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MAJOR GRAY, for many years past in command of the Toronto Field Battery, and one of the most zealous officers in Ontario, has just been appointed Brigade Major of No. 2 Military District, and will be gazetted as such in next general orders. The office has been vacant for more than a year, since the retirement of Lieut.-Col. Milson, who went out along with the former D. A. G., Lieut.-Col. Denison, both receiving two years' allowance on retiring. Lieut.-Col. Otter was appointed D. A. G., and the other post was left vacant, the intention being that Col. Otter should fulfil the duties of Brigade Major as well, in addition to his ordinary cares as commandant of "C" school, and thus save a salary. Experience has demonstrated that it is a physical impossibility for one man to fill the three positions, and in consequence a Brigade Major has been appointed. The choice made has been a good one.

NO more will the gay M.P., when militia estimates are submitted, be able to crack his jokes at the expense of the D. A. G. of No. 11 Military District, in his other capacity of commandant of "C" Battery, R.C.A. The lonely sergeant of whom we heard so much last winter, will for the future have no lack of company, the hundred men to constitute for the present the strength of the battery being due at Victoria on Thursday of this week. They are fine fellows, the choice of the two older batteries. The men were in high spirits at the prospect of the change of scene—some of them two hilarious indeed, and having in consequence, at the command of the Cadi, to contribute a souvenir towards the Kingston civic exchequer. But their behaviour has otherwise been exemplary as usual, and the Victorians will not likely have reason to complain of their future garrison. This is the pioneer detachment of troops to be conveyed over the entire length of our military highway.

INFLUENCE is being brought to bear on the home authorities to exempt Major-General Middleton from the operation of the rule making his retirement compulsory. The press has taken up the cudgels in his behalf, and *Vanity Fair* recently contained a highly eulogistic article, in which it said, after citing the suspension of the new rule in the case of General Hamley, recently quoted in all the papers:—"Mr. Stanhope should go further and obtain like exceptional treatment of officers liable to retirement on account of age. Sir Frederick Middleton is in the prime of mental and bodily vigour, as proved by his successful suppres-

sion of the Riel rebellion; he shewed himself, alike as a regimental officer in New Zealand, as a staff officer during the Indian Mutiny, and as commandant of the Royal Military College, to be a good practical soldier, to which experience are to be added the results of a Staff College training; yet he will be retired for age early in November. How valuable he is thought to be as commandant of the militia of Canada may be gathered from the fact that the Dominion authorities have asked that he may be allowed to retain his appointment after retirement from the active list of the British army.

The same paper urges that should such retirement take place Sir Frederick Middleton should be allowed to draw his full retired pay concurrently with the salary of his appointment, but adds: "Probably a precedent possessed treasury will object, and thus the services of a man peculiarly suited for a difficult post—Sir Frederick is married to a Canadian lady—will be lost to the colony. The best solution of the problem, however, would be to bring in another warrant which should enable Mr. Stanhope to retain Sir Frederick Middleton some few years longer on the active list.

We hope the efforts being made to secure this exemption in General Middleton's case will be successful. Mentally and bodily he is as vigorous as when he assumed the command, in 1884; and there is no indication that he would be unable to discharge the duties of his post as satisfactorily during the remaining portion of his term, as he has up to the present. In former commanding officers Canada has had experience of men to whom everything was rose colour, who found nothing to condemn or criticise, and who left uncorrected the faults existing when they took charge; again we have had a reign of terror, when condemnation was wholesale, and praise or encouragement altogether wanting. General Middleton has gone to neither extreme, but has judiciously praised or criticised as the circumstances of the case called for; and he has thus been able to correct many an error without sacrificing the good will of those under him. The campaign in the Northwest gave him an exceptional opportunity of ascertaining the weak points in connection with the force, and no doubt the experience there gained has greatly increased the value of his services to the country, which would be at a loss were his term of office prematurely brought to an end.

THE presentation of colors to the 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment, which took place at Fermanagh, on the 13th ult., was an event for two reasons not without interest in this country. In the first place the presentation was made by the Duchess of Abercorn, the mother of the amiable wife of our popular Governor-General; and secondly, the regiment (formerly the 16th) is one of those that have seen service in Canada. The colors bear the names of Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde and Malplaquet. Col. Robinson, in returning thanks to Her Grace for the kind words accompanying the presentation, stated that the regiment had now entered upon its 200th year, it having been originally raised on the 9th October, 1688. "It has been unfortunate," he said, "in not having seen any active service during the present century, having been quartered