

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A Weekly Journal devoted to the Interests of the Active Force of the Dominion.

Fifth Year.  
VOL. IV, No. 46.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 14th NOVEMBER, 1889.

\$1.50 per annum in advance  
Single Copies Five Cents.

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## The Sham Fight at Toronto.

Thanksgiving Day furnished an opportunity for a grand military parade at Toronto, participated in by the Field Battery, "C" Company of the Infantry School Corps, the Queen's Own Rifles and Grenadiers of that city; the Thirteenth Battalion of Infantry from Hamilton; and the Dufferin Rifles from Brantford, each corps justly the pride of the people of its headquarters. The affair consisted of a sham fight and subsequently a formal inspection and march past, all fully described by the local press. As a holiday pageant the affair was a great success, and all concerned are deserving of praise for the spirit of enterprise prompting them to take part, and the good feeling prevailing throughout. The occasions are rare upon which our militia can mimic the conditions of actual warfare, and when they do find such an opportunity it must be remembered that their chief desire is to ascertain from the practice the points upon which they are chiefly in need of instruction; and they do not expect the public to see in their field movements a display of the high standard of proficiency to which the militia have attained in mere barrack square drill. In the hope that it may serve a useful purpose, and be accepted in the friendly spirit in which it is made, we purpose to offer some candid criticism on certain phases and details of the fight; and in doing so we would have it borne in mind that the troops were disgracefully hampered by the crowds of holiday seekers, who seemed to think that the whole affair was merely for their entertainment, and deliberately mixed themselves up with the troops in every stage of the fight. It would have been better, had such been feasible, if the umpires had stopped the operations until the onlookers had retired to such places as would have enabled the troops to act with freedom.

The site chosen for the fight was very favourable for the purpose. Almost every variety of ground was to be met with—hill and plain, wooded and open country, ravines and projecting spurs. But we might suggest that another time the troops should not be informed of the ground until they are paraded to march off. The chief umpire or some one disconnected with the operations should choose the place, and the troops should be ordered to parade at a given place and time, and only then receive their orders. What happened in the present case was that the ground was visited frequently by both parties before the day of battle, and things went more smoothly than they would otherwise have done, whereas it is best to train men fully to the confusion that always arises in fighting in wooded country.

From the very outset it was plain that there was too great a hurry exhibited on both sides, and the result was a hasty pushing forward and a great want of contact between the company units, leading to an entire

want of unity of action between them. Each company pushed forward on its own account and decided on its own objective. Consequently large gaps at once occurred in the firing line, in which the supports were pushed at the very outset of the fight. Thus from the commencement whole companies were extended, leading to an early mixture of units. An entire want of fire preparation (so essential in modern fighting) was conspicuous on the centre and left of the attack.

On the right of the attack the fight was conducted in a much more orderly way, but the country was open and clear, whereas the centre and left of the attack were working in deep wooded ravines and spurs.

On the left of the attack one serious mistake was made. The leader of the left column allowed himself to be drawn into the fight at too early a period. If he had pushed on boldly he would have passed right round the right flank of the defence and taken it in rear.

From both sides rushing into the fight too strong a fire was developed at the outset, the opposing sides even coming to within twenty yards of each other in the most reckless way, the umpires not seeming to mind.

The fire discipline was bad; the section commanders named no ranges, nor any objects for the fire to be concentrated on; the men did not aim, and no one looked to see that they did so at the named object. This want of control over the men caused them to get out of hand from the first in the wooded parts of the ground, and they rushed to such points as they pleased, often leaving large gaps in the firing line. Only one whistle was heard during the day, though it is only by the use of whistles that it is possible to attract the attention of men while heavy firing is going on. Further, the men often laid down when ordered, and fired in positions where they could not see ten yards, instead of moving a few yards nearer to get a good field of fire. Another noticeable point was that the mounted officers remained mounted under close fire.

The first part of the fighting took place on different spurs and hill sides. Looking from the centre of the fight it was seen that the troops on the left of the defence made little or no use of cover, and remained perfectly exposed on the sides of the steep hill sides. Such a position is all very well if you have time to entrench, but such time was not available. Further, the attacking troops in the centre were raking the whole of the left of the defence by a heavy enfilade fire at a short range of 400 yards; but no one seemed to mind. This was the only real, regular attempt during the fight at employing a flanking fire to assist the progress of other parts of the line.

The effect of the advance through the wooded ground was best seen when the troops reached the open country. The more enclosed and difficult the country the more necessary is it to keep the supports in closed formations, but instead of this they were unnecessarily extended (from a too close adherence to the words of command in the drill book), and the result was considerable confusion and mixing of units and a premature using up of the supports—the battle for a considerable period before the finish devolving into what is known as a "soldiers' battle."

One result of the troops knowing the ground beforehand was that a rush was made by both sides to gain the crest of the wooded slopes.

Both sides arrived at this point at the same time, and the defenders had no time to take up a definite position. Under the circumstances by far the best position for the defence was the open ground on which the battle was concluded. On such an open field of fire no attack, unless of overwhelming strength, could hope to succeed. But on the other hand, if this had been done there would not have been so much instruction for the men, for the proceedings of the day, if taken to heart, form a splendid lesson of the uselessness of authorized drill formations in difficult country. Troops must be pushed in when required, and whatever value authorized formations may have, yet they cannot be rigidly adhered to. But the most glaring faults lay in the utter want of control and fire discipline among the smaller units and the use of too extended formations for the units behind the firing line.

