

the absence of any doubt as to his competence, and the recommendation of the late Minister of Militia, should have settled the question long ago. General Gascoigne is alleged to favor Lieut.-Col. Aylmer's appointment to the office. The militia interest calls for the decision of such matters on other than political lines. It is bad enough to have party men who do service in Parliament or elections shoved into every Customs office and post-office billet that falls vacant, destroying the ambition and efficiency of all the lesser ranks of the public service, but surely the line should at least be drawn against politics being made the decisive factor in the management of the volunteer force of Canada.—Ottawa Journal.

POLITICIANS AND THE MILITIA

Any Canadian reading The Sydney Military Gazette, the organ of the Australian forces, cannot but be impressed with the fact that they are years ahead of us in military progress. They have reached the point for which we are striving, for politicians there are beginning to talk not with the object of gaining the sympathy of the members of the force. The Gazette takes Sir George Dibbs to task for a spread-eagle speech he made recently urging the most extravagant expenditures on the organization of a "National Guard." He must have been in America. The military men will have none of him, and they remind him he had no sympathy for them when he was Premier. His remarks did not take.

We in Canada will do well to remember who are our friends to-day when we most need them, and mark the Fosters, who would cut off the pay but spend double the amount to bribe a constituency with unnecessary public buildings or useless canals and railways. The time will come when they will find that military men are a force to be reckoned with in election contests. It will be a force which the people generally will sympathise and respect, for they have no personal ends to serve.

MR. FOSTER BLAMED.

Hon. Geo. E. Foster is generally blamed by the officers and men of the militia for the trouble over the four days' pay. Previous to that he was well thought of on account of his theoretical ability. Has it occurred to many of us how strong the feeling is among military men against him

in every part of the country? He is looked upon as an enemy of the militia—a man who can see no good in us. We hear many an unkind word said of him on the parade ground and at military gatherings by men who were hitherto strong Conservatives. This is a good sign. It shows that we are becoming more united and put militia before party. Mr. Foster will have to do much to regain the sympathy of hundreds of his former strong supporters.

B TROOP MANITOBA DRAGOONS.

The officers and men of "B" Troop Manitoba Dragoons have purchased in Portage la Prairie what is known as the old Baptist church, at a cost of over \$500, and have converted it into a drill hall and recreation room for the corps. It is probable that this troop will drill in camp at headquarters this year in the Island Park at the Portage, one of the most convenient camping grounds in the west. Four non-com. officers, one private and one trumpeter of "B" Troop took cavalry short courses at Winnipeg with the Royal Canadian Dragoons during the winter. The troops of this regiment still act as independent troops, the regimental organization not yet being completed.

GENERAL NOTES.

THE French war authorities have seemingly taken a tip from the British authorities, as all generals commanding army corps are ordered to practise night marching.

The Victorian (Australia) military forces are to hold an Easter encampment.

Fuller accounts which have come to hand of the Italian defeat in Abyssinia show that this, in a great measure, was due to the want of mounted troops.

Col. F. H. J. Dibble, of the Woodstock Field Battery, met with an accident the other day which may cause total blindness. An explosion occurred while he was engaged in working over a composition in which was molten tin.

Lieut.-Col. Ponton, Belleville, closed the series of lectures that have been of so great interest to the 15th Battalion, last week, by a lecture on the origin and history of military terms. The lecture was full of information and was much appreciated.

It has often been asserted at home and abroad that the Scotch regiments were composed, to a great extent, of Irish and English men. They had better beware before they say such a thing to a Scotchman. The fallacy of the statement is proven by the fact that in the 1st Highland Light Infantry

there are 17 Scotchmen to every 18 soldiers, and in the 1st Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders 90 per cent. are Scotch.

"C" company, 7th Fusiliers, London, had a most enjoyable time at their annual dinner, which was held in the regimental club. Lieut. Watt, the commandant, presided, and was supported by Col. Lindsay, Major Beattie, Capt. Graham, Major Hayes, Surgeon Mitchell, and Capt. Graves. There was a full muster of the company present. Major Beattie, in replying to the toast of the Army and the Navy, said that the United States thought \$1,000,000 for the increase of their navy was sufficient to make England come down. Great Britain replied by voting \$120,000,000 for the strengthening of its navy.

Lieut.-Col. Worthington, Sherbrooke, P.Q., and his officers have been so far successful in their efforts to secure an instructor from the St. John's School to assist officers not qualified for other than provisional appointment. The classes were opened last week. Sergt.-Major Philips, with the help of Sergt.-Major McAllister, act as instructors. The school is under the control of Lieut.-Col. Worthington, and it is to be hoped that the attendance will be such as to justify the militia authorities sending an instructor. Sergt.-Major Philips, of the School of Infantry, St. John's, gave an interesting lecture on "Guards" in the Griffiths Hall on Wednesday evening.

SCOTCHMEN,—ATTENTION.

The audacity of the English soldier is proverbial. One of them passing the cañeen of a Highland regiment during the progress of a "sing-song," went in. He was made welcome, and, making himself at home, volunteered to sing. His proposal was gladly accepted, and he stepped on the stage amid loud applause, vigorously renewed when after whispering to the pianist the latter struck up the familiar tune of "Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled." With an indescribable Cockney accent he sang the following:

"Scots wha hae on haggis fed,
Scots wha hae fra Flodden fled;
Scots wha sold King Charlie's head
For a base bawbee."

Then with a rush he was through the door, and not a moment too soon, for the infuriated Highlanders, up till then spell-bound with amazement, now rose, and with a yell of fury went in hot pursuit, which only terminated when the audacious Southron was safe within his barrack gates.

Officers and men of the militia will help THE MILITARY GAZETTE very much if they and their friends in making purchases will give the preference to those firms which advertise with us. They can help us still further by recommending the paper to any firms who sell goods that are used by military men in every part of Canada, either as military men or in their private capacity.