



Royal Military College Club.

NO. 10.—GENERAL NOTES.

Major-General E. O. Hewett, C.M.G., Royal Engineers, has been selected for the post of Commandant of the School of Military Engineering at Chatham. General Hewett was the first Commandant of the Royal Military College of Canada, and received the C.M.G. for his services in connection with that institution. From 1886 to 1890 he served at Devonport as Commanding Royal Engineer. His present appointment is worth £1,200 with quarters.

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Mr. H. C. Nanton, Royal Engineers, has been transferred from Madras to Rawal Pindi.

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The officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Royal Engineers stationed at Aldershot, have unanimously resolved to erect a memorial to the late Capt. W. G. Stairs, in St. George's church, Stanhope Lines, the new church now being built at Aldershot. The subscribers are limited to those who served with him at that station.

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Mr. P. G. Twining, Royal Engineers, who recently returned from special duty in Africa, is a graduate of the R.M.C. of Canada, having completed his term of service at that institution in June, 1883. After serving for three years in the Mechanical Department of the C. B. & Q. Ry. at Aurora, Ill., and the G. T. Ry. in Montreal, he was gazetted to the corps of Royal Engineers in January, 1886. Joined the School of Military Engineering, Chatham, on the 16th of the same month, and underwent an instructional course until February, 1887.

He was then ordered to India and joined the corps of Bombay Sappers and Miners at Kirkee, Bombay, and served in the capacity of company officer until March, 1888, when he was then ordered to join the Public Works Department of India and gazetted to the Mechanical Department of the Frontier Railway in Sukkim, Scinde, under Col. Wallace, R.E., the Manager of the North-West and Frontier Railway System. Served in this department in Karadi and Quelta, Beluchistan, until April 1890.

Capt. Macdonald, R.E., having applied for his services he was then employed in a reconnaissance survey of the Kabul river beyond the North-West Frontier. This work was carried out in a country where the people were unfriendly. There were three Engineer and ten Line officers employed in this work, accompanied by an armed force. At the completion of this work in August, 1890, he was selected as one of a Staff of 18 Engineer and 10 Line officers under Major Scott, R.E., for the survey of the Zhab and Gomal valleys beyond the frontier, which was finished in September, 1891.

Mr. Twining was then preparing to return to England when he was informed that the Home Government, at the request of Capt. Macdonald, R.E., had wired the Government of India asking for his services to join a party of four Engineer officers for the survey of the country between Mombasa and Victoria-Nyanza, with a view of reporting on the practicability and probable cost of a railway line between these two points.

The party left the coast (Mombasa) on the 18th December, 1891, and in May of the following year arrived at Lake Victoria-Nyanza, having found a good line. Part of the caravan went on into Uganda returning to the lake again early in July. The party then returned to the coast arriving at Mombasa in October, 1892. The total amount of country surveyed by the different parties was about 2,500 miles, the actual distance between Mombasa and Uganda being about 850 miles. The country through which the survey was carried out was almost entirely unknown. Food arrangements had to be made with the natives by bartering beads, cloth, wire, etc., in exchange for corn, flour, sheep, plantains, etc.

Since Mr. Twining's return to England he has been employed in the Intelligence Department of the War Office.

His services have been recognized in a marked manner, having been made a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of England.

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Word has been received at Halifax of the death of Mr. C. G. Murray, of the Connaught Rangers, who died in Malta. The deceased was a graduate of 1889 and received a commission in the above-mentioned regiment and was stationed at Malta.

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Mr. Kenneth Campbell, of the 6th Dragoon Guards, has been appointed by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to administer the government of the Oil Rivers Protectorate as Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Commissioner and Consul-General, and to act as Consul for Fernando Po, and the Cameroons, during the absence on leave of Sir Claude MacDonald.

R. M. C., No. 47.

THE SEVENTY-NINTH REGIMENT, CAMERON HIGHLANDERS.

According to Dr. Blair's list the total strength of this regiment in 1891-92 was 742, made up as follows:—589 Scotsmen, 140 Englishmen, and 13 Irishmen. Of the 589 Scots some 300 bore distinctive Highland names, among them being twenty-seven Camerons, forty Macdonalds, twenty-three MacKenzie's, nineteen Mackintoshes, eighteen Campbells, seventeen Frasers, sixteen Rosses, fourteen Robertsons, thirteen Gordons, twelve Macleods, twelve Stewarts, and ten Macleans. That is, 221 distinct Highland names, in addition to close upon 100 others from clans that provided less than ten men each. It will thus be seen that the composition of the Cameron Highlanders when in Scotland last year bore very favourable comparison with that of all the other Highland regiments. But people unacquainted with the history of the regiment will probably say that twenty-seven Camerons is a poor show for the Cameron Highlanders. In point of fact, however, the 79th was never a clan regiment to the same extent and in the same sense that other Highland regiments like the 72nd and 78th were. When the corps was originally raised the Cameron chief of the day gave no assistance whatever to its founder—the famous Alan of Erracht. On the contrary, he frowned upon his namesake, and although Lochaber was the recruiting headquarters of the regiment, most of the men who originally composed it were drawn from places as far off as Mull and Morven, and the widely-spread Macdonald and Macintosh countries. This attitude of the chief accounts for the Erracht tartan—a Macdonald ground with the Lochiel stripe—having been invented by Colonel Alan's mother, herself a Keppoch Macdonald, and adopted, instead of the Lochiel, as the tartan of the regiment. Of the original twenty-six officers only four, including Erracht himself, bore the name of Cameron, and these, with one exception, were members of his own family. But amongst them there were no fewer than six Macleans and three Campbells.

Of the 776 officers and men who were at Quatre Bras and Waterloo, and of whom only 260 left the field unwounded, only sixteen, of whom six were officers, belonged to the Cameron clan. On a monument in Gibraltar, on which are recorded the names of twenty-eight men who died while the regiment was stationed there, from 1840 to 1848, there is not a single Cameron; and the same is true of a tablet erected in the Scottish Presbyterian Church, Quebec, to the memory of twenty-four men who died in Canada between 1848 and 1851. And, more extraordinary still, there is not a solitary Cameron among the forty-one officers and men who for services rendered in the Crimean campaign received the Order of the Legion of Honour, the Medjide, the Sardinian medal, the French war medal, and the medal for distinguished conduct in the field, with a gratuity. Even among the sixty men killed and wounded at the storming of Tel-el-Kebir, the only member of the clan was Donald Cameron, who fell while scaling the ramparts on that glorious occasion. It was almost the same at Kosheh and at Ginis, where, among thirty-five killed and wounded,