

WELCOME.

In extending a hearty welcome to the new venture which this journal represents, one cannot forget that it is made on ground that is truly historic. So far as we can learn the Canadian Engineers are first in the field of journalism with an organ for their unit. It marks an interesting advance in the course of events at this old military post and recalls the fact that St. Johns has frequently stood out in the military annals of Canada as a place of new ventures and incidents of first importance.

To go no further back than the Conquest of Canada, one finds St. Johns growing in recognition as a spot invested with peculiar strategic value. The historic Richelieu river was, of course, an important waterway during the French regime, but the strong posts were held at Chambly to the North and at points on Lake Champlain to the South. When the troubled days of 1775 drew near, with the prospect of an invasion from the South, St. Johns was recognized as the key to Canada. Major Preston was sent to St. Johns to construct defences during the summer of that year. He had under him a portion of the 26th regiment and a small artillery force of 30 all ranks. On September 17th, when General Montgomery made his attack, the total force holding St. Johns amounted to 567 officers and men. The siege lasted until November 3d when Major Preston was obliged to surrender owing to his supplies becoming exhausted. On the 20th of October, Major Stopford, who was commanding at Fort Chambly, surrendered that post, without firing a gun or attempting to destroy his supplies, and after that St. Johns was quite surrounded and in a desperate situation. But the surrender was not made until the defenders had put up a most plucky and stubborn defence.

In this connection it is also worthy of note that it was at St. Johns in 1775 that the first fruits of the wise policy of Sir William Johnson, Indian Agent, began to be effectively reaped by the English, for the first assistance of the Indians was received here by the English at that time. The name of this renowned Indian Agent is perpetuated in this locality by Mount Johnson, to the East of Iberville, which was named after him.

The Indians used to speak of St. Johns as the foot of Lake Champlain and there were considerable dock-yards and defences constructed here in 1814. But before that

time, and soon after the Revolutionary War of the Thirteen Colonies, St. Johns was made into a strong fort. The British Government spent £24,000 here in this work between 1778 and 1784. This was not kept up and in 1804 the inspecting engineer reported that hardly a vestige of this work remained. The constructive years of peace were not conducive to appreciation of military needs. Fort Lenox had been built at Isle Aux Noix in 1823, and it was not until 1839 that the present Barracks were built and the redoubts that still remain in outline were constructed. Many changes have been made since then but ever since that time St. Johns has been an important post and the home of many fine units in the Imperial and later in the Canadian army.

Now that the Canadian Engineers Training Depot has its home here, one feels confident that all the best traditions of the service, so well represented by the men who fought heroically and died bravely in its defence in 1775, will be maintained. There is no small influence in the historic associations of such a post. It reminds us of the truth which one of Canada's sweetest poets has breathed in the following lines:—

Not by the Power of Commerce,
Art or Pen,
Shall our great Empire stand, nor
has it stood,
But in the noble deeds of noble
men,
Heroic lives and heroes' out-
poured blood.

All the same the power of the pen is not to be despised and in extending a welcome to the new venture of the present occupants of St. Johns Barracks into journalism, one feels confident that there is a promising field for the venture and wishes it sustained power and unqualified success.

A. H. MOORE,
Major, 26th Dragoons.

BALDWIN HALL.

Those who wish to read can obtain books at Baldwin Hall—40 vols. of McGill travelling library and 160 vols. of depot books are at your disposal and can be taken away. See Spr. Durgan at the Hall.

All men are welcome at the reading and recreation room at Baldwin Hall.

Townfolks can secure "Knots and Lashings" at the up-to-date store of H. Bernard & Son, Richelieu St., every Saturday noon. Leave your order early.

DEFINITIONS.

Fix Bayonets.

This command has caused more casualties among drill instructors than all the "bucking bronchos", "Bertha barkers" and "Bottled Bass" that ever went to create a battle. He (the drill instructor) warns the squad that on the command "fix" you must do no such thing, but must watch an unfortunate comrade who has found himself on the right of the squad.

This wretched creature will (if he wishes to prevent the drill instructor having a fit) take three paces to the front. From then on he is the "guiding star". When the "man with the voice" is convinced that the "guiding star" has taken exactly three paces (and not two steps and a "shuffle") and that everything conforms with K. R. and O., he thunders the remainder of the request:—"Bay-nits!"

At this stage of the performance the "rookie" is expected to perform a physical impossibility. He must keep an eye on the man in front (the "guiding star") and another on the job in hand. The "G. S." will then raise his left arm in a horizontal position which is the signal that he is about to retire again into seclusion.

Form Fours.

All military experts agree that it is absolutely essential that a man should be able to form fours before he is fit to Defend the Empire.

Although this intricate movement may be accomplished in any number of motions, a drill instructor usually recommends three. Something after this style:—

The odd numbers stand fast, while the even numbers step on somebody's toes in the rear with the left foot and someone else's heels on the right with the right foot. The even number will then find himself viewing the landscape on the back of the odd number's neck whilst the Empire totters.

Present lack of space unfortunately prevents forming fours in the men's mess but we understand the O. C. has the matter under consideration.

How They Love Each Other!

First C. S. M. (at Football match)—"Good! Good! That's good! B Company again, eh! Good!"

Second C. S. M. (dourly)—"Hell, they OUGHT to play well—they're ALWAYS kicking!"

Authentic war news:—Several Canadian Engineers have penetrated as far as Bordeaux; others are marching closely on their "heels". Band please note.

SEE THE
RAISING
OF THE CENTER SPAN
OF THE

**Quebec
Bridge**

AT THE

Thuotoscope

SAT., SUN., MON., NOV. 3-4-5.

AT YOUR SERVICE

Toilet Laundry

Phone 39.

The

**H. FORTIER COMPANY,
LIMITED.**

Wholesale

Tobacconists.

Canteen

Requirements

Supplied.

Hotel Poutré

Market Place,

St. Johns, Que.

A. C. Poutré, Prop.

You know it as the CITY Hotel.

NEWLY OPENED

**KNOTS & LASHINGS
LUNCH ROOM**

116 Richelieu Street, St. Johns

HOME COOKING.

REASONABLE PRICES.