

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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The Command of the Militia.

None of those who have been busy during the past three months in nominating candidates for the command of the Canadian militia, are to have their desires satisfied, the important office having been offered to Col. Ivor Caradoc Herbert, an officer of the Grenadier Guards, but since 1886 serving as Military Attache at St. Petersburg. He is a man in the prime of life, being but 39 years old, and it would seem that what he lacks in the way of the experience which comes with age is amply made up by his natural ability, for we are told that Col. Herbert has distinguished himself in the army and has won the favour of Lord Wolseley. His service record is thus briefly stated: Born 15th July, 1851; commissioned an Ensign and Lieutenant in the Grenadier Guards, 5th November, 1870; Lieutenant and Captain on 25th November, 1874; Brevet Major 18th November, 1882; Captain and Lt.-Colonel 2nd May, 1883; Colonel 18th August, 1889; Regimental Major 26th October, 1889; Brigade-Major of the Home District from 25th February to 31st July, 1882; Brigade-Major of the Expeditionary Force to Egypt, from 4th August to 6th November, 1882; Brigade-Major of the Home District from 11th November, 1882, to 1st May, 1883; Commandant of the School for Auxiliary Forces, Wellington Barracks, from 1st November, 1885, to 6th April, 1886, when appointed Military Attache at St. Petersburg.

Though we are not told so, it is fair to assume, in consequence of the intimate connection of Lord Stanley of Preston, his family, and his staff, with the Grenadier Guards, that Col. Herbert is personally known to and recommended by His Excellency the Governor General, who being a man of experience in public affairs would not be apt to take the responsibility of recommending any but a thoroughly first-class officer for the post. That the new commanding officer may prove himself equal to the expectations thus formed of him, will be the sincere hope of every well-wisher of the militia. With the advantages his youthful vigour and wealth will give him, Col. Herbert will have exceptionally favourable opportunities for the study and instruction of a force that, under his gifted predecessors, has made great strides in the path of improvement, and is ready and willing to continue to profit by the fresh experience we borrow with the advent of each Major-General Commanding.

Note and Comment.

Our correspondent "Staff" must let us know his name before his letter, received since last issue, can be published.

The Creedmoor meeting will in all probability be held next year the first week in September, instead of the second as heretofore, the directors of the N. R. A. judging by experience that the change will give more auspicious weather. Though this will bring the event into the same week as the Dominion rifle meeting, it need not prevent the sending of a Canadian team to take part in the Hilton trophy match, if, as this year, it is timed for Saturday, as our meeting can be closed on Thursday afternoon. The Canadian team would, however, be prevented from having much preliminary practice upon the range, and thus handicapped to some extent.

Lieut. John Houlston, one of this year's graduates of the Royal Military College, has declined to accept the Imperial commission of which he had the option upon graduation, and as none of the other graduates want it the commission will not be filled from Canada. It is in the Infantry branch. The fact that such chances for entering the Imperial service are so commonly refused, shows that the engineering training received in connection with the military course at the College is so excellent that the graduates are quite content with the opportunities in civil life which it affords them. True, many who would like to take the Imperial commissions refuse on account of not having the private means necessary to supplement the service pay of a junior officer, so as to enable him to live up to the style of his fellows.

Few riflemen are better known to and none more respected by the participants in the Dominion gatherings, than Major Henry F. Perley, whose resignation of the post of Engineer Officer at Headquarters and of his commission in the Active Militia appears in the Militia General Orders published in this issue. Major Perley has overworked himself, and in order that he may not have another attack of the severe illness from which he has only partially recovered after a lengthened trip to England and the Continent, his physician has ordered him to relinquish every responsibility except that necessarily attaching to his important office of Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department. Obeying orders like a good soldier, Major Perley has severed his military connection, a step which must have been taken with great reluctance by one who has been so zealous in the service. His service on the Headquarters Staff has not been merely titular, as some might imagine, for his advice and assistance have been constantly sought, notably in connection with the inauguration of the Canadian cartridge factory; and the regret with which his request to be placed upon the Retired List was acceded to was officially made known to him in an appreciatory letter from the Adjutant General. We believe that Major Perley is also retiring from his position on the council of the Dominion Rifle Association; and has put away his trusty rifles, not to be taken out again until his