

intends to thoroughly organize the militia on a proper basis. In this he takes exactly the opposite view to Major-General Herbert, whose idea was to have 5,000 Canadian regulars, to disband most of the militia and depend upon bringing officers from home to fill up in case of trouble.

It is simply an extension of the "special list," which is now cancelled. The reserve list will be made up of unattached graduates of the R.M.C., and every officer who retires from the militia with the right to retain rank will be transferred to the same rank in this list, provided he is within the age limits and holds a first-class grade "A" certificate, or its equivalent. Officers whose names are carried on the reserve will retain their rank and precedence in the active militia, but will be retired on reaching the limits of age. Under no circumstances will officers serving in the reserve receive promotion, while so serving, to a higher rank in the militia. The cases of officers who have retired from the militia retaining their rank within the past five years, and who would have been eligible under this regulation to be transferred to the reserve of officers, had such regulation been in force at the date of their retirement, will be specially considered by the G.O.C.

All the names on the special list—which has always been most unpopular with the militia generally—will be transferred to the reserve, but without any restrictions as to age or qualification.

#### THE D.A.A.G.

THE appointment of Major Bliss, Ottawa Field Battery, to the position of deputy assistant adjutant-general at headquarters, has given rise to a great deal of unfavorable comment among officers generally. Several communications have come to THE GAZETTE regarding it. The writers feel that the position was made for him because he is a son-in-law of Hon. Mr. Costigan, and a strong fear is expressed that it is but a stepping stone to his eventually being made adjutant-general.

It is quite true the position is a new one, and political influence was brought to bear to make it. At the same time, it does not mean an increase in the cost to the country. Major Bliss was simply Mr. Bliss, a second-class civilian clerk in the Militia Department, drawing \$1,350 a year. Now he is Major Bliss, D.A.A.G., performing the same work as he did before, and he will receive the same salary, unless he

can get an increase by convincing the Government that it costs him more to maintain the dignity of his new title. In a way, the appointment is a distinct gain to the militia. It opens another permanent office, which in future should go to officers serving in the militia.

It is but fair to Major Bliss to say that though he owes his appointment to his political friends, yet it is not undeserved. We understand he has had eighteen years' continuous service. He has the reputation of being a hard working officer, and he certainly leaves his battery in an efficient condition.

#### GIVE HIM OUR HEARTY SUPPORT.

IT is most unfortunate that the Liberals should have made a personal attack on Major-General Gascoigne just to provide some electioneering talk. They charged him with being a tool in the hands of the Conservatives to remove Col. Hamilton, a Liberal, from the command of the Queen's Own—a most contemptible course to take. All Liberals interested in the force regret their action. They know there is not the slightest foundation for the accusation. They should strongly impress upon their Lister-Edgar talking combination not to use the G. O. C. when they want to provide campaign literature. Intelligent people know that these gentlemen do not believe what they said, but strong partisans may. The General may therefore be indirectly hampered at a time when it is most necessary he should have the entire sympathy of both parties.

We were unfortunate in our late G.O.C.—an excellent officer, but lacking in tact and experience. Now we have an officer who comes to us with a splendid reputation as a soldier, a long and successful experience in handling volunteers and noted for his tact. So far he has displayed excellent judgment under trying circumstances. He has listened most willingly to the numerous suggestions made to him by those interested in the force, and has not been too set in his ideas to adopt them. Let us all stand by him loyally and give him our best possible support. Suppress politicians who would interfere with the working of his department. On his part let him get in direct touch with as many commanders of corps as possible, and have their views on important matters before finally making up his own mind to act.

#### GIVE THEM THE PREFERENCE.

WHILE we are all agreed that in appointments to the permanent corps preference should be given to graduates of the R.M.C., it is only fair that militia officers who show unusual ability and zeal in the service should have an opportunity to compete for these positions. Before they are eligible, however, they should be required to pass an examination that is equivalent to that the R.M.C. men are required to take.

There are other ways in which the country should endeavor to maintain a hold on the many clever young men we educate at so much expense. They should be given the preference in all Civil Service appointments. There is no school in Canada where they should have such a thorough training, and the country would always be sure of having a capable and intelligent Civil Service list.

Suppose we begin with the militia. The head of that department should be induced to set the example. Let him make it a rule that in all future appointments to clerkships in his department R.M.C. graduates shall have the preference. When we succeed there the Public Works should be approached. Properly managed, this plan could and will be worked. It is certainly in the interest of the militia and of the country.

#### CAVALRY AND INFANTRY INSPECTORS.

General Gascoigne has recommended the appointment of cavalry and infantry inspectors, and the Minister has approved of it. Major Lessard, Royal Canadian Dragoons, Toronto, was decided on for the inspectorship of cavalry by Hon. Mr. Desjardins, but now that a new Minister has come in it is possible he may not be appointed, especially as there are a number of other applicants. Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., Toronto, has been mentioned as inspector of infantry, but no name has been definitely recommended. A name brought strongly forward for the cavalry is that of a R.M.C. graduate now serving in the British army.

*Officers and men of the militia will help THE MILITARY GAZETTE very much if they and their friends in making purchases will give the preference to those firms which advertise with us. They can help us still further by recommending the paper to any firms who sell goods that are used by military men in every part of Canada, either as military men or in their private capacity. tf.*