

A. Hamilton Foster
FIRST

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FOOT GUARDS'

BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

FOR THE *1881*

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1881.

ORGANIZED JANUARY, 1881.

OTTAWA:

Printed at the "Free Press" Steam Printing House, Elgin Street.

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LIST OF OFFICERS OF F.G.B.A.

—◆—
President :

HUGH H. CAIRNS.

1st Vice-President :

JOHN HUGHES.

2nd Vice-President :

FRANK MARSHALL.

Treasurer :

ROBERT REARDON.

Financial Secretary :

J. B. WRIGHT.

Recording Secretary :

E. B. COPE.

Surgeon :

DR. MALLOCH.

Chemist :

K. D. GRAHAM.

Auditors :

A. MORSF, R. GREENFIELD.

Trustees :

T. ELMITT, L. WILLIAMS.

Management Committee :

D. BEAHAN, *Chairman*.

F. THOMAS.

A. MORSE.

J. LYONS.

R. GREENFIELD.

W. NORRIS.

T. J. BENBOW.

Ward Stewards :

St. George's Ward.—H. CAWDRON, J. DESLAURIERS.

By Ward.—J. TROWBRIDGE, T. P. CARROLL.

Ottawa Ward.—T. HULME, W. MOORE.

Wellington Ward.—G. KERR, J. GRAHAM.

Victoria Ward.—W. BROWN, J. HIZZARD.

Archeville.—J. HUGHES, S. GREENFIELD.

Stewarton.—T. J. BENBOW.

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FOOT GUARDS'
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YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1881.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

To the Officers and Members of the Foot Guards' Benevolent Association :

GENTLEMEN :—As the first year of our existence as an Association has now drawn to a close, I think it will be profitable for us at this time to look back over the past, that we may be guided in future operations by our experience, profit by any mistakes which may have occurred, avoid like errors in the future, and build up on a sure and firm foundation the Association with which we stand identified.

As the principles and objects of the Association do not seem to be generally understood among those whom we wish to reach, and as a great amount of opposition has been offered to us during the past year, I think it well to place the aims and objects of the Association, in their proper light before you.

The men who organized the Association had a sincere desire to advance the general interests of the whole volunteer force in the city, more especially the "Foot Guards ;" they had seen one scheme after another

which had been put on foot to increase the efficiency of the several corps prove abortive, and in spite of all the efforts that were put forth, they were rapidly becoming the refuge of old men and boys who were physically below the required standard. Coupled with this we had the humiliation on more than one occasion, of seeing comrades in the hour of sickness and distress, depending for sustenance on the charity of churches or of kind neighbors; and when the hand of death was laid upon them, we accompanied their mortal remains to the cemetery there to see them deposited in a pauper's grave.

Such circumstances as these have had a marked effect upon the efficiency of the force, as men whom it was desirable to retain in the service, but whose natural love for the profession was not strong enough to allow them to put up with those little annoyances, soon became disgusted and left; while the material which presented itself to fill the vacancies thus occurring, was often of such a nature, as to defy the best efforts of officers and non-commissioned officers to make soldiers out of it. This material being of an itinerant character, it was necessary in order to keep up to the required strength, to fill the ranks with recruits as the period for each annual drill came round. Hence it will be seen, that not more than fifty per cent. of the men enrolled could be counted upon at any one time as drilled men, qualified to perform the duties required of them.

In order, then, to obviate these difficulties, the promoters of this Association came to the conclusion, that an Association founded upon the principles of benevolence and charity, could lay some claim to public patronage, draw men of respectability and intelligence into the ranks, and by offering them proper inducements (such as are held forth by this Association, viz:—Medical attendance and Medicine free, and a weekly allowance of money during sickness), we might be enabled to retain their services, and thus keep the force up to the highest state of efficiency. It was also a fact worthy of notice, that there did not seem to exist in the force of this city the slightest spark of that *esprit de corps*, which is so necessary for the success of all such organizations. To cultivate and foster that spirit is one of the chief objects of this Association. That we have been successful so far in this, is evidenced by the large attendance at our meetings and the fraternal feeling which pervades our membership and by the fact, that from our formation down to the present time, no-

thing has occurred to mar the harmony that has prevailed among us, a harmony and spirit which we hope at no distant day to see permeate the whole volunteer force of the city.

The objects of the Association may be thus briefly summarised:—

1st. The cultivation and fostering of a spirit of brotherhood among the members of the different volunteer organizations of the city.

2nd. The granting of relief to members in time of sickness.

3rd. The respectable burial of the remains of deceased members.

4th. The general efficiency of the volunteer force of the city.

We attain the first object by means of our regular meetings, where the men of the several corps mingle together, form acquaintances, cultivate friendship, and having one common object in view, they soon look upon each other's interests, as volunteers, as inseparable from their own.

