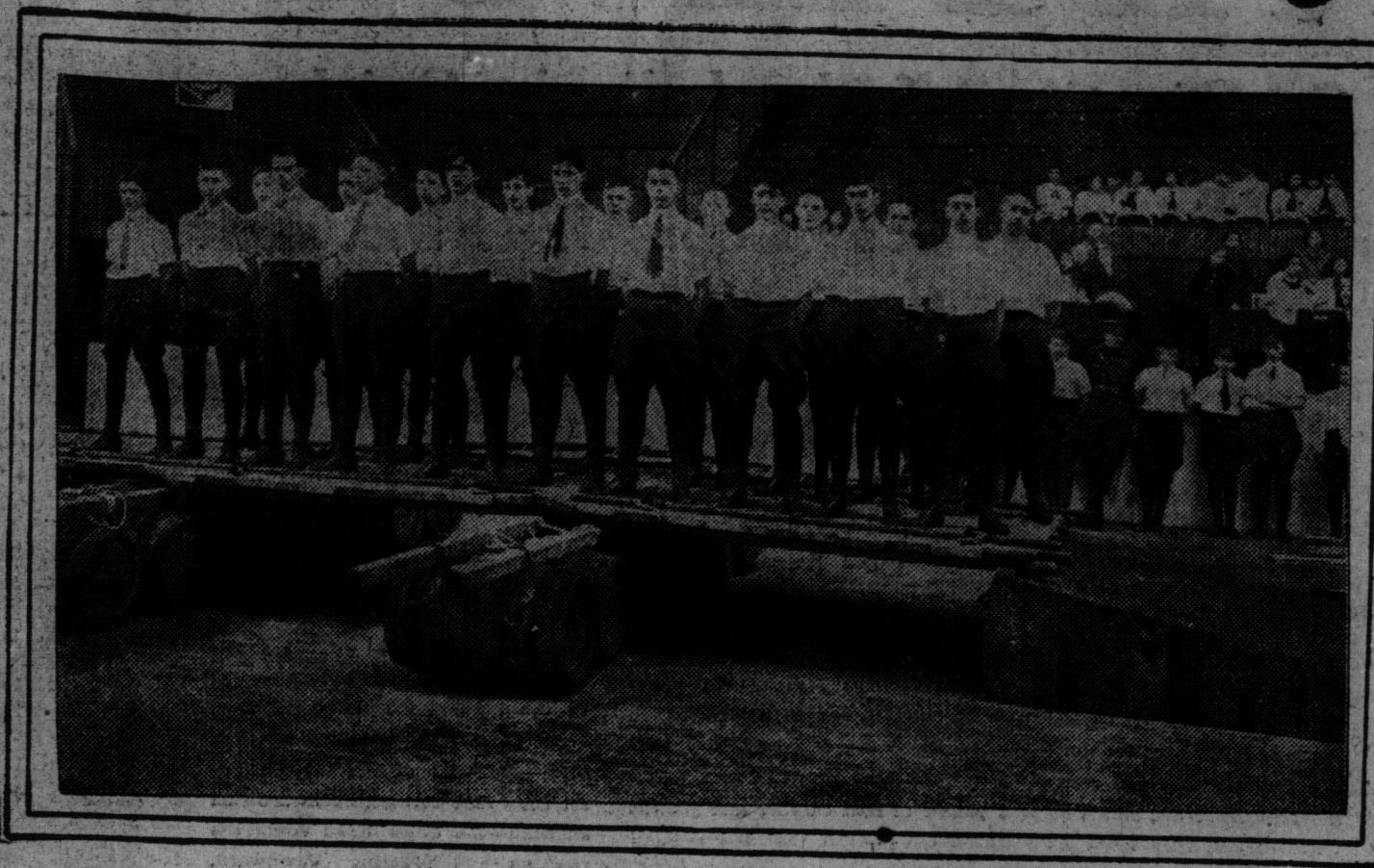




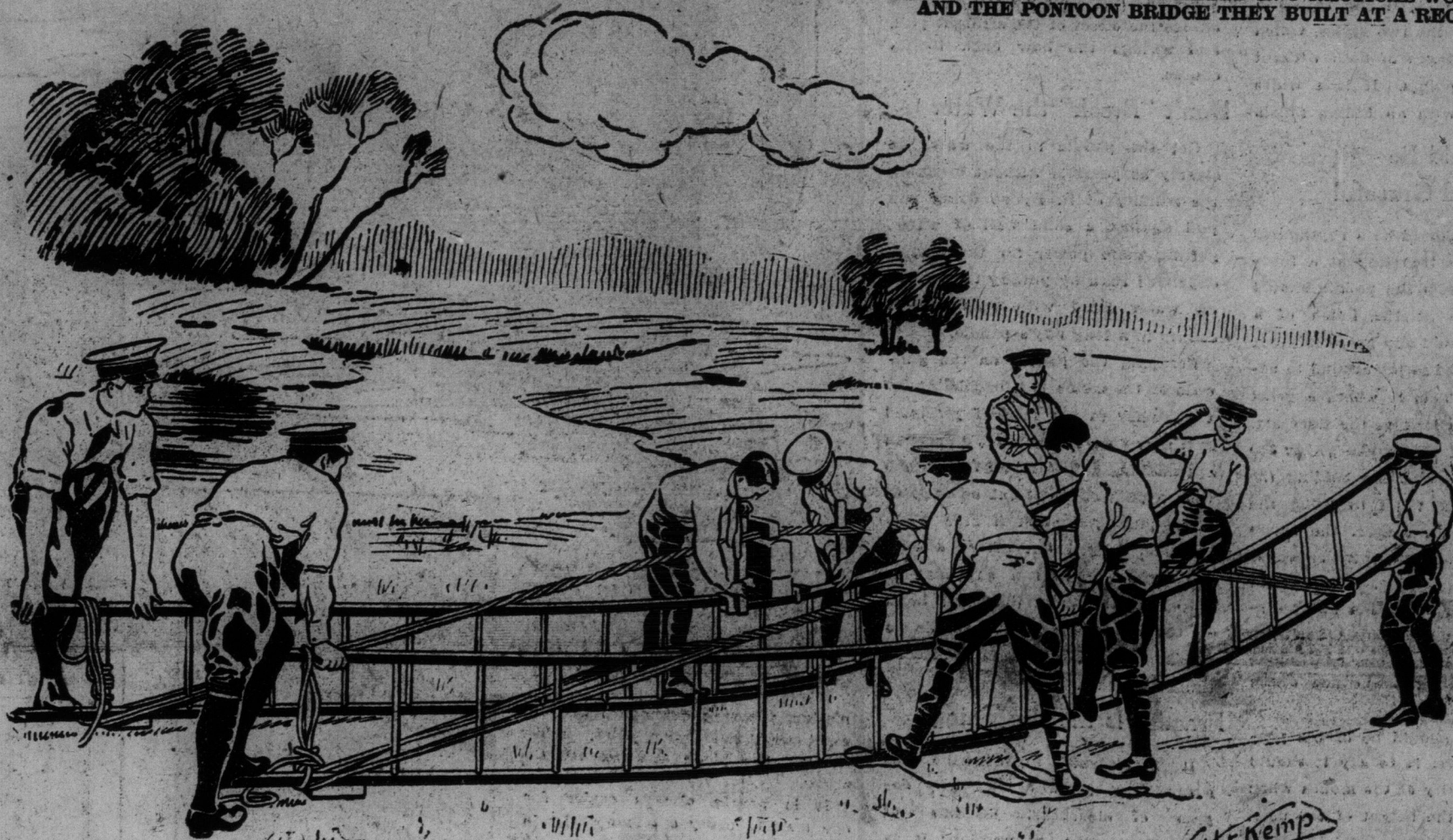
COL. JOHN T. THOMPSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF DRILL IN TORONTO SCHOOLS AND COMMANDER OF THE CADET REGIMENT.

# Toronto's Uniformed Army of Youth

*This Summer's Activities to Be the Busiest That the Cadets Have Yet Experienced And the Course of Training Wider Than Anything Yet Attempted For Any But Adult Tacticians--How the Government Is Making Schoolboys Into Soldiers.*



THE UNIVERSITY SCHOOLBOYS ARE SKILLED IN PRACTICAL WORK. THE PHOTO SHOWS THE CADETS AND THE PONTOON BRIDGE THEY BUILT AT A RECENT EXHIBITION.



CADETS BUILDING A BRIDGE DURING OUTDOOR MANOEUVRES.

WHEN the Duke of Connaught reviews the Toronto public school cadets on May 12 it will be a formidable army of youth and not a mere gathering of boyish enthusiasts that will march past the royal salute.

Line after line of brightly stepping and sturdy boys carrying rifles of the latest "protested" type and garbed in new uniforms from the department of militia, will march up University avenue and mass in Queen's Park for peaceful celebration. Fifty-two companies, each averaging 50 men, will represent the public schools of the city, while fifteen companies will parade for the high schools and the various other cadet organizations recently formed. In all, close on 4000 soldiers in the making will do homage to the flag and the representative of the King. The cadet system has been responsible for more recruits into city regiments than any other organization; it has also given to many thousands of growing youngsters the first insight into the necessity of national defence beside breeding a spirit of patriotism and love for the flag.

