

THE TOAST LIST.

The programme of toasts follows :

The Queen.

The Governor-General.

The Parliament of Canada, proposed by Lt-Col Aylmer; responded to by Hon A R Dickey, Sir James Grant and H Robillard, M P.

Our Guest, proposed by Lt-Col Aylmer; responded to by Major-General Gascoigne.

The Mayor and Corporation, proposed by Lt-Col Aylmer; responded to by Mayor Borthwick.

The Adjutant-General, proposed by Sir James Grant; responded to by Col Powell.

The chairman, proposed by Mayor Borthwick; responded to by Lt-Col Aylmer.

Deputy Minister of Militia, proposed by Sir James Grant; responded to by Col. Panet.

Lt-Col Hodgins, Major Gourdeau, Capt Rogers, Capt Macdonald and Lt Stuart sang in excellent voice during the evening, and Lt Helmer recited in his usual entertaining manner.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell was unable to be present owing to indisposition. Hon Dr Montague was absent for the same reason.

The Guards' Band, under Bandmaster Lewis, rendered a choice programme of music during the evening.

The dinner was in charge of the Garrison Mess committee, consisting of Col. Aylmer, Majors Sherwood and Bliss, Capt Roper, G G F G, and Lieut Ellsott, P L D G's, who deserves every credit for the splendid arrangements made.

Montreal.

The event of the month, in fact of the year, so far as the Montreal Militia is concerned was the brigade church parade on Sunday 27th. The turn out was a success in every way. With so many different regiments, so many bands and so many different uniforms the Montreal brigade makes a very brave and picturesque appearance on parade, whatever difference of opinion there may be as to the practical utility of so many regiments of such small numerical strength. Several of the regiments were not up to full strength, but is never possible to count on a full parade for Sunday. The Royal Scots, Victoria Rifles and Fusiliers had very good bands on parade, the others very indifferent ones. The difference in step and time between the regiments was very marked. The 6th Fusiliers had the quickest and most correct step, the Victorias were considerably slower, the Prince of Wales Regiment slower still, then the 65th, then the Scots and slower than all the Garrison Artillery. The route marching in fours was steady on the whole, though the men were generally huddled too much together and a tendency on the part of the men to look to the right and left was marked and pretty general. Lieut.-Colonel Stevenson and Major Hall, formerly of the Field Battery, Lieut.-Col. Bond, formerly of the Prince of Wales Regiment, and Lieut.-Colonels Crawford and Caverhill former commanding officers of the Royal Scots turned out with their old corps.

The *Star* published the following detailed account of the parade on Monday 28th.

The church parade of the Montreal brigade of active militia yesterday afternoon resulted in the thronging of the city streets with the densest crowds that have gathered in Montreal for years. The Champ de Mars, where the brigade was formed up, was so densely packed with humanity that it was with the greatest difficulty that the General and his staff could pass from one corps to the other to conduct his inspection. The whole way

along the lengthy line of march to St. George's church, the streets were so jammed with spectators that the troops barely had room to pass through, while the southern half of Dominion square was black with people. A fact which was emphasized by the parade was the incapacity of the police to handle big crowds or their lack of will to do so. Not the least attempt was made at keeping the Champ de Mars or the streets along the route clear. The ranks were squeezed in all the way along the route and at cross streets electric cars and other vehicles were allowed to cross the line of march with impunity.

The brigade as it formed up on the Champ de Mars, presented a very picturesque and soldierly appearance. It was formed up in line of quarter columns of corps, the parade from right to left flank being as follows: Duke of Connaught's Own Canadian Hussars, No. 1 Troop, Capt. Whitley, 30 men; Montreal Field Battery, Major Hooper, 50 men; Montreal Garrison Artillery, Lieut.-Col. Cole, 270; 1st Prince of Wales Regiment, Lt.-Col. Butler, 250; 3rd Victoria Rifles, Lt.-Col. Starke, 305; 5th Royal Scots, Lt.-Col. Strathy, 302; 6th Fusiliers, Lt.-Col. Burland, 249; 65th Mount Royal Rifles, Lt.-Col. Prevost, 200.

The brigade was in command of Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D.A.G., who was accompanied by the following staff: Major Roy, B. M.; Lt.-Col. Mattice, inspector of stores, and Capt. Fraser, adjutant of the 63rd Battalion, Sherbrooke.