There could not have been a better lesson for impressing on those who look back on the events of the day, of the vast importance in modern war of the high training of the company and smaller units in fire discipline and control. The school for the men is the company, and the importance of company training is every day growing greater and greater, and is even nowadays of greater importance than battalion training, which is really only a school for officers. But the most common and fatal mistake made in both company and battalion training is the separation of musketry from drill. In all drill when firing takes place the rules for musketry practice should be rigidly adhered to, even to naming the range and the objective, and the sectional commanders should see that the men do actually aim and fire as ordered, for habits for good or bad become a second nature, and if men are not made to aim and fire properly in peace trainings they will not do so in war.

In offering this criticism we feel convinced that this large body of officers and men, who have achieved so much already, and who go to so much personal trouble and expense, and so willingly give up their time and pleasure in order to qualify themselves as far as possible in their duties as defenders of their country, will be anxious to draw all the useful lessons possible from their work; and we have no doubt that the great crowd of onlookers were in a very large measure responsible for the want of "fire control" and the men getting out of hand. It will be for the officers to decide how best to counteract these faults and difficulties another time. We heartily congratulate the 2,000 men taking part in the day in having set so praiseworthy an example, and to the militia in other parts of the country we say, "Go and do thou likewise."

### Topics of the Week.

As will be seen by the report in another place in this issue, an unfortunate mistake occurred in connection with the telegraphic match between the London and Victoria teams of the permanent force, the effect of which is to leave the relative skill of the marksmen undecided, but to give the victory to D Co. at London, their opponents failing to comply with the stipulated conditions. A team from D Co. has since engaged in another telegraphic competition, this time with B Co. of St. Johns, Q., and the Londoners were again successful. Though the permanent corps can scarce be expected to take part in the military rifle league telegraphic matches proposed for next season, they might get up a match between themselves on similar principles.

A Toronto rifleman, whose letter appears in our correspondence columns, writes very feelingly on the subject of the threatened closing of the Garrison Common ranges. We believe he expresses the sentiments of the great majority of the riflemen of that city, who being but a small body proportionately, seem to have almost lost hope of continuing much longer to hold their ground against the strong attack upon it made by the Exhibition Association, backed up, as the latter is, by the Mayor and many other citizens of like importance. The newspapers are a unit in favour of closing the range, and nearly every one had an editorial article on the subject for Sir Adolph Caron's perusal during his stay in Toronto last week. The Minister then visited the range, and had the

situation explained to him. Strong pressure was brought to bear on each side; the riflemen being represented by a deputation of officers introduced by Lt.-Col. Denison, M.P., who pointed out how the range might be made safe beyond doubt. Sir Adolphe promised to carefully consider their representations, and we have no doubt that he will do all in his power to befriend the riflemen. One safeguard for them is that the Infantry School and the proposed School of Cavalry will year by year more urgently feel the need of a rifle range in their immediate vicinity, for indications are not wanting that thorough practical training in the use of the rifle must shortly be undertaken by the schools.

Just indignation is expressed by the *Charlottetown Examiner* at an insinuation of wrong doing on the part of the riflemen of that city, published in the shape of an anonymous interview in an Ottawa paper. Possibly the interviewer added to what he was told, for "an Ottawa rifleman" was not alone in expressing surprise at the high total achieved by the Charlottetown twenty, and it is to be hoped that it was unwarrantably he was made to add doubt to his surprise. We have received perhaps a dozen letters from riflemen in various parts of Canada, who express themselves astonished at the shooting strength in Prince Edward Island this match was the means of revealing; for while the skill of those Islanders who come to Ottawa has always been such as to command wholesome respect for their prowess, it was commonly thought that they constituted about the sum total of the marksmen, and that in a competition where teams of twenty were called for the Islanders could scarce be in the race. The recent match has been an eye-opener, however. As for the total, an average of almost 85, we believe that, creditable as it is, it will have to be exceeded by the team winning the next match of the kind, for the Charlottetown men alone appear to have been favoured with satisfactory shooting weather on this occasion.

### The Rifle.

#### Permanent Corps Telegraphic Matches.

Several of our contemporaries have stated that in the skirmishing match between "C" Battery, R.C.A., at Victoria, B.C., and "D" Company, I.S.C., at London, the former made 1485 points and the latter 1023, and that "D" Company was therefore beaten in the match. It now appears, however, that the victory was the other way, for while "D" Co. used the D.R.A. regulation skirmishing target, which is only thirty inches deep and six feet wide, and has only bull's eye, centre and outer, the Battery used the 2nd class target, which is six feet square, and has bull's eye, inner, magpie and outer.

The challenge was thrown out by Major Peters, of "C" Battery, and was published in our issue of 26th September last. The conditions then stipulated were: "The teams to consist of thirty officers, non-commissioned officers and men, under command of the Major of the corps. Dressed in drill order, they will first parade in extended order at 400 yards, at the ready. The target will appear, to remain up for 90 seconds, during which time the team may get in as many shots as they can, under direction of the officer in command. The target will then be lowered for 18 seconds, and during this time the skirmishers may advance, as the officer directs, till the target again appears for 90 seconds, when the firing will be repeated until it again disappears; and after 18 seconds it will appear for a third exposure of 90 seconds duration. The score will then be taken. The firing may be done in any position. The size of the target to be that prescribed by D.R.A. rules. The commanding officer to be permitted to carry any army revolver and use it to the best advantage. Two officers to be in the butts, and the commandant of the garrison to be present at the counting of the hits and score."

