

discover any fault for even the microscopic eye of the hypercritical amateur to dwell upon. The scene may be referred to in the "Mail and Empire Supplement" of the 13th inst. I need not say how great would be the pleasure it would afford me to join in the general congratulation to the Queen's Own on the success of the picture "Steady as a Rock," but, the pleasure is denied me, for I have been at pains—and with thoroughly reliable success to confirm my impression that on the Queen's Birthday, our visitors, the Queen's Own, did not, as depicted, wear the uniforms of Gentlemen Cadets of the Royal Military College.

Emphasis has been laid upon the period of the last few years, because it is about the state of the college during this time that our unrestrained critics express themselves concerned.

There have been read the names of thirty-three individuals under instruction at the college, from 1892 to the present time, who have distinguished themselves in a marked way, some of them by intellectual power, some in technical professional work, others in physical training.

This number might have been greatly increased, had time permitted, or were one not tied to evidence secure against malicious attack by anonymous enemies of the college, and irresponsible disseminators of falsehood.

The opportunity for practical disproof of the injurious statements that have been made has not yet come within the reach of very many; nevertheless, one may be reasonably justified in challenging comparison for this college, numbering from 50 to 70 students, with any existing institution, in respect of the proportion of those, who, having had the opportunity, have since 1892 proved their worth.

Lieut. Girouard, R.E., has been entrusted with the construction of the advanced military railway now being built in the Soudan.

These are quoted but as an illustration of numerous instances, in public and private capacities, of individual distinction, without political influence or other artificial aid, due to capacity and training at the Royal Military College.

The object of these remarks is to show that work being done here is not deteriorating; and, if the records of earlier times be examined, there will be found abundant guides to what may be expected of the graduates of late years.

Our roll includes some names that have become household words throughout the Dominion.

Mackay served with distinction in Bechuanaland, 1884-85, commanded the Royal Engineers on the West Coast of Africa in 1887-89, and, by merit on active service at Sierra Leone, won the Distinguished Service Order decoration: and later was appointed Administrator of the Imperial British East Africa Company.

Robinson, who commanded the Royal Engineers on the West Coast of Africa in 1889-92, was killed whilst, with conspicuous bravery, blowing in the gate of the stockaded village of Tambi.

Stairs was Stanley's right-hand man, in the Emin Pasha relief expedition 1887-90; and later 1892 selected by the King of the Belgians to command the Katango expedition.

These all forfeited their lives in the discharge of duty; but others happily remain who have done credit to their training here, and amongst them may be noted at random, Capt. Lang, R.E., C.M.G., who first was entrusted with the Engineering defences of Port Esquimalt, was decorated, and later was selected by the Imperial Government to conduct Civil Engineering Surveys for the great railway projected to connect the Western Coast of Africa with its central regions.

Captain Twining, R.E., now a professor of the college, assisted in the Engineering Survey of the projected railway from the East Coast of Africa.

The number of students in attendance is regrettably small,—fewer than sanctioned by Parliament,—and very much fewer than needed; as an extremely important element in an effective defence organization by Canada.

There is existing statutory provision for about twice as many cadets as are now in attendance,—and of the large number of Militia Officers without qualification certi-