

regiment at the annual camp in September last.

Capt. Spry was the youngest officer at the front during the North-West rebellion, and up to the time of his death was the youngest officer in the Canadian militia.

For the CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN.]

THE MASONIC CORPORATIONS IN GERMANY.

BY A. BORNGASSEE.

During the 15th century there existed in Germany a great number of lodges of operative Masons, which following the example of the English lodges of the same period, recognized a few principal lodges of master-workmen and architects, to whom they accorded the title of high or grand lodges. These were five in number and were established at Cologne, Strasburg, Vienna, Zurich and Magdeburg. That at Cologne was from the first considered the most important, and the master of the work upon the Cathedral at Cologne was recognized as the chief of all the masters and workmen of Lower Germany, as was the master of the work on the Cathedral of Strasburg considered as occupying a similar position of honor in Upper Germany. Subsequently there was established a central mastership, and Strasburg, when the work upon its great cathedral was continued to its completion, disputed the pre-eminence with Cologne, whose cathedral has only seen its completion of late years, and became the seat of the Grand Mastership. The Grand Lodge of Strasburg counted within her jurisdiction the lodges of France, Hesse, Swabia, Hinrinyen, Franconia and Bavaria; while to the Grand Lodge of Cologne were subordinate the lodges of Belgium and the neighboring portions of France. The Grand Lodge of Vienna exercised jurisdiction over the lodges of Austria, Hungary and Styria, while those of Switzerland were attached to the Grand Lodge of

Berne, during the construction of the cathedral in that city, and subsequently to that of Zurich; where its seat was transferred in 1502. The lodges of Saxony, which from the first recognized the supremacy of the Grand Lodge of Strasburg, were subsequently placed under that of Magdeburg. These five Grand Lodges had a sovereign and independent jurisdiction, and adjudged, without appeal, all cases brought before them according to the statutes of the society. These ancient laws, revised by the chiefs of the lodges, assembled at Ratisbonne on the 25th of April 1459, and for the first time printed in 1464, were entitled "Statutes and Rules of the Fraternity of Stone-cutters of Strasburg." Sanctioned by the Emperor Maximilian in the year 1498, the constitution, composed of those statutes and rules, was confirmed by Charles the 5th in 1520, by Ferdinand in 1558 and their successors. Toward the close of the 15th century, however, the crying abuses of the Clergy and the Popes having cooled the religious fervor and unsettled the faith of the people, the construction of many churches was arrested, for want of necessary means to erect them. This led to the dispersion of the men engaged in erecting them, and immediately following this change in public sentiment burst forth the Reformation led by Martin Luther, which rent for the time, almost to its foundation, the temporal and spiritual power of the Popes, and forever arresting the work upon the vast monuments of worship, gave the death-blow to the Masonic corporations in every portion of the European continent. Gradually thenceforth the German lodges dissolved. Those of Switzerland had been by an order of the Helvetian Diet disbanded in 1522. The jurisdiction of the five Grand Lodges was narrowed to very confined limits, and with nothing to construct, and nothing to adjudicate, the Diet of the Empire sitting at Ratisbonne, abrogated by a law of