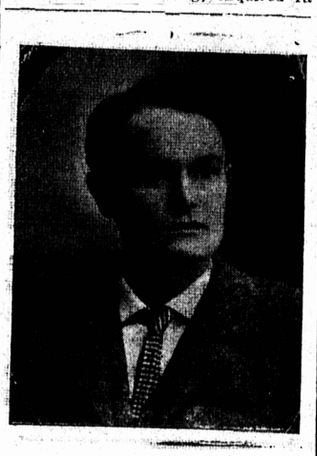
ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE OF PAARDEBERG CELEBRATED BY P. E. ISLAND VETERANS

Addresses by Rev. Dr. Fullerton, Col. Moore, Major Weeks, U. S. Consul Frost and others. Proposal to place annual celebration on more permanent footing heartily endorsed as an encouragement to the spirit of Patriotism among the youth of the Country

There was a large gathering in the Armouries on Friday evening when, amidst keen enthusiasm, the anniversary of Paardeberg was celebrated by a Re-Union of the Veterans. The majority of those who attended were attired in uniform, and they presented a striking spectacle as they took their seats when the President, the Rev. Dr. T. F. Fullerton, opened the proceedings.

There was first a piano solo by Professor F. T. Watkis, who was loudly applauded on an excellent performance.

Dr. Fullerton then delivered an address which was characterised by unusual eloquence. It was fitting, he said, that a few remarks should be made as to why they celebrated Paardeberg. He need not tell them, who were interested in the South African campaign and its issue, that the day was celebrated throughout the length and breadth of this great Dominion. (Hear, hear.) Every Governor General, since the battle, had celebrated the occasion in Government House; but in addition to the official celebration in Ottawa there was also a gathering, such as they had there that evening, in every province, meeting with the approbation of the citizens and partaking more or less of a military nature. Therefore one justifiable reason why they celebrated Paardeberg here was that they were keeping in line with the leading men in Canada. In this Island more than in most parts of Canada they realized it to be a bounden duty to assemble on the 27th of February that they might express their admiration for the splendid characters of those connected with our Island who so nobly laid down their lives for the Empire on that occasion. The part the Canadians played in the great campaign, particularly in the issue of Paardeberg, was not making for war; it was making for peace. He need not tell them how official diplomacy and deceit actually played a prominent part in setting the whole press of Europe against Britain. Hated she was. But when in her calamity she was precipitated in that campaign in South African and many of those in Europe thought that she had met with a country and a fight that would simply overwhelm her—and for a time it looked as though it might be thus—but when men from the Antipodes, Ceylon, India, and Canada rallied round the standard—then was England despised no longer, but feared, as she still is, by the European Powers today, simply because it was realized that we stand together, that we cannot be severed in our interests, that he who injures South Africa injures Canada, Australia as well as the Mother Country, and that the force that would do wrong to Canada would at the same time injure Australia, India, Africa and the Mother Land. Never was Britain in this great Empire so welded together as she is today, and it was a satisfaction, said the speaker, to know that the blood of our young Islanders had gone to cement that strong—he would say unbreakable—unity. He respected the man who stood up for peace, and he would say that no man desired peace more than they who had been through the great campaign. But, when they considered the dark times in Europe, where would Europe be if Napoleon in his ambition, in his rapacity, in his cruelty, had been allowed to exercise ungoverned sway over the whole of Europe? Would it not have made the finger of civilization go back on the dial? Those men who believed that we were spending too much on arms and on the Navy should take into consideration the fact that these things were forced upon us by conditions that we did not create and circumstances that we could not control. The speaker referred to what had occurred in the German Parliament recently when they simply laughed at the proposal to have a holiday in the building of ships for the Navy. They simply looked upon it as an English "bluff," to use an American expression, and they were prepared to add no fewer than three great Dreadnoughts per year beginning in 1916. Both parties in Canada had acknowledged that they had a perfect right to contribute to the defence of their country. They might differ in details, but they had settled in the most definite way that Canada has a part to play and that if she is to retain her manhood and self-respect she must oplay that part. (Cheers.) The Doctor here related a story of the men who were hunting the boars. One of the men jumped into a cave and an old boar rushed madly after him; but he had just reached the mouth of the cave when the man outside grabbed him by the tail and thus prevented his tearing after the hapless chap inside. After some delay the fellow in the cave, impatient and anxious to know what his comrade was doing, enquired rather sharply "what was the matter?" The reply came promptly from without: "If the tail breaks you will soon know what's wrong." (There was here an outburst of laughter that could not be restrained.) "If we abolish the forces that exist today," said Dr. Fullerton when he could make himself heard above the applause, "our commerce must remain unprotected, our position of eminence must be surrendered, and the glory in which we revel, and rightly too, will be lost forever. We stand, as Tennyson said, for one Flag, one Fleet, one Throne; and that should thrill us, particularly on an occasion like this, when we recall the fact that two of our best sons laid down their lives in honor of the Flag. (Loud Cheers.)"



