



Royal Military College Notes.

Captain Edmund C. Hamilton, 3rd Hussars, who joined the Imperial service on the 5th of September, 1888, from the Royal Military College, Kingston, has resigned his commission.

Lieut. George Dalbiac Luard, Scottish Rifles, who received his first commission in the Northumberland Fusiliers on the 7th of October, 1885, from the Royal Military College, Kingston, but in the following December transferred to the Scottish Rifles, has recently been promoted captain in the last named regiment.

Major E. Roban, Royal Engineers, who was instructor and professor at the Royal Military College, Kingston, from August, 1882, to September, 1886, and who for the past five years has been superintending engineer, Portsmouth Lockyard, has been appointed to the important position of Director of Works at the Admiralty.

Captain and Adjutant G. S. Duffus, R.A., who received his first commission from the Royal Military College, Kingston, on June 26th, 1882, has been appointed a Staff Captain under the Colonel on the Staff, commanding the Royal Artillery, Dominion of Canada.

An exchange has been sanctioned between Kenneth J. R. Campbell, 6th Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers), and Captain H. Peregrine Leader, 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment.

Captain Campbell was a cadet at Kingston College from September 30th, 1879, to November 16th, 1881. In August, 1883, he joined the Imperial service as a private soldier, and after serving three years in the ranks was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Lancaster Regiment. On July 6th, 1887, he was transferred to the 7th Dragoon Guards, and on August 1st, 1888, he joined the 6th Dragoon Guards and obtained the rank of captain, August 28th, 1895. From April, 1890, until quite recently, Captain Campbell has been in colonial employment with the Gold Coast Constabulary and the Niger Coast Protectorate.

Captain Leader obtained his first commission from the Royal Military College, Kingston, in September, 1885, and was promoted captain on December 9th, 1894. Captain Leader was extra aide-de-camp to the general officer commanding, Egypt, from April 20th, 1890, to December 31st, 1890.

If Canada Were Not British.

The February issue of the Canadian Magazine contains an article from the pen of Sir Charles Tupper on "The Navy Question and the Colonies," in which he says:

When her borders were invaded by a horde of lawless men from the United

States, a call for volunteers was eagerly responded to, and in less than twenty-four hours 14,000 men were converging upon their foes, who were driven back to confusion. When the insurrection in the North-west of half-breeds and Indians took place in 1885, 4,000 volunteers from the eastern provinces left their homes in mid-winter and crushed it, at an expense of several lives and \$6,000,000, without calling upon the troops at Halifax for a man. Major-General Brackenbury has put on record the fact that the success of the Nile expedition was due to the French-Canadian voyageurs, who responded with alacrity to the call of Lord Wolesley, who knew by experience their value. A short time ago, when there were threatenings in the east, I was directed to place a regiment of Royal Canadian Infantry at the service of the Imperial Government, to be maintained by Canada. The protection of the flag of England is of inestimable value to Canada, and is deeply prized, but I deny that Canada costs this country a single dollar for any purpose whatever, either civil, military or naval. Does any intelligent man believe that if Canada were driven out of the empire, and compelled to become part of the American republic, that England, which now possesses the finest ports and the most valuable coal mines on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, would be strengthened by having neither the one nor the other on the continent of North America, or that her power would be increased by having the arsenals and port of the Gibraltar of America in the hands of a foreign power, advanced 600 miles nearer this country than at present, or that her trade would be improved by driving 5,000,000 of loyal Canadians, at no distant date to be 50,000,000, behind the McKinley tariff? No! instead of being able to reduce her army by a man, or her navy by a ship, she would be compelled to increase both largely to maintain her present power and influence.

Cordite.

The Naval and Military Record of Portsmouth questions its value. Canadians should hesitate before committing themselves to its use. The question of cordite will again be raised in Parliament in the coming session. More than one member of the Government, and especially Mr. Hanbury, as well as many Unionists, expressed themselves as not satisfied with cordite, and it will be curious to notice what these members' views are now that they are in a position of more responsibility. It is known that even in the War office the ammunition is not unanimously approved, and the Government will be asked these two questions:—"Is it true that 2,000 rounds will affect the Metford barrel to such an extent that its accuracy will be then impaired? Is the statement accurate that the new Enfield barrel—the Martini-Enfield being the new volunteer rifle—will require cleaning after several rounds have been fired? The two questions have been iterated and reiterated with increasing emphasis by certain experts, and if they cannot be met by an official denial the conclusion will be forced upon the public that the powder is injurious to the barrel. These considerations are apart from climatic influence, and do not affect the debatable question of the size and shape of the bullet, which have not proved much in the way of slaying the enemy. By-the-bye, according to all accounts the new explosive with which shells were charged at Toulon on board the Amiral Duperré, has given remarkable results in the first experiments. It is stated that melinite is "mere gun powder" compared with this explosive.

Report of the Deputy Minister

The following is the report of the Dep. Min. of Militia and Defence for the year ending Jan. 30th 1895.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE.

OTTAWA, 30th December, 1895.

The Honourable A. R. DICKEY,
Minister of Militia and Defence.

SIR.—I have the honour to submit herewith the reports of the different officers of the Department of Militia and Defence for the financial year ended on the 30th June last.

All these reports show a steady increase in efficiency, in the Permanent Corps and Active Militia of the country. The permanent force, although reduced in numbers, has given instruction in the various military schools throughout the Dominion; and applications for courses of instruction in these schools have been increasing. The good work thus performed through the instrumentality of our small but efficient permanent force has, to a large extent, raised the standard and consequent value to the country of our militia officers. There does not appear to have been any falling off in the numbers of city corps and rural battalions that have drilled for 1891-95. The numbers are in excess of those for the preceding year. Rural corps are at a disadvantage, as they are not called out for drill every year, but still these reports will show that rural corps in camps of instruction have proved to become efficient in a very short course of training.

It is to be regretted that the whole of our Active Militia cannot be drilled every year. They could, by being exercised for twelve days in each year, become, with the instruction given by means of the Permanent Corps, quite efficient, and available for active military duty in the field at very short notice.

There has been no change in the manner of procuring clothing and all the other articles required for the use of the Force. This has been done by contract in all practical cases, and all purchases of clothing and necessaries have been made in the Dominion. The details of issues can be seen in the report of the Director of Stores.

A list of works that have been carried on during the fiscal year, for maintenance and repairs of military properties, will be found in the report of the Acting Architect of the Department.

The Government Cartridge Factory has lately passed through a crisis. Following the purchase of a lot of Martini-Metford rifles, orders were given for the purchase, in England, of the required machinery for the manufacture of the 303 ammunition, and the Superintendent of the factory was sent to England to supervise the manufacture, under the orders of the Department, of this new machinery. All the new plant has been received at the factory, and has turned out to be of superior quality in all respects. At this stage, Lt.-Colonel Prevost, the Superintendent, was stricken down by disease, and I regret to say that his death followed very shortly, and the factory was thus deprived suddenly of the services of a very superior officer. No time was lost in repairing this severe blow to the establishment; an officer was selected, who is now following a course of technical instruction in England, and will shortly return with all necessary qualifications to carry on this important work.

I take this opportunity recording my appreciation of the excellent service rendered by the late Lt.-Col. Prevost, and my regret at the loss which the Department has sustained in his death. From the organization of this factory for the production within our Dominion of the ammunition required for the Militia Force, Lt.-Colonel Prevost had been in charge of the establishment; and to his untiring care and energy, with the intel-