

MAKE FIFTY-SECOND PERMANENT

At the banquet on Monday speakers suggested that the memory of the Fifty-Second Battalion should be perpetuated by disbanding the old Ninety-Sixth Lake Superior Regiment and replacing it with the number of the famous overseas battalion.

It was suggested that this might be accomplished by establishing two companies in each of the cities.

There might be difficulties to overcome. Indeed, there would be difficulties of a more or less serious nature. But that they could be overcome there is no doubt.

It is quite possible that it may be desirable to perpetuate the memory of many of the battalions which went to the fighting fields as units. It is certain that many communities throughout Canada would be glad of becoming the permanent home of battalions which made such splendid names for themselves in the great war. Likewise it will be with deep regret that men of those battalions will witness the demobilization of the battalions of which they were members and the disbanding of the organization.

One can realize that if the militia department were to give its consent to the movement, it would involve the complete disbanding of all the old peace regiments and recasting of numbers. Undoubtedly this would meet with opposition at the hands of many who were connected with old time units, and sentimental sympathy could not be held from them.

Here at home the Ninety-Sixth Regiment filled a very important part in the formation of the Fifty-Second and other battalions and units organized at the head of the lakes for service overseas. From its ranks stepped the first men and officers to volunteer for service overseas

Second. Indeed when that battalion, destined to cover itself with glory, was at full strength, the Ninety-Sixth personnel might be said to have been transferred from the one to the other.

The Ninety-Fourth came and helped itself from the depleted ranks of the peace battalion. For nearly three years the Ninety-Sixth was the recruiting unit for battalions organizing for war service, and then in its enfeebled state it was utilized to enlist men for guard duty.

While the old peace regiment was dear to many men, its glory is as nothing compared to that of the Fifty-Second, and its replacement by the latter would be hailed with delight by all this part of the country.