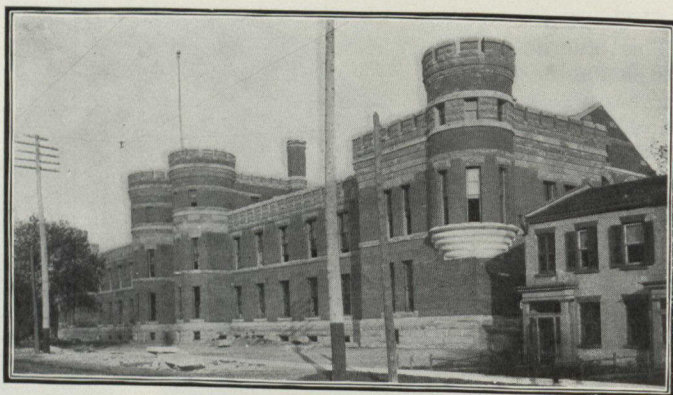




DRILL HALL AT LONDON, ONT.

present Premier, as leaders of the Opposition. Later he became secretary to the Hon. J. C. Patterson, Minister of Militia. In 1892 he was transferred to the Department of Militia and became chief clerk on the retirement of Mr. Benjamin Sulte.

No account of the Militia Council, as now constituted, will be complete without some mention of the Inspector-General. The Council has succeeded to all the duties hitherto performed by the General Officer Commanding the Militia, with the exception of that of executive command. This command will, for the future, lie with the military officers commanding districts, who will be directly re-

ached. Such an official is the Inspector-General, who is charged with the duty of inspecting the military forces of the country, and of seeing that they are properly equipped, in accordance with the instructions of the Militia Council.

The officer who is charged with these high duties is Brigadier-General Lord Aylmer, the present Inspector-General. He was primarily an officer of the 7th Royal Fusiliers, of His Majesty's Imperial Service, and whose ancestor was at one time the Governor of Canada. Lord Aylmer has been on the staff of the Canadian Militia since 1871.

sponsible to Council for the manner in which they carry out those duties. The Council is, in its essence, an administrative body, and is therefore required to have at its disposal an official who shall, so to speak, in the eyes of the Council, see that their directions are carried out and that the results which are aimed at are

Before the Militia Bill of 1868

By BENJAMIN SULTE, F.R.S.C.*



WHEN I was a boy, the 29th of June always brought to me a day of excitement, because of the parade of the Militia which took place invariably at seven o'clock in the morning on the public square of our little town, in the Province of Quebec. This is more than fifty years ago. The quaint line of the men, tall, small, round, flat, with everyday's working dress on, is still before my eyes. I remember also how the soldiers

of the garrison enjoyed smiling at the curious turn-out.

The parade was a time-honoured institution, dating as far back as 1649, and we were then in 1849. Its object was to have a roll-call of all men between eighteen and sixty. They were the militiamen, but they had no uniforms, no guns, no knowl-

*Mr. Sulte entered the Civil Service in 1867 and retired in 1903. During that period, he was thirty-two years in the Militia Department.