

# The Canadian Militia Gazette

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## NOTE AND COMMENT.

A SCANDAL long talked of has just been publicly exposed at Halifax, owing to the arrest and imprisonment of the Deputy Adjutant General of that military district for refusal to pay his debts. After an investigation by Major General Herbert the disgraced officer has been relieved of his command, and Major Gordon, from the Royal School of Infantry at Fredericton, has been placed temporarily in charge of the district. It is to be hoped, for the credit of the force, that a man so careless of his financial affairs as the suspended officer appears to have been, will not be continued in authority. Unfortunately there are no pensions provided for officers of our district staffs, for this is a case where, if provision is to be made at all for an officer retiring after long service, it should be in the shape of an annual living allowance rather than the lump sum sometimes awarded as a gratuity.

It might be as well for the Major General Commanding to inform himself of the habits and reputation of other officers of the district staff. We fear there is more than one black sheep in the flock—and in making the statement we do so without desiring to cast any imputation upon the staff officers in general, many of whom are men wholly above reproach. It is in the interest of these officers as much as of the militia in general, that the force should be

rid as quickly as possible of those habitually guilty of conduct tending to lower the dignity of their posts.

WE have this week discovered what ought to be a curiosity—a commanding officer who calmly writes that though nominally in command of a corps for the past eight years, he has never, either during or previous to that period, been at its headquarters—"I have never lived at or even seen the place," to use his own words. This statement is made in explanation of delay in answering a letter addressed to him at the headquarters of the corps, and which took more than a twelvemonth to reach him at the remote place where he resides.

OF the twenty men first eligible for places on the Bisley team seven have already accepted, in reply to the notices recently sent them by the Secretary of the D. R. A. The seven are Capt. W. P. Milligan, Staff-Sergt. Thos. Mitchell, Pte. J. H. Ellis, Lieut. Knifton, Staff-Sergt. R. McVittie, Corp. R. Binmore and Pte. J. A. Armstrong. No refusals have yet been received, but it is known that Pte. J. E. Hutcheson and Staff-Sergt. Coulson Mitchell will not be able to accept.

THIS time six years ago, the volunteers from Eastern Canada were on their way to the Northwest to suppress the half-breed and Indian rising. The anniversary gatherings will soon be in order, and pressure of other matters should not be allowed to prevent fitting commemoration of the chief events. In paying tribute to the memory of departed comrades who lost their lives on duty, the militia offer the most convincing evidence that any similar sacrifices which unhappily may be called for in the future will not be lightly forgotten. Let the surviving comrades keep fresh and green the memories and graves of the gallant slain of 1885.

WHILE at Quebec this week, General Herbert is reported to have severely reprimanded a non-commissioned officer of the Permanent Cavalry, on parade, for the very unmilitary proceeding of addressing himself directly to the Minister of Militia in order to obtain better barrack accommodation for himself and bride. It was forcibly impressed upon the erring Sergeant that he should have dealt with his Colonel. The incident reminds us of the trouble a crack corps in the West are having just now in dealing with their Colonel, who has so far shewn himself a master of strategy in avoiding the