

THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

(SUCCESSOR TO THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE.)

VOL. VIII.
No. 1.

MONTREAL 1st JANUARY, 1893.

Subscription \$2.00 Yearly.
Single Copies 10 Cents.

THE GUARDS IN CANADA.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER IN LONDON.

A few days ago an interesting anniversary was kept at the Horseshoe Hotel, Tottenham Court Road, London, by the non-commissioned officers and men of the Brigades of Guards which served in Canada. Several dinners of the kind have been given and it is hoped that the anniversary may become an annual affair and be graced by the attendance of the Canadian High Commissioner, who in writing to congratulate the gathering expressed the hope that he would be able to attend on a future occasion. Every effort was made by Mr. Colmer, the secretary to the High Commissioner, who was communicated with on the subject, to find a Canadian officer now in London who knew the Guards when in Canada. The time however was too short to permit of this being done, and Lieut.-Col. J. Elton Prower, commanding the 8th Battalion of Quebec, a comparatively young officer, accepted the invitation to represent the Canadian forces. The old warriors present were:—

Grenadier Guards—Quartermaster-Sergts., G. Boulton, J. Upton and H. Pike; Armourer Sergt., W. Collins; Colour-Sergt., Gibson; Sergt. T. Sullivan; Colour-Sergts., J. Hervey and Geo. Meads, (2nd Batt).

Scots (Fusilier) Guards—Quartermaster-Sergts., P. Hawthorn and J. Wade; Sergt.-Major J. Phillips; Colour-Sergts., E. Carlyon, H. Viendall, G. Mair, W. Taylor; Drum-Major, R. Ball; Sergts., T. Ball, J. Davie, J. Ewing, W. Birth and G. Groom.

As the men who had served in Canada had generally left the service some time ago, several of the members now in the Brigade were present as guests, enlivening the room with their red coats. Among these guests were Sergt.-Major Fowler, of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, Drill-Sergt. Stewart, of the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, and Staff-Sergt. Riley, of the Grenadiers.

Mr. Boulton, late of the Grenadier Guards, occupied the chair as President, and Mr. Peter Hawthorn, late of the Scots Guards, was Vice-President.

At the conclusion of the dinner the Queen was toasted with musical honours, and then the Prince of Wales; after which the president proposed the officers of the brigade, saying, that he hoped that they were the same sort now in the Brigade that they were in his day, in which case no more could be said in their favour.

The Vice-President, in toasting Canada, was eloquent over the recollections of Canadian hospitality, and gave many pleasing anecdotes of the Dominion and the Canadian people. The good work which the Guards did in Canada and the general character of their respective corps, was placed far and away beyond any oral tribute by the parchment copies of letters which were received by each regiment from the Mayor and Corporation of Montreal on leaving that city for home in 1864.

Colonel Prower, responding for Canada, regretted for their sakes that it had not been possible to find an officer who was serving in Canada when the Guards were there. As he was

not able to "paint the lily" he was not able to say anything of the Queen's Guards in their military capacity, but of the individuals in Canada he would speak. The Governor-General, an ex-Guardsman, was, like the Queen, above criticism, but his staff and that of former Governors-General were nearly all Guardsmen, and were much liked in Canada, and had always set the good example which was expected of them. Some members of the Canadian Militia, hearing that one of the "Queen's Curled Darlings" was to take command, thought it meant a very easy time with so great a swell but they had never had such a hard worker before, and those officers and men who expected a picnic were disappointed. (The mention of General Herbert's name elicited great applause.) As for the non-coms and men, they were scattered all over the Dominion, wherever steady men were wanted, and to some extent they formed the stiffening of a somewhat juvenile Militia. All Canadians, and especially the fair sex, would welcome the Guards back to Canada again; and that, personally, he would be delighted to see a battalion of the *corps d'elite* doing their first drill on snowshoes.

The evening was enlivened by music and songs by Drill-Sergt. Riley, Mr. Pond, and Mr. Hawthorn and his two sons, and the gathering was spoken of as most pleasant and encouraging.

A REMINISCENCE OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN RIFLES.

When the Royal Canadian rifle regiment was disbanded, wiped off the British army roll in the policy for abandoning imperial garrison service, nearly thirty years ago, there were many regrets in Kingston, where the headquarters were last located. The men of the corps were all veterans joining after a full ten years service in other regiments, and therefore were fully devoted to army life, and as a rule well behaved. It was a sort of retreat for men whose taste for civilian life was spoiled by their army experience, and their steadiness and discipline did good service for England in Canada, the desertions from regiments of young men being numerous. The disbandment was near at hand, and the *Whig* announced that the colors would be trooped the following morning, when the fine band, the delight of every citizen, would also parade, as did the regiment, for the last time. As the hour drew near, so did the citizens in great numbers to see this very impressive ceremony and among the spectators were several militia colonels, majors and captains, not to speak of subalterns and full privates. But the barracks wore their usual quiet, only the gate sentry was in parade dress; and so one by one the crowd dispersed after some had whispered that it was one of the *Whig's* jokes, then quite frequent and effective. The militia officers afterwards wanted to go to some lonely dell and kick themselves for being so flat as to forget that rifle regiments did not carry colors, this being the first article of their creed.—*Kingston Whig*.