

have the 100th Regiment recruited from Canada, so as to have a distinctive Canadian regiment in the British service in the same way as exists now in the British Isles. The following is from the *Morning Post* and gives a suggestion on the subject of giving back to Canada our old regiment, after alluding to the letter of the Secretary of State for War from the "Service" members of the House of Commons. It says :

On the other hand we are heartily in accord with the service members in the new points which they are trying to impress on Lord Lansdowne as being necessary to the efficiency of the army. As they point out in their letter: "We cannot perceive that the disadvantages of the present system will in any sense be diminished by the substitution of 4-battalion for 2-battalion regiments." Indeed if the "linking system" of territorial regiments must be continued, it would most certainly be a distinct gain to create new double-battalion regiments for new territories, and one of the most popular of such regiments would be one which could easily be formed by splitting the present Leinster regiment into its component parts of the old 100th (Royal Canadians) and 109th, and by giving back the 100th to Canada and raising another battalion in that country; and by adding another battalion to the 109th, reinstating the Leinster regiment as a double-battalion, Irish territorial regiment. Some of the new regiments might also be raised in Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, to the great and lasting advantage of the Empire.

That is a policy which will meet with favour in the mother country when the question is brought before the British government. Before these petitions were presented there was a letter written and a petition sent from the city council of the city of Toronto, asking that a recruiting depot should be formed, or replaced where it once existed when the regiment was first formed, and there has been some correspondence in regard to that matter. The reply that was received has been published, and I obtained it from the Canadian Militia *Gazette*, and it reads as follows :—

The movement set on foot by the way of a petition to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, signed by many of the leading citizens of Canada, as well as by municipal corporations, for the repatriation of the old 100th Royal Canadian Regiment, was followed by a resolution passed by the City Council, Toronto, asking the Imperial authorities to locate the territorial district at Toronto. This resolution having been forwarded through the Governor General, the following despatch in reply has been received :—

WAR OFFICE, LONDON, S.W.,
3rd November, 1896.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th July last, forwarding a copy of a despatch from the Governor General of Canada, dated 8th July, together with a petition from the corporation of Toronto, praying that the name of the 100th or Prince of Wales's Regiment, may be restored, and that a depot of the regiment may be established in Toronto.

I am directed to inform you that these suggestions have been carefully examined, and that the Secretary of State for War and the Commander-in-Chief are prepared to give favourable consideration to any proposals which may tend to foster the connection between the regular army and the military forces in Canada, and to further cement the strong feeling of sympathy already existing between the mother country and the Dominion.

The Marquis of Lansdowne observes, however, that in forwarding the petition from the Corporation of Toronto, the Governor General of Canada had expressed no opinion thereon, nor is there anything in the correspondence to show whether the proposal is one which has the support either of the Provincial or the Dominion Government.

Before any further action is taken it would in Lord Lansdowne's opinion, be desirable to ascertain whether the proposal may be taken as representing the wishes of the Canadian people generally, and whether the Canadian Government concur in the views set forth in the petition and would be prepared to give them practical support.

Such support might take the form of providing barrack accommodation, medical attendance and facilities for commissariat arrangements, in the event of its being found practicable to establish a recruiting depot at Toronto, which measure, Lord Lansdowne is advised would be the best tentative and preliminary step in the direction desired by the petitioners and might, if successful, be followed by the restoration of the title of Royal Canadian and the affiliation of the two battalions of Canadian Militia to a regiment recruited entirely from Canada.

I have, &c., &c.,

(Signed.) G. LAWSON.

The Honourable, the Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

The Right Honourable Mr. Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, under date of October 14, 1897, writes to Lord Aberdeen, asking him if the Canadian Government had furnished him with an expression of their views on the proposal that a depot of the Leinster Regiment should be established at Toronto. The Secretary of the Militia Department, Ottawa, under date December 9th, asks the Mayor of Toronto, to let him know for the information of the Minister of Militia, what answer can be given on behalf of the city of Toronto. The mayor will bring the matter before the council, but it is unlikely that any definite result will follow until after the municipal elections.

This shows a part of the correspondence that has been passing; to ascertain to what extent it has been lengthened out is the object of my inquiry at the present moment. The question of recruiting in Canada is one that should be favourably received by our government. In this very 100th Regiment that was raised forty years ago was a non-commissioned officer named Eli Clarke, who was enlisted in London, Ontario, at the time the regiment was raised. Eli Clarke served with distinction for 30 years and has now six sons in the same regiment, all occupying positions in the non-commissioned rank. One has served 12 years, another six, another five, and so on down to the youngest son. That of itself, shows the affection, at any rate,