

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1876

It Owe Its Beginning to the Late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie--The Site Was Once a British Dockyard And Naval Base.

The Royal Military College of Canada owes its origin to the late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie and the Dominion administration of which he was the premier. After the withdrawal of the majority of the imperial troops from Canada, the supply of professionally trained officers soon became inadequate, and some system had to be devised to meet the necessities of the case. The government obtained reports from imperial officers then serving in Can-



LT.-COL. C. F. CONSTANTINE
The new commandant of the Royal Military College.

ada as to the best means to be adopted. Col. Fletcher, of the Grenadier Guards, military secretary to the then governor-general, was then sent to visit West Point Military Academy in the United States. Upon his return he recommended that a Royal Military College be established on the West Point model with a term fixed at four years, the same as at West Point. After consultation with the Earl of Carnarvon, then secretary of state for the colonies and the Earl of Dufferin, then governor-general of Canada, the government acted upon this report and founded the Royal Military College.

Through the good offices of the Earl of Dufferin, the organizer and first commandant of the R.M.C., was chosen in the person of Lieut.-Col. E. V. Hewett, R.E., afterwards governor of the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. Col. Hewett established the college on a firm basis, shaped its character, and framed its motto, "Truth, Duty, Valor." His term of service ex-

tended from September, 1875, to May, 1886. The first class of recruits reported at the college in June, 1876, the famous class now familiarly known as the "old Eighteen."

The city of Kingston was chosen as the site for the new college. In 1673 the famous Count Frontenac, French governor of Canada, led an expedition from the City of Quebec up the River St. Lawrence to its outlet from Lake Ontario. Arriving at the Indian village of Catarqui, and fully understanding its strategic importance, he built a fort there. The first commandant of the new Fort Frontenac was Chevalier de la Salle, one of the most adventurous and valorous of the French explorers. More than two centuries have passed since the landing of Frontenac. For a long time his fort was one of the headquarters of the French in Canada; then in turn it was occupied by British troops, and now is held by troops of the permanent forces of Canada. On this historic soil the Royal Military College is established. It is situated on a small peninsula opposite the city of Kingston, where the River St. Lawrence issues from the eastern end of the lake. In former years this spot of land had been used by the royal navy as a dockyard and naval base, and the cadet dormitory building erected in the eighteenth century is still sometimes spoken of as the "Stone Frigate."

The principal college buildings lie on the two sides of the parade ground. On the north side is the main educational block and Currie Hall. On the east end of the parade is the dormitory building. In the basement is a well-equipped workshop. In line with the dormitory stands the gymnasium, a modern building thoroughly well equipped. Other buildings in the college grounds are the bathhouses, the electric power house, and the gun-drill, modelling and pontoon sheds, quarters for some of the military officers of the staff, cottages for the servants, and a modern hospital.

Close to the parade grounds are tennis and racquet courts, cricket and football grounds, and a quarter-mile running track. The college also has a hockey rink. There is also a rifle range for distance up to 600 yards. It will thus be seen that the R.M.C. is fully equipped with modern requirements for athletic games.

In spite of the comparatively small numbers of cadets, they are well able to hold their own in sporting competitions with the leading Canadian universities.

The standard of entrance is as ad-

vanced as that for matriculation in the universities of Canada. The age of entrance is between sixteen and twenty. The college and staff is organized on a strictly military basis. The commandant and military instructors are all officers on the active list of the imperial or Canadian army, and, in addition, there is a complete staff of professors for the civil subjects, which form a good proportion of the college course. Upon his arrival at the college, the recruit takes the oath of allegiance, and is duly enrolled as a gentleman cadet. He is then treated as a regular soldier, and is posted to a company. During the Great War 156 ex-cadets gave their lives for their country and a magnificent arch in their memory was unveiled in June, 1924, at the entrance to the college grounds.

