

Veteran Soldier Honored

THIRTY-FIVE years work with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and sixty-two years service in the military forces of the British Empire have brought recognition and honour to Fred. L. Lydon, for the well-known veteran has been advanced by the big transportation system, and he has been made a Lieutenant-Colonel by the military authorities.

Born at Bermuda, West Indies, in 1838, the son of a father who came of a Galway, Ireland, family, Lieutenant-Colonel Lydon has had an interesting career. It is no wonder that his special outlet for activities lies in the military field; his father was a soldier, and on the paternal side also his grandfather fought as a private under the Duke of Wellington when Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo in 1815, on the maternal side his grandfather was soldier and secretary to the "Iron Duke," and also took his part in the overthrow of Napoleon. Both grandfathers fought through the Peninsula War.

"We Irish are shy to talk about our experiences," said Lieutenant-Colonel Lydon in an interview, "but I may say that it was in my blood to be a soldier. In 1854, when I was only fifteen years of age, I began service in England with the Dorset Militia. At the time of the Indian Mutiny I volunteered for service in the King's Royal Rifle, remaining in this regiment from 1857 until 1866. I had not an opportunity of doing duty at the Indian Mutiny. When the King's Own Rifles were coming to Canada in 1861 I came with them, arriving on the 12th July. Afterwards I spent two years in Quebec, two in Montreal, and a little while in London, Ontario."

Having spoken of the wonderful development of the Dominion during the last half century Lieutenant-Colonel Lydon went on to say that in 1866, when the Fenians raided Canada he was amongst those who went to meet them. "I remember the time well," he said, "for the hardest march of my life was that which brought us into touch with the invaders. We marched thirty-four miles in a day. At Ridgeway and Fort Erie we captured quite a number of the Fenians, who were badly organized and did not offer a vigorous resistance."

In December, 1866, he left the regular army and became adjutant-instructor of the 28th Perth Battalion, serving two years with this unit. In those days the employees of military age on the railway to which he was attached were volunteers under military control. He was an energetic organizer amongst them. Later he came to Montreal and re-organized the "5th Royals," and was their adjutant-instructor for many years. The "5th Royals" was the parent of the present 5th Royal Highlanders. In 1889 Lieutenant-Colonel Lydon broke new territory and organized two companies of Scotch Highland Cadets. This undertaking was most successful, for the companies gradually increased until there are now eight of them formed into one unit known as the Highland Cadet battalion. "These are my children," proceeded the veteran. "We gave eighty to the South African War, and to the present conflict we gave between four hundred and five hundred. I am still commander of the cadets."

"I did not seek any promotion," said Lieutenant-Colonel Lydon. "I was content to work as I had been working, but I had a letter from Major-General E. W. Wilson, dated March 26 of this year, telling me that I have been made a Lieutenant-Colonel on the retired list." He then produced a letter from Major-General W. E. Hodgins, of the Adjutant-General's Office, Ottawa, which stated that the promotion was: "A recognition of your long, faithful and valuable services to the militia, and which are much appreciated by us older men, who know what you have done."

Besides having such a distinguished military career Lieutenant-Colonel Lydon has a good railway record. He has been in the General Ticket Department of the Canadian Pacific Railway for thirty-five years, and he has watched the company develop and spread its branches all over the world. The veteran railroad man under review was at the opening of the first general office at Place d'Armes, and during his connection with the C. P. R. has become widely known and deservedly popular with the public.

It was a surprise to Lieutenant-Colonel Lydon when, on the morning of March 31st, he was summoned to the office of Lord Shaughnessy, President of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and was appointed to assist on the re-organizing staff of the First Aid Branch of the company, with office in the department of Mr. George Bury, Vice-President. This means considerable advancement. It is a happy coincidence that two splendid recognitions came at the same time to crown a long life's worthy labour.



FRED. L. LYDON.

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT CHRISTCHURCH CATHEDRAL

Second Anniversary of the Great Battle of Ypre Fittingly Commemorated---A Large Congregation in Attendance---Overseas Troops, Ladies' Volunteer Reserve and War Veterans in great Parade--Eloquent Sermon by Rev. Dean Neales.

