

A Creditable Business Record:

The celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of its establishment, gives us an opportunity of printing some interesting particulars relative to one of the houses long represented in our advertising columns, and in which a popular officer of the 5th Royal Scots, Montreal, is a principal partner. The celebration is thus described in the *Witness* of the 14th inst.:

The sixtieth anniversary of Mr. Henry Lyman's "business birthday" was celebrated last evening in a wonderfully pleasant and enjoyable manner. In the Richelieu hotel Mr. Lyman gathered around him his family, partners and employees, and entertained them in the most handsome manner. The occasion had a double interest—Mr. Lyman's business anniversary and the return of the firm to their old premises, which were burned some time ago. The guests were received by Mr. Henry Lyman, assisted by his sons, Mr. Roswell Lyman and Major H. H. Lyman and his other partner, Mr. Henry Miles, who was accompanied by Mrs. Miles. Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Lyman were also present. After an excellent dinner had been discussed, Mr. Thomas Boyd proposed the toast of the evening—that of Mr. Henry Lyman, whom he had served for thirty years past.

In responding, Mr. Lyman traced the history of the firm back into the early years of the century. His uncle, Mr. Louis Lyman, started business as a druggist in St. Paul street, under the name of Wadsworth & Lyman, as early as 1802. Messrs. Wadsworth & Lyman dissolved partnership in 1805, forming two firms, Wadsworth Brothers and Louis Lyman & Co. In 1816 the firm of Hedge & Lyman was formed by Mr. William Hedge and Mr. William Lyman, his (the speaker's) eldest brother, who had been a clerk with L. Lyman & Co. Mr. Hedge might also be called a Lyman, being connected with the family by marriage. Soon after this Louis Lyman & Co. disposed of their stock to Messrs. Day & Gelston, Mr. Day being the father of the late Mr. Justice Day. In 1827 Messrs. Day and Gelston retired, disposing of their stock to Messrs. Hedge & Lyman, thus preserving the continuity of the Lyman name. In 1836 Mr. William Lyman retired, and Messrs. Benjamin, Henry and W. Lyman formed the firm of William Lyman & Co. The Toronto house was then organized under the name of J. W. Brent & Co., by his brothers William and Benjamin, and the late Mr. Brent. The two firms have since continued to the present time with the added assistance of Messrs. Alfred Savage, W. H. Clare, D. B. Macpherson, D. A. Lyman, Alex. Manson, Charles Lyman and his sons, and Mr. Henry Miles. Mr. W. Lyman retired in 1855, and Mr. Savage in 1860. The speaker then gave an interesting history of the two firms—Lyman Bros & Co., Toronto, and Lyman, Sons & Co., Montreal. His personal reminiscences were vividly told. He was born in Northampton, Massachusetts. In 1815 his family removed to Montreal, where they remained for 12 years, returning in 1827 to a farm near Northampton. In 1829 the speaker returned and entered the house of Hedge & Lyman as apprentice. He referred to the long hours, the lack of holidays, and the drinking habits of those early days. Temperance was, in his judgment, the best policy. The essentials to success were fair dealing, probity, purity of goods, paying one hundred cents on the dollar, and paying it when due.

The holding of a series of tournaments in which volunteers will be invited to take part, is in contemplation in connection with the military exhibition, to be held at Chelsea, England, in May next.

The oldest ex-volunteer living is, without doubt, William Balmer, who was born at Hawick in 1798 or 1799. He enlisted in the 92nd Regiment in 1817, and after seeing a good deal of foreign service was discharged on a pension of a shilling a day in 1838. On the formation of the 4th Roxburgh Rifle Corps in 1860, Balmer, whose age must then have been about 61, joined the corps as bugler. The veteran continued to serve in that capacity for twenty years, and it is mentioned as an example of his sturdiness, that whenever the Border battalion was assembled he generally chose to act as orderly bugler. As might be expected, the old soldier's 90 years are telling their inevitable tale, and he has for some time had to rest on his arms.

It is officially announced that the Queen has signified her approval of the Soudan medal, with a clasp inscribed "Gemaizah, 1888," being awarded to all troops who were landed at Suakim before the action of Gemaizah, on December 20, 1888, and were there on that day, the same medal to be granted to all troops who were employed on the Nile, at and south of Korosko on August 3, 1889. A clasp inscribed "Toski, 1889," is to be given to all who were present at that action on August 3 last. Those officers and men who are already in possession of the Soudan medal will receive the clasps only.