This challenge was given to the whole permanent force, but "D" Co., I.S.C., was the only one to take it up. The match was fired, by arrangement, on Oct. 28th, with the foregoing result. So far as "D" Co. is concerned the terms of the challenge were strictly adhered to, as can be verified by Lt.-Col. Smith, D.A.G., Lt.-Col. Aytmer, B.M., and Capt. Wadmore, who were all in the butts and kept the time and counted the hits and points; also by Surgeon Hanavan, who was with the firing party from start to finish. The Battery, however, through some misadventure used the large target. Capt. Young, who accepted the challenge on behalf of "D" Co., and according to the conditions commanded its team, now claims the match.

On Saturday, the 2nd November, a telegraphic match took place between "B" Co., I.S.C., St. Johns, and "D" Co., London, on a challenge from the former, with eight n. c. o. and men on a side, ranges 100, 300 and 400 yards, 7 shots at each range, standing at 200, kneeling at 300, and lying down at 400, and was won by "D" Co. with a score of 577 to 446.

### Queries and Replies.

#### AID TO RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS.

Huntingdon, Q., 26th November.

Q. Please state what is required to entitle a new rifle association or club to a government grant.—M.

A. The association must be formed in connection with a military corps, and must be recommended by the Deputy Adjutant General of the district as deserving of a grant. It then remains with the Militia Department to act in the matter and to decide as to whether or not an additional grant may be made in the district affected. In the past grants have been annually made in several instances to clubs not connected with any corps, but we believe all such grants are likely to cease with this year, the policy being now to grant aid only to military associations.—EDITOR.

### Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.]

#### THE DECLINE OF MILITARY SUPREMACY.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Under the above heading allow me to say a few words. I read your editorials with interest, especially the one on the Garrison Common Rifle Range in Toronto. I have also read a great many comments on the same subject from other outside sources. They attribute to Toronto volunteers a want of watchfulness of their own interests, and suggest petitions and other methods to bring the matter before the proper authorities. But this is vain.

The truth is that the spirit of military enthusiasm seems to have waned. The honour once attached to the militia has departed; has been trampled on with impunity by all kinds of civil officials. The first necessity of a country, that of defence, is forgotten. The necessary reservations and equipments are cast aside by the people, who are running a policy of money making and "grab." Private institutions and corporations with large and influential connections have taken the helm and the image of the "golden calf" is exalted. Statesmen forget their pledges; civic officials grasp the strings of influence, and men with honesty enough to speak their mind are laughed at. Men who cannot forget their country or truth, that always becomes a man, are sat upon by "ringsters." "Father Time" watches with downcast mien the tread of the robber upon the graves of honest men and soldiers who in bygone years fought for Canada. But our guns are ancient; our powder mouldy; our spirits have passed and our volunteers are expected soon to follow. They drill in a "relic of the past," and as sometimes happens when a lingering spark of enthusiasm flashes out, a new impetus is given, numbers increase, they are "by kind permission of the clergy" allowed to drill in the streets; but with muffled drums as they pass the churches. Within stands the Rev. Expounder, a look of annoyance on his countenance. "How dare those godless young men disturb the quiet of the sanctuary." Ah, look back, reader, to the early days of Canada. These are not the kind of ministers who carried the old flint lock musket in the morning in defence of their country and preached the gospel in the evening. No. The volunteers do that now. These men belong to the Ministerial Association, a modern obstructive institution. The expense of modern fashionable churches cannot be maintained if the misguided volunteer is allowed to draw the small boy's nickel from the plate on a review day. Truly the day of the soldier is past.

But look back a year or two. What do we find? All was not so quiet and serene. Hark! the bugle sounds. The foot of the invader is traversing the soil. What then? We need volunteers. Ah, yes. These godless young men are called out in midwinter, loaded up with candies and sweetmeats, escorted by thousands, and in battle array sent up over the frozen prairies to fight Indians with—what? Monstrous old-fashioned guns that only one in every twenty knew how to fire. What pot shots for the Indian crack marksmen! Imagine a father giving his son a bonus to go up and be shot at by the Indians. This was what the citizens of Toronto did, instead of buying ammunition and rifles and sending their sons up to the Common to learn how to use them. By a turn of fate not many were murdered. They return, and quiet once more settles on the community. This should have been a lesson to them to teach the volunteers the use of their rifles. But what do we find to-day? Those very same people striving to deprive them of the only available ground that can be had within reach of cheap fare and limited time. What for? do you ask. Nothing more than to give it to a private show company to build pig pens on. They dare not grab it. They have no excuse for asking for it; but they cry "Danger." The Toronto press is paid to cry "Danger," so that they may finally get rid of the volunteers and secure on lease a Common that is the volunteers' right from the Government, the volunteers' legacy from a grateful country, and if never a shot be fired should be kept as a parade ground, or sold at its value, a round million of dollars, and the proceeds devoted

to make them efficient. The Toronto Garrison Common is the best and safest rifle range in Canada, and under existing regulations there is no danger.

