

THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA

TABLET TO BE UNVEILED TO COMMEMORATE THE FOUNDING OF THE CANADIAN SANDHURST

College Owe Its Origin to the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, a Former Liberal Premier—Founded in 1876—First Class of Recruits—Some Distinguished Graduates—Part Played by R.M.C. in the Great War.

On Monday, June 21st, the Royal Military College of Canada will observe the fiftieth anniversary of its founding, and from all parts of Canada and the British Empire will gather ex-cadets who have passed through this famous military training school situated on Point Frederick at Kingston. A tablet is to be unveiled in the Sir Arthur Currie Hall in commemoration of the jubilee year.

The Royal Military College owes its origin to the late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie and the Liberal Administration of which he was the head. After the withdrawal of the majority of the Imperial troops from Canada, the supply of professionally trained officers 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 Canada as to the best means to be adopted. Col. Fletcher, of the Grenadier Guards, military secretary to the then Governor-General, was sent to visit West Point Academy in the United States. Upon his return he recommended that a military college be established on the West Point model, with a term fixed at four years, the same as at the United States school. After consultation with the Earl of Carnarvon, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the Earl of Dufferin, Governor-General, the Government acted upon the 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, Eng. Col. Hewett established the college on a firm basis, shaped its character and framed its motto, "Truth, Duty, Valor." His term of office extended from September, 1876, 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," and a few of whom are still living.

Kingston Chosen.

The city of Kingston was chosen as the site for the new college. In 1873, 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 Cataract, 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 250 years have passed since the landing of Frontenac at the head of the St. Lawrence. 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 it is held by troops of the permanent forces of Canada, namely, the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery. Just opposite this historic site the Royal Military College was established. It is situated on a small peninsula opposite Kingston, where the St. Lawrence River issues from the eastern end of Lake Ontario. Over a century ago this spot of land was used by the Royal Navy as a dockyard and naval base, and the cadet dormitory building, erected at that time and still in use, is spoken of as "the stone frigate." The present commandant of the college is Col. C. F. Constantine, D.S.O., who latterly commanded the R.C.H.A. in the barracks situated on the ground where Count Frontenac landed. Now he directs the Royal Military College on the old Royal Navy dockyard site.

The Buildings.

The principal buildings of the college lie on the two sides of the



COL. C. F. CONSTANTINE
Commandant of the Royal Military College of Canada.

parade ground. On the north side is the main educational block and the Sir Arthur Currie Hall. On the east end of the parade is the dormitory building. There are quarters for the staff and servants, a covered skating rink, a rifle range and a fine gymnasium. In spite of the comparatively small number of cadets—160—the college is able to hold its own in sporting competitions with the universities. The standard of entrance is as advanced as that for matriculation to the university. 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. During the great war 155 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 and who does not follow a military career is expected to serve some time as an off-

icer in a militia unit for the purpose of giving military instruction.

Hon. Alexander Mackenzie. The Hon. Alexander Mackenzie visited the Point Frederick peninsula when premier, in 1875 (possibly having even then in mind the founding of the college), and, in company with Col. de la C. T. Irwin, C.M.G., inspected the martello tower. It was then used as a married soldiers' quarters, and on the top, under a circular roof, were mounted three 32-pounders. Ascending the narrow stairway in the outer wall, the Honorable the Prime Minister of the Dominion tapped on the wall and, turning to Col. Irwin, casually asked how thick it was. The colonel was obliged to confess his ignorance, and the Premier remarked with a kindly smile: "It's five feet six inches—I know, for I built it myself." Alexander Mackenzie had been a stone mason when a young man, and he builded well, for the old tower is still in use, being now the R.M.C. museum.

Although the institution was founded in the Liberal regime of Alexander Mackenzie, Sir John A. Macdonald did not hesitate to express his pride in the R.M.C. In 1888 he is recorded as saying: "I must give credit to those who were the means of establishing the college, because they have proven to be more far-seeing in the matter than their opponents."

Tributes Paid.

Other great men have paid tribute to the worth of Canada's military college. The late Earl Grey, Governor-General of Canada, said in 1911: "I regard the R.M.C. as one of the formative influences for good on the national character. It turns out men who hit hard but hit fair, would rather lose a game playing fairly than win an advantage by dishonorable means. The influence which radiates from the college is that of a clean, high-souled, generous manliness."

Lord French of Ypres said: "The R.M.C. at Kingston, Canada, is one of the finest establishments of its kind I have ever visited."

