

Presentation in India of New Colors to the 100th Regiment "Royal Canadians."

NEW colors were presented to the "Royal Canadian" regiment by Her Excellency the Countess of Dufferin, on the parade ground of the regiment in the fort at Calcutta, on the 21st February. Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Dufferin and family and a large party from Government House arrived punctually at 4.30 p.m. His Excellency, the Commander-in-Chief and staff, the Lord Bishop and his chaplain, and many military officers were also present. The public were provided with seats on either side of the tent occupied by the vice-regal party.

Before giving details of the proceedings, the following particulars regarding the regiment and the old colors, from the *Indian Daily News*, may be of interest.

The 100th regiment, Prince of Wales' Royal Canadians, was organized in Canada in the year 1858. The proposition for raising a regiment of the line in Canada for general service emanated from His Excellency the Right Hon. Sir Edmund Walker Head, Bart., Governor-General of British North America. The regiment was made over to the British government by Canada as a free gift during the mutiny. The designation of the regiment was the "Prince of Wales' Royal Canadians," and although it has been re-named the Leinster since amalgamation with the 109th who bore that title, it is still permitted to retain the old name, in consideration of the good feeling shown, and the assistance rendered by the colony to the mother country in the troublous times through which India passed during the mutiny.

Commissions in the 100th regiment were bestowed upon gentlemen residing in Canada. A major's commission was granted to a gentleman for raising 200 men; a captain's for raising 80 men; a lieutenant's for raising 40 men; the ensigncies were given free. The other officers of the regiment were appointed from the line. Recruiting for the regiment commenced in March, 1858, and was completed by the middle of July, 1858. The men were raised principally in Upper Canada. Alexander Dunn, Esq., late lieutenant 11th Hussars, who received the Victoria Cross for valor displayed by him in the celebrated charge of the six hundred at Balaclava, was promoted major into the regiment. Major-General Viscount Melville, K.C.B., commander of the forces in North Britain, was appointed colonel of the regiment on the 21st June, 1858. The recruits of the regiment were sent to the depot at Montreal. After 600 had assembled at Montreal, they were embarked for Quebec under command of Lieut.-Col. H. Gordon, 17th regiment. Colonel de Rottenburg, late Adjutant-General of Canada, joined headquarters on the 17th June, 1858, and assumed command of the battalion. The regiment sailed to Liverpool on the 19th June, 1858, arriving there on the 1st July, 1858, and then proceeded to Shorncliffe camp. On the 10th January, 1859, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales presented colors to the regiment at Shorncliffe camp, being the first public act performed by him.

The regiment embarked on H.M.I. troopship *Urgent* at Portsmouth on the 7th May, 1859, for Gibraltar, arriving there on 14th May, 1859, when H.R.H. the Prince of Wales met them on disembarkation. Her Majesty was graciously pleased to allow the officers of the 100th regiment to wear the Prince of Wales plume above the number on their forage cap, in consideration of the corps being designated "Prince of Wales' Royal Canadians." The regiment embarked at Gibraltar for Malta on board the *Orontes* on the 13th October, 1863, and disembarked on the 17th October. The regiment embarked at Malta for Montreal on the 15th of October, 1866, arriving on the 4th November, 1866. On the 30th October, 1868, the regiment embarked under command of Major Cook, en route to the United Kingdom, disembarking at Glasgow on the 11th November, 1868. On the 31st March, 1875, Her Majesty approved of the word "Niagara" being inscribed on the regimental colors in commemoration of its distinguished conduct at the capture of Fort Niagara on the 13th December, 1813. On the 6th October, 1877, the regiment embarked under command of Lieut.-Col. H. Cook at Portsmouth for Bombay, and arrived there on the 10th November, 1877.

