

length and is to be of "Persian lamb" as also the trimmings on the winter greatcoat, which by the bye is same pattern as the patrol, though the latter seems to be a special distinction for the permanent corps, and is at variance with general instructions. No false collar is mentioned to be worn with the patrol jacket, which is done by the royal artillery and also by the permanent corps here, but now these officers evidently must cease wearing this part of their uniform; the badge on the undress abretache is allowed to be of regimental pattern, while that on the full dress sabretache is the royal arms; no undress sword belt is provided for, and the description of ornaments on the pouch is ambiguous, the grenades on collar of stable jacket are to be small, while those of the royal artillery are  $1\frac{3}{4}$  in. long, and grenades are not mentioned to be worn on the tunic collar at all: by way of finishing off the artillery the fur cap is again described.

In the engineers the lace and buttons are again detailed as being of regimental pattern, while in Canada we only have three companies of this important branch of the service; the description of helmet plate is not found for the same or any branch of the service in the Imperial dress regulations.

The Governor-General's Foot Guards are a highly favored corps, as they have a page and a half devoted to their dress, and everything is mentioned, even a summer patrol jacket, and they are allowed a regimental pattern in nearly everything, even winter caps; their regulations have been copied in part from dress regulations for foot guards at home, and notwithstanding their length do not comprise all that is necessary for our one regiment of guards.

The uniform of the infantry of the line in Canada is so simple and easily described that this is the last branch of the service in which it would be supposed mistakes would have been made, but really, if an officer dared to appear on parade dressed in accordance with the regulations he would either be looked upon as a lunatic or placed under arrest; to begin with, the tunic is to be ornamented with lace, but whether gold or silver is left to conjecture, on the collar  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch, and on the cuffs  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, the latter is a printer's error in the Imperial book and so copied for Canadian militia, then there is to be "a gold square cord loop on each shoulder," and a few lines further on is read "shoulder straps of twisted round gold cord, universal pattern, lined with scarlet," so that an infantry tunic has a *double set* of shoulder cords or straps; the buttons are described as "gilt," so that any kind presumably may be worn, the gold lace for full dress trousers is described as " $1\frac{7}{8}$  inch in width with  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch crimson silk stripe in the centre"; officers of the regulars are content with trouser lace  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inch in width, and silk stripe  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch only. The helmet plate is twice described, and the peak back and front, "somewhat shorter;" here again discretion is allowed to step in. The undress sash is abolished and a shoulder belt and pouch substituted therefor, but the latter is ornamented with royal cypher and crown, while regimental staff officers can wear on *their* pouches a device of regimental pattern; further, some few corps in the Dominion some time ago adopted the pouch belt and obtained permission to wear their device according to regiment. The scarlet patrol jacket will supply a want long felt, especially by rural corps, but the regulations as to trimming are not sufficiently explicit, and the braiding for different ranks should follow more after the mess jacket, a difference being made between captains and subalterns. The forage cap comes next in order, and it is here twice stated "black netted button and braided figure on the crown"; the band is black lace, and only those regiments styled "royal" can wear scarlet bands, but the facings of our militia are *blue* (only worn in the army by royal regiments), therefore the scarlet band should still obtain, or the facings should be changed, or better still, let the whole militia force be termed "royal"; the artillery schools have it already and the infantry schools are asking for it. The shell jacket, like the tunic, is also to be ornamented with *double* shoulder straps. The winter cap is stated to be black fur, while in general instructions, infantry are to wear winter greatcoats trimmed with gray astrachan; a cap and coat of different fur will certainly look most unsightly.

The dress of rifles is fairly well copied from the Imperial, except sword belt and pouch belt, which are goat skin instead of patent leather, and the breast ornament is left to fancy of each regiment; no mention is made of bushies, while it is well known several rifle battalions are wearing them and they are much preferred to helmets.