TORONTO, Nov. 11th, 1889.

INQUISITOR.

#### THE CHARLOTTETOWN RIFLEMEN.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—Enclosed you will please find an article from the Charlottetown *Examiner* containing an answer to the charges of "A Well-known Rifleman," published in a late issue of the *Ottawa Free Press*. Now apparently this "well known" rifleman has never been outside the city limits of Ottawa, judging from the silly way in which he speaks of men who have forgotten more about rifle shooting than he ever knew. I have just returned from a business trip to the Lower Provinces, in the course of which I had occasion to visit Charlottetown, and I find that the day the telegraphic rifle match was fired there was all a rifleman could wish for as far as weather conditions are concerned, viz.: Weather fine and warm, wind light 10 o'clock and steady; light dull and fouling moist. There appears to be an impression that because a man doesn't take in the D. R. A. meeting he therefore cannot shoot. This is wrong, as there are lots of good men whose business will not allow of their being absent at that particular time of the year, and who are every bit as good shots as those who are fortunate enough to be able to go, and it is principally to bring these men before the public that these telegraphic matches were organized. A few more letters like this one of "A Well-known Rifleman" will disgust others from having anything to do with rifle shooting, which, I am happy to say, is a pastime that "crooked work" has so far been kept out of, and I am sure it is the desire of all volunteers that it should always be so. I am not only thoroughly convinced that everything was perfectly straight, but that in the near future there may be a few more such surprises as a P.E.I. or a British Columbia team beating the whole Dominion. I think that by the end of next summer we shall all know where the best rifle shots are.

W. R. PRINGLE,

MONTREAL, 12th Nov., 1889.

Asst. Secy. Montreal Rifle Assoc'n

From the Charlottetown Examiner.

"THE RECENT TELEGRAPHIC MATCH.—A late issue of the *Ottawa Free Press* contains a paragraph under the above caption, wherein it is stated, upon the authority of 'a well known rifleman,' that there must be 'something wrong with the score of the P. E. Island team,' as 'the teams from that Province never did anything at any of the meetings this year,' and it is surprising how 'they all of a sudden should make a wonderful record.' It is also stated, upon the same authority, that 'there has been a great deal of dissatisfaction over this matter,' of twenty men making a percentage of 85 points with the Snider rifle.

"The *Free Press* informant might, perhaps, be pardoned for wondering at the scores made had the arm used been the Snider, but there is no excuse whatever for his cowardly conduct in inviting the public to question the honesty of the militiamen of this province. The arm used, we have to inform the *Free Press* 'rifleman,' was not the Snider, but the Martini Henri; and we may say further, that all the conditions of the match, as forwarded by the Montreal Association, were faithfully carried out under the supervision of Lieut. Col. Doherty, of the 82nd Battalion, a man who is above suspicion.

"Five of the Island team, viz.: Captains Crockett and Longworth, and Sergt. Davison, Pte. Gay and Sapper Anderson made 90 and over. Any member of the Wimbledon team who shot at Cambridge in 1887 cannot be surprised that Capt. Crockett should have made 92. Capt. Longworth for six consecutive practices this year made the splendid average of 91, his best being 96; and Pte. Gay has frequently made 90 and over, his best being 94. With a team made up of such marksmen, and the weather favourable for good shooting, it is surprising that any rifleman, well-known or otherwise, could be found to express wonder that all should happen, on the occasion in question, to make good scores.

"Now a word about the statement that our teams do nothing at Ottawa. If the *Free Press* 'rifleman' will take a look at the results of the Ottawa meeting of 1886 he will find that out of the nine representatives from this Province, four succeeded in taking places on the Wimbledon team. In the Dominion of Canada Match—which is the representative Provincial match—the Island team took first place, beating the next team by 7 points per man, and the Ottawa team 10 points per man! And in the same year we won two of the Minister of Militia team matches. This year, in the Rideau Match, fired with the Martini-Henri at 600 yards, seven of the Island team (all of whom shot in the recent telegraphic match) made good scores. Hooper and Anderson made 32 points each (33 being the highest score made), Davison 29, Capt. Longworth 28, and each of the others 27; and two of them—Hooper and Longworth—are on the Wimbledon team. Still we are told that our teams do nothing at Ottawa!"

## Thanksgiving Day in Toronto.

[Condensed from The Mail.]

A finer day than Thursday last could scarce have been obtained for the great military parade, even if those interested in the success of the event had the power to make any kind of weather best suited to their purposes. It was not sufficiently cold to render spectators of the manoeuvres uncomfortable, and it was not too warm for those who participated in them.

The ground chosen for the position to be attacked and defended was a clear level plain a few miles outside of the westerly limit of the city. It was about twenty acres in extent. South, east and west of it are deep, brush-covered ravines, each extending from north to south. The brushwood renders it difficult for a defending force on the plateau to observe the approach of an enemy from the lake shore, while the gullies and consequent hills are features of the landscape which would prove obstacles or advantages just as the attacking force or defence might use them. These ravines are three in number. To the east is the hill sloping down towards Grenadier Pond, on the west is a ravine extending north almost to Bloor Street, and in the centre is another reaching to the foot of the twenty-acre plain, on which the defenders of the position were to be drawn up while awaiting the opening of the engagement.

