

## FIGHTING MAC AS A RECRUIT

Personal Reminiscences of Early Career of Late General by Toronto Comrade.

## SERGT. MACMAHON INSTRUCTED HIM

Born Soldier and Ambitious, No Better Non-Com. Ever Lived, Says He.

Major-General Sir Hector MacDonal has gone to his last abode, and circumstances that have well nigh stunned the army in all quarters of the Empire. Those who feel the master of the end most, perhaps, are his old comrades of the 92nd Highlanders. One of these is Sergt. Henry MacMahon, fencing master, who now lives at 349 Yonge street, in this city.

## "Hector MacDonal, Recruit."

Sergt. MacMahon is a well-set man and moves with a lightness and agility that make one doubt his forty-seven years. He has seen much active service, having fought at Charasab, Kabul, Maidan, Takhti-Shah, where Col. Dick Cunningham, who died at Ladysmith, won his V.C.; Amul Heights, Shorpur, Guldukhtan, Kandahar and Majuba. Majuba was his last engagement, and on Feb. 27, twenty-two years ago, he fired his last shot. He was with Hector MacDonal through this period of his campaigning.

The sergeant well remembers the late General, when, in 1871, as a raw recruit, 18 years of age, he landed with the second draft from England at Jullundur, in the Punjab. He had been made a "salt-water" corporal for the voyage out, but on landing he became again a private, and had to undergo twelve months' drill as a recruit. Sergt.

## TURNED WIFE AND CHILDREN OUT

## A PASSIONATE DRUNKARD.

Wife Writes a Grateful Letter to the Samaritan Remedy Company, Whose Tasteless Saline Prescription Enabled Her to Reform Her Drunken Husband.

"How could I express my gratitude for the good your remedy has done for me. A passionate drunkard as my husband was before, he has been drunk only twice since I have started to give him the tablets. I have given him the four tablets at a time. He has stopped drinking altogether. Just think how good it is to be able to sleep in peace, and to be sure he will not get up in the middle of the night, beat my poor children, and break all the furniture in the house, and to be sure that the next night I will sleep in the house and not freeze in the open air with my children. Let me thank you a thousand times, and may God send you all his blessings, and give you and yours many happy days.—AZILIA BONNEAU.

FREE SAMPLE and pamphlet giving full particulars, testimonials, and price sent in plain sealed envelope. Correspondence confidential. Enclose stamp. Address: The Samaritan Remedy Co., 23 Jordan street, Toronto, Canada.

Also for sale at Bingham's Drug Store, 100 Yonge street.

MacMahon was drill instructor for the 92nd at that time, and he put the embryo general thru the goose step in the awkward squad four hours daily in the morning and two at night. Mr. MacDonal was very quick to learn, and picked up his drill with such rapidity that he was in the first squad of recruits, and he was singled out from his fellows to instruct the last squad. He was one of the first "dismissed drill," and this awkward squad was his first "command." He exhibited a great desire to become the master of everything pertaining to his profession. His Scotch nature showed itself in his love for delving in books for treasures. He bought the Mutiny Act, the Queen's Regulations, and every new drill book as it came out. He quickly became the master of them. He was not a theoretical soldier only; he was practical, able to read between the lines, and "as good a drill as ever took a battalion." He was keenly ambitious. This was shown by his action in taking the commission instead of the Victoria Cross. He was not afraid of entering into competition with the nobility for military honors.

His Great Military Knowledge. "He was a great man for argument," said the sergeant, picking up a large diary. "He would argue that that book was an ink pot, and prove it. He made you angry sometimes. He spoke with authority. He knew everything, and knew that he knew more than others."

Before he had his commission two months he was arguing with his fellow officers, and refusing to allow them to lay down military law on him.

Model Soldier When Young. He was a plucky fellow and foremost in everything. His commission made him even more so. He would always give good advice to the recruits and caution them from vice. He would never gamble, but he played billiards for pleasure and was very fond of the game. He did not drink. He might take a glass of ale occasionally, but that was his limit.