ALFRED RIGGS
Killed at Paardeberg, Feb. 27, 1900.

COULD NOT BE TACKLED.

The speaker went on to say that they could never do too much in honor of the day they celebrated. It was not too much of a good thing, as was the case in the following story which he told, of the farmer whose cow died and, without ado, was salted for consumption by him and his family. A sheep was unfortunate enough to die after the cow and the farmer's son John was sent to bring up another supply of salt, which was applied to the carcass, which in turn was used to stock the larder. Later on a sow died and the same process of preservation was observed. At length the farmer's mother severed her earthly connection with the family, and with religious regularity, John was ordered to get the salt. But John raised strenuous objections here. "I tackled all the rest," he protested, "but I can't eat my grand-mother." (Loud laughter and cheers.)

"Some things people would like abolished for ever," continued the Doctor, "but we are perfectly justified in honouring this day, that by its success, brought about by the action of the Canadian contingents in conjunction with the Royal Engineers, meant the surrender of Cronje, which meant the breaking of the battle, a success in turn that meant that Europe stood more in fear of the British Arms, of what we call Imperialism, than ever before!" Dr. Fullerton was heartily applauded on the conclusion of his address. He offered, on behalf of Mr. Hyndman and Dr. Bagnall, apologies for their inability to attend. They had sent their regrets, he said, and wished them to be expressed there. He also wished to thank the many who had generously and spontaneously contributed to make the celebration the success that they were bound to make it. (Applause.)

Mr. Arthur Bruce was called upon to give a solo, which he sang well and for which he was loudly cheered. He was followed by Mr. Parker Hooper, who was encored for an excellent song.

The Chairman then requested Col. Moore to speak. The Colonel said that he was delighted to be present to assist in celebrating the day which was observed all over the British Empire. He was pleased to realize that in Prince Edward Island there were as good grounds for the celebration as anywhere else. The smallest colony in Canada, the Island had been asked to furnish a contingent. It was the first time in the history of the province that such a call had come to it, and on the morning of the day on which the despatch reached him, asking him to enroll a contingent for service away out in South Africa, he felt a little nervous lest the men here would look upon it as rather a large order, to enlist for active service at such a distance from home. They knew nothing of conditions in South Africa, only that the soldiers of the Queen were engaged. Intimation was made through the press that men would be enrolled, and from an early hour on the morning after that announcement he had callers at his house. Two or three were keenly anxious to enlist. He asked them if they realized what it meant, if they realized that the task they were asked to undertake was not going to a summer picnic. But to his joy he found that the men were thoroughly in earnest. They had counted the costs; and during the two or three days which it took to enroll them others went to him urging that they too might be enrolled. Instead of the contingent which was sent they could easily have sent twice the number. He had received a telegram enquiring whether he could increase the number and he had replied in the affirmative, adding that, if necessary, the number might be doubled. When the men left for South Africa it was realized that the Island was sending a contingent of which it need not be ashamed; they were good men and true, able physically, able intellectually and able morally to take their place in the ranks beside any man sent from any other part of the Dominion. The result proved that they were what they were claimed to be. Should such a call come again, the speaker had no doubt whatever that Prince Edward Island would be true to the reputation which it had gained. He believed that it was the duty of every man to do his share towards defending his home and supporting and defending the flag under which he lived. "The day is coming when our men will be ready when called upon. The Lord only knows what is in the future, and I am glad to see that our country is endeavoring to do its part. The time is not far distant when we shall not be ashamed of the position we occupy and when Canada will do its whole duty towards the defence of the Empire. I trust that Paardeberg will never be allowed to pass without some celebration such as this. In the little room yonder I had the pleasure of enlisting the men, and I felt that it was one of the proudest episodes in my life—the occasion to do that. (Applause)" Such were the concluding words of the Colonel.

