

# IRISH RANGERS TO HOLD PARADE

**Battalion Nearly Up to  
Strength, Supplies Many  
Men for Composites**

**NOW FULLY UNIFORMED**

**Canal Guards Turn Out April  
15—Col. Labelle and Lt.-Col  
R. Starke Continued With  
12th Brigade**

Great progress has been made of late by the 55th Irish Rangers. In fact, the main trouble with them is that they have developed into so fine a battalion that they are continually being drafted into the composite regiment on Peel street, which is being worked up to strength for the summer campaign at the canals. The Irishmen are now 435 strong, it was stated last night by Lieut.-Col. H. J. Trihey, drilling on the regular service four company platoon basis, and Lt.-Col. Trihey expects to muster 450 men by Saturday night, when recruit drill is held.

The battalion is now well equipped, and outfitted with uniforms for its full strength. The Rangers particularly admire their uniform, which is the regulation khaki service outfit, with green shoulder straps, while they also have a full equipment of great coats, caps, etc. As yet the men have not secured their puttees. It is planned that the battalion shall wear short tan leather gaiters in summer and the regulation puttees in winter, but the gaiters have not yet been supplied.

"We are all very proud of the success achieved by the Irish Rangers during the fall and winter drills," said Lt.-Col. Trihey last night. "Both officers and men have worked hard, and I have a good number of qualified officers on the staff now. The men have drilled steadily at the armory on Stanley street all winter, with company drill on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings for the different companies, and recruit drill on Saturday nights. Recruiting is carried on every drill night, under Capt. E. Knox-Leet, and we have been swearing in about 25 good men a week."

Within the past couple of weeks, seventy officers and men of the Rangers have been drafted into the composite battalion, and it is expected that half a hundred more will be turned over to Lt.-Col. Schneider's battalion within the next few days.

"That is one of the difficulties we have to face," said Lt.-Col. Trihey. "When you take 150 good officers and men out of a battalion of 450 it makes the rest look pretty slim. And these men all stay on our regimental roster. They go over to the composite battalion wearing the Rangers' uniform and accoutrements, and are even supplied with puttees. Of course it is all part of the service, and we are glad to see our men turn in with the composites and get a thorough drilling, but it keeps our apparent strength down. In spite of that, we expect to have a parade and route march in uniform about April 15th, when we hope to show the people what we have done with our work during the winter."

Three of the Rangers' officers are now at Halifax, qualifying for rank as Captain. These are Provisional Captains W. M. Weir, E. T. Reynolds and W. B. Kearney. They are expected back with their certificates about the 14th, in time for the first ceremonial march-out.

## DRAFTS FOR COMPOSITES.

Some rather exaggerated reports have been sent out regarding the composite battalion, which has been wintering under Lt.-Col. Schneider, and taking turns guarding bridges and other exposed spots. The regiment is not trying to get up to active service strength, but will take on about fifty more men in order to fill its ranks to resume the guard work on the canals with the opening of navigation, carrying their picket work up as far as Soulanges. This will not necessitate recruiting, as the composites draft men out of the other home service battalions, which has been found good for the latter, and also good for men who were not working.

It was stated yesterday by Col. E. W. Wilson that about 125 men from the composites had been sent to the alien camp at Spirit Lake, while a good many had gone on active service, which necessitated the present drafts to bring the regiment back to its usual strength of 600 officers and men. This is now being done, a number of drafts being made from the Irish Rangers, and the regular guard mounting along the canals will commence about April 15th.

## INSPECTING HOME GUARD.

This week Lt.-Col. Geo. R. Starke is holding his first inspection of all the units of the Montreal Home Guard. The regular drills will be held, when the C.O. will visit the detachments, inspecting them in section and company drill.

## COL. LORD BROOKE.

Militia Orders from Ottawa yesterday announced that Col. A. E. D. Labelle was continued as Brigade Commander of the 12th Infantry Brigade until March 22nd, 1916. Lt.-Col. Robert Starke is also continued as Brigade Major until the same date.

It is also announced that Colonel L. G. F. M. Lord Brooke, M.V.O. (8th Cyclist Battalion, the Essex Regiment) is granted the rank of Colonel in the Canadian Militia, with which Lord Brooke has been intimately associated for some years past.