

Dawson had served under him with distinction in the North-west rebellion in 1885 and had in due course succeeded to the command, and by his ability as an officer, his untiring devotion to his duties, and his genial manner and courtesy, had brought the regiment to the degree of perfection to which it has now attained. The friends of the regiment have watched with pride the progress it has made under his command, and regret that the corps must lose the services of so able and efficient an officer.

Col. Dawson expressed his deep appreciation of the kind remarks that had been made and the beautiful present, and assured the donors that he would in the future, as in the past, always have at heart the best interests of the regiment. After the presentation the colonel and Mrs. Dawson entertained their guests and a most pleasant hour was spent.

This was not the first agreeable surprise the colonel received yesterday, as he was awakened from his slumbers at 2 o'clock in the morning by the sweet strains of music under his window, when he discovered he was being serenaded by the band of the regiment.—*Empire*, Jan. 2nd.

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In the adjutant's report of drills attended by members of the Queen's Own Rifles, F Company stands first with an average attendance of 55.1 men each parade, which makes the percentage of drills attended as 96.2. It is doubtful whether there is another company in Canada with as good a record.

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The military writer of *The Empire* has this to say about the late order affecting staff-sergeants:—

I have not quite made up my mind yet whether or not it was a good move on the part of Major-General Herbert to do away with the rank of staff-sergeant.

I daresay the General has been waiting with considerable trepidation for my decision, but he may be reassured, as I do not intend to find any serious fault with this order. I am very well aware that the rank of "staff-sergeant" has been greatly abused by nearly every corps in the Dominion. This is seen in its most glaring form on the rifle range at any of the large matches, when it frequently happens that a team for the skirmishing match will parade composed of nothing but staff-sergeants. They are, as a rule, very useful beasts of burden, but when a regiment is found to have an assistant armorer-sergeant, assistant sergeant cook, assistant this and assistant that, it is carrying the thing a little too far and tends to bring ridicule especially when all these assistants wear slung swords, peak caps and four-bar chevrons. There are some appointments in which there is real necessity for an assistant. Take for instance the quartermaster-sergeant of a city corps. If he does his work thoroughly and has his own business to attend to as well he certainly requires assistance of some sort. To be sure he is supposed to have the pioneers to give him help, but how often can he get one of them to give him a hand without a lot of grumbling, unless

the man happens to be a personal friend.

There has for some time been great need of some regulations governing staff-sergeants, their clothing and equipment. I have frequently seen one of these aristocratic non-coms. with more gold lace on his tunic than the colonel would be allowed; and on one occasion I heard a man ask, when the regiment had passed and the little party of staff-sergeants, resplendent in all the glory of Solomon, appeared: "Who are these officers? They must be the general and his staff." I am just as fond of gold lace as anyone, yet I think the matter is overdone by some in the absence of any directions as to the trimming of their tunics.

As I take it, the order does not interfere with the appointment of as many men as are required for regimental duty, but they will not be enlisted to the slung sword and four-bar chevrons.

The following positions held by non-commissioned officers and men of the permanent force or active militia are ranks: Master gunner, regimental sergeant-major, regimental quartermaster-sergeant, squadron troop, battery or company quartermaster-sergeant, color-sergeant, sergeant, corporal, bombardier, second corporal, gunner, driver, sapper private. All other positions are appointments.

A non-commissioned officer or man on receiving an appointment will thereupon be invested with the rank attached to that appointment, and this rank will be his permanent grade. The rank attached to any appointment is that indicated in the title of that appointment; for example, the permanent grade of a drill sergeant, sergeant instructor, sergeant bugler, sergeant farrier, etc., is sergeant.

There is no recognized rank of staff-sergeant.

The order of precedence of non-commissioned officers is regulated by Queen's Regulations of 1893, section II., paragraph 26, so far as it is applicable to ranks authorized in the Canadian militia.

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The following jottings from the *Empire's* military column should interest the readers of the *Military Gazette*: The *Canadian Military Gazette* says, "Isn't it vandalism, or worse, snobbishness, to change the name of the 'Old Fort,' Toronto, to 'Fort Stanley.'" The *Gazette* seems to have got on the wrong track, as it was not the "Old Fort" that had its name changed, but the "New Fort Barracks." Further, the name was not changed to "Fort Stanley," but instead to "Stanley Barracks," as will be seen by a recent general order. As there was no historical interest attached to the name by which the barracks has been known, I think the change was a most desirable one in every way. For the information of the *Gazette* it may be well to state that the site of old "Fort Rouil" is now marked by a monument which stands in the Exhibition grounds, between the main building and the lake shore. Neither of the existing barracks was ever named "Rouille."

The New Year number of the *Canadian Military Gazette* was a very creditable one indeed, containing as it did a supplement giving a number of illustrations of interest to shooting men. Among the other illustrations are excellent likenesses of Lt. Cols. Hon. J. M. Gibson, 13th Batt.; W. P. Anderson, R. L.; J. Macpherson, treasurer D. R. A., and Thomas Bacon, secretary D.R.A.; Major Hodgins, G.G.F.G.; Capt. E. D. Sutherland, 43rd Batt.; Staff Sgt. Simpson, 12th Batt., and last, but not least, that irrepressible promoter of the *Canadian Military Rifle League*, Lt. W. R. Pringle, Grenadiers. The reading matter of the number is also of especial interest.

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At the Queen's Own sergeants' mess on the evening of the 12th was given the first smoking concert of the season. Sgt. Major George occupied the chair, and the audience was large and appreciative. Lt. Col. Hamilton and the officers of the Queen's Own were present, and also a number of guests amongst whom were Capt. Howard, N.W.M.P., Regina, and Mr. Alexander Muir. The programme was a varied and enjoyable one, consisting of songs and recitations and instrumental selections. Amongst those who took part were Messrs. J. Winters, C. H. Fielding, Snowden, Semple, Verner, Warner, F. Wright, A. Sturrock, Blaikie, H. Simpson, Davies, Rubbra, Anderson, H. Barker, B. Kennedy and Ed. Lye, and Master B. Plant. Bailey's orchestra rendered a number of selections. The Entertainment Committee consists of Col. Sgt. Cooper, Sgt. World, Sgt. Hire, Sgt. Alum and Sgt. Major H. M. George.

MONTREAL.

After 25 years' service for Her Majesty, both in Great Britain and Canada, Major Thomas Atkinson, one of the best known officers in the Canadian forces, has found it incumbent on him to resign, owing to the duties devolving upon him as instructor in a number of scholastic institutions, among which may be mentioned Mount St. Louis College, cadets of which to-day would not have attained their present high standing but for his efforts. In Major Atkinson the Sixth Fusiliers have lost a good officer, whose career is one that many might envy, and was a credit to them and to himself. He if any volunteer in Canada deserves Her Majesty's long service medal it is he. Major Atkinson came to Canada with the 60th Rifles, and soon after his arrival became a member of the Grand Trunk brigade, on the disbandment of which, and the organization of the Hochelaga Light Infantry, he was commissioned captain of one of the two companies from the old brigade. Since then he has seen service in the old Royals, the Victoria Rifles, and joined the Sixth in 1890 as their adjutant in which capacity he has served ever since. His successor will likely be Capt. E. J. Chambers, the present acting adjutant of the corps, and, judging from his past record, he will make a good one. Although a professional man, he has always found time for his military duties. In his