

passes the writer often had the pleasure of being conveyed to the island by the Military Jolly Boat, manned by six oarsmen and a coxswain, which left the foot of Barrack street several times daily, being the only ferry between the city and the island fifty years ago. This ferry, however, was too slow for Prince Arthur—now the Duke of Connaught—who in 1869 and the beginning of 1870 was stationed in Montreal with his regiment, the Rifle Brigade. He retained the services of Joe Vincent—one of the last of the famous boatmen of the river, and who for years kept boats for hire at the foot of Jacques Cartier Square—who personally rowed him to and from the island whenever his duties called him there, and would cover the distance in one-half the time of the military boat. Boatmen such as he and the late J. Jordon are now unknown; each saved many lives from a watery grave on our harbor front, and often at the risk of his own.

#### ST. HELEN'S ISLAND

As St. Helen's Island was an important military post, it had a fairly numerous garrison in addition to a number of families who had their quarters in the buildings, which are still standing on the eastern end. The heads of the families who were retired soldiers of exceptional character, were engaged in the powder magazines and ordnance stores. The substantial barrack buildings, which faced the city, were burned down some years ago, but the ordnance stores adjoining them were saved. They are now practically empty, except for the rifle racks, which formerly held thousands of the old muzzle-loaders, which were later replaced by the much vaunted, but now obsolete Snider rifle.

In the autumn of 1866 the writer, while roaming over the Island with the son of one of the Ordnance Department, saw him throw a stick which he had in his hand at a tree a few feet off. Something fell, and on running up we found that he had killed a wild turkey. Alas! the wild turkey, like the wild pigeon, is but a memory in this province.

Molson's College building, now occupied as a wall paper factory, was first used as barracks by the 16th Regiment, commanded by Colonel Peacock. The block of dwellings known as Molson's terrace, overlooking the river, and fronting on the barracks' square, was used as quarters for the officers' mess. These barracks were subsequently, and successively, occupied by the 30th Regiment—now the East Lancashire; the 23rd—Royal Welsh Fusiliers; the 25th—the King's Own Borderers; the 69th—Welsh Regiment; and the 78th—Seaforth Highlanders. The latter regiment came to Canada from India, where they had taken part in the Indian Mutiny.

#### A REGIMENTAL MASCOT

On the Voltigeurs street side of the barrack-yard was a wooden paling fence, which gave a clear view to the barrack square, and the citizens of the neighborhood would gather here to watch the regimental drill, or listen to the music of the excellent bands, when the officers were at dinner. The 23rd Welsh Fusiliers had a special attraction in a handsome goat, which when on parade had a silver plate hanging from its horns, bearing an inscription which stated that the goat was a gift to the regiment from Her Majesty Queen Victoria. The goat walked at the side of the drum-major, and no soldier of the regiment kept more perfect step with the bands than did this regimental mascot.

Not only did Molson's barrack yard echo daily to the tramp of men going through company and battalion drill, or the monotonous tramps of the unfortunates, who for misdemeanors were doing their two hours' pack