



# THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

(SUCCESSOR TO THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE.)

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No. 5

MONTREAL, 1st MARCH, 1894

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## Note and Comment.

It is but natural for the straight laced and deep dyed in the wool party papers of the Government persuasion to applaud everything that the Government does, whether good or bad, but it is a pity that the independent papers should have been misled into expressing a sweeping approval of what looks like an injudicious appointment to a commission in the Northwest Mounted Police. We mean of course that appointment of Mr. Gilpin Brown to an inspectorship. It is said that Mr. Brown had a good army record and perhaps he had, but we doubt very much that it had anything to do with the case. From all accounts he would have been just as likely to have secured the appointment with the influence he had at his back if the course of infantry training in the nursery had been all the military training he had. His Excel-

lency, the Governor General, might have known him to have been a good officer and so recommended him, but we feel sure that it was Lord Aberdeen's influence rather than the effect of his testimonials that carried the day.

\* \* \* \*

That is what we object to and what the Mounted Policemen who are looking forward for promotion have a right to object to. We would be the last to suggest anything which would tend to curtail the prerogatives or the influence of our Governors General; but most respectfully would submit that His Excellency in pressing his nominees upon the responsible ministers of the various departments is not only abusing his authority, but is setting a most vicious example in a country where personal influence has already been allowed to have so much to do in determining appointments to the public services, that some of these services have been brought to the very lowest depths of degradation and inefficiency. This is plain speaking; but it is patriotic, and it is loyal; for the men who most highly esteem the visible link binding us to the dear Mother Country, the representative of British royalty itself, do not want to see it dragged to the low level of the common political position hunter.

\* \* \* \*

The appointment must have a bad influence upon the Mounted Police Force, however good a man Mr. Brown may be, for the scores of fine fellows, just as good as Mr. Brown is, who have enlisted in the force and have done their duty faithfully and well, it means the most grievous sort of a disappointment. Born gentlemen, are the rule, not the exception, in our splendid red-coat force which preserves order on the prairies. The names of most of the great families of England and Canada have prepared on the

rolls of the crack divisions of the N.W. M. P. It was a common and truthful saying at Calgary while "E" and "K" divisions were stationed there that there was more blueblood down at the Fort than in all the rest of Canada put together. Why do these young gentlemen join the force? Some of course do it because they are reckless and ambitious to indulge in a little dare deviltry; but many do it because they hope to get promotion. In the past a goodly proportion of the commissions have gone to men from the ranks and the recipients have invariably given good accounts of themselves.

\* \* \* \*

Does this appointment mean that promotions from the ranks except so far as the cases of surgeons are concerned, is to be stopped. We could have understood the appointment of a graduate of the Royal Military College or of an officer with a record in the militia; but for this appointment of a rank outsider, there can be no excuse. The Governor General's recommendation is but an aggravation of the offence.

\* \* \* \*

There are not many of the Militia left in the House of Commons at Ottawa, but the few who are there the militia force look to now to do their duty. Particularly do we pin our faith upon that indefatigable hustler Major Sam Hughes; more strength to his elbow.

\* \* \* \*

We hope it is not true that a recent arrival in Canada, who has been working the cards for some time to try and secure one of the vacant commissions in the Royal Canadian Artillery has prevailed upon the Governor General to use his influence in his behalf. To judge from a recent experience that would mean his ultimate success, and for the