

51st Batt.—No. 6 Co.—This company, No. 6, having become non-effective is removed from the list of corps of the active militia.

The following officers are placed on the Retired List, retaining their respective ranks:—Capt. Richard Hayes, Lieut. Frederick S. Proper and 2nd Lieut. William Kingsbury.

54th Batt.—No. 6 Co.—To be lieut., prov., Staff-Sergeant William Richard Stevens, vice W. Mitchell left limits.
2nd Lieut. T. A. Bishop resigns.

57th Batt.—No. 5 Co.—Capt. Thomas Burke having left limits his name has been removed from the list of officers of the active militia, from 24th December, 1887.

59th Batt.—No. 6 Co.—To be captain, prov., Allan Howard Tinkiss, vice Smart, resigned.

To be lieut., prov., Frederick Warren, vice Robert N. Tinkiss, left limits.

63rd Batt.—To be 2nd Lieuts. Wm. Lester Kane, G.S. (formerly captain in the 1st Halifax Brigade of Garrison Artillery), vice Lostford Woolrich, deceased.
Sergeant Louis Dixon, M.S., vice J. A. Bell, left limits.

72nd Batt.—No. 1 Co.—To be 2nd Lieut. John Hawkins, M.S., (formerly 2nd lieutenant in this company), vice S. L. Tilley, who retires retaining rank.

No. 4 Co.—To be 2nd lieut., prov., Staff-Sergeant David Lauders Gates (S.I., 2nd B.), vice Beckwith, promoted.

74th Batt.—No. 4 Co.—To be 2nd lieut., prov., John Rupert Foster, vice Simpson, retired.

77th Batt.—No. 2 Co.—To be captain, prov., John Owen McGregor, vice James McMonies, who retires retaining rank.

No. 3 Co.—To be captain, Lieut. W. H. Ptolemy, R.S.I., from No. 2 Co., vice W. G. Fletcher, who retires retaining rank.

To be Assistant-Surgeon, James Anderson, vice Shaver resigned.

78th Batt.—No. 7 Co.—*Erratum.*—In No. 3 of G. O. (6), 6th April, 1888, read "New Larig" instead of New Laing."

82nd Batt.—No. 8 Co.—To be 2nd lieut., prov., Pte. James Morrison, vice George Bynon, left limits.

86th Batt.—No. 3 Co.—No. 5 of G.O. (5) 23rd March, 1888, is amended by substituting "To be captain: 2nd Lieut. Narcisse Grenier, M.S., from No. 6 Co., 80th Battalion," for "To be captain, prov., Narcisse Grenier."

88th Batt.—No. 5 Co.—To be 2nd lieut. prov., Edward Martin, vice Auguste Dumais, deceased.

BREVET.

To be major, from 6th April, 1887, Capt. Thos. A. Walker, V.B., No. 4 Co., 77th Battalion.

CONFIRMATION OF RANK.

Capt. Angus Carmichael, R.S.M.I., No. 3 Co., 96th Batt., from 5th April, 1888.
Lieut. G. A. Kobold, R.S.M.I., No. 3 Co., 96th Batt., from 5th April, 1888.
2nd Lieut. Geo. Percival, R.S.M.I., No. 2 Co., 95th Batt., from 5th April, 1888.
2nd Lieut. Henry Payne, R.S.I., No. 4 Co., 7th Batt.; from 10th April, 1888.
2nd Lieut. D. T. Ferguson, R. S. M. I., No. 3 Co., 96th Batt., from 5th April, 1888.

2nd Lieut. J. M. Dagneau, R.S.A., No. 2 Bat., Quebec Garrison Artillery, from 31st March, 1888.

No. 4.—CERTIFICATES GRANTED.

RANK, NAME AND CORPS.	Royal School.	Class.	Course.	Grade.	Percentage of Marks obtained		
					Written.	Practical.	Aggregate Percentage.
Lieut. J. C. DeWolf, 1st Halifax Bde. G. Art.	R.S.A.	1	S	A	83	86	84
2nd Lieut. J. M. Dagneau, Quebec G. Art.	"	1	S	A	68	79	73
Bomb. F. N. Donaldson, Prov. Bde. F. Art.	"	1	S	B	95	81	86
Bomb. J. W. Hart, Prov. Bde. F. Art.	"	1	S	B	95	79	85
Q. M. Sergt. J. Coombes, Hamilton F. B.	"	1	S	B	89	88	88
Sergt. W. Fearnside, Hamilton F. B.	"	1	S	B	77	84	82
Sergt. R. E. Trumbull, Hamilton F. B.	"	1	S	B	88	81	84
Gunner R. Wiley, Woodstock F. B.	"	1	S	B	68	84	77
Gunner M. Brewer, Woodstock F. B.	"	1	S	B	56	84	73
Gunner J. R. Malsbury, Montreal Bde. G. Art.	"	1	S	B	70	78	75
Sergt. C. Daley, Digby By.	"	1	S	B	88	88	88
Corp. C. Taylor	"	1	S	B	88	78	82
Gunner P. Ernst, Mahone Bay By.	"	1	S	B	87	83	84
Gunner H. Smith, Pictou By.	"	1	S	B	91	75	81
Gunner G. A. Fisher, Pictou By.	"	1	S	B	81	79	80
Bomb. T. Ritchie, Pro. Bde. F. Art.	"	2	S	B	42	54	50
Gunner H. H. Cleugh, Prov. Bde. F. Art.	"	2	S	B	71	67	68
Bomb. A. E. Hutchinson Durham F. B.	"	2	S	B	64	56	59
Bomb. T. Reynolds, Durham F. B.	"	2	S	B	60	44	50
Gunner A. Webster, Durham F. B.	"	2	S	B	52	51	51
Gunner H. Campbell, Hamilton F. B.	"	2	S	B	46	53	50
Gunner J. Dudley, Shefford F. B.	"	2	S	B	44	75	63
Gunner F. Skinner, Shefford F. B.	"	2	S	B	50	69	62
Gunner W. Rourke, New Brunswick B. F. A.	"	2	S	B	57	75	68
Gunner J. Irvine, " "	"	2	S	B	54	57	56
Corp. D. Nolan, Levis By.	"	2	S	B	42	77	64
Capt. A. Carmichael, 96th Batt.	M. Inf.	1	S	A	92	66	79
Lieut. G. A. Kobold, " "	"	1	S	A	94	83	88
2nd Lieut. D. T. Ferguson, 96th Batt.	"	1	S	A	91	73	82
2nd Lieut. G. Percival, 95th Batt.	"	2	S	A	90	46	68
2nd Lieut. H. Payne, 7th Batt.	Inf.	2	Sp.	A	64	68	66

Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the militia.]

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS IN THE PERMANENT CORPS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette:

SIR,—When the announcement was first made that the Government proposed to establish a military college for the purpose of imparting a complete education in subjects connected with, and necessary to, a thorough knowledge of the military profession, and of qualifying officers for command and for staff appointments, it was felt by those who had desired to obtain a higher military education that the time had at last arrived when this was possible. During 1878, a leading politician, objecting to the system under which the militia staff was appointed, said "they take an old officer and appoint him as a D. A. G. The office was a sinecure for life, and the man felt that he need not exert himself. Under this system all these D. A. G.'s would have to be replaced in the event of war. Not one of them would be of the slightest use." It is presumed this Minister knew whereof he was speaking, as the majority of staff appointments had been made by himself. This system is known as "the political system." To a system similar to this, a large number of permanent corps officers are undoubtedly indebted for their appointments; present and future candidates are and will also be guided by it.

It was evidently the intention that only graduates of the college and those militia officers who had successfully passed their examinations, would be selected to serve in the schools, and to fill staff appointments. But although the Government must be fully cognizant of the evils of the political system, they have been entirely governed, with a few exceptions, by it in their choice of officers; though, as General Luard puts it, "on their ability and example will depend the future of the militia of Canada; therefore none but officers of approved worth, and regularity of habits should be nominated."

If the fact is true, that some of the four unfortunates at the last long course examination were provisional officers from the permanent corps, it can scarcely be denied that "ability" and "approved worth" were the governing factors in their selection. We should make it our aim to have commissions in our permanent corps and staff appointments prizes which our graduates and young militia officers would be anxious and able to secure. Under the political system of appointments, we might possibly find that a young officer, attending a short course, whose capacity for receiving and giving instruction was not of the highest, but who is suddenly imbued with an idea that life in a permanent corps would be a happy one, becomes an applicant to fill an opportune vacancy. The commandant of the school, who—by the way is responsible for its efficiency—writes a confidential report to headquarters regarding the incapacity of the candidate. But through a mistaken idea of improving the militia, and backed up with powerful friends, the inefficient applicant becomes a provisional officer, and in time may or may not pull through his long course examination. This is a mere suppositious case, although it might happen in a degree more or less true. It is in fact doing the best to bring the corps into contempt. It is sincerely to be hoped that General Middleton had none of these officers in his mind when he recommended that all officers of the permanent corps should be senior in their respective ranks to all militia officers.

FOUGASS.

April 16th, 1888.

Portrait of a Hunter.

A head like a snake and a skin like a mouse;
An eye like a woman's, bright, gentle and brown;
With lions and back that could carry a house,
And quarters to lift him smack over a town.

Where the country is deepest, I give you my word;
Tis a pride and a pleasure to put him along;
O'er fallow and pasture he sweeps like a bird,
And there's nothing to high, nor too wide, nor too strong.

Last Monday we ran for an hour in the Vale;
Not a bullfinch was trimm'd; of a gap not a sign.
All the niches were double; each fence oad a rail,
And the farmers had locked every gate in the line.

I'd a lead of them all when we came to the brook;
A big one, a bumper, and up to your chin;
As he threw it behind him, I turned for a look;
There were eight of us had it, and seven got in.
—The Field.

Spain has made it, by absolute legislation, obligatory on managers of theatres in Madrid to light those buildings by electricity, to the total exclusion of gas. Six months are allowed in which to carry out this most important reform.

The Spanish correspondent of the *Progress Militaire* reports that Gen. Pando, who has been experimenting for some time, has invented a new projectile, which will probably be applicable to guns up to 24 c. m. The principle of the new shells depends upon the reaction of two substances, both liquid, or one liquid and the other solid, which, separated, are harmless but which being brought together by the shock of the projectile striking against any object, cause a violent explosion. Although Gen. Pando keeps the nature of his explosives secret, several substances are known which act in the manner described, and this property has been made use of in the "land torpedoes" of the Italians at Massowah.

The mineral discoveries in Alaska are making that territory increasingly valuable each year, and as it grows in population and importance the value of British Columbia as a dependency of England lessens. One Alaska mine, the Treadwell, on Douglas Island, in Lynn Channel, near the British boundary, is reported to yield an average of \$67,500, more than one-half of it from the concentrated sulphurets crushed on the spot. Besides, gold, silver, copper, lead and iron have been discovered in the country between the Yukon River and Mount St. Elias, which lies west of it. So the time is not distant when Alaska will yearly yield to the public treasury the full amount of its original purchase money, taking the percentage of revenue to each unit of population as the basis of the computation.—U. S. Army and Navy Journal.