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Comment and Criticism.

GENERAL ORDERS No. 10, issued on the 16th instant, contain some additions to the regulations and orders relating to transport, subsistence and pay of the active militia when called out for actual service. These would prove of infinite use in simplifying work in case an armed force should unfortunately be required to take the field in the future. We defer publishing them until next week in order to make room for the new appointments gazetted in General Orders No. 11, issued on the 17th.

THESE orders give a total of 18 promotions, 57 new appointments, including eight qualified officers, and the large proportion of 13 non-combatant staff officers, while the whole number of commissions lost to the service is 37; thus showing a net gain of 20 commissions, an unusually good showing. The 36 provisional appointments however, would scarcely seem to be counterbalanced by the four officers whose rank has been confirmed on obtaining certificates.

AMONGST officers above the rank of captain, concerned in the last order, we may mention the following: Dr. A. W. Bigelow, has been appointed surgeon to the Toronto Field Battery. Dr. Eakins has been promoted to the surgeoncy of the 39th Norfolk Rifles in the place of Surgeon Major Phelan, who has retired. Dr. Kincaid of the Peterboroughs, attains the rank of surgeon-major on the completion of 20 years service as surgeon. The Victorias take on two new medical officers, Dr. Ruttan being their new surgeon. Milton Macdonald, Esq., has been appointed provisional major in the St. Hyacinthe battalion. In this connection we would remark incidentally that we cannot conceive of any circumstances which justify the giving of a field officer's commission to an unqualified man. In the 72nd battalion Lt.-Col. Shippy Spurr assumes command in the place of Lt.-Col. Parker, who goes on the

retired list, after having had command over 17 years, and Dr. Miller takes the place of Dr. Woodbury, who retires with the rank of surgeon-major. Finally, we find that the headquarters of the 95th battalion have been changed from Winnipeg to Portage la Prairie, and that an outsider has been brought in as commanding officer. Lt.-Col. McMillan, however, is qualified, and has had considerable experience both as company and field officer.

IN addition to his regular annual prize, Mr. J. H. Steward, Strand, London, optician to the D. R. A., has generously presented two handsome prizes to that association. They are a mahogany revolving album and a carved oak aneroid barometer with silver dial. The council has added one to the first prize in extra series C and the other to series D, reducing the money prize accompanying them to \$10 in each case.

THERE are six military brigade camps in progress this week, but pressure on our space forbids extended notice of them. At London the camp for Military District No. 1 opened on the 14th under Lt.-Col. Jackson, D.A.G. There are about 2,250 men under canvas. Major-General Middleton paid a visit of inspection on Thursday last. The camp for No. 2 district was formed at Niagara on the 14th also. The number in attendance here is about the same as at London, 2,250 men. The camp, which is under the direction of Lt.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., has the benefit of the presence of "C" Co., I.S.C. It had a visit from the Major-General on Friday last. The camp for No. 3 district opened at Kingston, that for No. 4 district at Ottawa, No. 5 at Granby and No. 6 at Laprairie on Monday of this week. Several serious mishaps are reported in connection with the camps. At Niagara on Thursday last, Thos. Hornton, a private of the 19th Batt., from St. Catharines, fell dead from heart disease while leaving the Salvation Army barracks. At London Pte. Ralph Shaw of No. 1, the Chatham company, of the 24th Batt., was fatally stabbed by a man named Stevenson, who had been quarrelling with his wife, when a number of the volunteers passing stopped to hear what was going on. Some of them it is said, interfered, throwing missiles at the horse, and Stevenson rushing out stabbed Pte. Shaw, who had been merely an onlooker. At Spencerville on Tuesday as No. 6 company of the 56th Batt. were waiting for the arrival of the train to bear them to Ottawa, Corpl. Geo. Sturton undertook to turn a somersault on the railway platform. His bayonet dropped from his scabbard, and as he fell to the ground the point penetrated his body in the region of the kidneys to the depth of about an inch, inflicting a serious wound.

OUR readers, especially amongst the officers of the militia, will be glad to know that the grievance to which we alluded last week and the week before, removing military supplies for the militia from the free list, has been redressed, the last amendments to the tariff reinstating the militia in its old position. If there have been any abuses of the privilege we hope they will be punished, and we hope that in future every militia officer will restrict his free entries to indisputably military goods, and preferably to goods which cannot be readily procured in Canada.