

JUNE SPORTS AT ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE

By A. M. GOING

JUNE is the Queen of the Seasons at the Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston, Ontario. Youth looks out of radiant eyes beneath the steadfast brows under a jaunty *Pill box* and the affair of the moment, be it work or play, is undertaken with a right good will by the Gentlemen Cadets.

Across the vivid green of the campus, set between the gray limestone buildings, blows the summer breeze, cooled by its journey across Lake Ontario and fragrant with the perfume of flowering shrubs; at the end of Point Frederick, the St. Lawrence River begins its long journey to the sea, and across Navy Bay, where in 1788 Lord Dorchester established the largest naval shipyard of the Great Lakes, Fort Henry crowns the hilltop.

The scarlet and white of the blazers and flannels of the cadets make brighter the campus and quadrangle and here and there is the sombre khaki of the officers and the subordinate staff.

The riding school, the artillery shed and the gym are busy places, for although the examinations proper are over in May, the visit of the governors and the inspection take place in June and the mounted sports are one of the earlier events of the month.

Quietly behind all the activities stands the Colonel-Commandant, Col. C. F. Constantine, D.S.O., and his staff. These men, who held commands on the battlefields of

Europe during the Great War, wear, on dress occasions, many medals, and one of them, Capt. F. M. Harvey, who will shortly be transferred to Calgary, has the honor of wearing the most coveted decoration in the British Army, the Victoria Cross. They are disciplined soldiers and have learned the wisdom and tact with which to discipline others and also the secret that "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" so are ready to lead the boys in sports and in gaieties as well as in work. Associated with them are educationalists who have won honor in their profession.

The first of the gaieties that crowd the three weeks of June before the closing and the big ball, which will this year be held, June 20, is the mounted sports. Motors filled with Kingstonians will cross La Salle Causeway and pass through the great arch, the gift of the graduates of the Royal Military College to their Alma Mater to honor and preserve the names of those who for "Truth, Duty and Valor" gave their lives in the Great War.

From farther afield, too, will motor parents, sisters and friends of the cadets who will gather along the edge of the campus and will watch the lads ride forth, lance in rest through the medieval looking gateway of the high looped wall of Fort Frederick. Like young knights of old to a

tourney they come galloping over the grass and tent pegging, hurdle races and the favorite *Balaclava Melee* are run off amidst much enthusiasm. The band of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery plays near the staff enclosure where the flag floats and tea is brought to the guests by the first class cadets. The prizes are presented by Mrs. C. F. Constantine, who is a great favorite with the boys under her husband's command, and the senior under officer, B. S. N. Archibald, will present her with a large bouquet of red and white flowers tied with the college colors and three cheers and a tiger will be given with a will for the commandant's wife.

Across the campus on the shore of Navy Bay stands a building of a different appearance from



Motors filled with guests pass through the medieval gateway and edge the greens where these modern knights run off hurdle, sword and tent pegging events and the more spectacular "Balaclava Melee"



First of the gaieties to crowd the last three weeks of R.M.C.'s academic year, is the sports. Recreational gymnastics of the most intricate order are carried out with precision and the smoothness of silk

the others in the public group. No wonder it is different for it is the oldest building in use in Ontario. It is of sandstone and is now used for dormitories, but it still goes by the strange name of *The Stone Frigate*. It was built when the activities of the naval yard at Navy Bay were at their height and with a grant from the British Government given to provide a frigate for use on Lake Ontario. The Canadian military and naval authorities did not consider the frigate necessary but a building for offices for the staff of the navy yards was needed so they compromised by getting the building they wanted and calling it *The Stone Frigate*. The Martello Tower behind the earthworks at the point is known as Fort Frederick. It was built in the early forties on the site of an older fort which was occupied by British troops during the war of 1812 and it was at that time the earthworks were thrown up. Lieut. General Sir A. C. Macdonell, the former Commandant of R.M.C., turned the tower into a war museum and an excellent collection of relics of the Great War

is to be found here by the interested visitor.

The week-end of the closing is a gay one for Kingston. Every hostess opens her doors to the girls from Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Hamilton and other towns who come to the gray old garrison city of Ontario to brighten it with their merry laughter and smart frocks. The Kingston girls arrange tea dances and on the Saturday before the closing a dinner dance is held at the Cataragui Golf and Country Club.

The first official event of the week-end is the Sunday church parade to St. George's Cathedral, which has been a garrison church for nearly a century and a half. The graduating class of cadets gives the profusion of red and white blossoms that adorn the altar and chancel and they are allowed to choose the hymns, one always being *Fight the Good Fight* in which according to a time-honored custom the cadets, sitting in their gallery under the huge war memorial flag, on which are nearly one thousand maple leaves, one hundred and twenty-five of them red, keep

silence during the third verse, coming in lustily in the fourth. Another time honored custom is that of collecting coppers and giving them in the offertory plate. This used to be done as vigorously as possible but the clergy said "less noise" so *Copper Sunday* is a milder affair nowadays. For the official closing and the annual June Ball come officials from Ottawa, frequently the minister of militia, and "brass hats" by the score, some of them graduates of R. M. C., coming down to see "how they do things nowadays".

The presentation of the sword of honor, the commissions and diplomas and prizes is held in the morning in the Sir Arthur Currie Hall. This fine hall was built to commemorate the valor of the Canadian corps in the Great War. At the entrance is a bronze tablet with the inscription *The Sir Arthur Currie Hall*, named in honor of General Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.; the victorious native-born commander of the Canadian corps in the Great War. A portrait of General Currie is on the wall to the right of the entrance, and on the oak panelling of the gallery are painted the badge and battle-patch of the units which represented Canada on the western front during the war. In a place of honor nearest the stage are the emblems of the 1st Canadian Division, "The Old Red Patch"; "The Old Guard" of the Canadian Corps which set the pace from Valcartier to the bridge-head at Cologne and of which Lieutenant General Sir A. C. Macdonell, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., was in command. Portraits of the Canadian generals, the coats of arms of the provinces and other interesting details commemorating

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