At 9.30 in the morning the umpires met according to orders, and were briefly addressed by the General. They were simply told to follow as closely as possible the rules laid down in the drill book, and apply them to the special instructions issued by Col. Otter. The umpires were all mounted, and wore broad white bands on their left arms. The umpires were:—Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.A.G.; Lieut.-Col. Grasset, R.L.; Lieut.-Col. Miller, R.L.; Lieut.-Col. Gray, Dist. Staff; Lieut.-Col. Wayling, York Rangers; Major McSpadden, York Rangers; Major King, Welland Field Battery; Major Vidal, C. Co. I. S. C.; Major Dunn, G.G.B.G.; Capt. Wise, Headquarters Staff; Capt. Baldwin, 2nd Regt Cavalry; Capt. Manton, Royal Engineers; Capt. Dickson, G.G.B.G. They performed their duties very effectively. Only one dispute occurred which was of only minor importance.

### ASSEMBLING OF THE TROOPS.

The Queen's Own Rifles began to assemble at the drill shed a few minutes before 8 o'clock in the morning, and in half an hour they were ready for the march out. Major Delemere commanded the force, with Major Sankey and Captain and Adjutant Macdonald as field officers. Capt. Pellatt was deputed as aide to Col. Jones, of the Dufferin Rifles. The strength of each company was as follows:

"A" Company, 57; "B" Company, 49; "C" Company, 43; "D" Company, 63; "E" Company, 49; "F" Company, 57; "G" Company, 45; "H" Company, 37; "I" Company, 41. "K" Company, 39. The bandsmen numbered 38, the buglers 30, the staff-sergeants 13, the pioneers 9, and the ambulance corps 11. Surgeon Lesslie, Assistant Surgeon Nattress and Quartermaster Heakes were with the battalion, but fortunately, the doctor's services were not required. The total number in the regiment was 590. The special corps of mounted scouts of the Queen's Own consisted of twelve men, Lieut. Mercer in command.

The Royal Grenadiers numbered, all told, 425, made up as follows: "A" Company, 46; "B" Company, 47; "C" Company, 43; "D" Company, 36; "E" Company, 46; "F" Company, 41; "G" Company, 36; "H" Company, 45. The band, under Bandmaster Waldron, numbered 33; the drummers, 27; the pioneers, 7; and the ambulance corps 16. The staff of the regiment numbered 16, and consisted of three field officers Lieut.-Col. Dawson, Major Harrison and Major Mason; three captains, viz: Paymaster, Capt. Bruce, Quartermaster, Capt. Tassie, and the Adjutant, Capt. Manley.

Eighty-two men from "C" Company, Infantry School Corps, under command of Lieut. Evans, marched out of the New Fort about nine o'clock and proceeded along King street towards the Humber. Their officers were Lieut. Laurie, Lieut. Macpherson, Governor-General's Foot Guards, and Lieut. Stevenson, 57th Batt. They were constituted two companies of the 13th Batt.

The Thirteenth Battalion, from Hamilton, who arrived by train in the morning, looked exceedingly well, marched steadily, and won the approbation of the spectators immediately. Major McLaren was in command of the battalion. Its total strength was 393, divided as follows:—

"A" Company 43; "B" Company 50; "C" Company 38; "D" Company 53; "E" Company 37; "F" Company 44; "G" Company 45; "H" Company 41. Capt. Stuart, the adjutant, was acting as senior major, while Lieut. Carpenter assumed the duties of adjutant. The regimental surgeon was Dr. Griffin. The addition of two companies formed from the Infantry School corps put the battalion in possession of two sergeant-majors, Sergt.-Major Cummings of "C" Company, and Sergt.-Major Athawes of the 13th.

The Dufferin Rifles, from Brantford, paraded early in the morning, and embarked on board a special train which was to take them to Toronto at 9.30. They had not been long on the way when word was received that an accident had happened at the "Y" near Dundas. The special was sent down the short cut to the Hamilton and North-Western railway. The train was kept standing on the short line for nearly three hours before it was sent round by Burlington. The troops became very weary of the delay; but when they at last arrived at the Humber and saw the rifle green ranks of the Queen's Own standing on the shore cheering on their arrival their drooping spirits revived. In less than five minutes the regiment was disembarked, and the men fell in without any confusion or delay at the sound of the bugle. They formed as follows:

Lt.-Col. C. S. Jones in command. Staff officers:—Majors B. R. Rothwell and T. H. Jones; Adjutant, Capt. W. A. Wilkes; Surgeon, W. T. Harris; Assistant Surgeon, H. Minchin; Paymaster, Capt. S. S. Hamilton; Quartermaster, Capt. R. R. Harris; Chaplain, Rev. R. Ashton.

A company, 43 strong; B company, 49; C company, 54; D company, 39; E company, 47; F company, 53; brass band, 24; bugle band, 23; ambulance corps, 8; bicycle signal corps, 8; pioneers, 6; total strength of all ranks, 364; authorized strength, 278; over strength, 86. The bicycle corps attracted considerable attention. The general bearing of the soldiers was excellent. They performed their evolutions very promptly.

