



AN ACCOUNT of the Manner in which the Sum  
of £.10,000 granted in the Army Estimates of  
last Year, for the Formation of a VETERAN  
BATTALION in Canada, has been Expended.

(Lord Viscount Howick.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,  
30 March 1841.

197.

Under 1 oz.

C A N A D A.

RETURN to an ORDER of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 3 March 1841 ;—for,

AN ACCOUNT, showing the Manner in which the Sum of £.10,000 granted in the Army Estimates of last Year for the Formation of a VETERAN BATTALION in *Canada*, has been Expended ; stating the Conditions proposed to Soldiers of Her Majesty's Army volunteering to serve in such Battalion, the Number who have volunteered, and the Number whose Services have been accepted.

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 30 March 1841.*

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NO part of the sum of 10,000*l.* granted in the Army Estimates of 1840-41, for the formation of a Veteran Battalion in *Canada* has as yet been expended. The conditions proposed to soldiers volunteering to serve in the Canadian regiment are stated in the accompanying copies of correspondence marked 1 to 5. The number of men who have volunteered, and the number whose services have been accepted, cannot be stated until a report shall have been received from the officer commanding the Forces in *Canada*, on the result of the modified plan and conditions proposed for the volunteering to the Canadian regiment.

(signed) *T. B. Macaulay.*

War-office, 29 March 1841.

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MEMORANDUM.

HER Majesty's Government have determined that a body of troops shall be formed in *Canada*, to consist of men who have already acquired a title to additional pay or good-conduct money, by their present services in the army, and the following advantages are contemplated from the adoption of this measure.

- 1st. The security against desertion from the frontier posts, derived from the unwillingness to incur the forfeiture of the advantages above specified.
- 2d. The diminution in the number of regiments stationed abroad, in so far as the proposed battalion would be available.
- 3d. A prospect of reward to soldiers of the line, who by good service may merit such an advantage.

In order to combine these desirable results, care must be taken that this battalion shall be composed of men who have no temptation to desert ; that the battalion acting in all respects as soldiers shall be subject to the regulations and discipline of the service, in like manner as are at present all other battalions of the army ; that the duty should not be unnecessarily pressing ; and that the ultimate prospect of the soldier should be such as to induce him to enter the service.

With these objects in view, the battalion will be composed as follows, viz. :—

- 1st. The regiment shall be styled The Royal Canadian Regiment.
- 2d. The services of this regiment shall not be extended beyond the Continent of North America and the adjacent British possessions and islands.
- 3d. The officers of the Royal Canadian Regiment shall receive the same rates of pay as officers of corresponding rank in the infantry of the line.
- 4. The non-commissioned officers and private soldiers shall receive the same pay as is now granted to the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of Her Majesty's Foot Guards.
- 5th. No soldier shall be permitted to volunteer from the regiments of the line into the Royal Canadian Regiment who shall not have served 15 years in the army.
- 6th. The soldiers to be allowed every opportunity for profitably employing their leisure time in agricultural labour or in handicraft, when not engaged in the performance

formance of military duty. Regulations to be made for this purpose from time to time by the commanding officer of the battalion, subject to the approval of the Commander of the Forces in Canada.

7th. After 20 years' service in the Royal Canadian Regiment, soldiers to be entitled to their discharge on the same pension as if they had continued to serve in the line.

8th. The general officer commanding in Canada to be *ex-officio* colonel of the Royal Canadian Regiment, with an annual addition to his pay of 200*l.*

9th. The clothing to be provided by the public, without any allowance to the colonel.

As the principal feature in the establishment of this corps is to counteract the crime of desertion from the regiments of the line on the frontier, the Royal Canadian Regiment should not be removed from the frontier posts in Canada to other parts of the command, except only in such cases as the exigencies of the service may indispensably require.

(signed) *Fitzroy Somerset.*

Horse Guards, 27 August 1840.

Sir,

Horse Guards, 26 November 1840.

Your letter of the 9th September,  $\frac{102100}{41}$  has been unacknowledged hitherto, by reason that the information required could only be obtained through the Lieutenant-general commanding in Canada, to whom the necessary instructions regarding the preparatory arrangements for the formation of the Royal Canadian Regiment had been transmitted on the 27th August.

