

view. The printed literature dealing with that part of Canadian history was very extensive, but for the military student, owing partly to the prejudice of the writers and partly to want of exact information, much of it was almost valueless. He preferred, where it was practicable, to go to the original and official documents. A few words on the composition and equipment of the contending forces would not be out of place. There was, unfortunately, good reason to believe that to a large part of the British force in 1812 the term applied by Wellington to his rank and file, "the scum of the earth," was applicable. The recruiting officers had been found to resort to many strange and discreditable devices to supply the drain of twenty years of war. The prisons were emptied bodily into the ranks. Men under sentence of death for the vilest crimes were permitted to serve therein by enlisting under assumed names. Prisoners of war of all nationalities were accepted as recruits, although it was apparent they intended to desert at the first opportunity. Three of the best regiments in the army were entirely composed of pauper boys drafted from the country poor houses. Little attention was paid to the physical condition of the recruits, and hundreds of these went directly to the hospital from the recruiting office. The best men were naturally sent to Spain and Hindostan, and the residuum despatched to those stations where merely garrison duty was anticipated. Accordingly when war was declared by the United States whole battalions stationed in the British provinces were actually unfit to take the field through physical causes. In Upper and Lower Canada on the 1st of July, 1812, there were, including four battalions of colonial troops, 7,147 officers and men of all arms. Of these the 10th Royal Veteran Battalion, 559 strong, was entirely composed of old and infirm men; the 103rd, 781 so-called effectives, of boys; and the Glengarry Light Infantry and Canadian Voltigeurs, 829 officers and men, of raw recruits. Ultimately the last three battalions became excellent soldiers. The British squadron on Lake Erie, and that on Lake Ontario, were tied up in port for weeks together at the most critical periods through the weakness or inefficiency of their crews.

With the production of these facts the lecturer pointed out that in this great crisis Canada had to depend for her protection upon her own sons, and that they grandly responded to the call, as the invaders had full opportunity and occasion to learn. He described how the chief engagements of the war had been fought and won, including the battles of Queenston Heights, Beaver Dam, Lundy's Lane, Stony Creek, Fort Erie and Fort Niagara. He was heartily applauded at the close of the lecture.

Lt.-Col. G. T. Denison congratulated Capt. Cruikshank upon the value and interest of his lecture, stating that it was opportune at a time when a new system of loyalty was being taught by strangers to the country. He moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which, being seconded by Lt.-Col. Dawson, was carried with enthusiasm.

Major Mason, R.G., on behalf of the Military Institute, thanked Principal Dickson, of the U.C.C., for the use of Convocation Hall.

Capt. Cruikshank, who belongs to the 44th Battalion, and is a resident of Fort Erie, is at present taking a course at the School of Infantry in Toronto.

He wouldn't be an emperor nor would he be a king,  
A jurist nor a lawyer, nor any kindred thing;  
He wouldn't be a fireman because his work was hot,  
But he'd rather be a soldier and be shot! shot! shot!

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## REGIMENTAL.

### QUEEN'S OWN SERGEANTS' MESS.

"We're Britons born,  
We're Britons still, and Britons aye shall be;  
The Union Jack, the flag we love,  
Shall guard our Maple Tree."

The Eighth Annual Dinner of the Queen's Own Sergeants' Mess was held in their Mess Room on Friday evening, 27th February.

At 8.45 p.m. the dinner bugle sounded and immediately afterwards the guests filed in from the ante-room and seated themselves at the tables arranged in the large mess room.

The chair was occupied by Sergeant-Major Kennedy and his first duties in his new position were well and ably performed. Seated on either side of him were Lt.-Col. Hamilton, Lt.-Col. G. T. Denison, Lt.-Col. F. C. Denison, Lt.-Col. Sweney, Lt.-Col. Gray, Major Meade, T. F. B.; Capt. McDougall, R.S.I.; Ald. Score, Capt. Macdonald, and Dr. Nattress. Among the other guests were noticed Capts. Pollatt, Mason, Thompson, Greene, Mutton and Heakes, Lieuts. Lee, Baird, Ilwyd, Rennie, Peuchen, Wyatt, Crean, Levesconte, Burnham, Knifton, Mercer, Murray and Mr. J. G. French; Sgt.-Major Athaws, 13th Bn., Hamilton; Col.-Sergt. Jack, 14th Princess of Wales, Kingston; Sergt.-Major Woodman, T.F.B.; Sergt.-Major Granger, G.G.B.G.; Sergt.-Major Cox, 10th R.G. The seating capacity was taxed to its utmost, covers being laid for one hundred and twenty guests. The decorations were exceedingly handsome, the walls and ceilings being completely covered by the numerous flags and bannerets, the signal flags of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club forming not the least item among the many. The Flag—the Old, Old Flag—predominated. By means of three electric lights placed outside the stained-glass windows the designs were brought out very prominently, and the centre one with the crest of the regiment was rendered very conspicuous. Caterer Webb filled his post to the satisfaction of everyone, and at the conclusion of the *menu* the order from Shakespeare, "Prepare for mirth, for mirth becomes a feast," found ready response. Previous to entering in on the Toast List the Secretary read letters of regret from the following:—Maj.-Gen. Herbert, Lieut.-Cols. Dawson, Alger, Smith, Jones, Gibson, Grasett, Commander Law, Sir J. A. Macdonald, Lt.-Gov. Campbell, Sir Casimir Gzowski, Mr. Dalton McCarthy, and Rev. G. E. Lloyd, late chaplain of the regiment.

The toast of the Queen was accorded the reception her sons well know how to accord. The D.A.G. was responded to by Brigade-Major Gray in the absence of Lieut.-Col. Otter, caused by an injury to his knee. The Brigade Major was well received, and in response said he took pleasure in responding to this toast, and said a hearty amen to the couplet on the menu card, which read as follows: "Our country hath no worthier son than he." He stated that it was with much pleasure he informed them that that week he had taken over from the city the site of the new drill hall, and that he hoped that the powers that be would be able to start work next week. Ex-Sergt. Eddis then sang "The Three Jolly Britons." Bugle Major Swift then proposed the toast of "Our Commanding Officer and the Staff," which was replied to by Lieut.-Col. Hamilton and Capt. Macdonald. The Colonel then congratulated the sergeants on the success of the event, as well as on the greatly improved conditions of the rooms, and assured those present that the regiment owed its success to the non coms., the backbone of the regiment, and stated that it never possessed a better class than it was composed of to-day.

The Regimental Song was rendered by Bugle-Major Swift, and Staff Sergt. Macdonald rose to propose the toast of "Our Departed Comrade" to the memory of the late Sergt.-Major S. C. McKell. He traced his life in the regiment, and in the mess of which he was for some years the