

which he is an applicant than he is, but they are just as anxious as he is to get the appointment, and they have claims upon the country which should be taken into consideration, for they have either rendered Canada good service in the volunteer militia or they spent four valuable years of their lives acquiring the military profession in the belief that they would have some claim to the commissions in the permanent force.

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The status of the officers of the permanent force must be such that their comrades of the volunteer militia can look up to them with confidence at all times, and particularly when they are placed under them for courses of instruction. Things are bad enough now in all conscience with the permanent corps more than half officered with political appointees, who oftener than not know less about soldiering and care less about it than the officers who go to them for instruction. Whoever hears now-a-days of an officer with a record in the volunteer militia being appointment to a permanent corps? Such men have too much of the soldier about them to humiliate themselves to make the necessary terms with the political wirepullers, and of course they get left. Bad as things are though, what would be the state of affairs were the commissions in the permanent corps to be thrown open to impecunious young Englishmen who arrive out here in search of a job? At least no man should be given a commission in the permanent force who has not lived in the Dominion for three years. If some provision like that is not made some of these fine days we shall find our permanent force a corps of gentlemen adventurers, with an emphasis on the "Gentlemen."

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By the bye why is it that the militia list does not give the qualifications of the officers of the permanent corps? The certificates of every other officer in the militia are enumerated in detail, but the permanent officers might not have even second class certificates for any information the "List" gives on that point. This is to be all the more regretted in view of the stories about certain officers holding their commissions in the permanent force in spite of their inability to procure qualifying certificates. It is said that promotions have been held back in the permanent corps because an unqualified officer stands in the way. Be this as it may, the "List" should give the qualifications of all the permanent officers.

In the ordinary militia a man is not allowed to hold the commission of 2nd lieutenant longer than twelve months without he holds qualifying certificates, it is hard to believe that this rule is not enforced in the permanent corps, but such is said to be the case, and very likely it is true after all, the manner the commissions are allotted being taken into consideration. And yet these unqualified officers are the men the ordinary militia officer is supposed to regard as models and teachers. Was there ever a greater piece of absurdity in this absurd world?

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Look at this permanent corps question whichever way you will, it becomes more and more apparent every day that great injury is being done to the permanent force in particular and the militia in general by the systematic ignoring of the claims of the graduates of the Royal Military College to the commissions in the permanent force. Had the principle been laid down at the start that merit, not favour, should decide the allotment of the commissions, it stands to reason that the large majority of the officers of the permanent force would be R.M.C. graduates, and the remainder would be men selected from the militia for past hard work in the force and for general efficiency. There would be no unqualified officers at any rate.

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Of course no one pretends that all of the graduates of the college are bound to be successes in military life. There are muffs everywhere. But the college turns out more than enough capable officers for the permanent force, and the principle of selection would of course be observed. If the college does not produce the requisite number of well trained officers for goodness sake let the whole institution be closed down and sold out at once, for it is nothing more than a humbug, and an expensive one at that. That is the stand we take on this question.

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Before leaving the question of the Royal Military College it might be as well to draw attention to the necessity which exists for a thorough reorganization of the Board of Governors. As it is now this body consists of a number of gentlemen, interested in the welfare of the college, no doubt, but most of them quite unqualified for their positions as governors, owing to their positions in the militia. Staff officers are of course well qualified to know what is wanted of such an institution as this, but are they able to give free expression to their views? Of course they are not,

though it was just to get candid expressions of opinion as to the management of the college that they were appointed. This board should consist of gentlemen wholly independent of the Militia Department, and at least one of the members should be a graduate of the college. Such a man would get at the weak points in the system quicker than all the colonels between Halifax and Victoria.

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Has somebody at headquarters been made the victim of a practical joke, or are the general orders being used to further the Government's scheme to capture the temperance vote? One can easily be excused for reasoning this way after reading the recent general order against the sale of spirituous liquor in camp caoteens, knowing all the time that there is in "Regulations and Orders" a certain paragraph, 732, to be exact, which reads as follows: "Nothing in the Queen's Regulations and Orders for the army so far as they relate to the establishment of caoteens, is to be understood as permitting the sale within the limits of camp grounds during the annual drill of the militia of Canada, of spirituous (to include wine) or malt liquor of any kind; their sale within such limits being strictly prohibited."

## News of the Service.

NOTE: Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Without we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the doings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, so long as not enclosed in an envelope, for one cent. At any rate forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades.

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TORONTO.

The season of inactivity to the members comprising the city regiments is just at present holding full sway, with no chance of a break occurring until after the commencement of the new year. Both the Queen's Own and Highlanders have classes for those desirous of qualifying as non-com. officers, which will doubtless be carried on until nearly time for recruiting for spring drill, but apart from these little or nothing is going on in military circles.

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The pay sheets have all been forwarded and the arrival of the p'argent is the next event of importance to the Toronto Tommy Atkinsons. After the pay arrives and the quartermasters of the different regiments have satiated their appetites for pay for lost stores most of the companies have sufficient left to defray the cost of a little spread, at which reminiscences of the past year are exchanged and resolves for the work of the next year solemnly made, but in some cases, made only to be forgotten.