### THE ATTACK.

As soon as the Dufferin Rifles fell in Col. Jones, as senior officer, took command of the attack, and the plan of attack was laid down and the disposition of troops made. Capt. Macdonald was given command of the west flank, consisting of "F" Company Dufferin Rifles; Capt. Nelles, "I" Company Queen's Own under Lieut. Crean, and "G" Company Queen's Own under Capt. Bennet. They were instructed to follow Jane street, and turn the enemy's right. The east flank, in command of Major Jones, consisted of "D" Company Queen's Own, Capt. Mason, and "D" Company Dufferin Rifles, Lieut. Curtis. This detachment was ordered to proceed along Ellis avenue, and attack the enemy on the left. The main attack was on the centre, the route being up Windemere street. The skirmishers were extended in the following order from the left:—"A" Company Dufferin Rifles, Sergt. Kilmaster; "H" and "B" companies Queen's Own, Capt. Gunther; "C" Company Dufferin Rifles, Capt. Leonard. Major Sankey and Capt. Wilkes were in command of the skirmishers. Supports were extended as follows from the left:—"A" Company Queen's Own, Capt. Thompson; "E" Company Queen's Own, Capt. Mutton; "E" Company Dufferin Rifles, Capt. Jones. The reserves were:—"F" Company Queen's Own, Capt. McGee; "K" Company Queen's Own, Capt. Brock, and "B" Company Dufferin Rifles. The Dufferin Rifles' bands and the Queen's Own Rifles bands acted as a third reserve line.

When the first scout returned the order was given and the troops began the advance. Major Meade galloped his guns up Jane street to a high bluff about three hundred yards from the railway track. This is a very commanding position, and holds the whole field. "C" Company acted as support to the artillery. The guns were unlimbered, the limbers were placed behind the brow of the hill—time 1.26 p. m. Major Meade sighted the enemy's guns, and the battery opened the action to clear the way for the infantry. At 1.45 p. m. the detachment on the left continued up Jane street, under cover of the bluffs, until a point opposite College street was reached; then they turned to the east, and crossed the ravine with little or no opposition. The main attack on the centre began to develop very strongly at 2.10 p. m. Major Meade then limbered up his guns, and drove off along the Lake Shore road to follow up the right flank. At this juncture the firing became very heavy. The centre kept advancing according to the new formation; the reserves taking advantage of the sunken roads. The centre advanced up past College street, advancing up the declivity in force and assuming the final tactical formation. Some difficulty was experienced in supplying ammunition to the men, but a heavy fire at short range was maintained until the bugle sounded "cease firing."

The east flank of the attack, formed of "D" Company Queen's Own Rifles, under Capt. Mason, and "D" Company Dufferin Rifles, under Lieut. Curtis, was commanded by Major Jones. The men gradually felt their way along Ellis avenue, fighting the opposing forces as occasion demanded. During this phase of action, the guns stole back from Jane street. Securing cover from the enemy by the bluffs, they galloped along the Lake Shore road up Ellis avenue, coming into action on the high land near the new houses, "C" Company, Q.O.R. being the escort. Major Jones' party, by means of concentrated fire, drove the defending party before them, the volleys from the defenders at 2.20 following quickly in succession, supported by artillery fire from the high land north of the Grenadier's pond. This was the last position held by these troops when the bugle sounded the cease fire at 2.45 p. m.

When the action ceased the men were drawn up into half battalions and marched to the tents where were kept the refreshments. They had to partake of their luncheon hastily, as the time was short for the remainder of the military display. The horses were attended to, and fodder was supplied to them during the cessation of manœuvres.

#### THE DEFENCE.

When the battalions forming the brigade to defend the position held were drawn up on the ground assigned to them, respectively, and while the men were standing at ease awaiting the summons to the engagement, Lt.-Col. Gibson, in command of the brigade, called the company officers together to give them a little counsel.

The disposition of the force to repel the anticipated attack was made known. "D" and "G" companies of the Grenadiers were temporarily disbanded, and were distributed to make up a six company battalion. "E," "A" and "F" companies were to form part of the firing or first line of defence, and were to take position on the right of the centre line. Three companies of the 13th would constitute the centre of the firing line, and the two companies composed of the Infantry School Corps would be extended to the left. The second and third lines, or the reserves, as they may be termed, would be composed of the remaining five companies of the 13th Battalion, and of "B," "C" and "H" companies of the Grenadiers. In fact the defence was to be conducted according to the arrangements prescribed by the new form of attack, except that the charge of the second line was to be abandoned.

