

Historical Record

Although the 6th Regiment "The Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles" is in some respects a Military organization but recently brought into existence, in reality it can claim direct descent from the first local Military corps established in British Columbia in Crown Colony days.

The first Corps of Militia raised on the Mainland of British Columbia was the Seymour Artillery. The exact date is in doubt, as owing to the fire at New Westminster in 1898 all records were lost, and the early history of the Corps is a matter of memory. The Seymour Artillery, which was formed about 1859 at New Westminster as a Half Battery of Field Artillery, was armed with two 24-pounder Bronze Howitzers, which are now adorning the grounds at Queen's Park. The Corps was named after the Governor of the Colony, and among its officers were members of the Governor's staff and the late Sir Henry Crease.

From 1859-60 to 1878 the history of the Corps is lost. In 1878 a Crimean veteran, Capt. George Pittendrigh, then late of the Buffs, took command, with Lieut. W. Norman Bole as his subaltern. During Capt. Pittendrigh's tenure of command the old Seymour Artillery became No. 1 Battery of the newly formed British Columbia

Brigade of Garrison Artillery, No. 2 Battery being in Victoria. In 1884, on Capt. Pittendrigh's retirement, Capt. W. Norman Bole assumed command, which he held until his elevation to the Bench in 1889, when the command devolved upon Capt. Charles McNaughton.

The Battery was always maintained in a high state of efficiency, and was complimented on several occasions by inspecting officers, notably by His Excellency the Marquis of Lorne and General Laurie. The uniform was the same as worn by the Royal Artillery, including the Busby as head-dress.

In 1894 the British Columbia Brigade of Garrison Artillery was composed as follows: Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Companies were in Victoria, No. 4 Company at New Westminster, and authority was given to raise a Company in Vancouver to be known as No. 5. Major T. O. Townley, who, when he resided in New Westminster, had commanded No. 4 Company, was placed in command. The other officers were Lieutenants C. A. Worsnop, Lacey R. Johnson, F. W. Boulthbee, and C. Gardiner Johnson. Lieut.-Col. E. G. Prior, of Victoria, was in command of the Brigade. On January 17th, 1894, in the old theatre on Pender Street, near