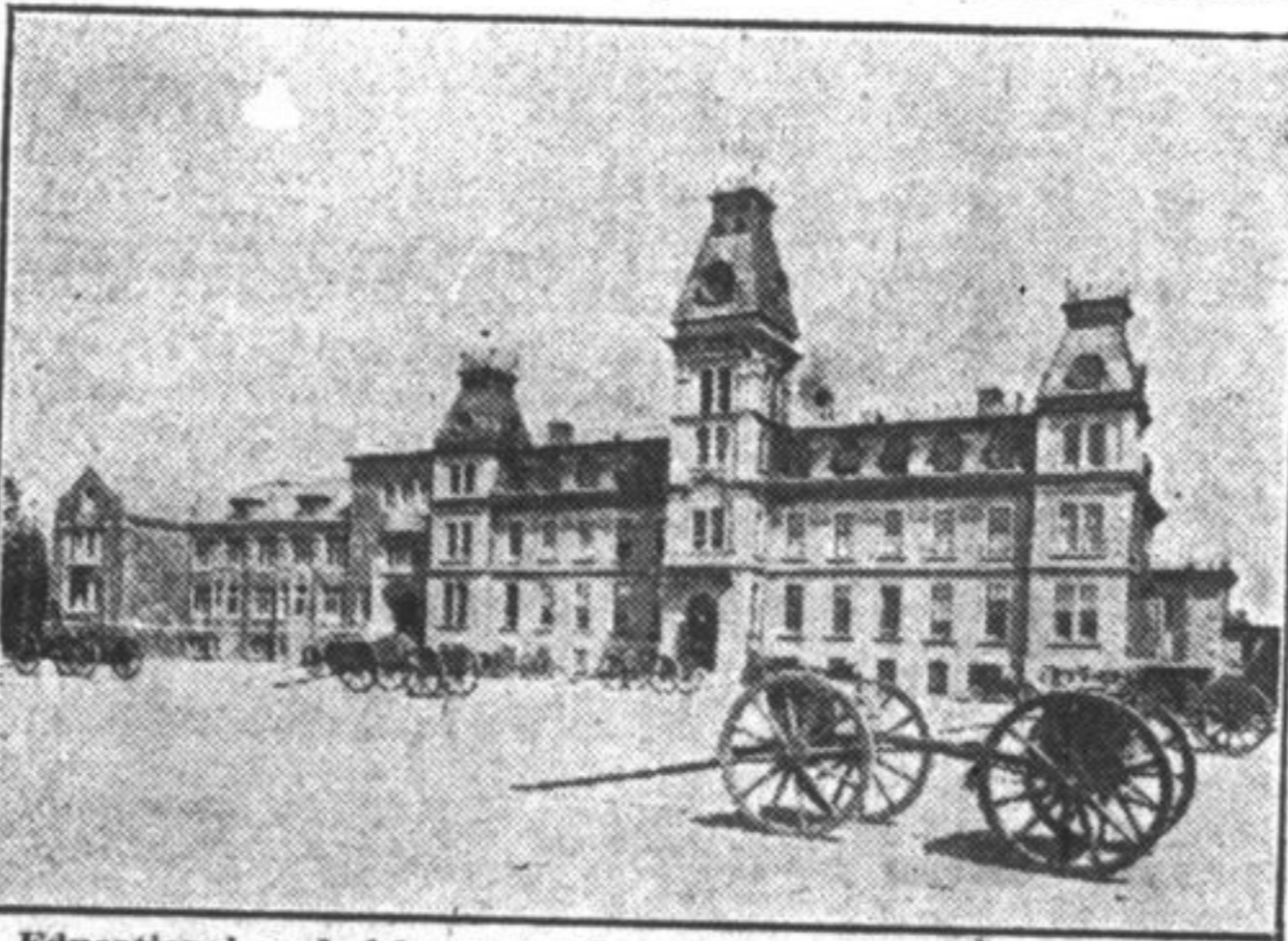
KINGSTON'S BATHING HOUSE

In Macdonald Park Is Most Modernly Equipped.

The old boys and girls will see a vast difference between the new Richardson bathing house and the old one, which was situated on West King street. The old one was a wooden structure and did not have any showers or modern accommodations in it, while the new bathing house is modern and up-to-date in every way. A fine sitting room on the top floor provides a splendid place to watch the bathers, and for the eldest of our old boys and girls to see the yacht races and aquatic events. Thanks to the late Capt. George T. Richardson, Kingston, has a bathing house of which it may well be proud.

If the old boys take a trip out around Sandy Bottom, they will find that it has lost none of its popularity as the "Old Swimming Hole." No doubt many of our old friends will enjoy a nice cool dip at this beautiful spot before they leave the city.

An officer in the army air corps who cannot fly is nicknamed a "kiwi," after the New Zealand bird with undeveloped wings.



The Educational and Administration Buildings of the Royal Military College of Canada.

