



## View of the Southerly One-Third of the James Street Front of the New Hamilton Drill Hall.

The splendid new Drill Hall and armories that are to be erected in Hamilton will when completed mark one of the most important epochs in the city's military history. Rome was not built in a day, and this may also be said of the securing of the new hall and armories. It took years of hard work on the part of prominent military men, who have spared neither time nor money in making the Hamilton military bodies famous throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion. At last, however, their hopes have been realized, and the Hamilton soldiers are to have up-to-date quarters that will compare favorably with the best in the Dominion.

### The Architecture.

Will be after the style of the French renaissance. The front of the old building at the corner of Robert and James streets will be torn down and an entirely new front, extending from Robert street to where Dr. Mullin's house now stands, erected. The front will be built of Stanstead grey granite and will extend up the towers twenty feet. There will be four towers on James street. In the centre will be a large entrance to the court between the two buildings, and each of the buildings will have fine, commodious entrances from James street, and the new hall another one from Hughson street.

The new building will extend from James to Hughson streets, with officers' quarters on the James street front and the non-coms' quarters on Hughson street. The Drill Hall itself will be 130 by 240, and will accommodate 10,000 people, having galleries around three sides. It will have a steel arch truss roof. Along the north side all the armories for the Thirtieth and Ninety First will be situated.

### The Old Hall

Which will be thoroughly overhauled and renovated to suit the purposes for which it will be used, will be occupied by the Army Medical Corps. The Army Service Corps, the Battery and a mounted corps should one be established here. A place will also be fitted up in it for a riding school, something that will be much appreciated by many military men. In the new hall on the north side, adjoining the armories of the two regiments, will be quarters for the Collegiate Cadets, which have been attached to the Thirtieth.

On the ground floor of the James

street front will be quarters for the commanding officers, adjutants and orderly room clerks of each regiment. On the James street front of the second floor the officers' mess of the Thirtieth, Battery, and Ninety First will be established in most commodious quarters. On the second floor of the Hughson street front will be the sergeants' mess of both regiments. Both bugle bands will have snug places on the third floor of the Hughson street front.

**Band Accommodation.**  
Over the armories will be two band rooms, 30 x 30. There will also be a men's recreation room 150 feet long and a large lecture room. Under the armories will be a bowling alley and a rifle range for both officers and men.

The court between the two buildings will be eighty feet wide, thus leaving plenty of room for outside manoeuvring. This is only a rough outline of what the improvements are to be, but it is sufficient to give an adequate idea of the commodious quarters the Hamilton soldiers are to have.

The old Drill Hall used by the Thirtieth Regiment was burned on May 23, 1886, when the whole of its arms, band music and stores were destroyed. The colors were saved, and also many of the regiment's valued trophies. The loss was about \$25,000. The present Drill Hall was finished during 1888 at a cost of \$50,000, and was formally opened on Sept. 17.

The contrast between the proposed new structure and the old building which has done duty for such a long time is very striking, and it implies a corresponding increase in the importance of this city in military affairs.

### A Welcome Improvement.

The new hall has not come to Hamilton till there was a most urgent need for it. This has been noticeable for years past. The Thirtieth officers complained that they did not have room enough in it for their regiment alone, and when the Highlanders were organized the necessity of having a suitable hall was made more plain than ever.

In this sketch of what the new hall and armories will be it will be seen that sufficient accommodation has been provided for many years to come, and the building, besides being greatly appreciated by His Majesty's defenders, will be something that Hamilton may well be proud of.

The housing of all the corps in the two buildings will have another good effect, in that it will bring the men of the various units more closely together and thus promote the most friendly feeling.

In the old place there was little chance for the men to have entertainments they desired, on account of lack of room. All this has been looked after in the new place, and no opening has been left for any complaint.

The officers who have seen the new plans are delighted with what they call for. "It took us a mighty long time to get what we wanted, but it was far better to wait, than to rush to have a building erected that would never have met our requirements," said one of them.

The progress of Hamilton's military bodies has justified the erection of such a building, and when it is completed and the soldiers housed within it, it will be an incentive to them to accomplish greater things.