The memorial service held Sunday afternoon at Christchurch Cathedral for the Canadians killed in the present war was attended by a congregation which overtaxed the seating accommodation. Many stood during the service. The latter was most impressive. The weather was ideal and large crowds lined the streets to see the procession to and from the Cathedral.

The procession formed in Queen street west at 2.15 p.m., Major Frank Eason, of the 236th, who was mounted, acting as marshal, with Sergt. Major J. J. Hanlon of the European War Veterans' Association, as assistant.

The color bearer, Company Sergeant Major Appleby, of the 236th Highlanders, led the procession, carrying a large Canadian ensign. The remainder was as follows:

Frederick Street Band.
Veterans of European and other wars.

Disabled veterans in motor cars.
Women's Volunteer Reserve.
236th Battalion pipe band.
236th Highland Battalion.

The procession marched to Christchurch Cathedral via Queen and Church streets and entered by the west door. The soldiers and W. V. R. sat in the centre of the church and seats were reserved for the relatives of those who had fallen in action.

The Order of Service.

The order of service was as follows:
Organ prelude, Rest in the Lord, from Mendelssohn's Elijah.

Processional Hymn, No. 236, "The Son of God Goes Forth to War."
Psalms XLVI and CXXI.

The Lesson.

Anthem from Burial Service, "Man that is born of woman."

Prayers.

Hymn 225, "How bright these glorious spirits shine."

Address—Very Rev. Scovill Neales.

"Last Post," sounded by Sgt. Drummer R. A. Gregory, 236th Battalion.

Hymn 219, "For all the saints who from their labors rest."

National anthem.

Benediction.

Recessional Hymn, 457, "Fight the good fight."

Organ postlude, "Dead March in Saul," by Handel.

Finale, "War March of the Priests," from Mendelssohn's Athalia.

Dean Neales' Address.

Very Rev. Dean Neales based his address on the text, Gospel of St. John xv., 13: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for another."

He introduced his remarks by reference to the fact that the days through which we pass are those in which history is being made. Events were marching swiftly. If early in 1914 anyone had been told that within a few months four hundred thousand Canadians would have volunteered for service in a world war, that the majority of them would have gone overseas, and there performed deeds of valor at which the world would stand amazed, how improbable it would have seemed! But it had come to pass that it was the simple truth, and that congregation was gathered together to commemorate the deeds of those who had fallen.

The Great Captain gave voluntary service and had served even unto death. And so in giving voluntary service those who had fallen in battle had fallen in His footsteps and had recalled the words of the Great Master in this: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for another." Death to them had not seemed terrible for in their case death was the greatest glory. An English father whose two sons had been killed in action upon the same day, well had said, "Christ looks upon them as His comrades in arms."

Let those who mourned for loved ones fallen in battle remember that they had died in the most glorious cause—for the freedom of Canada, as well as for the freedom of the whole world. It had been proven beyond a doubt that Germany had had intentions upon Canada. Overwhelming evidence pointed out that the aim of a perfidious Germany was the subjugation of Europe and the destruction of the British Empire. In the glorious days of peace to come, the memory of those brave men by whose blood peace was purchased, would never die, for they had died to bring about a reign of high principles and honor. And to those who intended to carry on the work of those who had fallen, too much could not be done, nor too high honor paid.

No law, human or divine, could bind the conscience of the perfidious German nation. At a time when all the advanced nations of the earth were attempting to bring about the settlement of international disputes by agreement or arbitration, Germany alone had stood aloof, animated by an intention to use her military power to crush the world, irrespective of treaty or agreement. No nation could regard its rights as secure if guarded by nothing more than a treaty with that people. To put an end to this state of German oppression and attempted domination, the Allied nations were prepared to make the greatest outpouring of blood and treasure. God grant that the sacrifice be not in vain.

The Return March.

The procession reformed in Church street and marched to the Barrack Square via Church and Queen streets. The different units formed on the square and were addressed briefly by Lieut. Col. P. A. Guthrie, officer commanding the 236th Battalion.

BANK BURGLARS STUNG.

Blew Open Vault at Lardner, B. C., but Found No Money.

Lardner, B. C., April 21.—Burglars blew the combination off the vault of the local branch of the Royal Bank yesterday. It is not believed they secured any money.

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