

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## Comment and Criticism.

THE London *Standard* is responsible for the following item. We have not been able to verify it, but if it proves true we have no doubt that many ambitious young Canadian militia officers will take advantage of the new regulation:—"It has been officially notified in general orders that regulations under which commissions in the regular forces may be obtained by officers of the colonial military forces have been approved and will shortly be issued."

IN view of the uneasiness felt in the west as to the permanent friendliness of the Red man, would it not be advisable for the government to raise a company of rifles or mounted infantry at each important town, if only to act as a garrison in the event of the Police being required for service in the field on an emergency. Several places suggest themselves where there would be no difficulty in finding suitable material; for instance Regina, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Calgary, Edmonton,

Battleford and Prince Albert. The objection has always been raised that in consequence of the floating nature of the population of these frontier towns a corps could not be kept efficient, and also that the arms were liable to fall into the hands of the Indians, but we submit that the time to hesitate on this account is past. Last year the several home guards gave good accounts of themselves, and the least that can be done now is to give, to the several communities so situated, that assurance of safety which the knowledge that they are adequately armed and disciplined alone can bring.

WE had the opportunity this summer of seeing the mounted policeman in all his aspects; on detached duty, on the route, in camp, and in barracks at headquarters, and coming upon them unofficially and without warning we were struck by their efficiency, by the power for maintaining order which even their uniform inspired, and by the multiplicity and variety of their duties. Whether they were on stable duty at the Regina barracks, driving heavy teams at Lethbridge, guarding the government property at Banff, or keeping order amongst the rough navvies on the British Columbia sections of the railway, they seemed equally at home, knowing what to do, and doing it so quietly and thoroughly as to excite the liveliest admiration. We had once an idea that they might be better handled if under military control and discipline, but now we feel somewhat inclined to reserve our opinion and await further developments.

THE appointment of Lieut. A. H. VanStraubenzee, R.E., to the instructorship of Military Engineering at the Royal Military college is a matter of congratulation alike to that officer and to the institution which, having left as a graduate, he returns to as a teacher, after an interval of employment on active service. Lieut. VanStraubenzee, who is a son of the Deputy Adjutant General of the Montreal district, was the second highest graduate of the class of December, 1880, and elected to take the commission in the Royal Engineers offered as a reward to the best graduates. He has ever since been with his regiment, and the fact that he has been selected by the Imperial Government to come back to Canada as an instructor in engineering is sufficient evidence of his success in the army.

EVER since the organization of the college the government has insisted upon the advantages to both the mother country and Canada that would result from its establishment, and Lieut. Van Straubenzee's return to us is one evidence of a closer bond. Not that he is the first Imperial officer who has returned to serve in Canada. We have Capt. Wise and Lieuts. Freer and Sears, and perhaps others. This view will be found advocated by the Adjutant General in a report of 1883, where he says:—"The liberality of the Imperial Government in loaning trained officers for professional work in the college, and in awarding commissions in the army to graduates, has been productive of good results, in enabling Canada to open up the college under favorable auspices, and to make provision for the future by the gradual development of its own resources. The purposes of both governments are, therefore, well served