

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

How the Anniversary was Celebrated by the Militia throughout the Dominion.

In all parts of Canada, the crack corps of the Dominion were on the 24th of May found engaged in right royally celebrating the seventieth anniversary of the birth of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. The following report of the Montreal review is condensed from the *Gazette*:

The celebration at Montreal can fairly be pronounced a success. The weather was, if not altogether up to the "Queen's" standard in the forenoon, pleasant all through, and in the afternoon warm enough for comfort. The holiday was well kept; numbers left town on various errands of enjoyment bent, and many thousands crowded to the mountain and Fletcher's field where the military display was to be made. This was the feature of the occasion, and a decidedly successful feature. The home and visiting corps vied with other as to which could acquit themselves best, and if in some things the honour must be given to the black or red-coated visitors, in others it can justly be claimed for the home corps. The Queen's Own attracted favourable attention for their steady marching and soldier-like behaviour; the Foot Guards maintained the good impression their previous visits have made on Montrealers. They won frequent applause. So, too, did the cadet companies of St. Mary's College. The marching of these boys was most creditable, and caused many to express a wish that on future occasions when Montreal's citizen troops are met for holiday duty their blue coats may again be given a place in the line.

The second event in the celebration of the national holiday, was the arrival of the Queen's Own Rifles from Toronto. They were advertised to arrive at 7 in the morning, but a delay of an hour in leaving Toronto, for which the railway blames the men and the regiment, and some time lost through heating of car axles, prevented the train carrying them from reaching Montreal till 8.15. There were in all sixteen passenger coaches, and each one was filled, though not uncomfortably; the men experienced no more discomfort than is customary in such cases, and the trip down was entirely without incident, except for those jokes more or less Rabelaisian with which soldiers are wont to regale themselves. When the station was reached, the white helmets flooded the platform, and to greet the men there were a few of the Victoria Rifles, though no demonstration was made. Then the buglers sounded the "fall in." The markers, one from each company, took their place. The pioneers, with axe, pick and shovel, took their places, the band came next and then the bugle corps. The companies quickly found their places. The line of march from the station to St. Helen's ferry, was lined with spectators to admire the men as they marched along. Major Delamere was in command on account of the illness of Lieut.-Col. Allen, and Captain V. Sankey discharged the adjutant's duties admirably. The regiment numbered nine companies with 476 men, its full complement being ten companies, but the university contingent was absent, the members being engaged at their college examinations. During the march the band, which is composed of forty-three pieces with a bugle corps of thirty-seven members, under direction of Bandmaster Bailey, played the "Kiloloe March," "Riviera" and "One and All." Arrived at the Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Company's wharf Captain Labelle was waiting to escort the visitors on board the *Cultivateur*, which was engaged to transport the troops to the island. Upon landing and escaping the clutches of the photograph fiend the men were marched to the military reserve which was converted into a tented field. This important work had previously been done by Quartermaster Heakes, Sergeants Kennedy and Caldwell and a party of eighteen men who had arrived the previous day. The tents were pitched in nine lines, the captain occupying the one at the end, and outside these, nearest the river, were five tents for staff officers. Though breakfast had waited an hour it was pronounced very good and a pleasant half hour was spent. Again the bugle sounded the "fall in." Some spare time was spent in completing arrangements; ammunition was served out, the lines were formed, and the march resumed. Montreal was reached, and again the process of forming the companies were gone through, this time under the eyes of admiring thousands, and the men set out for the parade ground along Notre Dame, down St. Peter, up Bleury and Park Avenue.

On the field the Cavalry took up position on the extreme right. Next came the Field Battery, the Montreal Garrison Artillery, B Company, I.S.C. St. Johns, the Governor General's Foot Guards, and the Royal Scots, forming the first brigade. The second brigade comprised the Sixth Fusiliers, the Prince of Wales Rifles, the Mount Royal Rifles, the St. Mary's College Cadet corps, and the Queen's Own Rifles. Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D.A.G. of Military District No. 5, was in com-