Three hours' delay having been caused by waiting for the Dufferin Rifles' arrival, it was a quarter past one o'clock when the umpires' command was given, and the brigade was set in motion. By this time fully 40,000 people had collected on the grounds and on the hills that surrounded the scene of operations. They had assembled in such dense masses that often they impeded the movements of the troops. Hundreds of carriages had been drawn up in line along advantageous positions, and both ladies and gentlemen on horseback were galloping their animals hither and thither, in great excitement, lest they should miss any part of the fight. The firing line was sent out at the double, each company with its own supports, and reserves following at intervals of about one hundred yards. The two companies of the Infantry School Corps extended away to the left, the sections forming the extreme left proceeding along the hill overlooking Grenadier pond. Company 2 of the Infantry School Corps and a company of the 13th formed the left centre, and advancing along Ellis avenue and over the ground adjoining that street penetrated beyond the head of the centre ravine. The two companies of the 13th forming the left centre of the lines advanced beyond College street to the brow of the hill overlooking an arm of the centre ravine. No. 2 company, I. S. C., occupying a position on Ellis avenue overlooking the centre ravine, engaged the attention of the enemy fringing the height looking eastward. Concealed behind a house, they were advantageously situated, while the enemy above them was but imperfectly covered by the thin brushwood which lined the edge of the hill. After exchanging a few volleys the redcoats retired along Ellis avenue to take up a fresh position in a dip of the road, while the riflemen continued to advance. Fifteen minutes after the first shot had been fired the enemy's extreme right appeared in sight. A few volleys were exchanged, and as the riflemen continued to advance the redcoats considered it their duty to retire. When the firing commenced they were about 500 yards apart. The enemy drew closer, and when within 300 yards fire was opened upon them again. They continued to advance, and the redcoats continued to retire, although why they should do so was not apparent. The enemy was only equal in strength to the defenders of the position, and had no advantage in the matter of cover. In fact the redcoats were more advantageously placed than their opponents, and the umpire on that part of the field admitted that they could not have been dislodged. But, unfortunately, the umpire's horse would not always carry him just where he wanted to go. Feeling that there was no good reason why they should be driven back, they made a stand when about on a level with College street, and opened what should have been a most destructive fire upon the advancing enemy at a range of 150 yards. They were hid by a rise in the land, and should have annihilated the intrepid riflemen. But the latter treated the fire with the utmost contempt, and insisted upon still closer quarters. Then the redcoats forming the extreme left were withdrawn from the fight. In the meantime the half battery with the defence force had been evidently doing great execution. It had opened fire at 1,000 yards, and there was justice in its claim that it possessed advantages which should have swept the opposing artillerymen from the field. But the latter were reserved for a more humiliating fate. Pressing forward along Ellis avenue they suddenly galloped to the top of the hill and found themselves about 30 yards from a company of the Infantry School Corps. The regulars, who were concealed in a hollow at the foot of a tree, immediately swept them into eternity with a volley. At least the artillerymen should have considered themselves so treated; but on the contrary

they paid no regard to this destructive fire. Coolly they turned their guns on the foe, and opened fire. The umpire was appealed to, and he ordered the battery to consider itself captured and withdraw from the combat. A few minutes later the order to cease firing was sounded all over the field, and the battle was over. By this time the defending force all along the line had been driven back to their original position, but it did not appear that in the disposition and handling of the opposing force there was any necessity for this disaster. The umpires gave no decision respecting the result. Several prisoners were captured by either side during the engagement.

#### THE REVIEW AND INSPECTION.

After luncheon the different battalions were formed up and took a position in an open space of about ten acres. The men of "C" School were told off as police to keep the crowd back. The division was then formed up for review in two lines of quarter columns, with the following divisional staff:

Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., in command Staff; Lieut.-Col. Gray, B.M.; Lieut. Nanton, R.G.; Lieut. Myles, R.L.

Brigade Staff—Green Brigade, Lieut.-Col. C. S. Jones, D.R., in command; A.D.C., Capt. Pellatt, Q.O.R. Corps—Queen's Own Rifles, Major Delamere; Dufferin Rifles, Major Rothwell. Red Brigade, Lieut.-Col. J. M. Gibson, 13th, in command. Corps—Royal Grenadiers, Lieut.-Col. Dawson; 13th Battalion, Major McLaren.

The General, the Minister of Militia, and staff, took up their position in front of the division. After the general salute had been paid to General Middleton, the officers escorted him and the Minister down the lines, while the bands played the general salute. When the General took up his position again the troops marched past in column, the rifle battalions at "the trail," the red-coats at "the shoulder." When the division came to the saluting point, Col. Otter took up his position, after saluting, near General Middleton. The bands played the salute as each battalion passed. The division then marched past in quarter column. The movements were very well executed, and the marching was smart. The Queen's Own distinguished themselves with the swinging buoyant step of "foot cavalry." They dressed well, "like a stone wall," an old Crimean veteran said. The massive physique of the "Grens," and their steady bearing called forth the cheers of the crowd. The 13th, also a fine large body of men, gave evidence of plenty of drill practice, and were loudly applauded. The Brantford Rifles were cheered again and again. The companies are composed mostly of young men who in a few years would do credit to any army in the world. The strong showing they made gave proof of their enthusiasm and the popularity of their officers.

At the close of the review the officers of the different corps were called together, and were addressed by Sir Adolphe Caron and Gen. Middleton.

#### ENTERTAINING THE VISITORS.

As soon as it was learned that the Dufferin Rifles and 13th Battalion would visit Toronto the officers of the various corps in the city decided to entertain the visiting officers at mess, and at 7 o'clock about 130 sat down. Major Harrison, of the Queen's Own, was president of the mess, Captain McGee, of the Queen's Own Rifles was vice-president, and the active and genial secretary was Captain Beaty, of the Toronto Field Battery.

As the banquet was in the usual military style, chairman in the strict sense there was none, although Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., was looked upon as in the chair. On his right hand sat Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia, Lieut.-Col. Hon. J. M. Gibson, 13th Battalion, Lieut.-Col. Dawson, 10th R.G., Lieut.-Col. Wayling, 12th Battalion, Lieut.-Col. Gray. On his left sat General Sir Fred Middleton, Lieut.-Col. Jones, 38th Battalion, Lieut.-Col. Miller, Lieut.-Col. Fred Derison and Major King, Welland Field Battery. After the tables were cleared, the President gave "The Queen," the company rising and singing "God Save the Queen," and giving three hearty cheers. Scarcely had the cheers died away when the Sergeants of the 13th, on their way to the station, accompanied by those of the Grenadiers, halted just opposite Webb's, and, after giving three hearty cheers, sang "For They are Jolly Good Fellows," the officers answering with a cheer.