The Chairman:—It is certainly significant that the contingent in South Africa that stood solidly together without one break or lapse was the combined contingent that came from the provinces of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. (Cheers.)

Lieut. Bethune gave a recitation, into which he put expression and vivacity, on "The Charge of the Light Brigade," and it was a pleasure beyond doubt to hear him. He was, of course, applauded. Then followed Lieut. Ritchie and Dr. Robins in a well sung duet. Major Weeks was next asked by the Chairman to address the gathering.

INTERESTING TELEGRAMS

"One of the contracts I made when getting up this affair," said the Major, "was that I was not to say anything or do anything tonight. (Voice in the audience: Question and laughter.) Since I am on my feet, however, I must say that I am glad to be here tonight to meet our brother officers and citizens of Charlottetown in celebration of that momentous event. I shall read two little, things of interest—telegrams sent on the occasion of the South African War." Major Weeks here read the telegrams. The first was: Brigade Orders of the the Nineteenth Brigade, issued June 5th. The Brigade was composed of Royal Canadians, with the Cornwall Shropshires and the Gordon Highlanders. The telegram read: "The Nineteenth Brigade has achieved a record of which any infantry might be proud. Since the day it was formed, February 12, 1900, it has marched six hundred and twenty miles often on half and seldom on full rations." Another telegram was from the Secretary of State for the Colonies and was dated March 6, 1900. It stated "Canada and the Empire have cause for pride in the achievements of the Royal Canadian Regiment. The announcement of their enthusiasm has been enthusiastically received in Parliament and elsewhere. We send hearty congratulations while deploring your casualities." Major Weeks read another telegram from General Smith-Dorien to the Canadians on their departure from South Africa. Major Weeks concluded by strongly endorsing all that had been said in support of military training. "The day is coming," he said, "when universal training will be necessary." The Major was warmly applauded.

The Chairman: It was discussed which of the four infantry regiments should be used to make the advance to close quarters on Cronje's laager. Gen. Smith Dorien and Col. of the Shropshires had the whole matter in their hands. They hesitated about sending the Canadians, as they were untried men and had never been to close quarters; but a feeling prevailed that they should at least have that opportunity. I need not tell you how well they seized the opportunity. No such advance was known previously in the history of British annals. As the attacking party advanced to within 620 paces of the enemy on that 27th of February, 1900, the men in the foremost company were men of Prince Edward Island. (Cheers). And it was the actual audacity and daring of those men that so staggered the Boers that they at once threw down their arms. I have no hesitation in saying that hundreds of lives were spared in that way that, had the seige continued, would have been mutilated. Therefore while we celebrate a feat in arms we also celebrate an exercise of mercy that has always characterized the use of arms in connection with our Great Empire.

Dr. Fullerton, proceeding to say that it was an impossibility for Britain and the United States to be at war in view of the advance of civilisation, added, "We rejoice to have here a representative of that great country to the south of us and it will give us much pleasure to hear Mr. Frost."

Mr. Frost replied that he very greatly appreciated what had been said by Dr. Fullerton; but a civilian among militiamen felt like a jackdaw among peacocks. (Laughter). Ten years had now elapsed since the conclusion of the great struggle, and the outstanding features had shaped themselves in the minds of people. It seemed to him that everyone had now decided that England's was the side of civilisation and progress in the Boer War. The high rating of the Boer as a fighting man had diverted his low rating as a man in ordinary life. Mr. Frost recited Kipling's "Tommy Atkins" and at the conclusion of it he was given unstinted applause.

