

# THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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## NOTICE.

FOR ten days from date only we make the following offer: We will send the *Century Magazine* for 1887, with the numbers for November and December last included, and the CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE for a year, to any subscriber not already on our list, for four dollars and a half, one dollar less than regular rates; or we will send *St. Nicholas* for 1887 and the GAZETTE for a year for three dollars and a half; or the whole three for seven dollars. The *Century* this year, with its quarter of a million of circulation, its history of Lincoln, and its stories of the American civil war, and *St. Nicholas*, with its high class literature for children, young and old, need no commendation, and the chance we now offer for securing them and the MILITIA GAZETTE at reduced rates is one which should not be neglected.

## Comment and Criticism.

LAST week's General Orders contain several slight changes in the Regulations and Orders, 1883, all being in the nature of additional details evidently found desirable to facilitate their interpretation. There are now so many emendations to the original text of the R. and O. 1883, especially in consequence of the late rebellion and the extension of the permanent corps system, to say nothing of the obscurity of dress regulations, that a new edition is an urgent necessity, and we hope one will ere long be published by the Militia Department.

NOW that the general orders are to be issued once a month only we will expect to see long lists of appointments and promotions. Last *Gazette*, however, does not yet give evidence of a decided change in this direction. Amongst its items, we may draw attention to the appointment of Lieut.-Col. H. R. Smith, commanding the 14th P. W. O. Rifles, to be an honorary A.D.C. upon the staff of His Excellency the Governor General. We congratulate both Colonel Smith and his corps upon the compliment thus paid them. Major Armstrong did not long retain substantive field rank in the N. B. Brigade, as his appointment to the district staff severs his connection with the corps in which he did such excellent work. Col. Baird, whom he replaces, has a record dating back to the rebellion of 1837, and has been for eighteen years in the appointment which he now vacates. A veterinary surgeon has been appointed to B Battery, R.C.A., this being the first commission of the kind given in the permanent corps. Dr. Grasett takes the surgeoncy of the Governor-General's Body Guard. Lieut.-Colonel Miller retires from the command of the Queen's Own, and is succeeded by his senior major, now Lieut.-Col. Allan. Dr. McLean, of the 31st, attains the rank of surgeon-major, on the completion of twenty year's service as regimental surgeon. Major Spooner succeeds to the substantive rank in the 47th, vacated by the transfer and promotion of Col. Smith. All the other appointments gazetted are below the rank of field officer.

THE appointments, reckoned up, show that there have been eleven promotions of officers already in the force, thirteen new appointments, of which the unusually large proportion of six are already qualified either by having obtained certificates or by professional standing. There have been nine retirements from various causes. This leaves a net gain of four commissions.

ONE expression in the new Imperial army warrant puzzles us. Whenever an officer is referred to as being engaged on extra regimental duty at home the occupation is styled an appointment, but when the unfortunate man is employed by a colonial government he is described as filling a "situation." The wording throughout the warrant is so consistent that the distinction is evidently purposely made, and we feel inclined to resent it, so far as this "colony" is concerned. Does the war office gain any dignity by dubbing the positions of the major-general commanding our militia, or of the officers in our military college, situations, as if the occupants were so many flunkeys? We submit, with all due deference, that such a mode of procedure is neither calculated to increase the dignity of the Imperial officers filling the appointments nor to strengthen the sentiment of Imperial federation.

YESTERDAY'S *Citizen* announces that the Government have decided it will be impossible to allow any Canadian militia corps to proceed to England to participate in the Jubilee celebration, on the ground that Canadian control of the troops would cease as soon as they left Canadian soil. If, as we have all along understood, there are regiments willing to defray their own expenses, and if, as has been asserted, the Imperial