

GENERAL USE OF MILITIA TITLES.

THE following correspondence speaks for itself. A well-known commanding officer, writing General Gascoigne on the above subject, says :

"I would like to have your opinion about a matter that is of some importance to the officers of the militia. It is as to whether we, militia officers, should be at all times known by our militia rank or only upon some occasions. The position is this : Our commissions from the Queen, or her representative, read practically the same as those of the permanent force or the regular army. We are liable at all times to be called out for service, and at all times the responsibility for thousands of dollars' worth of stores rests upon us. Also, if we are called out, no business of any sort can relieve us of being obliged to go, and we are liable for service if attacked either in or out of the country. On the other hand, we are, when not on military duty, engaged in our professions or business, and in consequence of this we bear a dual cognomen ; at least, this is the practice which prevails, and on reflection it seems to me to be absurd. For instance, this is the predicament : Most of us only call ourselves by our rank when on duty or at some military function, and with the same idea use two sets of visiting cards, one with plain Mr. So-and-So for private and social use, and another with Captain or Major So-and-So when for calling on military personages or on our superior officers, and to have to discriminate continually for fear of appearing presumptuous or appearing to force our rank on civilian society is neither a proper nor pleasant position. Personally, I am indifferent as to whether or not I am called by my rank on civilian occasions, as it would neither add to nor diminish my position or amusements, but the dual individuality seems a weak and undignified position. I am not aware that any intimation or order has ever been issued by authority as to which practice should prevail. It would be pleasanter if all the militia officers in Canada

stood in an assured position, one way or the other, so that we might all understand our position definitely. We are the only soldiers Canada has; but I don't think that the trouble and responsibility we bear is understood by the civilian portion of the population."

General Gascoigne, writing in reply, says :

"I have no hesitation in replying to your letter. I consider that not only are militia officers justified in using their military rank on all occasions, but I go further, and hold that not to do so would be to imply that the value of the distinction was not held by them in great esteem.

"In Canada there is but one military body to-day—the militia—and I hold, therefore, that in every way officers are bound to be designated by their military rank."

READY FOR SOMEBODY.

[London World].

THE War Office is to be congratulated on the progress which has been made in the re-armament of the Royal Horse and Field Artillery. Up to this time the guns for the six batteries of Royal Horse Artillery, which it was decided to manufacture at Woolwich, have all been issued, while the four remaining batteries to be supplied by the trade will be ready by the middle of next month. This will complete the re-armament of the Royal Horse Artillery, as only ten batteries are borne on the home establishment. As regards the Field Artillery, the ordnance factories undertook that guns enough for two complete army corps should be ready by the beginning of June—i. e., thirty batteries of six guns each. They have been as good as their word, for the guns have been handed over. And guns for a third army corps, if not already completed, are so far advanced that they will be completed almost immediately. Thus in a very short time we shall be in possession of a full equipment of ten batteries for Royal Horse Artillery, with a reserve of eight guns ; for field artillery a full equipment of guns for three army corps, with a reserve of forty-eight guns. These are facts which reflect great credit not only on the present Administration, but on all connected with the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich.

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THOMAS BACON, Lt.-Colonel

Department of Militia and Defence

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