

veteran officers we once used to have in command of the Canadian Militia. After General Luard had been persistently snubbed and abused, and General Middleton shamefully made a scapegoat of for the errors of others, the war office could get no officer in the army of a rank superior to regimental major to come to Canada. Will they have to come down to the list of mud majors and captains now?

The question of the command is certainly an important one. What is needed at the head of the militia is a thoroughly experienced soldier, combining with his military training and knowledge familiarity with the people of Canada, with the political and other conditions which prevail here, and with the force itself. Such a combination it is impossible to find under the present conditions; but could we not alter the conditions?

Take this as a suggestion certainly worthy of discussion: Let the General Officer Commanding, the Adjutant General and the Quartermaster General, be army officers holding each appointment in succession for five years. First let an officer be appointed Quartermaster General for five years, then promote him to be Adjutant General for another five years; then G.O.C. for a third five years, and so on in succession.

In this way the General would have had ten years experience of Canada and ten years connection with the militia before obtaining the command, the Adjutant General would have had five years experience as Quartermaster General. The Q. M. G.'s duties do not require him to have had Canadian experience. By the adoption of some such plan as this we would always have a succession of locally experienced army officers in command of the militia.

The advantage to the militia and to the government should be apparent. Each of the headquarters staff officers would do the very best he could for the militia and for the country, as there would be some promotion in sight. As it is now we have a G. O. C. for four or five years who just begins to know the country and the real requirements of the service by the time he retires.

As there are now a number of Canadians, graduates of the Royal Military College, Kingston, in the Army, who have passed through the staff college and are eligible for the appointment of Q. M. G., it would be but a very few years, were this system adopted before all of these officers G. O. C., A. G., and Q. M. G., might be Canadians. We have not the least particle of sympathy with the senseless demand that the command be given to officers of the militia force itself. We need a professionally trained soldier at the head of the militia. Military knowledge and experience is the first requirement. A general officer with every detail of militia organization and every one of its numerous defects at his fingers' ends, without the experience and education to show him how to turn his knowledge to advantage, would be useless. Active service in the field is another most essential requisite, and we are fortunate in being able to draw for our commanding officers upon an army which, besides possessing the most highly educated officers in the world, is constantly on active service somewhere or another.

Still, we would prefer Canadian officers from the army, not through any narrow-prejudice, for of course none exists, but because Canadians would understand the people in the Dominion better. But the next choice to a Canadian army officer for the command is any other army officer. A general promoted from the militia, however much theoretical knowledge and natural military capacity he might have, would be but a puppet in the hands of the government. We have not passed beyond the stage of parish politics in Canada yet.

Major General Herbert's resignation is at last announced. While there is no denying the fact that some people in Canada are very glad to see the last of General Herbert, many of the best wishers of the force will sincerely regret his departure. Even his enemies, must admit that the general was intensely interested in the welfare of the militia. He never spared himself when he considered that the exigencies of the service required him to work hard, and he won the admiration and deserved the commenda-

tion of everybody by the determined stand he made against the interference of political influence with the discipline of the force. He worked hard and meant well, but he lacked tact and did not understand the militia. General Herbert will go down in the history of the force as the impossible general.

We quote the following from the Sydney Colonial Military Gazette:

"From the report of the sixth annual meeting of the Federal Council of the Rifle Association of Australasia, a copy of which the chairman has been good enough to send us, we observe, with great satisfaction, that a Canadian team will in all probability visit Australia early in 1896. It goes without saying that such a team will be accorded a right royal British reception on this continent, not only from riflemen, but also at the hands of all sections of the community. With equal satisfaction we read of the proposal to send a representative Australian team to Bisley and Canada in 1896. Apparently the only obstacle in the way of carrying this proposal into effect is scarcity of the sinews of war. As Col. Penno put it, "The spirit is very willing but the finances are weak." It would seem to be impossible for the six federated associations to find the money—say, £2,000 for a team of twelve men. But could not each give a little from its ordinary funds, to tot up perhaps £600 or £700, and make a special subscription for the required balance? Fourteen hundred pounds is not a very large sum for united Australasia to raise between now and April of next year. Apart from the general public altogether, just think what a sum would be represented by every rifle club in Australasia subscribing a couple of pounds!"—*Sydney Colonial Gazette*.

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To the Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—Enclosed find four dollars as a renewal of my own subscription and for an annual subscription for my class mate at the R. M. C., India. I am glad to see that you insist upon justice being rendered to the Royal Military College and her graduates. I have been told that your outspoken and manly exposure of the notorious methods which have pitchforked quite a number of incompetent political pets into the position in the permanent force which should have been kept for graduates of the R. M. C., or for exceptionally well qualified members of the militia, has resulted in your losing a few subscribers among these political appointees. The only surprise to me is that any of the set should have taken enough interest in military matters to subscribe to your interesting magazine at all. If my information is correct, as I have good reason to believe it is, I trust my brother graduates of the R. M. C. will see to it not only that you do not lose anything, but that you receive five R. M. C. subscriptions for every one of these gentlemen who considers he comes within your classification as an in-