I have now the honour to acquaint you, that a despatch, dated the 26th October, has been received from Sir Richard Jackson, enclosing a return showing the number of men of the regiments named in the margin, who have volunteered their services upon the terms announced to him; but that the nominal lists which had been specially required by me, and intended to show the numbers, age and character, as well as service of the volunteers, would be forwarded as soon as the whole had been received from the several regiments under his command, and which have not yet arrived.

The Lieutenant-general has also transmitted a paper containing certain questions put by officers commanding corps, relative to the terms upon which soldiers are to be received as volunteers for the Royal Canadian Regiment, and which being chiefly, if not altogether, of a financial description, it is not in my power to answer without previous reference to you.

I therefore enclose herewith copies of the several papers above-named for your consideration, and shall be glad to receive your decision upon the several questions at your earliest convenience, as no further progress can be made towards the formation of the Royal Canadian Regiment until these points shall have been finally determined upon.

The Right Hon. T. B. Macaulay.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Hill.*

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My Lord,

War Office, 26 December 1840.

THE General Commanding-in-Chief has transmitted to me a letter, of which I have the honour to enclose a copy, covering copies of a despatch from Sir Richard Jackson, relative to the volunteering from regiments of the line for the formation of the Royal Canadian Regiment, and at the same time, requesting my decision upon several questions put by officers, commanding regiments, relative to the terms upon which soldiers are to be received as volunteers. I subjoin copies of the questions thus submitted to me, the answers which I consider must be given to them according to the terms upon which it has been decided that this battalion should be raised, and some remarks which have suggested themselves to me, and to which I have the honour to request your Lordship's attention before any reply is sent to Sir R. Jackson's communication.

The

23d. 24th. 32d.  
34th. 65th. 67th  
73d. 85th.

26 Oct. 1840.

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The first question is, "Is the 20 years' service required to obtain a pension to be in addition to the 15 years which qualify a man to volunteer for this corps?" Although the memorandum attached to Lord F. Somerset's letter appears to be conclusive on this point, yet several references have been made on the subject, seeing, that thereby it will require a total service of 35 years, at least, to entitle a man to discharge with pension.

The answer to this must be, that it is intended that 20 years' service shall be given in this battalion, in addition to the previous 15, which qualifies for volunteering, to give a man a claim to retirement on pension.

In the letter which I had the honour of addressing to Lord Hill, on the 12th August last, and which was communicated to your Lordship, I proposed, either that men who had acquired one good-conduct badge, that is to say, who must have given seven years of creditable service, at least, should be permitted to volunteer, by which means, with 20 years' further service in the Canadian Battalion, they would generally not acquire a right to retire upon pension until about the age of 50; or, if this suggestion were not adopted, that the period of service in the Canadian Battalion should be reduced from 20 to 10 years for the man who had previously given 15 years' line service.

By the arrangement under which this battalion is to be raised, 35 years' total service, at the least, will be required to entitle a soldier, not declared to be medically unfit for further service, to his discharge on the same pension as if he had continued to serve in the line. The maximum pension, which, under the warrant of 1829, a soldier can claim, is 1s. 2d. a day after 25 years' service. All the men now volunteering, or who can volunteer for the next seven years, have their right to pension regulated by this warrant. They will, therefore, be only entitled after 35 years' service in the line, and in the Canadian Regiment to 1s. 2d. as a maximum. The men enlisted under the warrant of February 1833, who can only volunteer after 1848, have a claim to pension of 6d. a day after 21 years, increasing 3d. a day for every subsequent year of service completed, to a maximum of 1s. a day; but under the good-conduct warrant, these men may, by obtaining three or four badges, carry with them to pension the amount of their good-conduct pay. Thus a man, after having served in the line 33 years, having been for five years in possession of four badges, may obtain a pension of 1s. 4d. a day. He cannot claim discharge and pension from the Canadian Battalion until after 35 years. It is true, that to obtain this pension, he must be discharged from the line unfit for service; but this becomes in the line a necessary consequence of such an extent of duty. I cannot, therefore, but consider that the service required in the Canadian Battalion to entitle a man to discharge and pension, without positive disability, although less severe than that of the line, is too long to afford a sufficient inducement to extensive volunteering.

