

“A cadet will not be eligible for a commission unless he has obtained a diploma of graduation, and is reported by the commandant to be in every way fit for a commission in the particular branch of the service selected.

“I can scarcely see how your son can obtain a commission against the report of the commandant.

“Yours very truly,

“F. W. BORDEN.”

8. Dr. Bennet's memo. continues:—

“Upon receipt of the above letter I visited Dr. Borden at Aldershot, and read and left with him the following statement of facts (below). Dr. Borden said it was not a want of sufficiency in knowledge or education Colonel Kitson complained of, but a want of character he thought was what Colonel Kitson meant. I replied, that could not be, because the character Colonel Kitson had given my son was a very high one. He promised to see Colonel Kitson and see what could be done.”

9. The memo. handed to the Minister of Militia was as follows:—

“Colonel Kitson's remark that my son's intellectual powers were deficient is altogether ridiculous, because if so, his diploma, which is a guarantee of sufficiency, answers that question entirely. A diploma is guarantee of sufficiency or it is worthless. Of course, his whole college course has shown undoubtedly that he was eminently fitted for a soldier's life, which he most certainly is adapted for more than anything else.

“To show the very autocratic measures in force at the college, and the unfair unjust manner which is adopted towards the cadets, I give the following, which can be attested by all the cadets present:—

“At the artillery room, between the hours of a quarter to eleven and a quarter to one o'clock, Captain English told LaRoque, who was a cadet, that he would pluck him in his examination, no matter how good his papers were (these papers were held by the before-mentioned cadet and handed round), and he did pluck him, too; and his papers were seen afterwards by several cadets, who will attest to the facts, that where others were given good marks, LaRoque only secured about half, and his answers, compared with the book, were far better. LaRoque's address is: A. LaRoque, 395 Dorchester St., Montreal.

“All this and much more is attested to. Captain English, in the presence of thirty cadets, told LaRoque never to come on parade in his presence when he was senior officer. The sole reason assigned for this he (Captain English) stated in a class-room (attested to) was that he was a Frenchman, and he couldn't bear them. My son (L.G.B.) felt this rather keenly, and showed it, as many of his relatives are French, including his first cousin, the present ninth Marquis DeRuvignes and Raineval.”

And he will ask:—

(a) Has Captain English—who during the year 1897 was professor at the Royal Military College of Kingston, and was denounced to the Minister of Militia for his conduct towards Cadet LaRoque, and his anti-French feelings, publicly uttered in the very performance of his duties—been promoted, and does he now occupy the position of lieutenant-colonel in the permanent force of the Canadian militia?

(b) Is this the same Lt.-Col. English who has just been appointed to the staff of Divisional Area No. 4, Montreal, in the French Province of Quebec?

(c) Has he ever been made aware of the denunciation made of him by Dr. Gordon Bennet?

(d) Has the Government ever found out the truth or falsity of the said accusation?

(e) Are there any documents on record in the Department of Militia, which could establish that the Captain English of 1907 was aware of the accusations laid against him and that he victoriously replied thereto?