The history of the cadet movement is an interesting one. From the day, in 1865, that the first military drill was given in Toronto public schools, the wonderful growth of the movement and the splendid support that it has been given during recent years is almost entirely due to the untiring efforts of the drillmaster and colonel of the cadet regiment, John T. Thompson.

## Col. Thompson's First Taste of Drill

It was in 1865 that Colonel Thompson, then a pupil in the public schools, received his first taste of military drill as given in the schools. He from the first founded his ideas into the heads of obtuse members of the Board of Education, and also for the first few years interest in the new venture seemed to languish. It was still the pet hobby of the

young military enthusiast. In 1876 the cadet movement was allowed to drop. The work of organizing a permanent cadet corp had been started several years before by Major Denison, and military drill, with that end in view, had been inaugurated in the city schools. He met with many obstacles and much opposition, but his work was appreciated, and the public school board at the end of the first year passed the following

## Work for Years Carried on in Half-Hearted Way

For nearly twenty years the work of the cadets was carried on in a half hearted manner, and received very little support except from one or two members of the board and the Chief Inspector. The first public exhibition ever given by the boys was in 1879, when the drill company from Wellesley School paraded after the distribution of prizes in the Gardens. This event was just two years after Colonel Thompson had been placed in charge of the entire work of re-establishing military training and physical exercise in the schools. Since then, over 37 years, the cadets have been under the

charge of Colonel Thompson. In 1881 the first competition held between different companies of cadets was for a banner, presented by James Beatty, M.P., which was won by Wellesley school. Every year since 1881, the cadets have paraded on Empire Day, and have decorated the monuments in Queen's Park.

For a long time the companies drilling had to content themselves with "bed slats" or wooden rifles only. About 15 years ago, however, Sir Frederick Borden recognized the organization of cadets in public schools as well as in high schools, provided the boys were fourteen years of age or older. Six companies of regular public school cadets were organized, one in each of the following schools: Dufferin, Wellesley, Jesse Ketchum, Ryerson, Givens and Parkdale. From that time forward the cadets made steady progress.

## Trip to Tampa Gave Impetus to Movement

One of the milestones in the history of the Toronto cadets is the trip to Tampa, Florida, taken by a company of selected boys in 1899 as the guests of the state. The company was intended to take part in the military convention called by Governor Bixham for the purpose of considering the reorganization of the state militia and establishment of military drill in the schools. Fifty-six boys, accompanied by Major

Thompson, Col. Hughes, S. W. Burns, and J. M. Godfrey took the trip and were given a remarkable send-off by the citizens. The tour was a complete success. To this day Col. Thompson firmly believes that the Tampa trip was in a large measure responsible for the Government recognition of the organization. Among those who went to Tampa as cadets are: Alderman Meredith and H. H. Cousins of the Harbor Board.

Shortly after the recognition of six companies by the Government, the then Inspector Hughes, as the public school board had no authority to provide uniforms, determined to raise the necessary sum by private subscription. He secured over \$2,000. Later on Earl Grey, then Governor-General of Canada, gave him warm encouragement in the work and Lord Strathcona, unasked, sent him a cheque for \$7,000 to uniform all the drill companies in the city. Many prominent men became interested and numerous trophies were presented to keep up interest among the boys.

## Cadets Now a Full Military Regiment

Of more importance, however, following the festival held in the Arena recently, is the work that the cadets' corps will do in the future. The exhibition of bridge building given by the cadets, and the work of the signal corps, has opened up a field that is the intention of the organizers to develop largely during the next few years.

Now that the Toronto public school cadets have the honor of calling themselves a military regiment, with a full list of regimental commanders and battalion officers, it is expected that this work will be greatly improved. A signal corps, possibly with wireless equipment and a fully equipped ambulance corps to interest and instruct the young hopefuls, are to be added to the regiment during the coming year, while the new "Baby" Ross 22 calibre rifles, voted by the militia department, will be ready for distribution before the schools open in the autumn. This rifle is an exact reproduction of the standard military rifle in use by the adult regiments but is light and adapted for the use of the cadets, who were often exhausted after carrying the heavy guns thru a long parade. The "Baby" Ross is unrivalled for indoor shooting and will shoot outdoors over a 100 yards range.

## This is a Busy Month

This month will probably be the busiest in the history of the cadets for not only will the entire force take part in the Empire Day review but the following week will undergo the regular annual inspection and in addition will join, for the first time, the garrison parade and services on Sunday (today) which

will this year be held at the Arena.