The second object is provided for by the regular monthly fees which are paid by each member.

The third object is provided for by a direct grant out of the Management Fund, or by a special assessment on the members.

The fourth object is assured by the strict medical examination which each candidate has to undergo previous to becoming a member of the Association, which effectually excludes men who are unfit for service, and the by-laws provide against boys under eighteen becoming members.

ACTIVE MEMBERS.

I am happy to state that the membership of the Association has steadily increased during the year. The Association started with 20 members and has now reached 100 in good standing. I am sorry that none of the members of our sister corps, with the exception of the O. F. B. have joined the Association yet. This is owing to a mistaken idea which got abroad, that the Association was only for the Foot Guards, but now that several prominent members of the Field Battery have joined, and our objects are becoming better known, we hope, at least, to have a fair representation from each corps in the city.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

I regret very much that none of the Commissioned Officers have availed themselves of the clause in the Constitution having reference to honorary members, as, I think, that the support of the officers would go a great way towards establishing the Association financially and otherwise on a firm basis. I attribute this want of interest on their part, to the fact, that the Association is a move in a new direction, and they wish to see its utility tested, and the advantages to be derived from it demonstrated in a practical manner, before they recognize it, but, I hope, that during the present year they will give it their support and a fair trial; and when the matter is properly laid before them, that not only the regimental officers of the city corps, but the head-quarters and district staff officers will be largely represented on our roll of honorary members; and by thus encouraging us in our good work, they will at the same time be practising that charity which blesses him who gives as well as him who receives.

RELIEF.

The practical good which the Association can accomplish has been tested in a measure during the past year. There have been several cases of sickness among the members in each of which the attendance of the Doctor and medicine were given free. One case of exceptional hardship occurred during the year, in which the Association granted the weekly allowance of three dollars, in addition to the medical attendance and medicine. Private Shanley of No. 8 Co., one of the members who assisted in the formation of the Association, had been out of employment during the greater part of the summer. He was engaged to work for a gentleman a few miles from the city. After working for a few weeks he was compelled to stop and return home, having been taken seriously ill. Being out of employment for a considerable length of time, and having a wife and family of two children depending upon him, he was consequently in very straitened circumstances, and altogether his position was one that deserved the greatest consideration at the hands of this Association. The circumstances of this case having been reported to me at a meeting of the Committee arranging for the Concert, a few days after the November meeting, and as the case was a very pressing one, we consid-

ered, that we would be but carrying out the true spirit of the Association by granting him the weekly allowance provided for in the by-laws, pending the next meeting, when our action would be submitted for confirmation. I accordingly authorized the Financial Secretary, to pay over to the Stewards of Wellington Ward the weekly allowance until the December meeting, at which meeting our action was unanimously approved of, and the allowance ordered to be continued until January or until ordered off by the Physician. Mr. Shanley is still in receipt of the allowance.

I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without expressing on behalf of the widow of the late Private White of No. 4 Co., G.G.F.G., her heartfelt thanks for the donation of \$17.50, the amount raised by voluntary subscriptions, among the members of the Association, it being impossible to make a grant out of the funds as Mr. White was not a member of the Association.

FINANCES.

I am happy to state that the finances of the Association are in a good condition, I find on reference to the Treasurer's Report that the Association had on hand at its organization - - - - \$66.51
 Collected from members during the year - - - - 108 40
 Net proceeds of Pic-nic and Concert - - - - 34 90

Total receipts for the year	- - - -	\$209 81
Expenditure	- - - -	71 95

Leaving a cash balance in bank of - - - \$137 86

To which may be added the sum of \$42.75 being the proceeds of Prof. Bell's Readings and arrears of dues owing by members, making the total earnings of year \$252.56.

As we are now entering upon our second year, and a large number come into financial benefit in case of sickness, it will be absolutely necessary for all members to pay their dues regularly in order to enable the Association to meet its obligations as they become due; and to avoid any unpleasantness by members who may become sick, and who are in arrears of dues, claiming the weekly allowance, as the by-laws will be strictly adhered to in each case.

ATTEMPT TO FORM SISTER ASSOCIATIONS.

