

supplemented the proceedings with a few felicitous remarks and this part of the ceremony was concluded.

The committee then adjourned to the officers' mess, where the officers of the Company were assembled. Mr. Carreau, as chairman, again opened the proceedings and gave a brief but very eloquent address, in which reference was made to the military history of St. Johns and to the strategic importance of this old garrison town. This was followed by a more formal address, which was read by the Secretary, Mr. J. L. Whatley, and which was as follows:—

To LIEUT.-COLONEL D'ORSONNENS, D.A.G.,  
Commandant, and Officers of No. 3 Com-  
pany, R.R.C.I.:

SIR AND GENTLEMEN.—Having in view the fact that your Company has just entered upon the tenth year of its establishment in this town, we, the undersigned citizens of St. Johns, have deemed it a fitting opportunity to publicly acknowledge that event and to extend our heartiest congratulations, coupled with the hope that your connection with the historic town on the Richelleu may be continued for many years to come.

To strengthen this link, and in appreciation of many courtesies extended, not forgetting the commercial advantages to the business community by the presence of so large an establishment in our midst, we ask your acceptance of the accompanying cabinet of plate which has been subscribed by some sixty friends in St. Johns.

We would also wish to refer, with pleasurable remembrances, to the many officers who during the past years, have attended the school, adding much to the social advantages of the neighborhood, and who, we trust, have gone forth with credit to themselves and consequent honor to their instructors, to take their part in the military defence of this great Dominion.

We cannot omit to place on record our recognition of the varied services rendered, with your kind permission, by the non-commissioned officers and men under your command, to the community at large. These efforts, we feel sure, have been fully appreciated, and their success bears testimony to their many soldierly qualities.

In making this presentation, we desire you to accept the renewed assurance of our high esteem, and the expressed hope that future years may serve to bind yet more closely the military and civil life of St. Johns.

We have the honor to subscribe ourselves on behalf of the citizens.

Yours very truthfully,

J. P. CARREAU, Chairman,  
J. L. WHATLEY, Hon. Sec.,  
E. R. SMITH,  
R. GOOLD,  
C. ARPIN, } Managing  
A. J. WIGHT, } Committee

St. Johns, P. Q., April 19th, 1894.

The Commandant, Lt. Col. d'Orsonnens, accepted the testimonial on behalf of the officers of the Company. He spoke first in French and then in English. He was very happy in his remarks and very hearty in his thanks. Anything, he said, that could strengthen the kindly relations that existed between the occupants of the barracks and the citizens of the town was certainly a source of the utmost gratification to himself and to everyone under his command. He referred to the courtesy the school had ever received from the citizens of St. Johns, which was emphasized by this presentation made that day, and he said that nothing could be more appropriate or acceptable than the handsome testimonial which he had the honor and pleasure of accepting. This terminated the proceedings, and after mutual congratulations the committee withdrew.

The following is the list of subscribers to the testimonial:—

J. O'Call (Mayor), E. Arpin, C. Arpin, E. Archambeault, J. N. Boisvert, O. N. E. Boucher, J. O. Brassard, N. H. Beaulieu, J. B. Black, H. Black, W. Brosseau, A. Camarais, J. P. Carreau, Hon. Judge Chagnon, L. Cosineau, C. R. Cousins, P. Chasné, T. L. Dixon, P. J. Doré, L. Fogue, I. B. Futvoye, R. Goold, A. Gervais, N. J. Gregoire, Dr. Girouard, E. H. Howard, J. E. Hebert, T. Keefe, P. Labelle, J. A. Lomme, J. E. Mollieur, A. Morin, J. S. Messier, G. Marchand, D. Macdonald, A. Macdonald, F. A. Macdonald, C. Monnette, O. Meunier, L. G. Macdonald, E. Morel, F. Fayette, Jr., H. Perchard, L. S. Pariseau, J. Queneau, J. B. Stewart, Simard & Godin, E. R. Smith, H. R. Smith, H. St. Mars, W. O. Trotter, J. B. Tiesidder, W. H. Wyman, A. Walmaley, G. H. Wilkinson, A. J. Wight, W. J. Wight, J. L. Whatley.