mand of the first brigade of Infantry, with Lieut.-Col. Mattice as Brigade Major. Lieut. Col. Caverhill was in command of the Rifle Brigade, assisted by Major Roy, brigade major. The third brigade, comprising the cavalry and artillery, was commanded by Lieut.-Col. A. A. Stevenson. The troops took up position on three sides of a hollow square in the corner below the Exhibition buildings and facing the mountain. The ground was not at all suited for extended movements, being restricted and broken, so much so that the cavalry had some trouble in getting over it. Shortly after 11 o'clock Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia, and Lieut.-General Middleton rode on to the field, attended by Captain Wise A.D.C., and in an open carriage were Lady Caron and Lady Middleton. They were received on arriving at the grounds by a brilliant staff, including Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D.A.G., fifth Military District; Lieut.-Col. Mattice, brigade major; Major Roy, brigade major; Lieut.-Colonel Macpherson, director of stores, Ottawa; Lieut.-Col. Hughes, Major Atkinson and Capt. Clapham. Amongst those on the grounds were Captain Douglas, R.N.R. Immediately on arriving on the grounds, the various corps handed their parade state to the brigade majors, and the various corps were found to be as follows:—

| | Staff..... | Officers. | Men. | Horses. |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-------|---------|
| Cavalry..... | 12 | 2 | 29 | 31 |
| Montreal Field Battery..... | | 6 | 58 | 38 |
| Montreal Garrison Artillery..... | | 17 | 242 | 5 |
| Montreal Engineers..... | | 2 | 70 | .. |
| B Co. I. S. C., St. Johns..... | | 4 | 75 | .. |
| Governor-General's Foot Guards..... | | 21 | 285 | 5 |
| Prince of Wales' Rifles..... | | 20 | 190 | 3 |
| Queen's Own Rifles..... | | 25 | 445 | 5 |
| Victoria Rifles..... | | 22 | 259 | 5 |
| Royal Scots..... | | 21 | 279 | 5 |
| Sixth Fusiliers..... | | 16 | 256 | 4 |
| Mount Royal Rifles..... | | 25 | 318 | 5 |
| Total..... | | 203 | 2,473 | 118 |

The following are the names of the officers commanding the various corps:—

- Troop of Cavalry—Capt. McArthur.
- Field Battery—Capt. John S. Hall.
- Garrison Artillery—Lieut.-Col. Turnbull.
- Engineers—Lieut.-Col. Kennedy.
- I. S. C., St. Johns, P. Q.—Lieut.-Col. D'Orsonnens.
- Governor-General's Foot Guards—Lieut.-Col. Tilton.
- Prince of Wales Rifles—Lieut.-Col. Butler.
- Queen's Own Rifles—Major Delamere.
- Victoria Rifles—Major Radiger.
- Fifth Royal Scots—Major H. H. Lyman.
- Sixth Fusiliers—Lieut.-Col. Massey.
- Sixty-Fifth Mount Royal Rifles—Lieut.-Col. Dugas.
- St. Mary's College Corps—Capt. Pierre Trudel.

A grand stand had been erected facing the grounds and on this were seated the leading citizens of Montreal and their lady friends. When Sir Adolphi Caron and General Middleton arrived they rode along the line and inspected the troops minutely. After this they took up a position at the saluting point and awaited the arrival of the Queen's Own Rifles who were a little late. Just about noon the Queen's Own arrived and took up position on the left face of the square. As soon as they were in position the *feu de joie* was fired, commencing with seven guns from the Field Battery. The firing was next taken up by the infantry, and so on. Then the General called for "Hats off, and three cheers for the Queen," which were given right royally by the troops; the cheering being taken up by those on the grand stand, spread away up the mountain side, which was crowded with people.

The division then marched past in column. The cavalry, formed into two troops, led the way. They looked very well on the whole, but the horses were slightly scrubby and they crowded too much on the march. Next came the Montreal Field Battery. The men looked well and the guns and harness were in first class condition, but the horses looked as if they had been more accustomed to dragging coals on the wharf than field guns. In spite of this, however, the battery looked magnificent. Then came the Garrison Artillery, all tall, broad-shouldered fellows, who appeared to advantage in their blue uniform and white helmets. They marched past with great steadiness and were without doubt one of the finest looking corps on the field. Next to them came the Engineers, who, though small in numbers, looked well in their handsome uniform. Next came the Infantry School Corps, B company. Their marching was simply perfection, and their distances well kept. When the word "eyes right" was given on approaching the saluting point every eye was turned in that direction and remained so until the order was given "eyes front," when they all moved to the front like a piece of machinery. The men were all neatly dressed and their marching was faultless. The Governor-General's Foot Guards were unfortunate in having to follow the regulars. On ordinary occasions their marching