

OFF WITH A GOOD START

Soon we were speeding eastward and the train was immediately organized just as a camp would be. Orders were issued and posted; guards were stationed throughout the train, and each platoon commander saw that his men were comfortable, and throughout the entire trip the writer was much impressed with the zeal and energy of the junior officers in looking after the welfare of their men. Before eating, themselves, they saw that the men were served with wholesome food in bountiful quantities.

Smoking material was plentiful, and that prince of good fellows, the Hon. W. C. Kennedy, donated several thousand cigars, and other kind friends tobacco and cigarettes. Loving hearts had donated to the boys knick-knacks and lunches of every description, and the "Maybrook" was literally packed with eatables of every known species. There were cakes and candies galore, lunches that had been prepared by loving hands for husbands, prospective husbands and friends. Especially noticeable was the huge basket of rare fruits and other delicacies which was the gift of Mr. Gordon McGregor to the Colonel. The basket was satin-lined with red, white and blue ribbon and bore the donor's card which was tied with a gigantic bow of Moire ribbon six inches wide and several yards long. London was made on time and here we found many friends to greet us, Colonel Shannon, Lieut.-Col. Smith, Lieut.-Col. Taylor, and the entire headquarters' staff were there to pay their respects.

The run to Toronto was one long to be remembered. At every station large crowds had gathered to see Colonel McGregor's "crack battalion" go past. At Mimico ex-Mayor Urquhart and others who had friends or relatives on board, were there to say "Howdy do" and good-bye.

At Toronto we got the cheers, changed engines and watered and iced the train, (being a Scotch Battalion we required lots of water and ice and ———). At 7.30 we proceeded east after having been served a sumptuous dinner, to which the men did full justice. Charley Barker's Kilties' Choruses were then distributed, and ere long we heard some of those old songs that have made the welkin ring, such as "The Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond," "Annie Laurie," "Old Black Joe," etc. At 11.30 the Pioneers



Three Captains of the Ninety-ninth.