



A WORD FOR THE PERMANENT CORPS.

Editor MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—As a reader of THE GAZETTE, I write to say that I am getting tired of the frequent and senseless railings upon the permanent force from your staff correspondents and others given space to in your otherwise pleasant journal. It is an easy pastime no doubt, as the members of that force, being soldiers, are not supposed to answer for themselves.

As an instance, your Toronto correspondent, in your issue of the 1st November, while screeching about brevet promotion, goes out of his way to deride the permanent force as "merely militia" and to accuse them of drawing pay. Two most atrocious crimes, truly! I have known, in my time, men who were proud of being militiamen, but your Toronto correspondent, with his "merely militia," seems to have a fine contempt for that status. As to the second accusation, it must be admitted that the permanent force do draw pay, but I submit, in palliation, that there are precedents for this in every walk of life, and I would venture to say that even your "Mulvaney" himself does it, when he can, unless he lives upon vapor, which would require to be more substantial than the stuff of that ilk which he has served up in your number of 1st November.

But, in passing, is your "Mulvaney" writing English when he describes the permanent force as "militia"? I think that if he refers to a standard unabridged English dictionary for the meaning of the word "militia," he will find that the definition therein given in no way fits the permanent force, and that he has, along with others, been writing, not English, but nonsense.

You also reprint from The Toronto Telegram an article which, in criticizing the General Order giving brevet promotion in the permanent force, refers to "the latest method of favoring the former (the permanent officers) at the expense of the latter (active militia officers)," and, Bryan-like, taunts the permanent officers with being "salaried."

It would be difficult, I fancy, for the author of The Telegram's article to mention any cases where the permanent officers have been favored at the expense of the officers of the active militia, but, if he knows whereof he speaks, I hope he will enlighten us. As to being "salaried," does he expect permanent officers to get no pay? If he does not so expect, what sense is there in the reference?

But why on earth should all this scolding at the permanent force be carried on in your journal and in part (a very small part) of the Ontario press? What good can it do? Does it tend to obliterate the "line of cleavage" that The Telegram refers to? Does it foster the spirit of mutual respect and comradeship that is so desirable between all officers who have the honor to wear Her Majesty's uniform? Does it do anything but stir up angry feelings?

If one were to trace this one-sided crusade to its source, it would not be surprising to find that it had originated with a few who had been disappointed by not getting commissions in the permanent force and otherwise, and who, in order to be "nasty," had set themselves the task of proving that a spade is not a spade, and that they are not satisfied with their success, for facts are stubborn things.

Yours,

SOLID-DRAWN.

November 5th, 1896.

BOTH JACKETS WILL BE WORN.

Editor MILITARY GAZETTE:

DEAR SIR,—I see by G.O. 87 of October, '96, that a new style of blue patrol jacket is ordered for the Canadian infantry for officers. Does this take the place of the scarlet serge patrol jacket for wear in camps of exercise, or is it in addition to the latter? As a number of officers of my battalion intended to order the scarlet jacket for next June camp, they would like some information on the matter, so that if the new blue jacket takes the place of the scarlet one I would wish to warn them in time. By answering in the next issue of THE GAZETTE you will greatly oblige

Yours truly,

CAMBRIDGE.

Cookshire, P.Q., Oct. 26th, '96.

[According to the order, the new serge will take the place of the present blue mohair braided patrol only. The scarlet serge will still continue to be worn.—Ed. CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.]

CAPTAIN COLLINS' GREAT SCORE.

Editor MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—Permit me to offer the following with reference to Capt. Collins' letter in your issue of the 1st inst.

Before leaving Canada in 1883, the Marquis of Lorne, Governor-General, gave us "a parting gift, the sum of \$500, for the encouragement of military rifle shooting at the Dominion meetings amongst those who attend from the distant provinces," and the amount was divided into five sums of \$100 each, to be competed for only by members from British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.

According to the programme for 1884 (when the first competition was held). Each \$100 was divided into three prizes of \$50, \$30 and \$20, for the best individual score, the firing to be done between 300 and 400 yards, kneeling, at targets 6 ft. by 2 ft. 6 ins., each target to be exposed for 15 seconds at a time, with 10 seconds interval between exposures, the number of rounds to be such as each competitor could fire in the three minutes allotted to the competitors, but not to exceed 15. Competitors to be dressed, etc., as in the Gzowski and B.C. Shield matches.

But this order, owing to a want of time, was not carried out, the distance being fixed at 200 yards; position, kneeling; number of rounds, 7.

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Manitoba entered, and Capt. Collins—then gunner (sic) 90th Winnipeg Rifles—won the first prize of \$50 allotted to Manitoba with a score of 29, the two next winning scores being 26.

It may be remarked that the Nova Scotia winners made 31, 29 and 29 respectively, and the New Brunswick winners 28, 27 and 26.

HENRY F. PERLEY.

Ottawa, Nov. 11, 1896.

Editor MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—I have become deeply interested in the controversy regarding the score made by Capt. Collins some thirteen years ago, and I am glad to find that gentleman correct the statement which I, for one, certainly heard him make, that he had won the standing match in question at Ottawa in '83, with a score of 34 points out of 35, in heavy marching order. This score certainly would be a remarkable one under the circumstances, and I do not wonder at "Youngster" asking for further particulars of the same. Had Capt. Collins stated the figures correctly, as he now, no doubt, does, no wonder would have been expressed, as although 30 points is a very good score, it is not a remarkable occurrence. Old hands like Capt. Collins should always be careful in relating their former experiences to beginners, as figures of this sort cannot be juggled with.

Yours, etc.,

QU'APPELLE.

Montreal, Nov. 4, 1896.