Major-General Sir Andrew Clarke of the British War Office once recorded in an official report: "The Royal Military College of Kingston, Canada, is second to no military school in the world, not only as to its curriculum, but also as to the character of the men it has sent out."

In the college are many historic relics and trophies. These include the marvellous Leinster Plate of the

Prince of Wales Leinster Regiment; the Statue of Peace presented to the R.M.C. by the Government of France; coats-of-arms of overseas cities with which the Canadian troops were associated during the great war, together with beautiful paintings in Currie Hall, symbolizing the achievements of the old corps in battling for the Empire. In the martello tower museum is gathered a collection of war trophies that cannot be duplicated on the American continent.

First Class of Recruits. In the first year of the institution's career there were 18 young

George Edwin Parry, Harold Wald-kefer, Duncan Macpherson, and Henry Ellison Davis.

Following this first graduating class, the success of the college was assured, and the attendance started to mount. Gradually more buildings were erected, the "Stone Frigate" in the meantime standing out as the keystone of the college. General Hewett remained as commandant of the college until 1886, and at the end of that time exactly 100 cadets had graduated from the college. He was succeeded by Major-General J. R. Oliver, C.M.G., who remained only two years, to be succeeded by Major-General D. R. Cameron, whose

R. M. C. graduate a special and enviable place in public opinion. The cadets of to-day are the heirs of this honorable and exacting tradition and record. It is for them to carry on the torch.

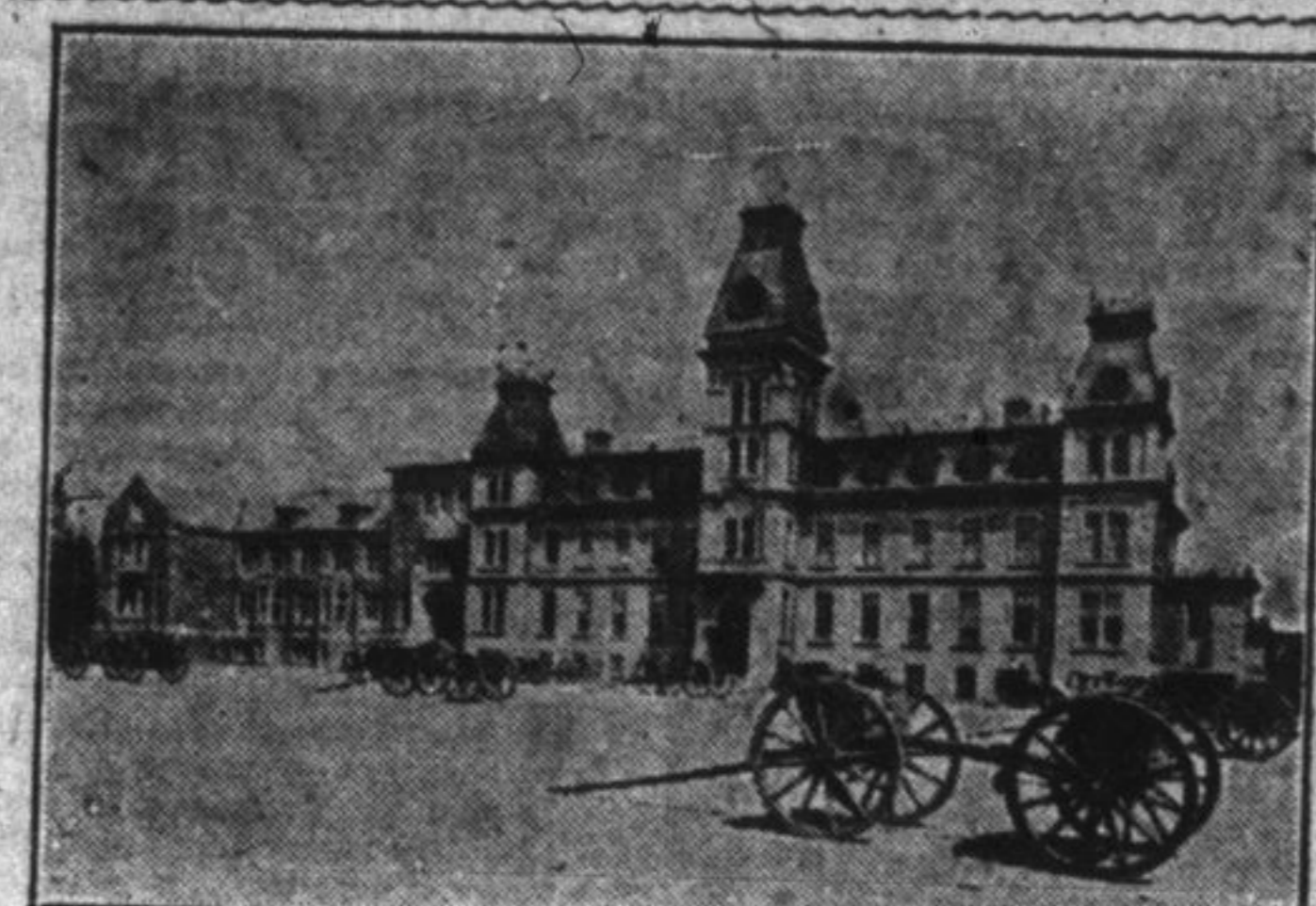
Distinguished Graduates.

