British Ambassador in Paris, received permission to visit the regiment at St. Germains, "Les Dragons de l'Impératrice.'

In 1869, the brevet rank of Major was conferred. In 1872, he proceeded to England with official letters from the Governor General for Cavalry instruction, and was attached to the 7th Hussars at Aldershot, returning in time for the annual drill camp at Levis the next summer, being complimented thereon by Col. Robertson-Ross. In 1874, he received the brevet rank of Lieut.-Colonel, and again proceeded to England in 1875 for further Cavalry instruction, and was put on the Cavalry staff at Aldershot for the manœuvres.

Colonel Turnbull returned to Canada for the drill season of 1876, but shortly afterwards started upon an extended European tour, and while in Paris in the month of April, 1878, received an offer from the war office in London, in the then probable event of a war with Russia, to raise a regiment of Cavalry in Canada for service in the East—and spent some weeks in communication with the Military authorities and H. R. H. the Duke of Cambridge, to whom he was presented by Sir Patrick MacDougall, as the best Canadian officer that he knew of to undertake the task—rendered however, unnecessary by the celebrated Berlin Conference, where "peace with honor" was arranged by the Marquis of Salisbury.

In 1879, Sir Patrick MacDougall cabled from Halifax that Lieut.-Colonel Turnbull was ready to raise a regiment of Cavalry for service in South Africa, if permission was granted him by the Canadian authorities, the White Hall Review of the 27th March, 1879, remarking upon the offer as follows:

"The Government has found it necessary to decline the offer made by Lieut.-Colonel Turnbull to raise a regiment in Canada for service at the Cape, but it has signified its appreciation of the very laudable spirit in which the offer has been made.

"Colonel Turnbull was lately residing temporarily in England, "and made the acquaintance of many officers of our army. He is "spoken of as an officer of considerable military ability, and this is "not the first occasion on which he has given convincing proof of "his loyalty and anxiety to serve the interests of the British "Crown."

In 1883, the Dominion Government, having in view the establishment of a school of instruction for Cavalry, Colonel Turnbull, together with three other commandants of Infantry Schools, was sent to Aldershot, where he was attached for three months to the 15th Hussars, and on the 21st December, 1883, his official appointment