

What, excluded on account of not having good financial standing? None but the wealthy need apply, the commissions to be held solely and exclusively by the aristocracy, as it were, of the country? never! I say, what has been done heretofore can be again done, and the examples, a few of which I will furnish further on, can be repeated and ought by all means and in all justice to become law.

"Sergeant" says "there are plenty of vacancies and it does not require any new laws or re-organization to enable some of C. F. C.'s highly qualified and willing non-coms. to step forward and upwards."

"N. C. O." asks "would they" (the non-coms.) be more qualified than those already holding the position?" and then proceeds to say "I (he) fear not. How many regiments are there in the force who require any qualification other than length of service to entitle a private to receive promotion? I (he) have seen many non-commissioned officers who, had they been required to pass even the most simple examination, would have remained in the ranks?"

Now as to the non-coms. would not accept of commissions, etc., "Sergeant" says "the majority would not." This is just what is required. We do not want all. Three c. o.'s in a company is sufficient under the present system. The financial question, or "cash" as "Sergeant" calls it, (boodle) I still contend is foreign and no obstacle whatever to the question at issue, it has no justifiable right here, therefore, if present, it is a trespasser and a usurper. A man's private pocket ought not to be looked to any more in the militia, army or naval service than in any other calling or occupation of life. In this, "Sergeant" and others who are of the same impression, I am confident, will agree with me in every particular when the light dawns upon him and them how it ought and may be accomplished, which is so simple I deemed it necessary to explain and comment thereon in my former letters and also omit doing so in this.

"N. C. O." says "no doubt there might be instances in which this would be an improvement," i. e. "to make the appointments of officers compulsory from the ranks" as I suggested. Right thou art "N. C. O." Such would be an improvement of untold and unknown advantage. How many examples may be given where the best officers rose from the ranks? Napoleon, Ney, and I might say the majority, if not quite all, of Napoleon's officers, for he awarded merit wherever found. Nelson, Sir Cloudsley Shovels in the Navy, General Sir Archibald Allison and General James Wolfe, the hero of Quebec, and numbers of others may be given if this list be not sufficient, who rose either from the ranks or from poor boys without money. "No comrades, I have not the money to spend" was Nelson's oft repeated reply to as many invitations to go ashore by the other officers of his ship. Did he or they succeed in rising to a post of honour? History will answer.

As to the great number of vacancies existing, of which "Sergeant" speaks this is no less than a *point in support* to my contention of the deplorable state of our militia, but for some of "C. F. C.'s highly qualified and willing non-coms." to fill these vacancies is as sensible as his statement in his prior letter, "I (he) could get a commission if I choose," etc., which statement I fully answered in my reply of the 23rd ult., and asked for his authority or non-coms. to appoint themselves to, or take, a commission whenever they choose to do so. This authority "Sergeant" has failed to give for the simple reason we all know he has none to offer, therefore it is unnecessary for me herein to repeat the request.

Next, would the non-coms. be more qualified, etc., asks "N. C. O." Yes, I answer most emphatically, when we have C. O.'s competent to fill their positions, take an interest in, teach, and enforce the duty of each and every non-com. and men. Of the present inefficiency of the non-coms. I have herein given "N. C. O.'s" words which are too true,

all this I have witnessed while at camp and recalls to my mind many laughable instances. One of which was in relieving guards the Sergeant in charge of the new guard arranged his men (the new guard) with their backs towards the old guard, and in that manner (in his mind) relieved them. All this is evidence supporting my contention—how little is known as to military drill and duty by many of our so-called officers and non-coms. And I ask how otherwise can it be expected under the present system of appointing officers. To expect the non-coms. to be good, competent and qualified for their position is an argument like I frequently hear some parents make use of regarding schools. They want and expect their children to study two or three different languages and other subjects accordingly, in fact receive a first-class education at a school where and when they (the parents) advocate and practise, when in authority to do so, the hiring of teachers who cannot speak one language correctly and are equally learned in other branches. We sometimes meet with a non-com. who has an interest and qualified himself in every respect for the position he holds with a view to rising higher, but what is the result of all his trouble when a vacancy occurs? He is in nine cases out of ten left remaining in his old position, and some political or social favourite of his superior officer, picked up from the street or club house, is recommended for the vacant position and palmed off on the authorities as some Sergeant receiving promotion.

Let there be but one entrance to our militia force and that at the ranks, not at side doors as at present, then let promotion follow as rapidly as the officer commanding deems expedient providing always that the candidate is or will qualify within the allowable period. No one who desires to enter the service aspiring to a high position therein, wishing to acquaint himself with the details and duties of each and every office, and be competent for the position he aspires to, should object to this any more than he who aspires to be a judge of one of our superior courts should object to be at first a student-at-law. "There is no royal road to learning" is an adage as antique as the days of Euclid.

This finishes the questions asked in the issue of the 5th inst., and I now retire for a holiday from the field of strife leaving the subject, Mr. Editor, with your readers to determine whether or no I had given my quota, argued the question and set forth sufficient serious results arising and may arise from the evil of the present practice of appointing the class of men too frequently picked up for officers, to warrant a change in the present system of appointing officers. Bidding you all adieu *pro tem.* and thanking you for your patience in reading and for the space granted to my lengthy letters.

I remain, the country's obedient servant,
E-town, March 11th, 1891. C. F. C.

Militia General Orders (No. 4) of 13th March, 1891.

NO. 1.—ACTIVE MILITIA—PERMANENT CORPS.

REGIMENT OF CANADIAN ARTILLERY.—Lieutenant Wm. Peter Burroughs has been permitted to resign his commission.

INFANTRY SCHOOL CORPS.—To be Lieutenants, provisionally: Alf. O. Fages (formerly Captain No. 6 Company, 9th Bn.) vice J. W. Sears, resigned.

Cyprien Frederic Olivier Fiset (formerly Lieutenant No. 3 Company, 9th Bn.) vice J. C. G. Drolet, retired.

Lieutenants Fages and Fiset have been detailed for duty with "B" Company until further orders.

Lieutenant and Brevet Captain J. K. Oswald is transferred from the Company of Mounted Infantry to the Infantry School Corps, and posted to "B" Company.

BREVET.—John Davis Roche, Infantry School Corps, to be Captain, from 29th January, 1891.

By command,
WALKER POWELL, Colonel,
Adjutant General of Militia,
Canada.