

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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### The Mounted Police Commissions.

Parliament voted last week the \$722,426 required for the North-west Mounted Police for the next fiscal year. The force consists of 52 officers, including the five surgeons and two veterinary surgeons—and one thousand non-commissioned officers and men. No criticism was offered concerning the management of the force, which sustains its reputation as a model organization, and the brief discussion which took place had reference mainly to the method of officering. This was introduced by a question of Sir Richard Cartwright, as to how many graduates of the Royal Military College were officers in the force, Sir John Macdonald replying that there were seven such graduates. Sir Richard then asked if the Government were prepared to assign commissions in the Mounted Police from time to time to the best graduates of the college if they chose to avail themselves of them. These officers might, he thought, act as a sort of supernumerary cadets until such time as it was thought expedient to give them full commissions.

While agreeing that this would be a good thing for the Military College, the Premier pointed out that there were other considerations deserving of attention also. Occasionally commissions were given to the most likely officers from the Active Militia, who have been reported by the Major-General as showing superior aptitude. But about half the officers of the police were promoted from the ranks. "That force," he said, "is a *corps d'elite*. Admission to it is eagerly sought after by sons of gentlemen, educated men, so that when they are promoted from the ranks they are found to be in every way fit, socially as well as otherwise, for the rank of commissioned officers. We have in the force gentlemen who have held commissions in Her Majesty's service. The last promotion of an inspector was that of an officer who had been an adjutant in a regiment of the line, who had come to Canada and enlisted in the force, who rose soon to become a non-commissioned officer, in due season became a staff-sergeant, and has now been appointed an inspector. So with several others; and I think that those who have thus risen are the most valuable men we could have, because while they have been non-commissioned officers they have been over the whole country, and have got acquainted with the Indians, the trails, the system of patrolling, the habits of smugglers, and being educated men in addition to having this experience, they make very valuable officers."

After paying a handsome compliment to the education afforded by the Royal Military College, and pointing out that this led the graduates to be in considerable demand for commissions in the Imperial service, Sir John continued: "We lose some of our best men who enter the army and never come back. Some will come back. One of the best officers we have is Superintendent Perry. He was educated in the college, passed with honours, was gazetted, got his commission in the Royal

Engineers, but, luckily for our service, he met with an accident, breaking his leg, which laid him up so long that he had to give up his commission. He came to Canada and is now superintendent in the force and one of the best officers we have."

The Police are fortunate in having such a powerful and kind friend at court as the Premier has proved himself to be. Sir John Macdonald never loses an opportunity of expressing the admiration and pride with which he regards the force; but his favours are by no means confined to words. The pension bill of this session is the latest practical evidence of his solicitude for their welfare. This measure provides for a retiring pension based upon length of service, equal to 2 per cent. for each year served, of the average pay received by the pensioner, so that after twenty-five years' service a man gets as much as half pay on retiring. The bill passed the Commons this week. Sir John's consideration for the members of the force is still further shown by the resoluteness of his declaration that the high places in the service shall go to eligible men who have done faithful service in the ranks, rather than to outsiders, no matter what claims to preferment these may be disposed to urge.

### The Revised Artillery Practice.

Our Canadian artillerymen, who will in all probability be called upon to drill in accordance with it this season, will be interested in the following extracts from the orders respecting the revised practice prescribed for the Royal Artillery by regimental orders issued last July:—

#### PRELIMINARY DRILL.

1. The results obtained at practice depend very largely upon the thoroughness of the preliminary instruction of a battery.
2. This instruction should, therefore, not be confined to the general service of the gun, but should include practical gunnery required in the field.
3. For this purpose the officers, non-commissioned officers and gunners should be shown the power of their guns, and the effect they may be expected to produce upon various targets under favourable conditions; also, how less favourable conditions of gun, carriage, ammunition, or weather are likely to affect the shooting. They should be made good judges of distance under all conditions of light and weather, and taught how the burst or graze of projectiles is likely to appear from the battery and observing stations, so that they may be able, with a small number of rounds, to judge fairly the effect of fire.
4. The non-commissioned officers and gunners should be trained to lay a gun quickly, accurately, and especially uniformly, at fixed and moving objects, and to the use of the instructional target, for which revised instructions have been issued. It cannot be expected that in this, or in judging effect, all should show the same aptitude, and special non-commissioned officers and gunners must be selected as layers and observers.
5. They should also be trained to the ready and rapid handling of ammunition, boring and fixing fuses, correct sponging, ramming home, and firing. They should know perfectly the look of the ammunition, and stores, where to find them and their use.