One of the most important military events this season will be the brigade church parade to-morrow to Dundurn Park, where a service will be held in the open. The success of such a ceremonial affair of course depends largely upon the weather, and providing the weather man does the right thing the parade should be one of the biggest events of the kind ever seen in Hamilton. It is expected that fully a thousand soldiers, if not more will turn out. Large crowds are looked for at the park.

The Thirtieth Regiment last evening had a most creditable turnout, 456 men, responding to the "fall in." This corps seems to be making it a point this year to waste little time. As soon as the soldiers assembled the commanding officer, Lt.-Col. Moore gave the command to march out and headed by the two bands, the regiment marched up to King street and until after 9 o'clock performed useful work. The programme was mostly battalion movements and the manner in which they were done, was most satisfactory.

The improvement in the drill, since the first parade was noticeable and the soldiers obeyed the commands supplied with a precision that was commendable. Both bands supplied stirring martial music, and as usual the march up and down was witnessed by large crowds.

At the Drill Hall Colonel Moore spoke to the men about the church parade, asking them to have everything in shape and be sharp on time. Reference was also made to the Shelter trench competition which

takes place shortly. The date of the annual inspection has been announced for November 10. Lory Aylmer, the inspector general will be the inspecting officer. There is really a very short time to get in shape for this and the doing at Toronto on Thanksgiving day and from now until inspection night the soldiers will have work in plenty.

The parade state was as follows: Lt.-Col. Moore, Majors Mewburn and Ross, Captain Donville, Adjutant; Major Herring, Paymaster; Captain Lester Quartermaster; Surg.-Capt. Carter, Canon Forneret, Chaplain, staff sergeants 9, Buglers 41, Band 34, Bearers 16, Maxim gun 7, recruits 43, a total of 158. A 40, B41, C 43, D 39, E 27, F 37, G 34, H 47, a total of 486.

It is the intention of the officers of the Thirtieth Regiment to give a ball again this year, following their established custom, on an evening between Christmas and New Year. Friday, Dec. 29, has been decided upon, and it will be in the Drill Hall. The officers will make it a worthy successor to the many brilliant events they have given in the past.

Though no definite orders have been issued by Brig.-Gen. Otter regarding the Toronto military manoeuvres on Thanksgiving Day, it is stated that they will be held east of the Don, when an attempt will be made to capture the city by an invading army from the east. The military corps taking part, beside the Toronto garrison, are expected to include the 38th Regiment, of Brantford; the 91st and 13th, of Hamilton, and the 77th, of Dundas.

Militia orders from Ottawa announce that Everett Bristol and Hope Gibson, of this city, have been admitted as cadets to the Royal Military College.

There is likely to be considerable further delay before the new military barracks on the Humber can be proceeded with. The original estimate was \$250,000, but the plans as drawn provide for at least a dozen buildings. These will be handsome stone structures, and the first estimate will not begin to meet the cost. It is therefore necessary for the plans to go to the council in order to decide whether the buildings shall be constructed as now laid out, or changes made that will bring the cost nearer the original estimate.

Commenting on the announcement of

the decision to establish a chain of depots across the country the C. M. G. says: At first it was supposed that the Department at Ottawa were to build a chain of forts and American papers along with some Canadian publications made great fun of the supposed decision and spent much time in twitting Sir Frederick Borden.

The erection of these depots is, beyond a doubt, a good idea, and should receive support from every active officer in the Dominion. It is almost safe to say that such depots are absolutely necessary in such a country which is continually expanding and developing. It will help many of our poorer militiamen in receiving a good military education at little expense to the country and no argument is needed to convince an honest officer of to-day that something of this nature is greatly needed. These depots will also help to popularize rifle shooting, which by the way is another thing which should be helped along a little more.

An exchange says: M. Loubet, addressing the local garrison at Valence recently, made use of an expression that gives one an insight into the secret of the great military strength of France. "The army," he said, "is the nation itself." This could not be said of the British army without a great stretch of imagination. The fact is sufficient for us that in the army of France the soldier has an incentive and a reason for being proud of his profession which is not to be found this side of the Channel. The proposed visits would accordingly be bound to do us good in more ways than one. In addition to still further cementing L'Entente Cordiale, they might possibly rouse Englishmen to a sense of their duty in regard to the men who act as an insurance for their world-wide commercial enterprises.

