

proportion. The only benefit the college was ever expected to confer upon the militia was the provision of thoroughly well trained officers to the force, and if the institution is unable to provide such officers for the branch of the service requiring them the most, namely the permanent and instructional, then the college is a dismal failure and should be abolished at once. If the college fails to turn out as efficient officers as those lads whose training has been picked up during a few months' service in a militia corps, and a very short course at one of the Royal Schools of Infantry or Artillery, it is a swindle on the public to keep the college open another month. But we have yet to learn that the graduates of Kingston are not up to the standard; and as a matter of fact the very warmest admirers of the spoils system as applied to the militia, like our Quebec contemporary for instance, have to admit that the college turns out men well equipped for the profession in whose interest it was established. What in the world, then, is it but the most dangerous application of political influence, that succeeds in having these well trained men so generally ignored like this in the appointments to the permanent corps?

As to the cadets wanting the earth or even the militia, we are not in a position to say, but they are as little likely to get one as the other so long as the politicians retain their pull. Whatever the ambition of the cadets may be, the militia service certainly requires as many of them as can possibly be induced to take commissions. If the graduates of Kingston get such a lion's share of the good things of the world outside of Canada, as the Chronicle would lead us to believe, that is no reason why the service which has gone to the trouble of educating them should not avail itself of the technical training they have acquired at its expense. It is no excuse for refusing the services of these men to say that they can find plenty of profitable employment in civil life in Canada and the United States or in military life in the Imperial service. No patriotic Canadian, we imagine, realizing that Canada's welfare must be bound up in the destiny of the British Empire, will begrudge the expense of training four officers for the regular army annually as a small, and together too small contribution towards the historical force which will some day be made the basis of the inevitable system of Imperial defence. But the ratepayer has a very good cause to complain if he has to put his hand in his pocket merely to train the engineering staffs of

the Canadian and American railroads. The Military College is not maintained out of the militia funds to do that, and the graduates would not go in for that type of work if they could get the commissions they ought to get in the permanent militia

It is not very wonderful, considering the persistent way they have been ignored, if the graduates of the college have got out of the way of applying for these commissions, but they could easily be got for the few commissions there are, if they were wanted. As far as the present case is concerned, the Chronicle to the contrary, notwithstanding, the application of at least one eligible graduate, was ignored. It is to be hoped that some of the service members in the House of Commons will bring this matter up at the next session and will find out officially exactly how these appointments came to be made. They are fair samples of many others, and an expression of opinion on the subject in the House may serve to strengthen the hands of the Minister, who we feel sure, has been forced to make these appointments by political pressure, for we still have faith in his good intentions.

A word in conclusion. The implication in the Chronicle that we have been influenced in this exposure by personal spite is as false as it is ungenerous. There was not the least cause for spite on the part of the author of the article in question towards anybody concerned, and if either of the two gentlemen who were the last to enter the permanent service by the usual back-door method, or any of their friends, felt personally hurt by our remarks, we can only feel sorry for them. It was unfortunate for them that they chanced to be the two last of these appointees at the time the article was written. That is all there is in it so far as they personally are concerned. In the militia force we are dealing with men who are not afraid to have the facts put frankly before them, and as far as the Militia Gazette is concerned, it will speak just as frankly and as bluntly as it knows how, in exposing anything approaching to jobbery in the force or anything calculated to block the increase in efficiency which so many good and loyal men are working so hard to secure. It certainly will not be bluffed out of speaking plainly in favour of the complete emancipation of the service from the evils of political favouritism, by papers which have an immediate interest in keeping every department of the Government under the thumbs of unpatriotic and selfish political wirepullers.

## News of the Service.

NOTE.—Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Without we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the doings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, so long as not enclosed in an envelope, for one cent. At any rate forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades.

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### TORONTO.

There was a big turn out of the Queen's Own Rifles at their weekly parade on the night of Oct 11th the roll-call showing a parade strength of 585, including 20 recruits. Under the command of Lt.-Col. Hamilton the regiment marched to the old Upper Canada College grounds, where company drill was practised, after which they returned to the drill shed. The district orders state that the inspection of the corps for the annual drill will take place as follows:—Company, Oct. 25, Nov. 1 and 8; muster parade, Nov. 15; regimental, Nov. 23. Pay lists with service rolls and target practice returns must be forwarded to the Deputy Adjutant-General's office not later than Saturday, Nov. 25.

The Queen's Own Rifles had a march out, Oct. 18. They proceeded to Upper Canada College grounds under the command of Major Delamere, and went through company drill. The field state was 590 including 24 recruits, and the battalion made a splendid turn-out. On Wednesday the annual inspection will commence under Lt.-Col. Otter. In the regimental orders it is announced that Supt.-Sergt. A. Welsh has been promoted to be sergeant, vice A. M. Burns, discharged, and Corp. W. E. Smith has been promoted to the same rank, vice J. E. Collins, discharged.

October 12 was the military birthday of Sergt.-Major Cox, of the Royal Grenadiers. It is now thirty-six years since the sergeant-major took two six-pences in lieu of the regulation 81 shilling at Uxbridge 14 miles from London England. For 19 years of his service he has held the rank of sergeant-major. He has every reason to be proud of his military record.

The Royal Grenadiers paraded on the night of Oct. 13th at the armoury, under Major Mason. The regiment marched out to the old Upper Canada College grounds, where company drill was practised. The regiment then marched back by the way of King street to the armoury. The parade state was 456. The company inspection of the regiment will begin on the evening of October 26. The muster parade will be on the 16th November. The enrolling of recruits will cease on the 19th inst.

Under command of Major Mason, the