Following this was an excellent solo by Mr. Webb Stanley.

The Hon. W. S. Stewart, President of the Board of Trade, was then requested by the Chairman to speak. Mr. Stewart said he scarcely knew by what name to address the Chairman for he (the Chairman) had been the very centre and circumference of these Paardeberg meetings. (Hear, hear and applause.) The speaker had always felt the greatest admiration for the volunteer militia movement in this province ever since his earliest recollection. It was well that they should occasionally step aside from the ordinary, everyday duties of life and consider what was done some fourteen years ago, when Prince Edward Island men took such a splendid and admirable move in South Africa. Twenty-eight years ago, at the time of the rebellion in the North West, Prince Edward Island went to arms ready to march to the West. they were ready to defend their homes. At the time of the South African War two or three men volunteered for every one that went out. (Hear, hear.) We would be ungrateful if we did not go eagerly to the assistance of the Empire in times of stress, since the British Empire had always stood behind us against the attacks of foreign Powers and against our own internecine strife. (Applause.) He thought Dr. Fullerton deserved a great deal of credit for having brought the Veterans together.—(From Dr. Fullerton cries of "No, no" smothered by vehement cheering.) He was pleased to be present to add his words of appreciation of what was done by Prince Edward Island in 1899. (Cheers).

Captain Shaw was the next speaker, who, after a few short preliminary remarks by way of introduction, recited a humorous poem called "Filon," which was well received.

Colonel Stewart, in reply to the Chairman, said he was not prepared to say anything that night. However, he was pleased to be present. He had been present at every one of the previous meetings and every year it had been increasing in interest,

ROLAND TAYLOR.
Killed at Paardeberg, Feb. 18, 1900.

which showed that those who were present were enthusiastic in the matter. He did not think that any mistake was made in the selection of the contingent that was chosen to represent the Island in South Africa. They did honour to themselves, to Canada, to Prince Edward Island and, above all, to the British Empire. (Cheers.)

The Chairman, thanking Colonel Peake for having allowed the use of the Armouries and for his excellent help in carrying out the celebration, asked that gentleman to say something. Col. Peake made a brief speech in reply, expressing his pleasure at being in attendance.

As the Mayor was not present, said the Chairman, the next best person was the ex-Mayor. He would therefore call upon Mr. Paton to speak.

AN EX-MAYOR SPEAKS.

Mr. Paton said it was certainly an unexpected call on him. It was as unexpected a call as was the call on those who went to South Africa, but he would do his duty as they did. (Laughter.) He was on the Atlantic when his fellow-countrymen were fighting, and when he arrived in the Old Country he felt anxious to know how the Charlottetown men fared. He was eager to get the newspapers to find out what the Canadian soldiers, and particularly our own men who had left the province, were doing. In the first paper he got hold of he read the announcement of the death of Riggs. On reaching Liverpool he was met on the pier by a number of Englishmen, with some of whom he had been acquainted for many years, and it gave him great pleasure to hear what had been done by our men who went out to Africa. All during his stay in England that spring he felt almost like wishing that he had been a Canadian and not a Scotsman, simply because of what the Prince Edward Island men were doing. (Cheers.) The Boer War was the means of attracting attention to Canada. It was the first really good advertisement that Canada had got. When Ladysmith was taken he sent out a cable to the "Patriot" congratulating the men who had performed their duty, and so well, for Canada and the British nation as well. He had had the pleasure to be present at nearly all of the re-unions and he was very pleased to be present there that night. He would be very sorry to see these gatherings cease, and he thought they should be held in the house not very far from the Armouries. (Hear, hear and applause.)

Dr. Fullerton next called on Mr. Cosh to sing a solo, for which, rendered in excellent style, that gentleman was loudly applauded.

The company at this stage retired to the refreshment room, where they helped themselves to coffee, tea, cake and other delicacies.

