

HEARTY PRAISE FROM DUKE OF CONNAUGHT

His Royal Highness Says Troops Here Make Best Parade He Has Seen In Canada— Thinks the Camp Site a Splendid One.

"The parade I have witnessed this morning is the best I have seen from any troops in Canada. This is a wonderfully fine camp site and training ground, very much better than others I have visited. The West has set a splendid example in recruiting. The men I have reviewed here today are as fine a body of soldiers as one could wish to see, and I would be proud to be the commander of any of the battalions of this camp."

These were some of the utterances which were made yesterday by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, during his address to the officers after the review of the troops, and at the luncheon afterwards in the Central Mobilization Camp. They indicate that he was extremely well pleased with the result of his inspection, and such outspoken praise coming from one who is known to be a man of few words, speaks volumes for the marked degree of efficiency reached by the men who have been training here this summer under the supervision of Camp Commandant Lieut.-Col. J. Duff Stuart, and the officers in charge of the various battalions.

The review yesterday was an inspiring sight, and was held under as favorable conditions as could be desired. The morning was bright and warm, and despite the fact that heavy rains had fallen on the two previous days there was no trace of mud on the parade ground, which was in an ideal condition. In view of some recent strictures in this respect, it was noticeable that not a speck appeared on the boots of any soldier to mar their extremely smart appearance.

The Duke's Party

A special train bearing His Royal Highness arrived at 140 Wednesday morning, and shortly after eight o'clock the Duke was seen strolling through the streets of the town, accompanied by his military secretary.

The party of the Duke included Major-General Lessard, Col. Stanton, Military Secretary, and Major Duff, of the Gordon Highlanders. Lieut.-Col. Ogilvie, D. O. C., was up from Vancouver to meet the Field Marshall here and accompanied him during his inspection of the troops.

The Review

The Mayor had proclaimed Wednesday morning a half holiday, and the review was witnessed by a large crowd of citizens along with many visitors from outside points. It was by far the most important event of the kind ever held west of the Rocky Mountains, no body of troops of such a size having ever before appeared for review on a parade ground in British Columbia. There were just a few less than four thousand men on the field, the exact number being 3849, composed as follows:

11th C. M. R., under Lieut.-Col. Kirkpatrick, 426; 47th Battalion, under Lieut. Col. Winsby, 1081; 54th Battalion, under Lieut.-Col. Kembell, 1230; 52nd Battalion, under Lieut.-Col. Hulme 942; Field Ambulance, under Capt. Birker, 160.

When His Royal Highness with his staff and Cols. Ogilvie and Duff Stuart rode up to the parade grounds the troops gave the Royal Salute, presenting arms while "God Save the King" was played by the massed bands of the different units, which were stationed in the rear of the line. His Royal Highness then proceeded to inspect the battalions in detail and this was evidently done with great thoroughness. He has an unerring eye for the old soldier, and in each company, he picked them out, asking them where they had served and what length of service they had.

When this inspection was concluded the brigade moved to the right in fours, wheeled and marched past the saluting base in column of platoons, the 11th C. M. R. leading and being followed in order by the 47th, 54th and 52nd battalions. The battalions then turned about and marched past again in close column of companies, the massed bands playing the "New Colonial March." When all the units had passed the brigade wheeled into mass and advanced about 25 yards in front of the saluting point, and thousands of bayonets again glittered in perfect unison as they came to the Royal Salute with the command of "Present arms!" Equal precision was also displayed as the rifles went back to the "slope" and this was one of the prettiest and most effective parts of the review.

The Duke then led in three cheers for the King, after which the Camp Commandant, Col. Duff Stuart, led with cheers for His Royal Highness in which the crowd heartily participated.