Major Bate, of Ottawa, in a discussing on how to improve rifle shooting, says: "To learn to be a good shot is the first necessity of the modern soldier, and I am very anxious to see something done to encourage good shooting in Canada."

"In the United States they give medals and these medals mean something—they mean expert shooting, not the winning of competitions but score. "Of course, the difficulty with us is that we have our war medals and decorations, and the wearing of such a medal would be the consideration. We

consider it no honor to wear a medal on the right breast, so that it would have to be a collar badge or something of the sort. I think myself that the collar badge would be the best. It would show at a glance that the wearer was an expert shot. In the United States they have three grades, and we might have something the same.

"These badges, however, must come from some association, or, better still, from the Dominion, and must not be allowed to be donated by jewelers, or other merchants.

"Another idea is that, as in the United States, they might be given annually. This would encourage the men, and I am sure that it would very quickly raise the standard of marksmanship.

A recent distinguished military visitor at Ottawa was Colonel Duck, of the war office staff, London, who was director of the army veterinary service during the South African war. In conversation with a reporter Colonel Duck stated that army reorganization is the great theme in military circles in England at present. "We are making an effort," he stated, "to apply to the infantry, cavalry and artillery units the lessons of the war. It is not a very easy thing to accomplish. Radical changes are never popular and the substitution of new ideas for old ones or the grafting of one to another gives rise to considerable criticism, but the end is gradually being attained. The whole object sought is the thorough efficiency of every branch of the army service."

Colonel Duck is great impressed with Canada. Quite a tragic note is struck in the story of William Finlay, who served for twelve years in the First Grenadier Guards, and was the tallest man in the army. Finlay left the service in 1892, and in his time has been a sort of "set off" in a midget show, a groom to a duchess, and a doorman in the Strand. Now he is lying in the Hackney Infirmary suffering from consumption.

Non-military papers contain statements at some length that khaki clothing is to be abolished in favor of scarlet at all home stations, as it is thought that its use hinders recruiting somewhat.

It would be hard to find a soldier who has worn both who does not prefer the khaki service dress for drills, duties, fatigues, and military work of all kinds. It is true that it easily soils, but it washes and looks as well as ever. Men who wear red at drill or on manoeuvres are invariably afraid of kneeling or lying down under cover, even in fine weather, for their jackets, if soiled, are invariably useless, except for fatigues. Khaki serge stands first, with blue serge second, and red a bad third, in the soldier's eyes, for work of any kind.

Though as yet the report lacks confirmation, it is very generally remarked in military circles that at an early date, in recognition of their long and conspicuous services in the Canadian militia, Lieut.-Colonel James Mason, R. O., late commanding the Royal Grenadiers, and H. M. Pellatt, at present in command of the Queen's Own Rifles, are to be promoted to the rank of colonel.

Subsequently he was in command of his regiment from the end of 1893 until January 1st, 1899, being during that period chosen to command the Canadian contingent to England for her late Majesty's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. For the last three years he has been brigadier of the 4th Infantry Brigade in No. 2 M. D.

Lieut.-Col. H. M. Pellatt has served for nearly thirty years in the Queen's Own Rifles, of which he became commanding officer on March 30th, 1901. In 1897 he was one of the officers who was selected by the Dominion Government for duty with the Diamond Jubilee contingent on the occasion of the late Queen completing the 60th year of her reign.

Lieut.-Col. Pellatt was again selected in 1902 as one of the Canadian officers to accompany the troops sent from Canada to be present at the coronation of his present Majesty. At the same time he, entirely of his own expense, having obtained the consent of the Imperial Government, sent the bugle band of the Q. O. R. to England to take part in the festivities attending the King's coronation.

It is understood that it is in recognition of the services just enumerated that the two officers named are to receive their promotion.

Kind Old Lady—Poor child. What is he crying for? Does he want his mother? Little Girl—Want her? Well, hardly. She's just been lookin' him.