The dress regulations taken as a whole fall far short of what is required for our militia, too much is left to open conjecture and regimental or individual fancy, and we will still see men of the same arm of the service, yes, and of the same regiment too, dressed far differently from each other; what is wanted is thorough uniformity, and to insure this the different regiments should be consulted and their peculiar distinctions in ornaments, etc., gazetted; is it to be supposed that a regiment or troop of cavalry going into camp would be expected to provide themselves with expensive uniforms costing from \$500 to \$1,000 each? then, in the case of the artillery, there is no difference made between field and garrison. There are, moreover, two battalions of grenadiers

some half dozen of fusiliers, and several of light infantry, besides the Royal Scots, yet these are not even given a place in the regulations, while all wear something different from the line in headdress, cap ornaments, collar grenades, etc. Buttons should also be specified as well as lace, all being accurately mentioned, and the winter uniform should be more fully described, taking in everything from boots to cap. The permanent corps also are barely mentioned when it is well known that all have some peculiar distinction in the way of dress, such as cap badges, collar ornaments, etc. Lastly, the militia want a distinction between them and the regular army, either a maple leaf on the collar of tunics and jackets or the letters "D.C." or "Canada" on the shoulder straps; as at present a casual observer would certainly find it hard to distinguish a well dressed Canadian militia officer from one of Her Majesty's army.

These remarks are written in no feeling of idle fault finding but only that our officers may have something definite to guide them, and that the authorities may awake to the necessity of helping a force which already does much to help itself, and thus make each officer proud of himself and of the service to which he belongs.

GRENADE.

### The Canadian Militia:—A Historical Sketch.

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(Continued from page 548.)

AS we rapidly scan over the pages of our history we find nothing of a sufficiently absorbing interest in connection with Canadian militia matters to call for special remark until we come to the next eventful epoch, that commonly known as the rebellion of 1837.

The troubles which led to the rebellion are matters more of civil than of military history. The principal event in the latter connection was undoubtedly the battle of St. Eustache. As probably the parents or near relatives of many of you, and possibly some who are here to-night, were there, we will take this opportunity of doing what old soldiers dearly love, fighting the battle over again. From the *Montreal Gazette* of December 16, 1837, I take the following extract:—

"The troops took up their quarters at St. Martin's during the night of Wednesday, the day on which they left the city, whence they departed at about seven on Thursday morning, towards St. Eustache, but not in a direct line, for it was understood that the ice on the river in that way was not sufficiently strong to bear the weight of so heavy a body as the artillery and cavalry. A detour was in consequence taken towards St. Rose, where the ice was crossed from Ile Jesus to the mainland. The line of march then proceeded upwards along the right bank of the river until the troops approached the village of St. Eustache, making a march from St. Martin of about twelve miles, whereas in a direct line it would only consist of about six or seven. The troops were first fired upon by the rebels from the church of St. Eustache, a considerable time before any position had been taken up. On coming within the proper range two field pieces were planted on the northeast side of the church and began to play upon them in excellent style, while another field piece was sent round in rear of the village and stationed where it commanded a street leading directly to the front door of the same edifice. The three regiments and the cavalry in the meantime made a circuit round the village in the rear, and took up positions to intercept the rebels when they should be compelled to abandon their position. The church having at length been set on fire the rebels were seen flying in every direction, not without many of them having been killed and taken prisoners. The nunnery and presbytere, situated on either side of the church, which were occupied by the rebels, were also destroyed, as well as several other houses in the village, particularly those of Scott and Chenier. The loss sustained on either side has not been actually ascertained, but it is reported that eighty of the rebels had been killed and more than 100 taken prisoners. Dr. J. O. Chenier was killed in the yard of the church, and Fereol Peltier and the Commander-in-chief Girod are said to have taken to flight towards St. Benoit immediately after the first fire. On the part of the troops we have no account of any being killed except two men. Mr. A. Gagy, whilst storming the sacristy, was severely but not dangerously wounded in the left shoulder. The blaze arising from the burning houses of St. Eustache was distinctly seen the same night from the rising ground in rear of this city towards the old race course. From a minute survey taken at the time, the number of houses destroyed by the conflagration, exclusive of the church and presbytere, which were reduced to ashes, amounted to about sixty. A wounded prisoner, one Major, from St. Benoit, stated that when the attack was made upon St. Eustache the rebel force at that place amounted to about 1,000 men. It is supposed that nearly 200 of the rebels fell or were suffocated in the flames of the buildings which had been fired and from which they defended themselves. Upwards of twenty bodies were found in the churchyard