was in charge of the brigade.

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On the 7th instant a garrison parade took place to the English Cathedral, and was taken part in by the following corps: "A" Troop, Regiment Canadian Dragoons, Queen's Own Canadian Hussars, "B" Battery Regiment Canadian Artillery, and the 8th Royal Rifles. Lieut.-Col. J. B. Forsyth, of the Q. O. C. H., was in command of the brigade. The different corps mustered in front of the drill hall shortly before eleven o'clock, were called to attention and marched off headed by their respective bands. The streets were lined with interested spectators, who were more than pleased with the turn out. The 8th Royal Rifles paraded 265 strong. The C. O.'s present were: Lieut.-Col. Turnbull, R. C. D.; Lieut.-Col. Montizambert, R. C. A.; Lieut.-Col. Forsyth, Q. O. C. H., and Lieut.-Col. G. R. White, 8th R. R.

At 11.30 the 9th Battalion, under command of Lieut.-Col. Roy, attended service at the Basilica; the eight companies were well represented and elicited favourable comment from the spectators on the line of march.

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A foot-ball match between the Queen's Own Canadian Hussars and the 8th Royal Rifles took place in the Drill Hall on the evening of the 6th instant. A large number of spectators were present and enjoyed the game, as well as the music, which was furnished by the band of the 8th R. R., by kind permission of Lieut.-Col. G. R. White, and officers of that corps.

In the first half neither side scored, but in the last half matters changed considerably, the riflemen proving themselves superior to the troopers by scoring four goals to none. The game throughout was lively and very hard on the players.

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On Friday evening, the 5th inst., the "B" Battery, R. C. A., Minstrel Troupe gave a performance in the Citadel Theatre, which was witnessed by a large audience, who expressed themselves as having thoroughly enjoyed the evening's amusement.

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At the annual meeting of the 8th R. R. Rifle Association, which took place after parade on Tuesday, the 2nd inst., the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Lieut.-Col. G. R. White; Vice-president, Capt. E. Montizambert (Adjutant); Treasurer, Capt. T. H. Argue (Quartermaster); Secretary, Mr. O. B. C. Richardson; Assistant secretary, Sergt. R. Davidson. Committee: "A" Company, Sergt. Morgan and Private J. Fraser; "B" Company, Corporals Harrington and Caulfield; "C" Company, Corporals Hawkins and Norton; "D" Company, Sergt. T. W. S. Dunn and Private Swift; "E" Company, Sergts. Hartley and Hay; "F" Company, Sergts. Sutherland and Hull.

Staff. (N. C. O.) Staff-Sergt. Dewfall, Musketry Instructor. Three teams have been entered for the League Matches and the finances are in a flourishing condition.

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