The Duke's Address

The officers then advanced to the front and were addressed by the Duke who congratulated them very heartily on the fact that the parade he had witnessed that morning was the best he had been so far privileged to see during inspection in the whole of Canada. He had observed with pleasure the good spirit that existed between men of all ranks and their commanding officers. With Anglo-Saxons, an officer counted for a great deal, and as an old soldier himself, he knew they would always get their men to do what the officers set the example of doing. We had seen this time after time in the present war, we had seen how nobly the men from every part of the Empire had come forward to support their officers in the most dangerous situations and moments. It was this spirit, he was sure, that was going to help us through this war. "I am most grateful," His Royal Highness

proceeded, "as Governor General for the way the men of Canada have responded from the Atlantic to the Pacific and I wish to assure you gentlemen, that if I have not had the pleasure of being among you before, it was through no fault of mine. My wish was to come and see you long ago but the heavy work at Ottawa has made it impossible for me to travel so far to be present. Today I am amply repaid for this long journey. I am now seeing all the troops in the west, and I shall go back with the feeling that there is no part of Canada, and probably no part of the British Empire, where gentlemen and men of all ranks and all professions rallied to the colors as they have done in the west here. I have seen men by the hundred—all men of good physique, of good character, with a thoroughly good spirit in them—and I am convinced of this, that you have set a splendid example. It has often been mentioned in Eastern Canada how many men came from the west;—you have set them the example. I only hope that as the days roll by, and perhaps the newness of your duties is not as great as it was, you will in no ways relax the good discipline and good example I may depend on you gentlemen to show.

"I would like to thank all commanding officers, all company officers and all non-commissioned officers for the good work they are doing, and I wish to assure you, gentlemen, that my warmest interest will go with you wherever you are sent, and I feel convinced that whatever duties you are called upon to perform, you will do them with credit to yourselves and to the admiration of your fellow countrymen. I thank you, gentlemen, for the good parade you have given me today"

Camp Inspected

While the men were at dinner, the Duke inspected the camp, paying particular attention to the kitchen arrangements, and was pleased to say that this was the best brigade he had ever reviewed in Canada. His Royal Highness recognized in Sergt.-Major Mitten, of the 47th, a late member of his old regiment, the Rifle Brigade. He shook hands with him, and conversed at some length, recalling an incident which occurred many years ago at Aldershot.

Luncheon in Camp

His Royal Highness took luncheon with the officers of the camp in the brigade staff mess, the only civilians presented being Mayor W. H. Smith and Mr. G. A. Henderson, manager of the Bank of Montreal. During luncheon, the Duke spoke in high terms of praise to the Mayor on the splendid nature of the camp site and training ground which was by far, he said, the best he had seen in his tour of inspection across Canada. He also again commented very enthusiastically upon the splendid physique, fine appearance and general efficiency of the men he had inspected, repeating that it was the best parade he had seen in Canada, and that he would be proud to be a command of any of the battalions in camp.

The fine band of the 47th played during luncheon.

After luncheon, the Duke was driven around town by Col. Duff Stuart, and taken to the Internment Camp. His train pulled out for the coast at 3.15 p.m., and the crowd which assembled at the station cheered him as he left. His Royal Highness looked extremely "fit" and in his khaki uniform of a British Field Marshall, appeared younger than he did during his former visit to Vernon three years ago.

The Patriotic Fund

While here His Royal Highness, who is at the head of the Canadian Patriotic Fund, in which he takes a great interest, gave an interview by appointment with Mr. E. D. Watts, chairman of the Relief Committee, of the local branch, and discussed with him several details connected with the management of the fund.

A Memorable Event

The review yesterday will not soon be forgotten by those who had the privilege of witnessing it. One could not help but be thrilled with pride as these splendid body of troops, the equal, we believe, of any that were ever brought together in equal numbers in Canada swung by on parade.

Their bronzed faces seemed to be stamped with an eager and earnest expression that shows how grim is their determination to "do their bit" when the opportunity occurs. Their steady gait and the precision with which they executed the various evolutions of brigade drill spoke well of their careful training. Their spirit and their efficiency can not be doubted, and it is safe to say that when their time comes they will worthily uphold the splendid record made by our Canadian troops on the bloody fields of warfare, where they have gained such undying praise and glory.

HALF MILLION PAID BY BRITISH COLUMBIA

Contributions From Province to Patriotic Fund Reach a High Figure.

Vancouver, Sept. 11—British Columbia has contributed half a million dollars to various patriotic funds as is shown in the bulletin of the Canadian Patriotic Fund for August. Exclusive of New Westminster and Kamloops funds, the total collected in the province amounts to \$490,692. The Vancouver War Fund office estimates that