

THE SHERBROOKE TROOP OF CAVALRY.

With reference to the mention of the age of this corps in a recent number of the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE, Major S. A. Stevens, R.L., who at one time commanded the Troop, writes as follows:—

The Troop was organized in 1818 under the command of Col. Nichols (*not* "Col. Nicholson"), a retired English officer, who afterwards commanded this district in the Rebellion of 1837 and 1838. As to Major Roberts I never heard of him. I am not prepared to say that he did not at one time command the Sherbrooke Cavalry; I always understood from Major H. Beckett that upon the retirement of Col. Nichols in 1825 that *he* was promoted to captain and took command. In 1837 he was promoted to Major which rank he held, retiring in 1852.

The Sherbrooke Cavalry has always maintained a high standard in its rank and file. I find on the roll such men as Edward Short, afterwards Judge of the Superior Court for this district; John Short, prothonotary; Chas. de Tonnoncour, Q.C.; Charles Aylwin, N.P., brother of the late Mr. Justice Aylwin, Hon. J. G. Robertson, Bureau, N.P.; H. W. Beckett, John Griffith, revenue inspector, and others.

They served as escort to Earl Dalhousie, Lord Sydenham and other Governors. In 1855 they served as escort to Sir Edmund Head at the opening of the first Provincial show at Sherbrooke.

In 1860, at the time of the *Trent* affair, the Sherbrooke Cavalry re-organized under command of Capt. John Drummond, Lieut. W. Chamberlin and Cornet S. A. Stevens, and uniformed at their own expense at between \$1,500 and \$1,600. In 1862, Cornet Stevens received his lieutenancy; in 1863, upon the retirement of Capt. Drummond, he took command and received his captaincy. In 1865, he obtained a first-class certificate, and in 1869 he received his majority, which he now holds.

During his command the Troop formed an escort to Gen. Williams, Lord Monk, Sir John Young, and in 1870 to H. R. H. Duke of Connaught. The Troop served in both Fenian raids. Here is an instance of their mettle: In calling out the volunteers for active service for the first Fenian raid; at 3.30 p.m. one day Col. King, Brigade Major, was handed a telegram, after opening it he said he wanted twelve Troopers as soon as possible. In one hour we sent him sixteen troopers and at 7 p.m. had on parade on the market 47 troopers out of 50, the other 3, who lived 11 miles away, came in at 11 p.m.

One other instance. In 1871, we were ordered to Laprairie Camp; the Troop left the Sherbrooke House, opposite the G. T. R. station, on the 26th June at 8.30 a.m. On the 28th at 11 a.m. it reported to Col. W. Osborne Smith, D.A.G. at Laprairie for duty. On the 29th was out on a field day. The Troop is now under the command of Capt. Jas. F. Morkell, and keeps up its reputation of always to the front.

It may be added here that Sir Hasting Doyle, Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's forces, said he never heard of such a march by Yeomanry Cavalry as that done by the Sherbrooke boys in 1871.

OUR SUCCESSORS IN THE SERVICE.

The St. John, N.B. battalion of the Boys' Brigade in Canada, was inspected on evening of 5th inst., at the Drill Shed by Lieut.-Gov. Tilley. Col. Blaine was in command. The Governor was received with a general salute, and after passing down the ranks the battalion formed in a column and marched past, first in open column, then in quarter column and at the double. Line was reformed and the battalion advanced in echelon from the right. Company squares were formed to receive cavalry and the line was reformed on No. 4, after which battalion square was formed on the front company. The battalion then formed in open column on No. 2 and reformed into line. Several companies were then put through special drill. No. 1 under the direction of Lieut. Creelock, performed the physical drill with arms. No. 4, under Capt. Smith, went through the bayonet exercise with great precision. No. 3 Company, under Sergt.-Major Buchanan, rehearsed the manual and firing exercises with accuracy, showing careful drill.

The battalion was then formed in open square, and, after complimenting the boys on their appearance, the president,

Rev. Mr. Fotheringham, introduced the inspecting officer, Sir Leonard Tilley, who addressed the battalion.

Col. Blaine then called for three cheers for the Lieutenant-Governor, which was responded to heartily and followed spontaneously by three cheers for the colonel himself.

Led by the Rev. Mr. Sampson the battalion sang the national anthem and repeated the Lord's prayer, the regulation form of closing the Boys' Brigade drill.

After reforming line, then quarter column on No. 1 the battalion was dismissed.

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

Monday 1st May, being the forty-third anniversary of the birthday of the Duke of Connaught (Prince Arthur), the event was celebrated in the metropolis in the customary manner. The bells of the principal city and West-end churches (including St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey) were rung. The Admiralty flag was hoisted on the offices at Whitehall, and the Royal Standard floated on the Royal United Service Institution. The drum-major doing duty with the detachment of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, which mounted the Queen's guard and the other public duties at the West-end for the day, were State uniform, and the subaltern on duty carried the Queen's colour from Wellington Barracks to the guard-house at St. James Palace in place of the regimental colours, usually taken on guard, while the band of the Coldstream Guards played a selection in the courtyard of the Palace during the ceremony of mounting and changing the guard. The usual salutes were fired at the Tower of London, but the full-dress rehearsal of the ceremony of trooping the colour by the brigade of Guards, which usually takes place on his Royal Highness' birthday was postponed until Tuesday.

It is likely that the Duke will succeed Sir Evelyn Wood in the chief command of Aldershot during the coming summer, and no one doubts but that he will eventually succeed the Duke of Cambridge as commander-in-chief.

A BRITISH ARMY RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

A NEW QUEEN'S PRIZE.

Nothing probably contributed more to the success of the Volunteer movement in Great Britain, or to the efficiency of the force as a body of marksmen, than the formation of the National Rifle Association and the gatherings for competition in marksmanship held under its auspices. The good work done by these meetings has been frequently acknowledged by the highest military authorities, but the greatest compliment ever paid to the association, or that could be paid to it, is to be found in the fact that the War Office has at last authorized the formation of a similar body in connection with the regular army. It has been formed by the amalgamation of the two societies known as the "Inter-Regimental Rifle Match Association," and will take the name of the "Army Rifle Association." The object of the new organization is to continue, with certain modifications, the different matches and competitions which were instituted by the societies mentioned, and to encourage rifle shooting generally, both individually and collectively, amongst all ranks of the regular army. Further, in connection with the new association the Queen has been graciously pleased to present a cup, value £250, to be competed for annually at an inter-regimental team match. Capt. J. H. Cowan, R. E., now at the Horse Guards, has been appointed honorary secretary of the association, and ammunition both for the Lee-Metford and Martini-Henry rifle is to be issued at the rate of £3 per 1000 rounds up to 5000 to battalions of infantry joining the association, and proportionately to other arms of the service.

THE RETIREMENT OF LORD ROBERTS.

The arrival of General Sir George White, the new Commander-in-Chief, in Bombay, on April 2, officially terminates the splendid services of Lord Roberts in India. His forty-one years of untiring work have well earned for him the rest he is about to seek. With him there is closed a very remarkable period of our rule in India. Since the Mutiny India has had