The second question is, "Will the soldiers of this corps be entitled to receive the good-conduct pay granted to the Guards, or the extra-pay for 14, for 21, and 28 years' service, in addition to the ordinary pay of the Guards?"

The answer to this question is, that the men serving in the Canadian Battalion have, in addition to the ordinary pay of the Guards, a claim to all the advantages of additional pay, or good-conduct pay, to which the Guards or other regiments are entitled.

The third question is, "Will they retain their present advantage of being allowed to retire with a gratuity and a free discharge for length of service, reckoning their former service in the line towards obtaining that indulgence?"

The warrant of 1829 allows free discharge as an indulgence after 15 years' service, with 3 months' pay abroad.

After 16 years' service with 6 months' pay

17	—	12	—
18	—	18	—

21 — with a pension of 10d. a day.

The warrant of February 1833 allows free discharge as an indulgence after 15 years' service, without any gratuity, but after 18 years (to settlers in the Colonies only) free discharge and 10*l.*; after 19 years, with 12*l.*; after 20 years, with 14*l.*; after 21 years, with 16*l.*; after 22 years, with 18*l.*; after 23 years, with 20*l.*; and after 24 years, with 24*l.*

The good-conduct warrant allows free discharge after 16 years, with right of registry

registry to deferred pension of 4*d.* a day, if discharged with one badge, and of 6*d.*, if discharged with two badges.

These free discharges, whether with or without gratuity or pension, are however under either warrant distinctly declared to be indulgences to be granted or withheld at the pleasure of the Crown. A similar question arose regarding the men volunteering from regiments leaving Canada to permanent line service in the Colony, when one year addition to their previous service is granted; and Lord Hill has been requested to fix a specific period after volunteering, previously to which the additional year should not reckon in reference to discharge, nor the discharge be claimable. This period has not yet been fixed.

The benefit accorded to the men of the Canadian Battalion will be the increased pay of 1*d.* a day, to which the men enlisted under the warrant of 1829, would be entitled as gratuity if discharged by indulgence after 15 years' service.

The object of raising the Canadian Battalion, is to retain old and steady soldiers; and this object will in a degree be defeated by permitting premature discharges. If, however, they are admitted as indulgences, unless some restriction be imposed, the men by volunteering may, by one or two years' Canadian service, obtain an increased gratuity, not however to a large amount.

I would submit that no free discharge should be permitted until      years after volunteering; and that the same number of years should be added to the period of total service which, under the warrants, give a claim to certain gratuities or to modified pension.

To the fourth question, "Will West India service be allowed to reckon towards completing the 15 years required to qualify men for the corps?" I propose to answer, that as it is allowed to reckon for men enlisted before the warrant of 1829, as three years for two, in claiming additional pay, and good-conduct pay, it will also be allowed to reckon for such men in making up the 15 years' qualification for volunteering to the battalion.

The fifth question is, "Will the men of this regiment be allowed their discharge, receiving a modified rate of pension, and in what proportion annually?"

The answer to this question will be governed in some degree by that given to the third. In the line, two men per battalion can only be allowed this indulgence annually. A similar concession after      years, instead of 21 years, might perhaps be permitted to the Canadian Battalion, but only to those men who can claim this indulgence under the warrant of 1829. This indulgence may at any time be suspended.

The sixth question is, "Are non-commissioned officers to hold their respective ranks as in their former corps?"

Such non-commissioned officers as are allowed to volunteer, must be allowed to hold the rank they had obtained, with the Guards' pay allotted to them.

The proportion of non-commissioned officers to men in the line, is one serjeant to 20 men; and this proportion should be observed in permitting serjeants to volunteer into the Canadian Battalion.

The last question proposed is, "What proportion of women and children receiving rations in their present corps, will be allowed to receive them in the Royal Canadian Regiment?"

In the line, six women and their children to every 100 men are rationed at the public expense. In Veteran Battalions, 12 women to every 100 men were rationed. In the Canadian Corps, which will be composed of men of middle age, it is intended to encourage the volunteering of married men, upon the grounds that the soldiers most to be depended upon in fulfilling the intention of the formation of the corps, viz. the prevention of desertion, will be those who feel themselves comfortably located with their families. It may be expedient to extend this benefit to a greater number than in the line, or the Veterans, as it would be difficult to refuse this indulgence to those who had it prior to volunteering.

