



THE INSPECTION OF THE ROYAL SCOTS.

THE FIFTH ROYAL SCOTS OF MONTREAL.



Of the many types of uniform prevailing in the Queen's service, none is more popular than that worn by regiments from the Highlands of Scotland. With the strong Scotch element pervading all parts of Canada, it is well that there is at least one corps which retains, with but one exception, the exact uniform worn by the Highland regiments in the Army; and that exception, the head dress, many here would gladly see made to conform to that used by the Imperial troops. Did the Royal Scots wear the feather bonnet instead of the helmet, it would be difficult to find anywhere a more imposing looking regiment; it is scarcely possible to imagine the difference made by the substitution of the former, and one requires to see a battalion of Highlanders marching to the music of the pipes, in kilts uniform, and proudly wearing the historic feather bonnet, to form any idea of the unequalled martial appearance of such a corps. The Fifth Royal Scots of Montreal is the only regiment in Canada which wears distinctively Highland uniform, and, as such, is immensely popular, not only in this city but wherever it may visit. It originally was a Light Infantry Corps, but some years ago received permission to adopt the kilts, a step which gave it marked distinction from all other battalions in the Canadian service.

The annual inspection of the battalion was held on Saturday, 20th June, on the Champ de Mars, by Major General Herbert and his staff. As is usual in the case of the inspection of a popular regiment, the review was witnessed by great crowds of people, and their appreciation of the good points shown in the drill was spontaneous and hearty. The regiment marched on to the Champ de Mars a little before four o'clock, under command of Lieut.-Col. Hood; the muster was a strong one, numbering 283 in all. The Major General arrived at four o'clock and was received with the usual general salute, after which he proceeded to inspect the companies; this was done very minutely, every man receiving close attention. The orthodox march past in column, quarter column and double time followed, all of

which were fairly well done. A number of battalion movements followed, after which the manual and firing exercise was done under command of Major Strathy; then came the bayonet exercise, after which other battalion movements occupied the balance of the inspection. With the exception of the bayonet exercise, all were remarkably well



LIEUT.-COL. HOOD, Commanding Royal Scots.

done, the men moving sharply to word of command; the formations and changes of front were quickly made, without that dragging which one often sees in Militia inspections. We venture to think the performance of the bayonet exercise a mistake for Canadian volunteer regi-

ments; the amount of time necessary to bring a corps of six companies to any degree of perfection is very great, and, unless such perfection is obtained, the performance gives occasion for much adverse criticism; one man who goes to pieces at the work is not only likely to throw out and disconcert his comrades, but neutralizes the good efforts of the rest of the battalion. It would have been an additional attraction had Col. Hood been permitted to work his battalion at the attack in extended order; but time did not allow for this and it unfortunately had to be omitted. At the conclusion of the manoeuvres the regiment was formed into a square and was addressed by Major General Herbert who congratulated them on their excellent drill and appearance, and referred in his remarks to the historic actions of the Highland Brigade at Alma and Tel el Kebir. Accompanying the Royal Scots throughout the whole parade was the corps of Highland cadets numbering 56 youths, and their part in the afternoon's work was by no means inconsiderable. In nearly all of the battalion movements they took part and introduced a new and very pleasing feature into the inspection by the performance of the "Physical drill" to the music of the Scots band; this was splendidly done, all arms and bodies swinging in unison to the music and was one of the most attractive sights of the day. In the Major General's remarks he heartily congratulated the cadets on their smartness and efficiency. In addition to the views of the inspection, we have pleasure in presenting a portrait of Lieut.-Col. Hood, the new commander of the regiment, having been gazetted but a few months ago. As a soldier in every sense of the term, it is safe to say that Col. Hood is not excelled in the Canadian militia. A good disciplinarian, he is thoroughly well up in his drill, and his manner of handling the battalion on parade at the inspection is beyond all praise. Col. Hood is known throughout Canada as one of our leading shots, having taken a warm interest in rifle shooting since his first connection with the Fifth, many years ago; he has been to Wimbledon on the Canadian team twice already and gives promise of having several more trips across the water. In 1889 he accompanied the Canadian team as Adjutant, on the occasion of the last trip to Wimbledon, (the meeting of 1890 being held at Bisley,) and in the performance of his duties earned the golden opinions of the commanding officer and members of the team.