A FORMER WHIG MAN WRITES OF OLD BOYS

W. E. Ricard Is Now a Member of the New York Sun Staff.

W. E. Ricard, now a proofreader on the New York Sun, writes as follows of his apprenticeship days in the Whig and how he started in the printing business. The office at that time was on Brock street near Wellington, now occupied by Livingston Bros. He says:—

"Father caught me playing 'hook' one day. He advised me, saying I must either go to school or to work. Neither of these courses appealed to me. Baseball in the Cricket Field seemed, rather, a happy medium, for with Robert Carson, (manager), Jimmy and Tommy Little and the rest of the Park Nine leading the way who would not dare follow?"

Playing ball one day when I should have been in school, father again appeared on the scene and threw a monkey wrench into the works by calling off the game and starting me on a home run via the Wellington street school, where presided James H. Metcalfe, umpire and principal.

"Jim" was a politician of renown in those days, and while pater and principal stood in the hallway upstairs discussing the National Policy or maybe the "Descent of Man," the truant worked out the latter idea in his own way by quietly descending the stairs.

Reaching the front door and standing on the high steps—even as they are today—I felt like a fugitive from justice. Hearing footsteps and the sound of voices I ran across the street and hid behind one of the large tree boxes that protected the young maples. Holes in the tree box allowed me to see and not be seen.

On the steps stood father and principal, looking in every direction for

the truant, who at that particular time wondered why tree boxes weren't made larger. But this one served the purpose. I laid low till the coast was clear and, fearing to go home, slept that night in Jack McCartney's hay-loft in Gordon (now University) street, and didn't reach the home plate after all.

Dr. C. L. Curtis, at our house one day, was asked if he knew of any place where a boy could be put to work. He said he thought the Whig office needed a boy. I was sent down and immediately became the printer's devil, working in the composing room with Dave Wilson, Jack Scanlan, James McNamee, Sam Reid, P. Daley and others.

Serenaded by Organ-Grinder.

An incident occurred one day early in the spring which proved that the printer's devil was well named. An organ-grinder with a monkey on a string came along and began playing "Spring, Spring, Beautiful Spring." Believing he must respond to the gentle urge of Spring the monkey did a handspring across the sidewalk and climbed the water pipe which led past the second story window and swung his small but long-tailed body onto the window sill and into the composing room.

The printer's devil, seeing an opportunity to give the Darwinian Theory a black eye, daubed one side of the monkey's face with printer's ink while pretending to hand him a penny. The little beggar, convinced that his master had made a mistake in opening his spring campaign in front of a printing office, slid down the pipe faster than he came up, and that was the end of our serenade.

I remember when Capt. Abbie Thompson came to town and established the first Salvation Army unit in the district. Captain Abbie was very popular. Dr. C. L. Curtis named his yacht the "Capt. Abbie." One day an item appeared in the Whig which read: "The Capt. Abbie is in Davis's dry-dock having her bottom scraped." Did it hurt? We wonder.

W. G. Kidd, inspector, and Marion Livingston, teacher, together with James H. Metcalfe, M.P., were the outstanding figures in my school days.

In 1888, went to Toronto, to work on the Mail and The News; in 1901, to Buffalo, in 1906 to New York City, on the New York Herald. In 1924 attended the convention of the International Typographical Union in Toronto, and in November of last year motored from Toronto to New York City, securing a position on the New York Sun as proofreader soon after arriving in the metropolis. I intend motoring to Kingston the latter part of next week, to arrive SS. Waubic Friday evening.

Yours truly,
W. E. RICARD.

Norway reports Amundsen will make another try to cross Polar basin by aeroplane.

Bolshevists are said to be planning a gigantic drive to be centred in Paris this fall.



KINGSTON OLD BOYS AND
GIRLS, WE WELCOME YOU

MACKEY'S BREAD

will make you feel like new,
Have a good time too and
when you are through

ASK YOUR GROCER
or 'Phone 834.

BLUE BIRD BREAD

W. A. Kaitting, Manager.

Six million pounds of leaf tobacco is produced in Cuba each year.

Hearty Welcome to Kingston to All the Old Boys and Visitors

We extend an invitation to you to visit our new headquarters at the corner of King and Queen Streets. This is one of the most up-to-date electric and gas plants in Canada.



E. N. P. McFARLANE, Chairman.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Our old employees, including John Evans, chief engineer and John Gallivan, assistant engineer will welcome you.