Perhaps no institution of learning in Canada has had such an illustrious array of distinguished graduates as the Royal Military College. Colonel Sir Edouard Percy Girouard, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., who took a commission in the Royal Engineers on graduating, is particularly famous. He reconstructed the railways in South Africa during the Boer War, and in the Great War his work in Egypt was outstanding.

Lieut.-General Sir A. C. Macdonell, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., the late commandant, graduated 43 years ago, and since then has been a power in the military phase of Canada. He did valiant work in the Boer War, and later with the R.N.W.M.F. and in the War was commander of the 1st Canadian Division in France. Lieut.-General Sir George Kirkpatrick is another distinguished graduate. He commanded the British forces in China in 1920 and 1921, and during the War was director of military operations in India. Lieut.-General Sir H. E. Bur-stall, commanded the artillery in the 1st Contingent during the War, later commanded the 2nd Canadian Division and later as Inspector-General of the Canadian Forces, proved the efficiency he developed at the R.M.C.

Other distinguished graduates of the College are General Duncan Sayer MacInnes, Brig.-General Henri A. Panet, Count de Bury and de Barcarne, Col. W. H. N. Cantlie, General Frederick C. Heneker, Percival E. Thacker, Alphonse E. Panet, and many others. Col. G. H. Ogilvie, at present Sergeant-at-Arms in the Ontario Legislature, is a graduate of the class of 1882. In recent years the graduates of the College have also made names for themselves. Conspicuous among the younger graduates has been Col. W. A. Bishop, V.C., whose great work with the flying corps in the War made him the "ace" of the Canadian Corps.

Canada and Canadians can certainly feel justly proud of the Royal Military College. The training the young men get in the institution is such as to make good citizens and good soldiers, and the work they have done after graduation bears out the contention that the Royal Military College of Canada is indeed an asset to Canada and the Empire.



The Three-tower Building is the original Royal Military College, opened in 1876.

men who entered for training and their names now appear on the records of the College as the "Immortal Eighteen." There were many obstacles to overcome by the officials in the first years of the college's history. There was the lack of accommodation and the difficulty of travel, but the British determination persisted, and those 18 graduates went out into the world in 1880, the first graduating class of the R. M. C., to eventually achieve great things for Canada and the Empire. The names of the "Immortal Eighteen" were: Alfred George Godfrey Wurtzle, Harry Cardland Freer, Harry Ellison Wins, Thomas Lawrence Read, Septimus Julius Augustus Denison, Luke Homfray Irving, Frederick Davis, Charles Albert Desbrisay, Victor Brereton Rivers, James Spelman, Charles Oliver Fairbank, Aylesworth Bowen Perry, John Bray Cochran, Francis Joseph Dixon,

tenure of office continued until 1894. Following him the commandants were as follows:
1894-1900—Col. G. C. Kitson, C.M.G.
1901-1905—Col. R. N. R. Reads.
1905-1909—Col. E. T. Taylor (first Canadian commandant).
1909-1913—Col. J. H. V. Crowe.
1913-14—Col. L. R. Carleton.
1915-1919—Col. C. N. Perrean, C.M.G.
1919-1925—Lt.-Gen. Sir A. C. Macdonell.
1925—Col. C. F. Constantine.

The reason for the great success of the Royal Military College lies in the lives and work of the men who have passed out from the college to bear their part in the service of King and country, and in the work of the world. As soldiers they have attained a high level of professional distinction; in civil life they have shown a probity and thoroughness which has given to the

NEWS OF THE FARM

To Aid Marketing—Good Crop Outlook in Ontario—Western Crop Prospects—Garnet Wheat Makes Good Bread.

