

great and hearty cheer arose as from one man to greet them, and being taken up along the line was resounded down Yonge Street by the immense throng, letting those in the very centre of the city who then knew, independent of the fire alarm bells, of the arrival of the brave boys. All the way down Yonge Street the cheering was incessant. Old men shouted themselves out of breath; young ladies cheering as they pelted bouquets of flowers at the "veterans" set a good example to the men with the strongest lungs in the assembled crowd, mothers wept with joy, and the babes in their arms cooed and waved their chubby little hands as if by instinct, till an observer might feel quite satisfied that every man, woman, and child in the crowd had a relation among the gallant boys from the front. Ladies broke through the line regardless of military discipline to welcome some loved one of whom they had just caught sight. It was as much as these admired of all admirers could do to force themselves through the crowd of citizens, who seemed in some cases almost beside themselves in their anxiety to do the troops honor for their brave deeds. The cheering was kept up with unceasing vigor from Bloor to Queen Street by the thousands who had been standing in the street façade for hours waiting for the boys.

"Here they come," shouted five thousand voices simultaneously at the corner of Queen and Yonge Streets as the white helmets of the mounted squad of police came in sight, and the music of the Body Guard Band could be faintly heard in the distance. Nearer and nearer they came, and the cheering grew louder until the Body Guards wheeled into Queen Street, when it was simply deafening. A dozen handkerchiefs fluttered from every window, and bouquets were showered upon the heads of the "brave volunteers" with lavish profusion, while the owner of each cambric handkerchief with a lace border smiled and hurraed with such vigor that the sonorous cheers of the men were almost inaudible. Lieut. Howard sat erect on his horse, and gallantly waved his pretty bouquet aloft, to assure the ladies at the windows that he heartily appreciated their cheers on his behalf.

Having arrived at Spadina Avenue, the police with difficulty made an opening sufficient to allow the procession to pass, and in a short time it had again turned east into King Street, where the crowd which had patiently waited was considerably augmented in numbers by people from Queen Street who had come down to have another glimpse of the "brave boys."

King Street, with its flags and banners and pretty faces at every window, presented a picture that will be stamped upon the memory of all who saw it. It was a pleasant change of scene for the sunburnt volunteers who have for so long a time been suffering privations in the bleak North-West. Every available point of vantage was occupied. Boys were perched on the top of lamp-posts, while high up people sat on chimney tops, and looked down upon the moving masses. Guns were fired from the tops of buildings as the troops passed Yonge Street, where the people were literally packed together, while hand bells, gongs, and discordant horns were brought into operation. The chimes of St. James' Cathedral floated over the city as the procession moved forward to Jarvis Street, down which it passed, and entered St. Lawrence Market Square.

In front of the gaily decorated City Hall building were three balconies for the use of prominent citizens, and two platforms, one for spectators and the other for the school children, who were to sing a welcome to the returning volunteers. At about five o'clock the police, assisted by a body of mounted artillerymen, cleared the market square of all except those who were to take a special part in the reception, and drew a cordon about the square by stretching ropes across the streets leading up to it. Carriages containing aldermen and other leading citizens began to arrive and the occupants were cheered by the youngsters with the utmost impartiality. His Honor the Lieut.-Governor was one of the visitors. The first opportunity for letting off the pent-up enthusiasm of the assembled multitude was afforded by the arrival of the Queen's Own reserve. They were loudly cheered by the crowd, many of whom managed to elude the vigilance of the police and make their way into the square. In rapid succession the other corps taking part in the reception arrived, modestly accepted the plaudits of the people, and took up their positions in the following order: The Q. O. R. reserve were drawn up along the western and northern sides of the square facing the City Hall; the boys of the public schools were placed in front of the last-named corps, covering a portion of the right wing on the northern side of the square; on the south side, facing the market, were the 10th Grenadiers' reserve, the ex-members of the Queen's Own, and the band of the 13th Battalion, of Hamilton. The eastern side of the square was left open for the entrance of the returning troops, the way being kept clear by the Toronto Field Battery. There was thus ranged about the square a reserve force well calculated to create a feeling of confidence in the ability of Canada to defend herself.

While these arrangements were made the square was gradually filling with spectators. Eager onlookers were perched on every available corner of the roof of the market building and even on the arms of a telegraph pole. The band of the 13th Battalion beguiled the waiting moments with lively airs, and occasionally there would be a peal from the bells of the steeple of St. James'.

A little before eight o'clock a general turning north of faces peering out of windows told the crowd that the heroes were arriving.

When the troops had got into some order, the children, under Mr. Schuch's direction, sang, "Welcome, Brave Volunteers," "The Maple Leaf Forever," and "God Save the Queen," receiving the well-merited applause of the listeners. Then the troops, with a desperate effort, broke away from their friends and started off for the Drill Shed on the double, the Grenadiers entering the shed from the east end, and the Queen's Own going in from the west. As they moved off, the children sang "Rule Britannia," and to satisfy numerous requests, followed it with a large number of other songs.