The sergeants of the Royal Grenadiers are a right hearty jovial crowd, and when they undertake to do anything it is done to perfection. As soon as it was settled that the 13th Battalion was to take part in the battle of Swansea, the sergeants of the Grenadiers decided to give the visiting sergeants a banquet, and the following were appointed to arrange the details:—President, Quarter-master-Sergeant Dale; Vice-President, Band-Sergt. Bewley; Treas., Colour-Sergt. Johnston; Financial-Secry., Colour-Sergt. Milsom; Recording-Secry., Colour-Sergt. Kent; Room Committee, Colour-Sergt. Ewart, Colour-Sergt. White, Colour-Sergt. Rogers. The banquet took place in the hall of the Bay Horse hotel, and was attended by about seventy sergeants. The room was decorated

with British and Canadian flags and numerous bouquets of beautiful flowers adorned the tables. Owing to the very limited time at the disposal of the company the toast list was a very short one. "The Queen and Royal Family" was received with military honours, the company singing "God save the Queen." "Our Country" was enthusiastically received, the company singing "God Bless Our Native Land." "Our Visitors" drew rounds of applause, the sergeants of the Grenadiers singing "For they are jolly good fellows." The chairman, Sgt.-Maj. Cox, welcomed them cordially, and said the only rivalry was which corps was the most efficient, and if ever danger threatened their beloved Canada, they would stand together, and if needs be die together in her defence. Sergt.-Major Athaws of the 13th, suitably replied, and on behalf of his comrades cordially thanked the Grens for their hospitality. "The Ladies," as is always the case with soldiers, was received with the greatest cordiality, Sergt. Dye, of the Grenadiers, replying in a felicitous speech. The singing of "God save the Queen" closed the gathering.

The Sergeants of the Queen's Own Rifles entertained the Sergeants of the Dufferin Rifles at the mess rooms at the corner of Wellington and Church streets. A substantial lunch was disposed of, and a couple of hours were spent very pleasantly in smoking and chatting.

The Grenadiers and the Queen's Own Rifles entertained the men of the 13th Battalion and Dufferin Rifles at the Albion hotel. Mr. Holderness prepared an excellent bill of fare, and the large dining hall was profusely decorated with Canadian and British flags. There was no set toast list or formality of any kind, the men making themselves jolly and free and easy. "The Queen and Royal Family" was of course given, and right heartily too, while the company sang "God Save the Queen." "Our Native Land" was lustily cheered, and "God Bless Our Native Land" was sung. "For They are Jolly Good Fellows" greeted the toast of "Our Visitors," and when the banquet was over the visitors were escorted to the station by the city regiments.

#### Regimental and Other News.

The Hamilton Field Battery held their annual shooting match on Friday last. There was a good attendance of competitors, but the wind was too high to permit of good scoring. Gunner Atkinson topped the score with 69 points.

Private French, who deserted from the London Infantry School in June last, has been brought there from Forest, and will be court-martialled in a few days.

Pte. King, who deserted from "C" company I.S.C., about eighteen months ago, was observed in the ranks of the 13th Battalion in Toronto on Thanksgiving Day, and at the close of the review was arrested and taken to the New Fort.

For some time past it has been the intention of a number of Hamilton young men to form a cavalry troop, and the matter has now taken practical form. A number of names have been handed in, and a meeting will be called at an early date, when final arrangements will be completed and officers selected.

Saturday last being the birthday of the Prince of Wales, the Sergeants of the 1st Prince of Wales Regiment, Montreal, gave a ball in the Queen's Hall in His Royal Highness's honour. The attendance was large and fashionable, and included most of the officers and sergeants of sister corps. Lieut.-Col. Butler during the evening forwarded the following cablegram:—"The Prince of Wales regiment assembled to celebrate Your Royal Highness's birthday crave permission to renew the pledge of fidelity."

Friday last was spent by Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia, Major-General Middleton and Mr. Fred. White, of the Militia Department, at the new fort, Toronto. Accompanied by Col. Otter and several officers of the Infantry School, they inspected the barracks and the stable which will shelter the horses when the new cavalry school is established there. Sir Adolphe expressed his gratification at seeing the many improvements that have been effected by Col. Otter. He was unable to state precisely the time at which the new school will be opened out. He said that it would be done as soon as the necessary arrangements could be completed.

#### To Our Subscribers.

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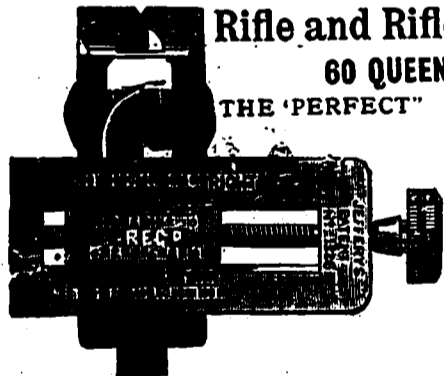
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