During the year an effort was made to organize Sister Associations in the principal cities of the Dominion. The advantages to be derived from having such Associations scattered throughout the country must be quite obvious to all. They would act as an inducement to men to join, as they would know, that even if they should be compelled to leave the city in which they joined an Association, they could still retain membership by affiliation with the Association in their new place of residence, and in all probability join some corps, and thus their services would be retained to the country. With that object in view the Secretary forwarded a copy of our Constitution and By-laws to the Commanding Officers of Corps in the principal cities, with the request that they would endeavor to interest some of their Non-Commissioned Officers in the scheme. We had also in view the hope, that if we could succeed in forming a few Associations in other places, we would then be in a position to petition the Government for assistance in the same way as they assist Rifle Associations and Bands of efficient corps. We are convinced that we could lay claim to adding in a much greater degree to the efficiency of the force, by such Associations as this, than can be accomplished by Rifle Associations. For it must be conceded that Rifle Associations come far short of raising the standard of efficiency in any corps in which they have been organized. I do not wish to depreciate the value of this useful agency in the efficient working of well organized corps, but on the contrary, believe that they are absolutely necessary for the well-being of every battalion and are deserving of all the assistance which they may receive, but while they are useful in their own spheres in contributing towards the efficiency of the whole, it must not be forgotten that the benefits arising therefrom are necessarily limited to a few, while the great mass of the rank and file who have not the time that is necessary to devoted to rifle practice to become marksmen, are left without any prize to struggle for but the annual drill pay, which is barely sufficient to pay for the boots that are worn out performing the drill. We therefore believe that if the Government were to encourage the organization of Associations of this kind by a grant of a small sum annually, it would result in increased efficiency and a force that would not change with the seasons, and be as fluctuating as the stock market.

And, as it is quite evident, that the deficiencies noticed in the drill of a great many battalions, is not due so much to the short period allowed for drill (especially in cities), as to the changes which are constantly taking place in the ranks of the companies. I think if we can to any great extent, remedy that evil, we should receive from the Government at least sufficient to cover the funeral expenses of deceased members.

THANKS.

The thanks of the Association are due to Lt.-Col. Ross and Bt.-Major Weatherley for the deep interest they have at all times manifested in the Association, and for the many favors received and services rendered by them.

To Dr. Malloch, Surgeon, G. G. F. G. who kindly gave his professional services free as Physician to the Association for the past year, the Association is under a deep debt of gratitude, as he has been untiring in his attendance upon the sick. All who have had occasion to require his services speak highly of his kindness and attention to them.

To the citizens and officers of the Volunteer Force who contributed toward the Pic-Nic held in August last, and the ladies and gentlemen who so kindly assisted in the Concert held on Nov. 10th, our thanks are also due, and to Prof. D. C. Bell for giving the Association gratuitously, the benefit of two of his excellent literary evenings, by which the funds were considerably augmented.

To the Officers of the Association I wish to return my personal thanks for the able and efficient manner in which they performed the duties devolving upon them, by which they have made my tenure of office pleasant and my duties light.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion allow me to impress upon you the necessity of united action on your part in everything which concerns the welfare of the Association. Let the will of the majority rule in all cases, and every member perform cheerfully whatever duty may be imposed upon him and thus when unity and harmony prevail, difficulties will be overcome with ease, and certain success attend our every effort. Let us ever keep in mind the principles upon which we are established, viz:—Benevolence and charity, for we know not how soon the blighting hand of sickness may be laid upon us, and some of us be suddenly hurled from positions of comfort to the lowest depths of affliction and distress. It is then that this Association will prove a source of comfort and consolation to the afflicted one, and he will bless the day he became a member. Our work then is a glorious one, let us see to it that it is well done, and He, from whom emanates all good, will crown our efforts with success.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

HUGH H. CAIRNS,

President.

TREASURER'S REPORT, 1881.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN :

I beg herewith to present my Annual Report of receipts and expenditure for the past year, all of which is respectfully submitted.

R. REARDON.

1881.	CR.	1881.	DR.
Nov. 27. By Cash	\$66 51	Nov. 27. Blank Books	\$ 3 05
Jan. 5. Monthly Dues	8 10	Mar. 2. Printing	25 00
Feb. 2. " "	5 40	Apl. 1. Druggist Fees	2 00
Mar. 2. " "	5 75	July 1. " "	4 00
Apl. 6. " "	4 75	Oct. 3. " "	4 00
May 4. " "	5 00	Dec. " "	6 00
June 1. " "	7 25	" 15. F. Shanley Sustenance	18 00
July 6. " "	9 75	" " "	9 00
Aug. 3. " "	6 00	Dec. 15. Sundries	90
Sept. 7. " "	10 75		<u>\$71 95</u>
Oct. 5. " "	4 75		
Nov. 2. " "	18 00	Total Receipts	209 81
Dec. 7. " "	22 90	" Expenditure	<u>71 95</u>
" 15. Proceeds of Pic-Nic	18 00		
" 22. do of Concert	16 90	Balance	\$137 86
	<u>\$209 81</u>		

OTTAWA, January 4th, 1882.

To the President of the F.G. Benevolent Association :

We, the undersigned have audited the books of your Treasurer and Financial Secretary for the year 1881 and find them well kept and satisfactory, being correct in every respect.

We remain, Mr. President,

Yours Respectfully,

[SIGNED] R. GREENFIELD,
ALFRED MORSE.

Auditors.