While details are still to be worked out, and the whole scheme is still a bit of a mystery, apparently the Ontario Government intends to help the farmers of this province market their export produce. According to an announcement by Minister of Agriculture, Hon. John S. Martin, before a meeting of Eastern Ontario Bankers at the Kemptville Agricultural School this week and a further pronouncement in a private interview a few days later, the government proposes to provide facilities for grading, storing and branding with a stamp of approval, all high class farm produce for ex-

port. There will be no pools, the authorities simply proposing to use the regular selling channels now in existence, but if the farmer wants to secure the benefit of an Ontario government inspection and grade, and if he wants to hold his produce in the new warehouses at Toronto until the market improves, and if he wants to avail himself of the services of a government expert stationed in Britain, he will be provided with all this free of cost.

Good Crop Outlook.

Only a spell of warm weather is needed to make the crop outlook in

Ontario really optimistic. Indeed even with the present kind of weather everything seems to be in very fair shape. The recent rains, on the whole proved of great benefit, and will give spring grains and later crops an excellent start. Fall wheat and clover are jumping along. Pastures are catching up to normal. Only a week or two of high temperatures is wanted to complete the maturation. A rather unusual feature of the crop situation this year is the fact that conditions in the eastern end are fully as advanced as those west. Usually crops around Ottawa and even up as far as Belleville are from two to three weeks behind Toronto and West, but this year if anything hay and spring grains are higher in the East.

Western Crop Prospects.

Growth of grain has been almost phenomenal in the West this week. Despite a snow storm in Central Alberta only a few days ago, wheat has fairly jumped ahead, until it is in the shot blade in several districts. Shot blade means that the head is formed in the stem and that the plant will head out in a few days. Cool weather then, or at least cool nights, will result in good filling of those heads, and a few weeks later, warm dry weather will be wanted for a month to six weeks in order to ripen the crop. In Manitoba many fields are over 20 inches in height, which is just about ten inches above the best spring grain in Ontario.

Garnet Makes Good Bread.

Some weeks ago the Dominion Government got a considerable quantity of the new Garnet wheat, which has been originated by the Federal Experimental Farms for growing in regions farther north than the varieties in existence at present. Ground into flour and made into bread by a regular commercial bakery. This was distributed over the country, and served in the Parliamentary restaurant at Ottawa. While the results have not yet been completely tabulated, a preliminary study by Dominion Corollist, L. H. Newman, shows that bread from Garnet has been well received. "The bulk of the replies from people who tasted the bread," he states, "put it on an equal or perhaps slightly higher plane than that made from Marquis. While it is a creamy yellow in color, compared to white Marquis, this distinction has not been held against it, except in a few instances. The flavor, if anything is considered a shade superior, especially by the women who tried the new bread. The loaves expand to an equal volume, making fine, open bread of an even texture."

At Brockville, on June 16th, Rev. F. M. Wootton united in marriage Vera Mae, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. Whitmore, Delta, to Dr. William Arnold Sherwood, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Sherwood, Smith's Falls. It is far better to be homesick than it is to be sick of home.

Township Councils

STORRINGTON.

Council met in special meeting at the township hall, Sunbury, on May 31st, at 8 o'clock, to receive the township engineer's report of the Cold Spring Factory Road, as petitioned for and for other special business. Members all present.

On Motion Ritchie and Sands, the Council decided to build a good, passable, gravel road along the west line of Lot No. 11, 7th Con., township of Storrington, Charles Nicholson, owner of said lot, No. 11, to give the township a deed of right of way. The petitioners guaranteed to pay into the township treasury the sum of \$1,340 as a bonus on such undertaking and also to furnish gravel free for said road during construction.

Motion, Drader and Kirkpatrick, that township engineer stake out and line up said road on west side of lot 11, running north from the Washburn to the Brewer's Mill road.—Carried.

Motion, Drader and Ritchie, that by-law No. 537 for getting a loan from the Standard Bank for current expenses get its first reading.—Carried.

On motion, by-law 537 received its second and third readings and passed.

Motion, Drader and Ritchie, that J. A. Sharpe be authorized to employ someone to construct a tile drain from west end of township hall to connect with drain now being constructed by J. A. Sharpe across the south-west corner of his lot in Sunbury.—Carried.

council adjourn to meet on Tuesday, July 13th.

THOS. MAKIN,
Clerk.

Miss Irene Stringer, Lansdowne, in Toronto for the past few months, has returned home. She expects to leave in September for India to take up missionary work.

The marriage took place in New York, on June 5th, of Margaret Olive, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Noah Sauve, Montreal, formerly of Brockville, to Mr. Harold Palmer Strong, New York.

George Elgie Dulyea, commercial traveller, Brockville, has been granted by parliament a divorce from his wife, at present residing in Finch.

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