## Military Pensions.

Col. Prior, the member for Victoria, B.C., has taken an early opportunity to signify his intention of again urging upon parliament the advisability of establishing a pension fund for the permanent military corps of Canada. When this proposition was before the House of Commons last session it received sympathetic, if not favorable, consideration from the Government, and consequently there is every reason to hope that a further discussion of it will not prove a waste of effort. Specially is this the case inasmuch as the advocates of the proposal are in a position to present a peculiarly strong argument. While there may be, and no doubt are, differences of opinion as to the wisdom of superannuating ordinary public employes, it cannot be doubted that the claim of a soldier to a maintenance when by reason of age or infirmity he is disqualified from service approaches very near to an absolute right. From this point of view a pension fund for our small, but none the less necessary, standing army, if such it can be called, might be easily justified, but there is another and, to the public, a more important aspect of the subject, Canada has a volunteer militia force of which it has many reasons to be proud, and upon the bravery of which it could confidently rely in case of an emergency arising from internal or external causes. But on the battlefield a soldier needs experience and skill as well as courage. For these we look specially to the regular corps, which, by their example and instruction, are expected to impart to the volunteers the conduct and discipline of veterans when they are in action. It follows, therefore, that the maintenance of a high standard in the permanent force is the keystone upon which depends the efficiency of our militia. We had before 1871 Imperial troops in Canada to rely upon, but on their withdrawal from Kingston and Quebec it was considered advisable to establish regular batteries in those places. This permanent force, which began with a strength of two hundred, now numbers one thousand, or thereabouts, a limit beyond which it may not be necessary to go for many years to come. Indeed, if the country is prepared to be more careful in its military expenditure, it could not do better than improve rather than increase the regular service it now has, for in these times skill counts for more in war than numbers. Twenty-five or fifty years ago the dashing but inexperienced young man might rise rapidly from the ranks of military ambition. It was a common thing in those days for junior officers with influence and money to be thrust in front of older and more experienced men. But since then war has become more of a science, and the danger of such promotions has increased proportionately. Moreover, the modern appliances of battle are so intricate and complicated that an expert soldier must possess nearly all the qualifications of an electrical engineer. It is to the permanent corps that we look for this class of trained men; they are the schools from which graduate the best officers and the best instructors. Military

men tell us, and there is no reason to doubt it, that good reliable non-commissioned officers are the backbone and mainstay of any military organization, and it needs no special knowledge on the subject to realize that these cannot be obtained from ranks that are filled with inferior men.

In view of these considerations it is hard to understand why less inducements to long and faithful service are held out to the regular soldiers than to any other public employees. At the outset their pay is small. The men enlist for three years at forty cents a day, with food and clothing, and by good behaviour this sum may be increased to forty-seven cents. One who rises from the ranks will receive as corporal seventy cents a day, as sergeant eighty cents a day, as staff-sergeant \$1 a day, or as sergeant-major \$1 25 a day. The officers it must be remembered, have outlays for uniforms and social duties as well as calls upon their purses, from which the privates are exempt. Yet the allowance of captains and majors is \$105 a month, and of lieutenant-colonels, \$125. The smallness of the remuneration is, however, not so much an injury to the permanent corps as the fact that no provision is made for the maintenance when they are no longer fit for service of those who devote their lives to the work. Both England and the United States provides reasonable pensions, while Canada, neglecting the purely military organizations, pays retiring allowances to the members of the Civil Service and the North-West Mounted Police. The effect of pensioning soldiers after long service is to retain at the disposal of the country the best men, and to develop experts in the highly necessary science of attack and defence. Money wisely spent in this way is therefore a judicious and statesmanlike investment. Besides this, we know that Canadians are constantly seeking and obtaining positions in the Imperial service after they have received a military training at the expense of this country. They go abroad in most cases, reluctantly, because insufficient inducements are offered them to remain at home. The time has come when something should be done to prevent this loss, and to make better use of the material we have in this country. A moderate pension for long services would be a very important, and by no means expensive, step in that direction. It ought not to be regarded as an extravagant use of money, but rather as a means of ensuring a better return for the necessary expenditure to which the country is now put. A former Minister of Militia went so far as to prepare a bill on the subject, and soon, it is to be hoped, Parliament will enact one.—*Toronto Mail*, April 10th.

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