The regiment was drawn up in line facing the tent in which the vice-regal party were seated—the new colors in rear, the old colors occupying a position on the right of the line. After the old colors had been trooped, the regiment was formed into square, in the centre of which the drums were piled with the new colors crossed on them. The Bishop supported on either side by his chaplains, then advanced, followed at some distance by the vice-regal party. When the colors were reached, the Bishop pronounced the benediction, after which the Lord's prayer was repeated, and the special service used on these occasions was gone through, the members of the band joining in the responses. In the course of a prayer, a special blessing was invoked on the new colors. The Bishop next laid his hands on the colors and said: "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, we bless these colors and dedicate them to be the colors of the Prince of Wales' 'Leinster' Regiment (Royal Canadians)." Hymn No. 390 was then sung by the

band, and the final benediction having been pronounced by the Bishop, Her Excellency presented the colors, which were received on bended knee. The colors consisted of the usual "Queen's color," bearing a device of the rose, thistle and shamrock on the Union Jack, and the regimental color with a dark blue ground, on which the names of the regiment's engagements were inscribed, and in the centre a device representing the Prince of Wales' plume with a single maple leaf below.

On presenting the colors to the Royal Canadian regiment, Her Excellency said:—"Colonel Mackinnon, officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Royal Canadians:—The regiment to which you have the honor to belong sprang into existence in the hour of England's greatest need. It owed its birth to the loyal devotion of our Canadian fellow-subjects, and its embodiment was one of the earliest indications given by our colonies of that determination which they have since so universally expressed, to recognise and maintain the unity and the common interests of the British Empire. I now entrust these colors to your guardianship, fully believing that you will rally round them nobly and gallantly in whatever quarter of the world they may be displayed in defence of England's honor and of the Queen's dominions."

Col. D. W. Mackinnon, the commander of the regiment, replied briefly, referring to the appropriateness of the presentation by Lady Dufferin, so identified with Canada. He added significantly: "This battalion has followed the colors now parted with for some thirty years, and a more *uneventful* one can scarcely be imagined. We trust that your Excellency's connection with this battalion may bring it better fortunes in the future."

The colors were then marched back to the line, while the band played the "National Anthem." After this the regiment marched past their Excellencies by successive companies, to the tune of "God bless the Prince of Wales," the old colors being carried by the last company. The regiment was next wheeled into line again, and took open order; the "National Anthem" was again played, the troops presenting arms, and the old colors were escorted off the field. This ended the ceremony. Their Excellencies, after partaking of refreshments, left the fort at about 5.00 p.m.

A ball was given in the town hall during the evening, at which their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Dufferin, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor and Lady Rivers Thompson, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and all the *élite* of Calcutta were present. The old colors occupied a prominent position at one end of the hall, and were under the charge of Private Dugas, one of the old French-Canadian soldiers who joined the regiment when raised in 1858. The final resting place of the old colors has not yet been selected, but it is believed that they will be deposited either in the cathedral at Montreal or in the house of Parliament at Ottawa, as may be hereafter decided on by the Canadian authorities.

British Columbia Rifle Association.

THE annual general meeting was held on the 17th ult. A large number of the active militia as well as citizens were present, and much interest was shown in the success of the association. The secretary read the annual report as well as a statement of the receipts and expenditure, showing a satisfactory balance on hand. The association decided to renew the lease of the present rifle range at Clover Point until September next. A committee of five was at the same time appointed to report on the best location for a new range, the present site being considered too exposed. The necessary repairs will be made on the present range forthwith. It was decided that the province be again represented by a team of five at the annual meeting of the Dominion rifle association at Ottawa, in September next, and the regulations for the selection of this team will be arranged by the council. A hearty vote of thanks was unanimously tendered to Mr. E. C. Baker, M.P., for the interest he had taken in the welfare of the association and his successful efforts in procuring reduced transport and other conveniences for the team which visited Ottawa last year, and he was enrolled as a life member of the association.

The following council was elected for 1887: Mr. E. C. Baker, M.P.; Lieut.-Col. Wolfenden, Major McDonnell, District Staff, and Major Prior, Surg. Trew, Capts. Peele, Bole, Jones, Fletcher, Dorman and Woolcott, Sergt. H. H. Roper, Gr. Winsby and Messrs. C. E. Pooley, M.P.P., and Geo. Thompson, M.P.P.

Messrs. E. C. Baker, M.P., and D. Chisholm, M.P., were elected representatives from the association to the council of the Dominion rifle association for the year and the meeting adjourned.

A meeting of the newly elected council was afterwards held, when it was resolved that the lieutenant-governor should be asked to be patron of the association, and the following vice-patrons: Mr. Justice Gray, the premier of the province, the mayor of Victoria, Mr. Dunsmuir, M.P.P., and Col. Baker, M.P.P. The following office-bearers were elected: