

# RETURNED OFFICERS PROMISE SUPPORT TO RE-ORGANIZATION OF FAMOUS 52ND

## At Banquet In Honor Of Brig. Gen. Hill Problems Of Local Militia Are Discussed

With a two-fold object in view, that of welcoming to the head of the lakes the distinguished visitor and soldier, Brigadier General Hill, C. B., C. M. G., D. S. O., and of taking the initial steps to establish a new battalion here to perpetuate in its name and personnel the memory of the 52nd battalion, taking the place of the old 96th Lake Superior, though not forgetful of the 96th's fine record, a very enjoyable dinner and officer's re-union was held at the Prince Arthur hotel, Port Arthur, at eight o'clock last evening.

Colonel Milton Francis was toastmaster, and after the loyal toast of "The King" had been musically honored, the toast of "Our Guest" was proposed, musical honors being also accorded to Brigadier-General Hill.

### General Hill

In responding to the toast, General Hill said that while overseas their thoughts often turned to the re-unions they hoped for when they returned to Canada. He little thought it would be his good fortune to attend the first re-union of officers in Port Arthur. They

had in the 9th brigade four splendid battalions. He would not make comparisons, because they were all of equal merit, but he wished to pay a warm tribute to the 52nd battalion. They never felt safer than when the 52nd had a job to do, and it always did its work and had a cheerful way of doing it, and upheld the honor of the 9th brigade.

### Still Work to do

There were other things they ought to think about now besides patting themselves on the back. They had to consider what they had to do now. He

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### TONIGHT

Orpheum—Vaudeville and moving pictures.

Royal—Moving pictures.

City council meeting, city hall, 7.30.

Carpenters and joiners meeting in trades and labor hall, 8.

Royal lodge A. F. and A. M., 453  
Fort William ball in G. W. V. A. hall.

### LOCAL READINGS

Highest ..... 70 above

Lowest ..... 56 above

Temperature at 2.50 today .. 53 above

Barometer ..... 30.38

Wind velocity N. E. 18 miles per hour.

Precipitation ..... .02

# RETURNED OFFICERS

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thought it was perfectly sound reasoning to say that a man's responsibilities increased according to the reputation he had gained. They had come back, and in the future would still have work to do

## Must Not Sit Down

"There are young people growing up in Canada," said General Hill "who look to us as an example, and we must pass on to them for their benefit and for the Canada for which we have been fighting the experience we have gained. We must not sit down.

"There must be a Canadian militia always. There must always be an armed force. Are we going to let somebody

run it who knows nothing about it? I would like to come to Port Arthur and fish for a whole year. Nothing would please me better than to be rid of all the trials and tribulations we have been going through for the past five years. I don't think, though, that it would be fair to Canada or fair to my comrades to do so. Let us help Canada; let us revive interest in our military institutions and in doing so let us remember that we maintain the honor and credit of the 52nd battalion as a fighting unit. Let us revive the 52nd battalion, assisted by the officers of their units, perpetuate it and have some unit which will be able to maintain in its own possession the battle honors which have been won.

## Perpetuate the 52nd

"I trust that before long we shall see the 96th in a position to perpetuate the 52nd, or, should I say, the 52nd through the machinery which the 96th affords, able to perpetuate itself, and form a nucleus, of men of these two cities who may band themselves together in a reasonably welltrained force which will be an example to other parts of Canada. I know that the spirit of the 52nd still exists.

## To Pave the Way for Canada

"This is the first time that I have

been at one of the re-unions that I have always promised myself. I thought I would start at the west and gradually come to Port Arthur and stop at the "effete east." but I have started in the middle. I trust that, when the history of this year is written as far as the militia is concerned, the military spirit of Port Arthur and Fort William will pave the way for the rest of Canada." (Loud cheers.)

#### **The 96th.**

Colonel S. C. Young, who responded to the toast of "The 96th regiment," which was honored by singing of "Should old acquaintance be forgot," spoke at some length on the misdirection of the foreign population of Canada, and said the boards of trade and great war veterans' associations should take matter up with the government, and see to it that the foreigners, instead of holding down soldiers' jobs in the various industries, should be sent on the farms for which purpose they were originally brought out from their own country by immigration propaganda.

#### **The Militia Situation**

The speaker then dwelt upon the militia situation. He said that for the establishment of a regiment two essentials were required, competent, trained officers and competent, trained men, both of which essentials were to hand in Canada now. General Hill had asked him to reorganize the 96th. He solicited their support and co-operation, to hold together the 52nd, part of the 26th, 44th, 8th and other battalions "We must have more than your sympathy," said Colonel Young; "we must have your service."

He suggested that they make the service for one year; for himself, he wished to retire into private life, but he was so thoroughly imbued with the fact that their work was not done yet that he had consented to carry on. (Cheers.)

Colonel Milton Francis then asked for a general discussion.

General Hill said that, if they would make any success of the militia, they must perpetuate the name of those magnificent battalions which had fought overseas.

#### **A Boost for the 96th**

Major Ruttan threw some life into the round-table talk by a passionate defence of the 96th. "The 96th seems to have got a black eye," he said, "and it is not coming to them. Out of thirty original officers of the 96th twenty-five went across. But people seem to laugh at the 96th. Of the N. C. O.'s there was no; one that did not go across. They went by the score. But the people round these two cities laugh at the 96th and they have no business to."

