

RETURN OF THE 7TH BATT. FUSILIERS.

The steamer Alberta, with the 7th Batt. Fusiliers, of London, on board, arrived at Sarnia from Port Arthur at an early hour on the 24th ult. The citizens were not expecting the steamer until nine o'clock, and there was but a spare attendance at the wharf, compared with the vast crowds assembled the previous Monday to greet the Halifax Battalion. As soon as the presence of the troops was known the citizens began to pour down the streets, and by the time the men had disembarked and transferred their baggage and equipment to the cars in waiting, the whole population was in readiness to receive them. The 7th band came down from London by the 9.30 train, and together with the 27th Batt. band, headed the triumphal march through the streets, which were made gay for the occasion by a brilliant display of banners and bunting. On arriving at the Town Hall the reeve read a congratulatory address to the officers and men of the battalion, to which Col. Williams briefly but feelingly replied. At the close of his remarks arms were piled, and the battalion marched into the large hall, where a luncheon of fruits, sandwiches and lemonade had been prepared by the ladies of the town. At the close of the luncheon the chairman, Mr. D. McKenzie, proposed the health of the Queen, which was received with cheers and the singing of "God Save the Queen." Mr. R. S. Gurd, in a patriotic speech, proposed the health of the officers and men of the 7th Battalion. U. S. Consul Pace was called upon, and happily addressed the volunteers. Mayor McMillan, M.P., responded, returning the heartiest thanks of the 7th for the very handsome reception given by the citizens of Sarnia. Col. Williams proposed the ladies of Sarnia, who had prepared the refreshments and waited so attentively on the men. Chaplain Ball replied on the part of the ladies, and the proceedings were brought to a close by cheers for the Queen. The men boarded the train and left for London about 2 p.m., highly pleased with their reception at Sarnia.

Telegrams were sent to London as the train neared the city, and as it entered the limits a salute was fired by the London Field Battery. In a very few minutes later the train drew up at the platform, and, as the boys sprang out, they were literally received in the arms of a vast multitude of waiting friends. In a frenzy of joy the people cheered and cheered the returned heroes as their bronzed and weather-beaten faces appeared outside the coaches. In this outburst of welcoming enthusiasm all order was lost and it was fully twenty minutes before the men fell into their places. Then the ladies of London South presented each one of them with a bouquet and bade them welcome home. A line of procession was formed, headed by over 100 veterans of the Fenian raid, who were followed by the Cavalry Corps and the London Field Battery. Then came the 7th. As they marched up the streets the people gave full vent to the emotions within them and from thousands of throats a continuous chorus of thrilling cheers arose. They passed under an almost unbroken awning of brightly coloured streamers and evergreens, while decorations hung from almost every building. Arches had been erected in great numbers, and at the intersection of Dundas and Richmond Streets a gallery full of choristers sang "Rule Britannia" as the 7th halted. Words fail to convey any idea of the unbounded demonstrations of joy that followed, and it must do for the present that London has never seen such a day in her history. At the drill shed lunch was served, and then the men dispersed. On Tuesday evening a grand banquet was given to the returned troops.

THE C.P.R. LAKE ROUTE.

We gave a brief description in our last number, that would be incomplete without illustrations of the vessels themselves, which are models of symmetry, speed, security and comfort. Their normal rate of speed is fourteen miles per hour, which can be increased to eighteen whenever circumstances require lost time to be made up. As a rule, however, if not delayed by fog, each stage of the distance is performed with the most perfect regularity, according to the time-table. This is accomplished by the simple device of increasing the number of revolutions of the screw if a head wind should be encountered, and of decreasing the same when the breezes are favorable. The first steamer to bring back troops by this route was the Alberta, which took on board at Port Arthur the Midland Battalion and the 9th Quebec Voltigeurs. Col. Van Straubenzee, D.A.G., who had com-

mand, had been directed by Gen. Middleton to land the troops above Sault Ste. Marie and march them to a point below the rapids where they could be re-embarked, the march being estimated at about ten miles. The object of this arrangement was to obviate any difficulty arising with the United States authorities as to passing through the locks. Capt. Anderson, however, demurred to any action of the kind, contending that the boat had not been chartered by the Government, and accordingly his authority as commander was not affected by the presence of troops on board. He accordingly made up his mind to run the vessel through the locks in the usual way, though many on board thought it exceedingly doubtful whether the attempt would be successful. Before reaching the locks, however, the troops were all ordered down below, and the port-holes closed. All officers who remained on deck, with the single exception of Col. Deacon, doffed their uniform jackets and caps so as not to appear conspicuous, and quietly awaited developments. On entering the channel by which the locks are approached, a sergeant of the U. S. infantry from the adjacent military post, carrying his rifle, was observed approaching, and then presently came into view some twenty-five additional soldiers, armed and accoutred, together with two officers, assembled at the locks. It now began to look as if preparation had been made to seize or turn back the steamer, and developments were awaited with increased interest. No molestation was offered, however, and it soon became apparent that the troops were simply crossing the locks to engage in ball practice at a target erected on the strip of land between the locks and the rapids. Since then other corps have passed through without any attempt at concealment, and therefore had no similar experience.

OBSEQUIES OF COL. WILLIAMS, M.P.

The remains of this gallant and popular officer, who commanded the Midland Battalion during the recent campaign, were finally laid to rest in the cemetery at Port Hope, on Tuesday, the 22nd ult., when the largest military funeral took place that has occurred in Canada of late years. Our illustrations of the events in connection with the last honors paid to Col. Williams show the triumphal arch erected by the people of Owen Sound to celebrate the return of the North-West Field Force, draped in mourning on the occasion of the arrival of the C. P. R. steamer with the coffin; also a view of the latter as it remained in the waiting room of the station, pending the departure of the train. The views at Port Hope represent the head of the procession filing up the leading street of the town, and a beautiful floral tribute—one of the very large number from various quarters—contributed by the ladies of Port Hope. On account of the great personal popularity of Colonel Williams, the funeral procession contained representatives from almost every station of life, from the Lieut.-Governor of Ontario and Cabinet Ministers of the Dominion to the various benevolent societies of the town and district. In the military part, nearly 150 officers unattached to either of the corps present under arms attended to show their respect for the memory of the deceased. The entire Midland Battalion, who had gone into camp in the public park in the outskirts of the town, composed the escort and firing party, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Deacon. The town of Port Hope was crowded with strangers on this occasion, the hotel-keepers reaping a rich harvest and something more, if those who had experience of the extortion practised at the Queen's for meals of the most meagre and inferior character may be accepted as authority. The town generally exhibited mourning decorations, only a single dwelling-house being observed by the writer which did not expose a mourning emblem of some kind.

THOMAS SCOTT, one of Riel's sympathizers at Prince Albert, has been quietly re-arrested and sent to Regina for trial. He had been indulging in some "big" talk of late.

MR. BEDSON, chief transport officer of the North-West Field Force, who is warden of the Manitoba Penitentiary, presented Capt. Mutton, adjutant of the Queen's Own contingent, with a buffalo bull calf from his herd of fifty-three at Stoney Mountain. Mr. J. J. Withrow, President of the Industrial Exhibition Association, has promised to keep it in the Exhibition park until after the exhibition. It will be the property of the battalion, and has been named "Pound-maker."

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