

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

The Mounted Police Force in the North-west now raised to 1,000 by an act of last session will soon be distributed over the whole country and will then be ready, as ever, to undertake whatever duties may fall to their lot. No doubt due care will be taken to have strong detachments in close proximity to the scenes of the recent disturbances in order that a watchful eye can be kept on the movements of restless ones, be they Indians or half-breeds, and also that a confidence may be established amongst settlers. The long and severe winter will soon be upon them and, having little else to do, the restless spirits may think it a convenient time to stir up strife and sedition amongst their confreres. The N. W. M. P., however, are fully alive to their responsibilities and woe betide any one who may transgress. As soon as everything is in readiness for the force to take over the various posts assigned to them, some of which are now held by detachments from "A" and "B" batteries and "C" School of Infantry, we may expect to hear of the release from active service of these latter corps, and no doubt they will not be sorry to return once more to their normal routine of duty and instruction.

The Militia General Orders this week are of more than usual interest, containing as they do, official notice of the grant of medals for the North-west operations, the release from active service of all the Manitoba and North-west corps, the exchange of quarters of A and B

batteries of Artillery, and the organization of the Winnipeg School of Mounted Infantry, besides a large number of changes amongst the active militia officers. Amongst the last there appears for the first time the phrase "over the prescribed age," though the rule has been previously put in force, and it will also be noticed that two officers are removed for having neglected to attend annual drill. This action on the part of the Department will meet with general approval as tending to increase the efficiency of the force.

The promotions in the *Gazette*, exclusive of the old appointments in the Ninetieth, include one to the rank of colonel, seven to the rank or relative rank of major, nine to that of captain and five to that of lieutenant. The new appointments comprise a surgeon, two captains, nine lieutenants and eighteen second lieutenants, while the force has lost the services of five majors (including a surgeon), four captains, nine lieutenants and fifteen second lieutenants, thus showing a net loss of three officers.

The action of the Department in making the school at Winnipeg one of mounted infantry is a plain indication, if evidence were wanting, that they are able and willing to profit by experience, and there can be no doubt that its establishment will be an incalculable benefit to the whole North-west from a military point of view. The selection of the officers is also particularly happy. The commandant before joining the Canadian militia had the command of a company in the best of all training schools, the British army. He has been a lieutenant-colonel in the Canadian militia since 1864 and a D.A.G. since 1869, seeing active service during the Fenian raids. Captain Buchan is well known from his long connection with the force, as a capable, dashing and popular officer, and was through the late campaign as adjutant of the 90th, while Dr. Codd has been in Winnipeg since the first expedition, and was for a long time attached to the permanent force there.

The Ninetieth have evidently been posting up their ledger in the matter of commissions, as a long list of appointments appear, many of them dating back to the 23rd March last, the day when they were put on active service. The list includes Sir John Macdonald's only son, who was appointed to a lieutenantcy on the 23rd March, and gained his company on 27th May; Mr. Brophy, who now takes the 2nd lieutenantcy of the same company, and whose handsome and genial face is held in loving remembrance here; and Sergeant Jackes, of the unfortunate No. 3 company, who replaces poor 2nd Lieutenant Swinford, dead of his wounds, and who was himself severely wounded. The fine Battalion has also completed its organization as a city corps by arranging for promotion, according to seniority.

The last number of *Forest and Stream* contains much that is of special and practical interest to all interested in shooting, of whatever kind. It announces that its sporting rifle tests will be held in public on the Creedmoor range immediately subsequent to the regular matches, and will consist of one series up to 200 yards for larger rifles and one