Lieutenant Skinner—The number of the regiment is 96, and all told 96 officers have turned out for the war. (Cheers.)

#### **An Elloquent Appeal**

(Cheers.)

### An Elloquent Appeal

Lieutenant J. E. Griffith's said that on the battelfields of France, the 96th's name was not known. Of the three local battalions in one name only stood out, the 52nd's. When the history of the war was written, the name of the 96th would not be shown, but the 52nd would live in history. They were making history today, and when in future years their young sons grew up and entered the Canadian militia they would look with pride up on the record of the fighting battalion, and they must do all they could to perpetuate the history of the 52nd. He suggested "New Ontario" for the name of the new regiment; they must be broad-minded enough to sing the old traditions and build up the new. The name of "New Ontario" would do more to bring men into the new militia than the name "96th" would do.

### Officers of Help

Colonel Young obtained the names of twenty officers in the room who promised then and there to do all they could to help in the work of organization, and ten others promised to think it over.

### The G. W. V. A.

With the toast of "The Great War Veterans" were coupled the names of Captain Douglas Kerr, of the Fort William branch and of Private H. E. A. Rogers, secretary of the Port Arthur branch. Captain Kerr reviewed in brief and entertaining fashion the work of the Fort William branch. He said that there were 510 returned men in Fort William at work, and only forty-six returned men at present unemployed. Sixty-four interviews had been obtained with different employers, and 217 men had been placed in positions formerly held by alien enemies in Fort William and 75 per cent of the G. W. V. were union men.

### Fearless and Faithful

Secretary Rogers of the Port Arthur branch, said that the work of the Port Arthur branch of May 29th and the resolutions passed on that date had stopped the rot that was goging through the country. They had stiffened the G. W. V. A. at Winnipeg to throw off the thralldom of their executive and to assert their manhood. They had stiffened the Toronto war veterans and had stiffened the whole country. The Port Arthur G. W. V. A. had nothing to do with strikers. "The verdict of posterity on the G. W. V. A. said Mr. Rogers, "would be that they were fearless in war and faithful in peace." (Prolonged cheers.)

Colonel Francis here stated that the 96th regiment had produced one brigadier general and nine Lieutenant-colonels, and 3,500 men had passed through the ranks of the 96th to active service. (Cheers.)

## May Establish Battery Here

The last toast, that of 'Our Overseas Officers,' was ably responded to by Major W. J. Hamilton and Major J. A. Crozier. Major Crozier said he would like to see a battery established at the head of the lakes. Future wars would be won by artillery, and infantry without artillery support was not much good.

General Hill said that he was thoroughly in accord with his sentiment, and would see what could be done.

During the course of the serving of the excellent dinner community singing was indulged in, led by Lieutenant J. E. Griffiths, with H. S. H. Goodier at the piano.

The singing of the national anthem a few minutes before eleven brought an enjoyable and memorable gathering to a close.

### Names of Those Present

The officers present included: Brigadier-General E. W. Hill, C. B., C. M. G., D. S. O.; Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. MacDonald, D. S. O., M. C. F. R. G. S., 10th battalion infantry; Lieutenant-Colonel Milton Francis, D. S. O., (chairman) 47th battalion; Lieutenant



Colonel S. C. Young, railways and docks; Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Neeland, D. S. O., 1st C. I. W. battalion; Major J. D. Young, M. C. and two bars, 52nd battalion; Major H. A. Ruttan, 50th battalion; Major J. A. Crozier, 8th battalion; Major W. J. Hamilton, Belgian croix de guerre, chevalier order of agriculture (Belge), 94th battalion; Major R. C. Powell, 44th battalion; Major B. A. Cousins, 43rd battalion; Captain G. S. Skinner, 1st battalion; Captain J. E. Jenkinson, C. I. W. battalion; Captain Lester Cain, 12th C. R. T.; Captain W. L. McCullough, M. D., 52nd battalion; Captain Kingsley Jarvis 28th battalion; Captain T. L. Williams 52nd battalion, Capt. E. Cardinal, royal air force; Captain Douglas Kerr, Queen's South African medal, 94th battalion; Captain H. E. Lloyd Owen, 8th battalion; Captain P. H. B. Dawson, 1st battalion, Canadian engineers; Captain W. H. S. Gordon, 8th battalion; Captain J. G. O'Neill, C. A. D. C.; Lieutenant A. Mason, royal air force; Lieutenant R. E. Harstone, cross of St. Stanislaus (Russia), 16th Canadian Scottish; Lieutenant W. J. Brick, C. A. S. C.; Lieutenant H. E. Smith, 52nd battalion; Lieutenant J. S. Cattnach, M. M., 52nd battalion; Lieutenant William Gibson, 52nd battalion; Lieutenant R. Y. Inglis, 15th battalion; Lieutenant J. Oliver Booth, 1st East Yorks regiment; Lieutenant George Parkinson, 8th battalion; Lieut. J. B. Eberts, royal air force; Lieutenant H. S. Hancock, 170th tunneling company, royal engineers; Lieutenant William V. Adams, royal flying corps; Lieutenant A. Skinner, King's and Queen's S. A. Medals, Long Service medal, 141st battalion; Lieutenant W. Waddell, M. C., 28th battalion; Second Lieutenant W. H. Jarvis, royal air force; Private H. E. A. Rogers, 44th battalion, representing Port Arthur G. W. V. A.