The cadet camp at Niagara, to be held from June 29 to July 4, will in all probability, be the largest in the history of the cadet movement and the work planned for the week covers a wider range of training than any that has heretofore been attempted for any but adult manoeuvres.

It is only the recent growth in the popularity of the cadet movement that has made the founding of a cadet military camp possible, altho the Hon. Sam Hughes has fostered the idea ever since it was first rubbed into him by his brother. The camp at Niagara, it is expected, will become one of the big institutions of the country, of immense benefit in developing not only young manhood but national defence. While the training indulged in is not in any way exhaustive it covers a large realm of elementary knowledge invaluable should the student in later years be called upon to defend his country or to make use of military training in other lines.

## Dress a Boy As a Man And He Will Act As a Man

"Dress a boy up as a man and he will try and act the part" is a common maxim and it is on this hypothesis that the authorities have spent hours of labor and thousands of dollars in bringing the cadet camp into being. They hope, by giving the boy a uniform and the work of a man,

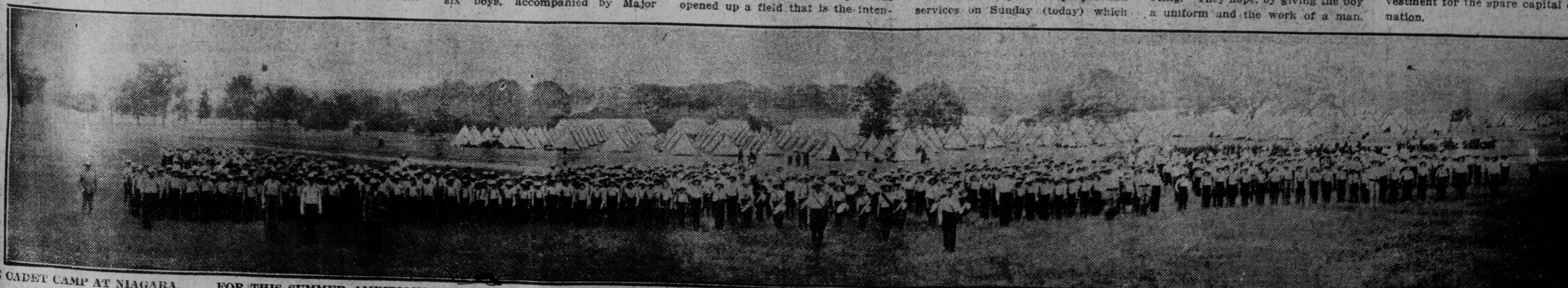
that he will put forth herculean efforts to "make good." He will maintain a dignity and bearing in keeping with his clothes.

The summer vacation, when the average boy is only too anxious to get out and "rough it" is not spoiled by a week of hard work at a camp and the physical benefits derived from the week under canvas is but a pleasant change from the confinement and mental strain of the school year. The student placed under competent instructors and stern disciplinarians increases his efficiency and hence his economic value thru the habits thus acquired of discipline, obedience, self-control, order, and command, and the study of organization and administration, as exemplified in first-class modern armies. The patriotic spirit is sure to be worked to the limit under the present management and as the cadets will not be a unit of the camp, this often mooted objection to "camps in general" will bear no weight. It is hardly possible that a boy who has spent a week at a military camp will ever lose the strain of military spirit grafted into him. He at least will have a foundation of military knowledge that will enable him in later years to form just opinions on any military topic he may be called upon to discuss and contravene.

## Militia Department Supplies Everything

Military equipment, tents, food and uniforms, in fact, everything but the boys themselves are supplied by the militia department. Good food and the necessary personnel for the instruction and organization of the cadets and for their care and protection from sickness will be given by the department at Ottawa. Rifle practice and instruction in the care and use of arms and ammunition will be part of the instruction. But it is the skirmish and formation drill with the fusillade firing from a chance position that pleases the young soldier. The formation of the ambulance corps will give opportunity for an extended course in field ambulance work and first-aid to the injured.

At present the work will be entirely for infantry and whether the government will inaugurate a cavalry cadet camp to work in conjunction remains to be seen. This, of course, would have to be devoted to the older boys and students. The camp last year gave good promise for the success of this year's venture and has raised the question of the possible advisability of lengthening the time which the cadets shall remain across the lake. The summer military camp for boys may be looked upon by peace loving citizens as a possible menace but it is unquestionable that the opportunities it offers for even greater results than those already obtained make it a good investment for the spare capital of the nation.



THE CADET CAMP AT NIAGARA.

FOR THIS SUMMER AMBITIOUS AND EX-

PLANS HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF MILITARY TRAINING FOR THE BOYS THAT WILL CLOSELY DUPLICATE THE WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE GROWN-UP SOLDIERS.