After luncheon the second part of the programme was led by a vocal solo by Professor Barlow, the audience joining in the chorus. This was a well-rendered song. Following it was a solo by Lieut. Ritchie, whose merit needs no superfluous comment. Mr. DeWitt Cairns, of the Prince Edward Theatre, was invited by the Chairman to give a song. Mr. Cairns, after singing "Long Live the King" in a voice that thrilled the audience, was forced to respond to a vociferous encore.

Lieut. McRae, in a brief speech, said he thought he expressed the feelings of every one of his comrades, when he said that they appreciated the enthusiasm which was evidenced in the celebration. He urged strongly the importance and necessity of universal military traing.

Mr. R. H. Campbell, Superintendent of Education, said that there was no doubt that the South African War was one of the great crises in the British Empire. If the call had not been answered as it was the Empire would have begun to decay. Why should Prince Edward Island have become so much interested and excited over the War? It was thousands of miles away. It was with no desire to have advertisement that we fought. We fought because we were British; and we would fight in every War in which Great Britian might be engaged, simply because we were British. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Campbell strongly advocated military training. It was national crime to neglect it.

A quartette, Lieut. Ritchie, Sgt. Bruce, Lieut. Hooper and ex-Sgt. Robins, sang after Mr. Campbell's speech and were encored.

Col. Crocket begged to be excused speech-making, saying that he had come as a listener; but the Chairman, reminding him amidst much laughter that it was the soldier's duty to obey, ordered him to proceed. In the circumstances the Colonel could do nothing but speak. He expressed his pleasure at being present and was about to sit down when someone called on him to recite the Union Jack. Protest on the genial Colonel's part was futile and he had to go ahead with his recitation, which the audience would hear a thousands times over again.

Lieut. Bethune toen gave another recitation, which was followed by a song by Mr. Cosh.

Col. Davidson was the next speaker. He said he was pleased to hear the telegrams read by Major Weeks. Considered proportionately, the largest percentage of those who left Canada for South Africa were from Prince Edward Island. (Cheers) He had now retired to private life, and speaking as an ordinary citizen he thought that the celebration of Paardeberg Day should no longer be borne by those few of the Veterans who remained. He thought it was the duty of the citizens to entertain the Veterans. He said that there was no more loyal spot in all Canada than P. E. Island. He wished to endorse everything that had been said that night.

Dr. Fullerton, in a few closing remarks, said that that night was unquestionably one of the best and most social he had ever spent. From the standpoint of culture and entertainment, it had been exceptionally well spent. In the name of and on behalf of the South African Veterans' Association to which he had the honour to belong and of which he was proud to be President (although) he did not know who made him President or when he was made so—laughter) he begged to thank those who had entertained them so well. He was satisfied that in these meetings they were doing a great deal for the social, moral and national well being of Canada. He thought that they had sounded a social note so strongly that they might rise and sing the Scottish National Anthem. This was done. The American Anthem was then sung, Mr. Frost leading. And then, "in the wee sma' hours o' the morning," "God Save the King" closed an enjoyable night's entertainment—not quite closed it, however, for three lusty and resonant cheers had first to be given for the genial President, whose presence went a long way towards the success of the evening.

QUEEN SQUARE MONUMENT.

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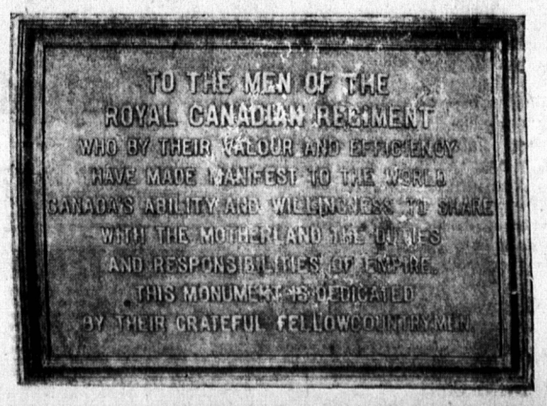

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