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## VACANT LAND

Now is the Time to Purchase

The Farmers' Loan and Savings Company (Incorporated in the U.S.A.) have still a number of desirable building lots for sale in Toronto and suburbs.

CALL OR WRITE FOR LIST.

The Toronto General Trusts Corporation

(LIQUIDATOR).

59 Yonge-street, Toronto.

tary renowned nearly as high as man can climb.

Personal Reminiscences. "The late General Hector MacDonal joined the service companies of the 92nd Highlanders, then stationed at Jullundur, Punjab, East India, in December, 1871. When dismissed 'recruits' drill he was appointed lance-corporal, and in two years was promoted to be sergeant. Previous to the Afghan war he was made color-sergeant of No. 3 Company, under Captain G. S. White, now General George Stewart White, famous as the defender of Ladysmith.

"Fighting Mac" and I were both sergeants and comrades, and I can speak most highly of his good moral character, but not his soldierly. He was a good living man and always willing to give the young soldier good advice. He gained his commission after the massacre of the British envoy at Kabul. The Gordons were one of the regiments ordered to march on Kabul. We were then stationed at All Khell.

five days' first days' from Kabul City. Our march was to Caratag, for the night.

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On the morning of the whole Khuram Valley, a large mountain range, we were ordered to remain behind to see all the baggage removed to the front and bring up the rear. There was no officer with No. 3, so Mac was the senior N. O.

Just as his company was preparing to move and join the headquarters, General Lord Roberts and staff appeared, escorted by a troop of the 9th Lancers. It is hard to hear of a hill running parallel to the road, and at once saw that the party had been attacked by the enemy. These companies about 100 Afghans, who had waited in the bush. He at once formed his company into fighting order, and, leading them, beat the enemy off, thus being instru-

mental in saving the general's life. For this he was recommended for the V. C. or a commission—the latter he accepted. Six months later, in Sherpur cantonments, he was gassed as 2nd lieutenant under the Gordon Highlanders.

Was Greeted by "Bobs." "We were all in the sergeants' mess when the news came. We got the band and putting Mac on a harp, or stretcher, to the tune of 'Auld Lang Syne' handed him over to his brother officers at their mess tent. 'Bobs' was the first who greeted him, and he gave him a hearty handshake.

"He showed himself to be as good an officer as he was a sergeant. During the remainder of the campaign Mac fought beside me. At Majuba Hill he fought to the last, and finally was taken prisoner. He came home with the regiment in 1881, and when lying at Edinburgh Castle accepted employment with the Egyptian Constabulary. His abilities as a soldier and leader are already well known.

Now a Husband and Father. "One day on the march from Kabul to Kandahar I brought a prisoner before Mac for falling out on the line of march without a cause. The prisoner said he never felt out—the regiment marched so quick that it left him behind. Mac smiled, and said that no Gordon should never be behind and admonished him.

"At the battle of Kandahar Mac was three dead Afghans lying on the field, and beside them a Gordon. 'That's how a Highlander should die,' he said, 'three to one.' Let the cause of his end be what it may, he will always be admired as 'Fighting Mac'."

Death a Great Shock. "Sergt. MacMahon was very grieved to hear of the end of the glorious life of his distinguished comrade in arms, and it was some time before he would give credence to the despatches telling the tragic story of 'Fighting Mac' last day on earth.

WILL HAVE NEW BUILDING. The Toronto Nursing-at-Home Mission (Union purpose erecting a new building on the northwest corner of Haver-street and Mission-avenue, the site of the old building, which has for nineteen years been occupied by the union. The plans have been completed and tenders called for. The estimate is to have three stories, a free dispensary at the corner, a department with accommodation for twelve nurses, a separate apartment for the superintendent, and a lecture room for the nurses.

Under the same roof there will be a Bible Women's Home, with accommodation for the instruction of women for this work. This is a new feature, and being the only one of the kind, the authorities feel that it will be appreciated by the church-going people of Toronto.

The nurses last year made, without charge, 14,181 visits to 512 of the poor of the city. The mission is supported entirely by voluntary contributions, the city contributing \$150 annually, and does not solicit or give entertainments for raising money to carry on the work.

