

POLITICS IN THE MILITIA AGAIN.

A REPORT is current in Montreal district that Capt Brown, of the Royal Scots, and a graduate of the Royal Military College, has been deposed from his position as district architect to the Militia Department and a layman appointed in his place. The feeling is consequently very intense in Montreal. Nearly all of us were very kindly disposed towards the new Government, because the actions of the late Government in military affairs were so thoroughly disappointing, and so much better things were promised by this Government that better things were expected. The sacrifices made by officers and men in the militia are very great, and they are prepared to make more, but they expect some sort of recognition. If this may be taken as the policy of the new Government, then the proposition made some time ago that the military men organize to work and fight against men supporting a Government which gives them this treatment will no doubt be carried out. We have already pointed out that the Conservatives in a bye-election were taught a very healthy lesson. When, on that occasion, they were asked to canvass and do other work during the contest, without exception every old-time worker in the Conservative interests informed the leaders that they were military men before politicians. The Conservative Government was treating the militia badly, and they would not only do nothing for, but would work against them. They kept their word. They voted as they said, and on two occasions Liberals replaced Conservatives. This is simply a hint as to what will be done.

It is not charged that Capt. Brown is incapable or that he has been an objectionable party worker. He supported another military man—Dr. Roddick—in the election. But suppose he was, there are any number of graduates of the Royal Military College and others quite capable of taking over the work. There is Armstrong, of the Royal Scots; Pope, of the Victoria Rifles; Heriot, of the 6th Fusiliers; Amos, U.L., R.M.C., all of them well-known architects and engineers and several of them Liberals. Any one of them is quite capable of filling the position.

What value will a report by a layman without military experience be on the rifle ranges and similar important questions, which are likely to come before the department at an early date?

The feeling runs very high, and when Dr. Borden passes through here he will hear pretty strong expressions of opinion. In justice to the Minister, it may be said that he is not blamed. He has been away from the department for some weeks, and another member of the Government has been acting Minister.

THE SURGEON-GENERAL.

THE position of Surgeon-General of the Canadian Militia, now vacant, has hitherto been somewhat of an honorary one. It should be so no longer. Those who have followed recent campaigns will have observed that more and more depends upon the medical staff. Work in the field is quite different from a general medical practice in the city or country. Years of experience have developed a system for use in the field of which the ordinary doctor is entirely ignorant. In consequence the United States and European countries, and even Japan, provide a special training for military medical officers.

Canada so far has done nothing. Other colonies have sent their senior medical officers to take the special course prescribed for the British Army. As far as we know Deputy-Surgeon-General Ryerson is the only Canadian who is properly qualified, and he went to England and studied at his own expense.

The new Surgeon-General should be Dr. Ryerson, or one of his seniors who would undertake to qualify. He must be a man with untiring energy, for there is a great deal of work to do, and he will

have many sacrifices to make. There are many prejudices to overcome before the department can be organized as it should be.

Some think the senior medical officer should get the appointment. We agree with this, provided he is the best man, but we noticed some months ago in reading the service papers published at home that the man appointed to the head of the department in the Imperial army was not the senior, but was selected from the seniors because of his ability and merit.

HOW TO ENABLE THE CANADIAN MILITIA TO TAKE THE FIELD.

We are glad to announce that the General Officer Commanding has taken the suggestion made in THE GAZETTE and has ordered Capt. A. H. Lee's lecture on "Mobilization" to be printed and distributed for the information of such officers as were not present at its delivery at the camps this fall.

It is to be hoped that the Department will also see its way to printing it in French.

FIRST DUMBARTON VOLUNTEER REGIMENT.

BY a recent mail we have received copies of The 1st Dumbarton Regimental Gazette, the official organ of the magnificent volunteer regiment of that name.

The 1st Dumbarton is the volunteer battalion of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders and is a strong battalion of twelve companies of an average strength of one hundred men each. The battalion is organized something on the plan of our rural battalions, having companies organized at twelve different points in the vicinity of Glasgow. For instance, "A" company is stationed at Helensburgh, "B" Company at Cardross and "C" Company at Dumbarton, and so on, down to "M" Company, at Renton.

Each company has its own headquarters and armory, and the battalion assembles once a year for a course of instruction under canvas after an arduous period of company drill at company headquarters.

This year the annual inspection was held at Balloch, and the parade state of the regiment on that day, 6th June 1896, showed present on parade 1,105 of all ranks, and drilling with other corps and on leave, 79, making a grand total of 1,184 men.

We regret that want of space forbids us reprinting an excellent photograph of the regiment, drawn up in quarter column, preparatory to inspection, as it is not often that we in Canada see a regiment 1,200 strong, complete with band, pipers and drummers, cyclists, mounted infantry section and ambulance corps. The full dress uniform of the corps consists of doublet, trews and glengarry with black cock feathers, while the officers wear the plaid in addition. The men are all equipped with the valise equipment and Martini-Henry rifles, and certainly make a magnificent appearance on parade.

The writer remembers with pleasure a visit paid to the armory of "A" company, at Helensburgh, under the guidance of Lieut. Duncan, who was in Montreal a year ago on his return from the scene of the Cuban rebellion. The equipment in the stores was found neat and clean, and everything ready to permit of the company taking the field at once with water-bottles, mess-tins, valises and all. The armory hall can be converted into a capital gymnasium, and a good-sized stage permits of concerts, theatricals, etc., being held there; all of which has a tendency to popularize the force with the public.

We hope, under the new regime at Ottawa, to soon be able to point with equal pride to the stores of our own volunteers—all ready for immediate use and everything of the latest pattern and most suitable design.