For some time before the troops reached the Market Square both entrances to the Drill Shed were besieged by an ever-increasing crowd clamouring for admission. Boys and girls, young men and maidens, fathers and mothers of families were all anxiously awaiting the opening of the doors that they might crowd their way in. The sole occupants of the shed were Lieut.-Col. R. B. Denison, Deputy Adjutant General, Lieut.-Col. Milsom, Brigade Major, and the caretaker who, however, did not count on that occasion. There were no police or guards at the doors, which, however, were securely bolted, and remained so, despite the loud and frequent hammerings on the doors, until the Body Guards had marched off, when the big door was thrown half open, and about five or six civilians and uniformed officers were admitted. The last to get inside was Major Shaw, dressed in the uniform of the Tenth Royals, but he had no sooner got in than he was met by the Deputy Adjutant-General, who ordered him out, and on his refusal to go fairly threw him outside, and closed the door. A few minutes later the troops arrived at the doors, which were thrown open, and amid the wildest confusion the crowd forced their way in with the volunteers, and occupied most of the building. Remonstrance was useless, and force there was none for a few minutes, when a picket and a force of police were placed at each entrance, who endeavored to keep the multitude from gaining any further foothold. For a time their efforts were successful, but a grand rush was made and another body crushed their way in, adding to the confusion and disorder which prevailed inside. This was repeated at intervals every few minutes, especially at the West Market Street entrance, the Jarvis Street being somewhat better guarded. The men were drawn up in companies, and an effort made to reduce the shed to something like order, but without avail. Noisy shouting and yelling entirely drowned the voices of the officers except at rare intervals. In despair of being able to do anything with his men last night, Col. Miller finally mounted the stairs, and during a lull in the confusion announced that the men would be at once dismissed for the night, but were required to appear on parade at 10 o'clock next day, when they would receive their instructions. The same action was taken by Lieut.-Col. Grass-tt, and both battalions were dismissed for the night shortly after.

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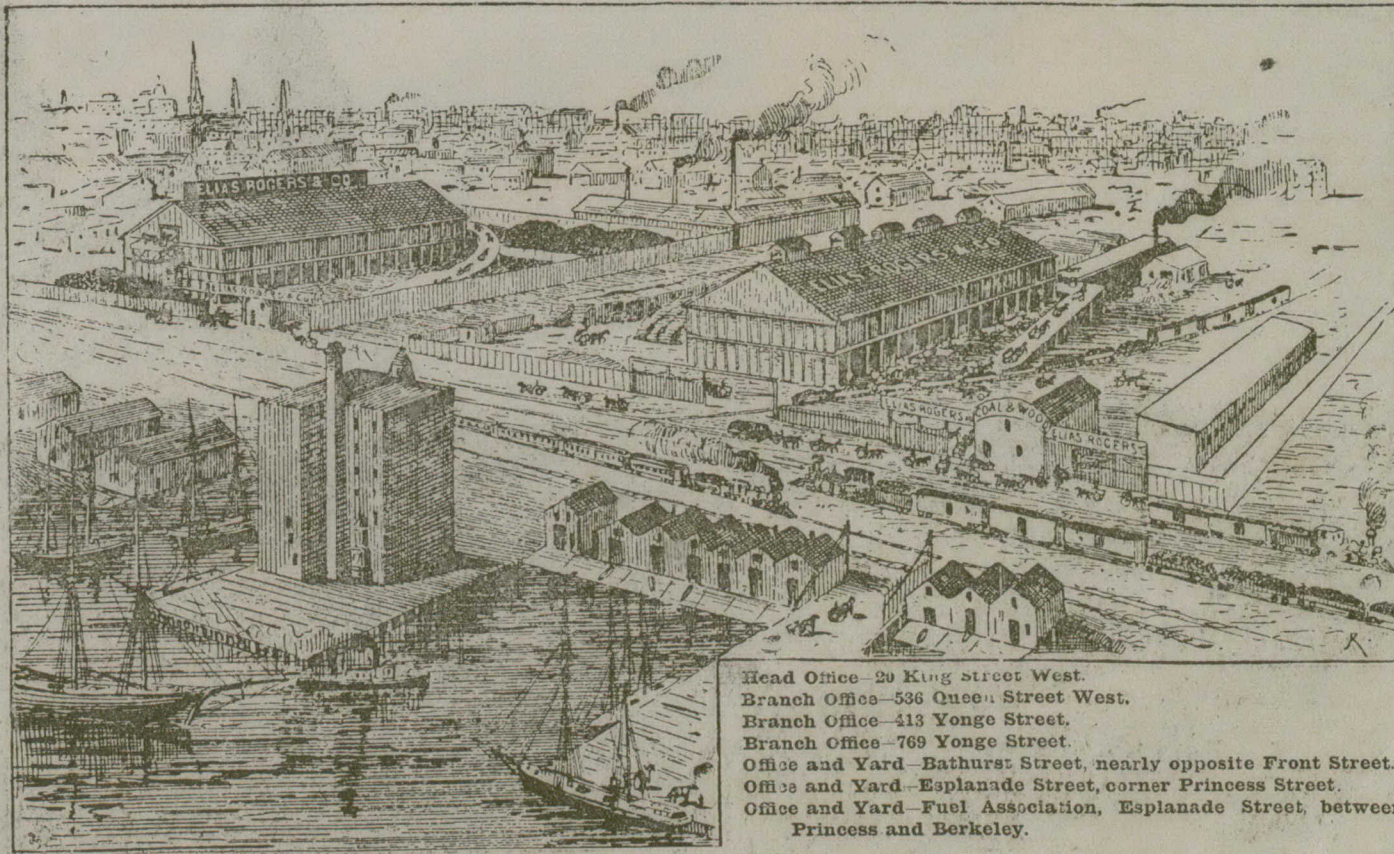
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