The new Commander-in-chief was accompanied by the complete Headquarters' Staff, comprising Col. Walker Powell Adj.-General; Col. Lake, Quartermaster-General; Lieut.-Col. John Macpherson, Lieut.-Col. Irwin, and Lieut. McLean, A.D.C. It was the most brilliant staff which has surrounded a general on a Montreal parade ground for many a day. The General made only a superficial inspection of the different corps in the brigade. Sergeant-Bugler Glover, of the Fusiliers, who acted as staff-bugler, sounded the advance, the corps formed fours right and marched off parade in succession, headed by the Deputy-Adjutant-General and his staff, General Gascoigne and his staff proceeding to St. George's church in carriages.

The 65th Battalion left the brigade at St. James Cathedral, where a special service, consisting of vespers and the Benediction was held.

At St. George's church, which was uncomfortably crowded, a shortened form of evening prayer was given, followed by an eloquent sermon by His Lordship Bishop Bond, senior military chaplain in the city.

At the conclusion of the service the brigade marched past the General, who took up his position in the balcony of the ladies reception room of the Windsor Hotel. All of the corps did very well considering the cramped space at their disposal, the Victoria Rifles and the two red coat regiments receiving the heartiest reception from the crowd, which was not inclined to be demonstrative. After marching past, the corps kept along Dorchester street, thence proceeding direct to their armories.

Major-General Gascoigne with the headquarters staff was entertained at dinner at the Windsor Hotel on Saturday evening 26th, by Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D.A.G., and officers of the local force. The D.A.G. presided and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

The toast of the evening was that of Major-General Gascoigne, and it elicited in reply a speech which will be read with great interest throughout the force.

Major-General Gascoigne, on rising to reply, was greeted with much enthusiasm

He said: Brother officers of the Montreal militia, I must be hard of feeling if I were not inexpressibly touched by your exceedingly kind reception. I assure you I am exceedingly touched. It heartens me up exceedingly in my present position. I look upon it as an exceedingly kind and flattering thing that you should have come here to night to pay me this compliment. I feel my name has been mentioned by Col. Houghton too flatteringly, but I feel also you welcome me not only personally, though I am deeply grateful for that, but in this as in everything out of loyalty to Her Majesty. You welcome me who am practically unknown to you, and you show, as I say again loyalty to the Queen, and as her humble representative I thank you on her behalf. It is only the same welcome which I have received everywhere in Canada. When I talk over things as I do with my officers my friend, Col. Houghton, talking over things with me gives me many excellent hints. One day, speaking about Montreal, he said, "There you must be careful. You must not show partiality there in one place above all others." I do not intend to show any favoritism, I feel myself called upon to look after those corps furthest away from me equally with those at Ottawa and Montreal. But I must say this, in spite of all, that Montreal was the place where I myself first saw active service. It was, I believe, with every regiment in 1870 as it was with myself, that I then first saw a shot fired in anger. Gentlemen, I am proud to say I first saw active service in the Fenian raid of 1870. So that Canada is not strange to me, and it was a pleasure, therefore, to come to Montreal and be so welcomed as Montreal has welcomed me.

When I was first appointed in England there was a great deal of talk about my coming, which I heard, and, among other things, one newspaper said: "Major-General Gascoigne's best plan will be to flatter the Canadian militia, and then he will be able to be a successful commander." I altogether differ from that. If I know men at all, and I have had great experience of regulars and volunteers, I don't think you can pay them a worse compliment than by flattering them in such a way that they can recognize it for flattery. Far, far better to make myself disagreeable and talk sharply to you than flatter you in such a way as you would see it was false. I don't mean to act on these lines at all. I mean to exact the highest standard possible of perfection in drill and bearing, and shall not exact it, but shall get it. I am perfectly certain you will tumble to it and like me all the better for it. One thing more I have quite made up my mind about there is no royal road to benefiting the militia. There are here the men who have built it up step by step from the beginning till you are what you are, and therefore I am certain in my own mind that neither I nor others have found or can find a royal road by which we can improve the militia. You can do many things, and I can do much to be of mutual benefit. First of all, as he is not here to-night, and I am sorry he is not, I can say from the short time I have been here that you have got an excellent Minister of Militia in Mr. Dickey.

"You must assist us by being honest yourselves in all work. Take steps to make the militia the great end and put down all political and private influences. That must come from you. What are we at Ottawa to do when we hear any man named for any appointment whatever in the service if we have found that he has fulfilled all the requisite tests? We may think possibly he is not quite the best man, but if his name be submitted to us, what are we to do? But you, the active and the senior officers, all more or less