Sir Richard Jackson has further asked, whether volunteers who will only enter on condition that their present service shall be allowed to reckon towards the completion of their 20 years' service in the Canadian Battalion may be accepted. This would be entirely contrary to the conditions upon which the battalion is to be raised.

Having thus brought to your Lordship's notice the questions which have been submitted to me by Lord Hill, I have further the honour to point out to your Lordship, that the only advantages which this battalion presents to the soldier are, increased pay of 1*d.* a day, service limited to North America, and military discipline,

pline, to be maintained with as much indulgence as can be afforded to the men to work for their own benefit; but that I am apprehensive that these advantages are coupled with service extended to too late a period in life, and the very inquiries now made whether soldiers now volunteering will be entitled to all the privileges or the indulgencies of the warrants under which they are now serving, show that the men contemplate escaping from the conditions of this long service.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,  
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *T. B. Macaulay.*

Sir,

Downing-street, 9 January 1841.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL directs me to acknowledge the receipt of the letter from the Secretary at War, dated the 26th ultimo, on the subject of the proposed Royal Canadian Regiment, and to request that you would inform him that his Lordship expects to receive from the Governor-general a modified plan for the formation of this regiment.

To avoid, however, the inconvenience of waiting for this report, Lord John Russell desires me to state, that he concurs with the Secretary at War in thinking that the prescribed service has been made too long, and that, after 10 years' service in the Canadian Regiment, the men should be entitled to their discharge, under the condition of being obliged to serve, if called upon, in a Veteran Battalion, or as a militia.

But, on the other hand, his Lordship thinks that it will be desirable to prohibit altogether free discharges under 25 years' service, except in special circumstances.

Lord John Russell desires me to add, that he agrees with the Secretary at War in the interpretation which he has given to the memorandum sent to Sir Richard Jackson, by the General Commanding-in-Chief, on the 27th of last August.

I have, &c.

L. Sullivan, Esq.  
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *James Stephen.*

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My Lord,

War Office, 13 January 1841.

With reference to your letter of the 26 November last, I have the honour to acquaint you, that Lord John Russell has stated that he concurs with me in thinking that the prescribed service in the Royal Canadian Battalion has been made too long; and that he is of opinion that after 25 years' actual service in the army, of which at least 10 years' service must have been in that regiment, the men should be entitled to their discharge, upon the condition of being obliged to serve, if called upon, in a Veteran Battalion, or as a militia; but that his Lordship is of opinion that it will be desirable to prohibit altogether free discharges from this battalion under 25 years' service, except in special circumstances.

The above will furnish answers to the 1st, 3d, and 5th questions submitted to your Lordship by Sir Richard Jackson.

With regard to the other questions, I have the honour to state that soldiers volunteering to this battalion, will be entitled to additional pay for length of service or to good-conduct pay after 14, 21, and 28 years' service, in addition to the ordinary pay of the Foot Guards; that East and West India service being allowed to reckon for men enlisted before the warrant of November 1829, as three years for two, in claiming additional pay and good-conduct pay, though not in claiming pension; it will also be allowed to reckon for such men in making up the 15 years' qualification for volunteering to this battalion, but will not reckon as part of the actual service of 25 years required for discharge; that such non-commissioned officers as may be permitted to volunteer, must be allowed to hold the rank they had attained, with the Guards' pay allotted to them, but that the proportion of non-commissioned officers to men in the line should be observed in permitting non-commissioned officers to volunteer into the Canadian Battalion; and that the proportion of women and their children, permitted to receive rations at the public expense, will be extended for this battalion from six to 12 per 100 men.

With reference to the observation of Sir Richard Jackson, that 32 of the men of the 34th Foot will only volunteer upon condition that their present service shall be allowed to reckon towards the completion of 20 (now reduced to 10) years' service in the Royal Canadian Battalion, I have the honour to state, that it would be entirely contrary to the conditions upon which this battalion is to be formed, to allow any previous service to reckon as part of the prescribed service in this battalion.

Unless your Lordship should have any observation to make upon these decisions, I have the honour to request that they may be communicated to Sir Richard Jackson with as little delay as possible.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *T. B. Macaulay.*

General Lord Hill, G. C. B.  
&c. &c. &c.

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