

PERSONAL REMISICENCES OF '37.

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Mr. Archibald McKerroll of Medonte, Ont., was "warned out," early in December, 1837, by the late Capt. Steele, R.N., to go to the relief of Toronto, threatened by the outbreak of the rebels. At Barrie he joined the company of Capt Keating. At the Penetanguishene road arms and ammunition were served out to them. Crossing Kempenfeldt bay, the men being without overcoats, a luxury not then to be found in many a settler's dwelling, and the pensioners, who comprised part of the force, being unable to move rapidly, the volunteers suffered much from cold. The young men ran back and forth, to keep themselves from freezing, and at the same time to avoid a division of their force. At Davids-town, now Sharon, near Newmarket, they were searching for rebels, when the late Col. Carthew demanded admittance to the house of a well-to-do farmer, but the women in the house refused the soldiers entrance. The Colonel blew the lock to pieces with a musket shot, but no men were found on the premises. In another place they captured a rebel named Reid, a respectable man, whom the volunteers were sorry to see in such a predicament. Mr. McKerroll was detailed to take the prisoner in his own waggon, which was confiscated, to Newmarket. After a fortnight the force returned home and when the fillibusters from the United States renewed the disturbance, Mr. McKerroll was not required to leave his farm, which he had no one else to work. The musket, an old "Indian Chief," which was given him, is still in his possession, and he prizes it above anything else he owns. How he came to retain the gun was that, on the disbanding of the force, Capt. Steele, R.N., ordered him to take home the weapon, and keep it until required to return it by the Captain himself. Subsequently a man came and got the arms of several, but Mr. McKerroll declined to surrender his until ordered to do so by his Captain, and that order never came. Mr. McKerroll came from Islay in 1831; he is enjoying good health, and the only affliction which betokens his age—seventy-three—is that his hearing is much impaired.

Mr. Chas. Davis, aged 84 years, a resident of Lindsay, Ont., is another vigorous representative of the veterans who have received such shabby treatment from the Ontario and Dominion governments. He stands over six feet high, is as straight as a rush and weighs nearly two hundred pounds. He was out in 1837-8, serving for one year his Queen and country, during the McKenzie rebellion. He was stationed at Fort Erie, Chippewa, Waterloo, and Hamilton, leaving the latter place the very day the rebels robbed the mails. He saw Montgomery's tavern burned and witnessed the execution of Matthews and Lount. He was promised one hundred acres of land if he enlisted, but needless to say that promise was like pie crust—easily broken. He takes great interest in the present movement to get recompense for the present survivors of those stirring times and is yet hopeful. He served under Col. Kirby, Capt. Thompson and Major Webb. He has resided in Lindsay for twenty-nine years and is still hale and hearty.

On the subject of the '37-8 troubles the following interesting letter appeared in a recent issue of the *Empire* :—

To the Military Editor of the Empire

SIR,—Some time ago a paper, I forget where, in referring to the Mackenzie rebellion stated that the yeomen of the county of Simcoe did not turn out with the usual alacrity of Britishers when the call to arms resounded all over this province. That statement is incorrect, and was made either through ignorance of the facts, or else through a wilful desire to cast discredit on the people of Simcoe, which I think is unlikely. Through the kindness of Lieut.-Col. Gray, brigade-major of this district, I have been placed in possession of a muster roll of the men who did duty for the few days their services were required on that occasion, and which will be found below. It shows conclusively that the "annexationists" of '38 had as little sympathy from the people of Simcoe over half a century ago as they have from any part of the Dominion to-day.

Here is a list of those who were on duty in Simcoe from October 24 to 31, 1838, both days inclusive: Capt. Duncan Campbell; lieutenants, Hugh Ross, Duncan McPherson; ensign, Samuel Decow; sergeants, Thomas Wood, Robert Benjamin, William B. Loyd; corporals, Richard Dell, George Culver, Robert Lawrence, William Hunter; privates, William Jones, William Laurence, Turner Boyd, Samuel Hamilton, George W. Park, James Nobles, Lemon Sovereign, Stephen Newell, James Reid, Alfred Jarret, Talmon Rose, Roderick McIver, William Jackson, John Howey, Mark Alway, John Collings, Thomas Parsons, James Wood, Henry Dell, Geo. L. Coombs, Robert How, Joseph Walker, James Fisher, Nathaniel Dudley, John Walker, William Werret, Robert Brown, Joseph Cordy, Sampson Baker, Jacob Dell, William Powlden, William Powers, William Craik, James McMicken, Aaron Culver, George Kelly, Charles O'Connor, James Colver, George Hunter, John Buck, John Brown, James Bailey, William Weston, William Bannister, Joseph Dell, Jacob Smith, Darius Smith, Jonathan Pettit, Henry Milburn, Thomas Simms, jr., Edward Gallagher, Robert Cuthbert, Julius Litchfield, James Wilson, James Pritchard, James Griffiths, Abram Pettit, George Wilson, Wm Ranson, Wm. Richards, Jonathan Pursley, Jas. G. Wilson, Wm. P. Perkins, John Brooks, John Montgomery, Luke Kendall, Hiram Shaw, Wm McGill, Amos Morsell, Joseph Slaght, Aaron Parney, Cornelius Parney, George Slaght, John Hicks, John Lawrence, Hezekiah Purkis, Robert A. Wilson, Jacob Gilles, Silas Carpenter, Wesley Baughnes, John McCall, Alfred Howey, Bartholomew Hai, Thomas Simms, sen., John Polley, Alonson Baughnes, Artemus Purdy.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing was the strength of the company under my command for the above period.

(Signed) DUNCAN CAMPBELL,

Captain.

Captain Campbell, whose name appears, was the father of Major Campbell, mayor of Simcoe last year, while Pte. Geo. L. Coombs was father of the present Lieut.-Col. Coombs, of the 39th Battalion, Norfolk. Other well-known names will be found in the list of officers and men who turned out on that occasion to protest with their old flint locks if necessary against what they believed to be an annexation movement nursed and nurtured in the United States, but which instead of bursting into full bloom withered in the patriotic atmosphere of Canada when transplanted here. It may prove interesting to know the amount of pay these men received for their services. Here it is: Captain, £4. 12s. 8d.; lieutenant, £2. 12s.; ensign, £2 2s.; sergeants, 14s. 8d.; corporals, 10s. 8d.; privates, 8s.; and the citizen soldiers of to-day are just as ready and a great deal better able to turn out behind their Sniders to defend the old flag as they were when their fathers and grandfathers bade good-bye to their families and with old Brown Bess settled the annexation question for more than half a century.

Yours, etc.,

A.S.O.C.

Toronto, January, 1893.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY.

A good deal of our history is military. The French regime began and ended in struggle. The administration of the British period began by utilizing the militia organization that the French governors had left behind them. These years are known as the *Regne Militaire*. But it was not long till there was military rule in another sense, and the story of the British army, as connected with Canada alone, would make an important and entertaining chapter in the history of the last century or so—the Revolutionary period 1812-15, 1837, 1861-1871, and other times of unrest, having special prominence. But besides all this, there is the story of our soldiers, every battalion of whom is, in its rise and progress, associated with the social, educational, industrial, and patriotic life of a locality or district. This, a portion of our history that has been hitherto neglected, is now receiving careful attention from the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE, whose "Historical Records of the Canadian Militia," written by officers of the respective corps, will constitute a really valuable addition to the sources from which the future historian can safely draw.—R. V. in *Montreal Gazette*.