in Ottawa, who had a great idea. He saw how unfair it was for officers to have to wait for promotion in the ordinary way, so he had a scheme for giving them a step of rank every two months. This worked so well among the officers that it was introduced among the men, and it pleased everybody.

"At the time I'm telling you about, we had about a hundred men in barracks. The regimental sergeant-major was a brevetfield-marshal and the battery sergeant-majors were all brevet-lieutenant-generals. That's the way it went on all the way down. We had twenty-seven brevet-major-generals, and I don't know how many brevet-colonels. I hadn't been in the corps long, so I was only bombardier and brevet-lieutenant-colonel. We hadn't a man in the regiment under a brevet-major, except a trumpeter, and he was a brevet-captain, having only just joined. Say, you ought to have seen us on church parade! Talk about gold lace, why, we looked like a brass foundry with the back door open!"

"And how about your officers?" I asked the old man.

"Oh, yes, I forgot them, but they didn't count for much," replied the narrator. "You see, they were promoted so rapidly that they all became field-marshals in a very little time, and then they were retired on full pay or else made D.O.F's.'

"And what's a D.O.F.?" I asked.

"I dunno," answered the old soldier, "but it's something or other. So our officers were changing all the time, and just at the period I'm speaking of, we had three little boy officers. They were only captains, just having come out of the Military College.

"Well, the war broke out, but, of course, as there was no force to oppose the enemy, except here in Quebec, they had a cinch, marching all over the country, giving five o'clock teas, and at last they came marching down here to Quebec. They could have come on the train if they'd wanted to, but the story wouldn't have been such good stuff for the war correspondents. One day a brevetcolonel, who was on sentry-go, saw the enemy's advance guard coming along the Plains of Abraham, so he locked the gate and turned out the guard.

"The general of the attacking force came galloping up and rang at the bell.

" 'What do you want?' asks one of our little boy captains.

"'I want you to surrender,' says the enemy's general.

"'Not on your life,' replies the little boy captain.

" 'You might as well be decent,' says the enemy's general. 'If you surrender right away, I'll buy beer for the crowd.

"But we wern't going to sell our country for beer.

"" Who's that I'm talking to?" says the enemy's general again.

" Oh, I'm a captain,' replies our little officer.

"Well, I don't want to waste time talking to captains," says the enemy's general. 'Can't you trot out a general, and we'll have a talk over this matter.

"All right," says the little boy captain, winking at the Regimental-Sergeant-Major-and-Brevet-Field-Marshal, and with that he opens the gate, and out marched all our generals, with their cocked hats and feathers and everything.

"You ought to have seen the enemy's general; he was clean knocked out! 'Hully-gee!' says he to his chief-of-staff, 'if they've got all these generals, how many men will they have?' And with that he galloped away, and his army retreated back across the border that very afternoon. We had a rare old time that night up at the mess, that is, all except the captains. There wasn't room for them, so they had to dine at a restaurant down town.

"And that's what I say," concluded the old soldier, solemnly. " It takes brains to think these things out. If it hadn't been for that man up at headquarters thinking of that brevet-rank racket, where would Canada be to-day? There's his statue down where the Wolfe and Montcalm monument used to stand. That's his name on the pedestal.'

I looked in the direction indicated, but the distance was too great for me to decipher the name, and, anyway, it didn't matter, because there isn't a word of truth in this story. -- Montreal Herald.

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