Lord Napier of Magdala.

Lord Robert Cornelius Napier died at London, last week, of the influenza. Lord Napier, of Magdala, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., was at the time of his death one of the five field marshals of the British forces, ranking next to the Prince of Wales; Colonel Commandant Royal (Bengal) Engineers, and Constable of the Tower of London. He was also a member of the House of Lords. Lord Napier was one of the most famous of English soldiers. Born in Ceylon in 1810, his father was Major C. F. Napier, Royal Artillery. His mother was a daughter of Codrington Carrington, of Blackmans, Barbados. He was educated at the military college, Addiscombe, entered the corps of Bengal Engineers in 1836, and served with distinction in the Sutlej campaign, at the conclusion of which, having attained the rank of major, he was selected by the late Sir Henry Lawrence for the responsible post of engineer to the Durbar of Lahore. He was, by this position, enabled to acquire that special knowledge of the Punjab and its resources, so essential to a judicious development of the latter, should the tide of events necessitate the undertaking of such a task by the Indian government. He was constantly referred to, when Moolraj rebelled, on all questions connected with the reduction of Mooltan, at the siege of which he was present as senior engineer, and at its fall accompanied Gen. Wish's force to the fords of the Chenaub, where, after the juncture with the main army under Lord Gough, he served as one of Sir John Cheape's "right hand men" at the battle of Goojerat. He was promoted to the rank of colonel, and named chief engineer under the new Punjab administration, when Col. Napier was enabled to carry out his long cherished plans for covering that almost trackless country with arteries of military and commercial highways, after constructing magnificent canals destined to fertilize the arid Doab, and eventually to cause the construction of numerous public buildings, barracks, etc., requisite to the efficient administration of the province. He was engaged in the discharge of these onerous duties for some years, until summoned to Calcutta to assume the post of chief engineer of Bengal. During the mutiny of 1857, he served in the capacity of chief engineer with the army of Sir Colin Campbell, and the part he played in the suppression of the rebellion greatly enhanced his previous high reputation. It was Lord Napier who, at the siege of Lucknow, planned that bridging of the Goomtee river which exercised so great an influence on the operations for the overthrow of the enemy, and he was afterwards appointed to the command of the force employed to destroy the rebels re-united under Tantia Topee; but on Sir Hugh Rose claiming the execution of this task, Col. Napier acted as his second in command. For his services in China as second in command under Sir Hope Grant he was rewarded by being made major general, a K.C.B., and successor to Sir J. Outram as military member of the Council of India. This post he resigned in January, 1865, when he was nominated to succeed Sir W. Mansfield as commander-in-chief at Bombay, with the local rank of lieutenant-general. In 1867 he received the appointment to command the expedition intended to rescue the Abyssinian captives, and was made a knight commander of the star of India. He achieved brilliant success: King Theodore was thoroughly defeated in an engagement on the heights of Islangie, April 10, 1868, and soon afterwards released his prisoners. The English commander followed up his victory by the storming of Magdala on the 13th, when Theodore, in despair, committed suicide. On Sir Robert Napier's return to England, in July, he received the thanks of Parliament; the sum of £2,000 per annum was settled on him and his next heir, in consideration of his services; he was elevated to the peerage by the title of Baron Napier of Magdala; was presented with the freedom of the city of London and a sword of the value of 200 guineas; and received other marks of honour. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, Dec 16, 1869. In January, 1870, he was appointed to succeed Sir William Mansfield as commander-in-chief of the forces in India, with the local rank of general; and in May following he was nominated fifth ordinary member of the council of the governor-general of India. He was appointed governor of Gibraltar in June, 1876. In February, 1878, he was selected by the government to be the commander-in-chief of the English expeditionary force in the event of England at that time declaring war against Russia—a contingency which was averted by the treaty of Berlin.

The successor to the title is his son, Hon. Robert William Napier, who is forty-five years old.

It is by attending to details that the army of one nation becomes superior to that of another, and is enabled to win victories with a minimum expenditure of blood and money.—*Sir F. Roberts.*

In the present state of the science of war, no army, be its numbers ever so great, can bring any offensive operation of magnitude to a successful termination, if destitute of any of the three branches constituting the strength of armies.—*Mitchell.*