

BREVET PROMOTION.

WE hear that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction in Quebec re the brevet rank amongst the permanent officers of "B" Battery, owing to the fact that the change will cost them about \$50 for uniform, and, as there is no pay attached to the new order of things, they object to having to pay out money in this way. They say that as there is no pay attached to it they do not see any great advantage in the new scheme. With the new order Lieut.-Col. Wilson, R.C.A., will go about 50 up the seniority list. It is also stated that action will be taken by the active militia officers in Quebec to request the Minister to cancel the order.

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A Subaltern writes: Col. Turnbull says the order re brevet rank should be extended to the whole militia. In the United States there are many colonels. As Max O'Rell says, "Few escape it." Shall we have the same state of affairs here? What is the object of the order, anyway? Does it carry increased pay? Why doesn't the Government do something sensible, like increasing the pay and reducing the uniform bills, instead of raising the pay by keeping the present rate and raising the rank. We have too many illusions in the militia. Too much "keeping up appearances," and too little reality. I suppose nothing less than war will bring us down to facts and common sense.

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An officer in No. 1 Military District writes: The G.O. recently issued, providing for brevet rank of officers in the permanent corps, does not meet with any degree of approval amongst those interested in militia affairs in this vicinity. The opinion prevails in some quarters that the brevet rank should be given only for some unusual service rendered. If, however, the plan is really to go into operation there should be some degree of equality between the permanent corps and the militia regiments. As pointed out in the editorial columns of THE GAZETTE in last issue, the honors should be shared equally by both. Just here it might be said that there is an idea prevalent that the permanent corps is away above the "volunteer" force. The idea is a great mistake. The only difference that the writer can see is that the former are in the "force" solely as a business and the latter for love. Do not let my remarks in this particular be misunderstood. What I desire to impress is that the permanent force officers are expected to devote all their time to military matters, while those in the "volunteer" force have other businesses to attend to, and the military matters are more of a secondary consideration. But nevertheless, amongst them will be found officers thoroughly posted and, indeed, from the writer's experience in some particulars, better posted than the "cads" who are desirous of lording it over the "poor fellow in the volunteer corps." There are, no doubt, many who will disagree with me in this particular. But such is the opinion of the writer, and, I am happy to say, likewise the opinion of a very large percentage of the "poor fellows" who are not so fortunate as to hold appointments at regimental depots.

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"Thomas Atkins" writes: Regarding the remarks in your last issue with reference to brevet rank and qualifications of officers of the permanent force, I wish to point out that they do an injustice to at least two officers, viz., Major Wadmore and Capt. Eaton. The former passed a splendid examination at Halifax with the Imperial troops when the Infantry School corps was organized, and later on spent some months in England, where he qualified for any field rank at Aldershot and Hythe, etc. Capt. Eaton holds a first-class, grade A infantry certificate, long course, including Kingston, has all the artillery certificates he can get, and has also passed in equita-

tion, so that no complaint can be made against these two officers for not being qualified.

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AN interesting contribution on brevet promotions appears in The Toronto Telegram from Lieut.-Col. J. F. Turnbull, late officer commanding Royal Canadian Dragoons, in which he says:

"I quite sympathize with the officers of the militia generally on the innovation just made, and the distinction drawn as regards promotion of the officers in the permanent corps, as compared with their brother officers of the active militia—which is really introducing into the Canadian force one of the worst features that used to exist in the British army—when brevet rank was accorded to the officers of the Household Brigade—until it was swept away with other unjust privileges by Mr. Cardwell's famous commission of re-organization.

"I do not know who is responsible, but I think everyone will admit that the change has been made hastily and without due consideration for the welfare and interest of the force at large, and that the only course now possible, in order that justice may be meted out to all, is to make the rule operative throughout the whole force without distinction.

"I fear the harm that General Herbert introduced and endeavored very insidiously to inculcate into the permanent schools of instruction, lives after him; and while I was not surprised to read in the English newspapers an account of his speech to the Bisley Team, in which he said he hoped to see the day when a Canadian regiment might exchange duty with his own regiment in London, I was more than amazed to read that this suggestion was received with cheers from those present—for while I can quite understand that any British regiment would gladly exchange for three years' service in Canada in preference to the monotonous daily routine of guard mounting over public buildings in London, I do not believe that any number of Canadians could be got to enlist for such work, nor do I think it would be in the interests of Canada nor in the welfare of our young men to encourage such injurious dreams. The fact cannot be too persistently kept before the public that the whole question of our militia organization has out-grown its original conception where a British garrison existed in Canada, and that it should be made the subject of an official enquiry, and I was sorry to see Col. Domville's suggestion for a royal commission not taken up in the House of Commons, and also to hear that Major-General Gascoigne was not in favor of such enquiry, while the Minister of Militia in his speech at the Garrison Club dinner here was not very encouraging, as he told us plainly that militia expenditure was not looked upon favorably by the people of Canada, who were indifferent to militia matters in general, except in their determination to see and get full value in return for every dollar expended. This latter view I certainly endorse, and 'so say we all.'"

LORD WOLSELEY ON THE CHINESE.

Lord Wolseley in an interview said: "The Chinese are the coming nation. The Chinese will, I think, overrun the world. There will be, I assume, another war between France and Germany, and it will be about the bloodiest war, or series of wars, we have seen in Europe. But, some day, a great general, or law-giver, will arise in China, and the Chinese will take to the profession of arms. They will hurl themselves upon the Russian Empire, and before the Chinese armies—as they possess every military virtue, are stolidly indifferent to death, and capable of inexhaustible endurance—the Russians will go down." Lord Wolseley even believes that the Celestials will overrun India, and thinks English statesmen should strain every nerve to keep on good terms with China.