It is estimated that the cost of the new building will be from ten to twelve hundred dollars, towards which the trustees now have \$450, and those interested have little doubt that the rest will be forthcoming.

FIRE INSURANCE STATISTICS. The annual report of the Inspector for Insurance for Ontario, Dr. J. Howard Hunter, shows three joint stock fire insurance companies in the province, with 14,019 policies in force and \$12,816,450 involved in risks. There are eleven co-operative mutual companies, with 95,378 policies in force, on which the risk involved amounts to \$102,441,733.41. Of purely mutual companies there are 74, with 153,945 policies in force, net amount of risk, \$150,911,306.40. The amount of fire losses paid was \$205,472.04.

The total amount of risk in the province on December 31, 1902, was reported as \$184,095,209.94, amount of unassessed premium notes \$8,882,256.41, and the total amount of liabilities was \$6,806,417.50. The new business taken during the year amounted to \$1,028,330.00.

Put two small life insurance companies report, and these show \$237,190 in assets and \$2,408,577.00 at risk.

OLD HOME GATHERING. A meeting of those interested in the Old Home Gathering was held in the Board of Trade Building yesterday.

From letters received from various Canadian societies in the States, it is evident that great interest has been aroused in the movement. Prof. H. H. Hutton, Prof. Clark and Prof. Pelham Edgar will act as judges in the prize poem contest which closes the gathering.

The business firms of the city will be asked to use 500,000 red seals, with the words "Toronto Home-Comes Festival, 1903" on their envelopes. The Finance Committee will be: A. E. Ames, chairman; J. F. Ellis, Asst. Marshall; Col. Bellair; W. V. Flavell, Chester D. Massey, E. R. Wood, Frederick Nichols, D. R. Wilkie, Edward Gurney, Robert Jaffray. John A. Egan was appointed chairman of the Advertising Committee.

Lakehurst Sanatorium, Oakville. Lakehurst is neither a hospital nor an asylum; it is a pleasant, homelike country retreat, where patients may enjoy holiday and rest while being cured of their predominant habit, whether it be the abuse of alcohol or the abuse of opium. The sanatorium has been established for upwards of ten years. "Never too late to mend" is the motto of the establishment; no matter what age the patient may be, no matter how long he or she may have been the slave of alcohol or opium, there is hope based almost on certainty of a radical cure. The patient finds at Lakehurst removal from his surroundings, constant attention and supervision, and receives an upbuilding of the system, so that there is no further need or desire for stimulants.

Inquiries addressed to the Manager, Lakehurst Sanatorium, 12 Adelaide Street east, Toronto, will be promptly answered.

Creating a Demand. While they sell fixtures at their new showrooms, 12 Adelaide Street east, the Toronto Electric Light Company find that the display is doubly valuable to them. It is instrumental in interesting the people in the merits of electric lighting in their homes. The display is probably the finest in Canada, and one can but gain admiration and artistic enjoyment in viewing it.

It is helping the electric trade. All men are engaged in the making of electric fixtures find that it has given added impetus to their business. This is the wish and intention of the company in establishing this demonstration parlors in the heart of the city.

"Tom" Was Watched. The sergeants of the 48th Highlanders gathered in at their mess room to do honor to their comrade, Col-Sergt. "Tom" Merry, who is leaving this week for Alaska, and incidentally, to present him with a gold watch, suitably engraved, as a token of their esteem. A pleasant evening was spent in song and story, and all wished him God-speed on his journey and a speedy return. "Tom" made a suitable reply.

Freight Cars Detailed. The tracks at the foot of Yonge-street were blocked yesterday afternoon for some time. Two freight cars belonging to the P. E. R. were detailed, and the switch rod was broken and three rails bent. The cars were got back on the track again without sustaining much damage.

Barlow Cumberland's Successor. Mr. Stanley Reed is now representing the Hamburg-American and North German Lloyd Lines at No. 5 East King-street. Phone Main 275.

TORONTO, ONT., March 27th, 1903

To the Bank of Montreal.  
Pay to Mr. Blauk  
One Thousand Dollars  
\$1000.00