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(SUCCESSOR TO THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE.)

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Note and Comment.

Of the many good things General Herbert has done since he came to Canada nothing shows his natural shrewdness more clearly than the promptitude he displayed in filling the position of caretaker of the Montreal Drill Hall, made vacant by the death of Capt. Emond. The general of course knew that the last was a political appointment, and he rightly surmised that poor Emond's body would be hardly cold before the very dirtiest of the political heeleders of the Montreal district would be tumbling over one another in their haste to secure a position where they might have a chance of serving their grateful country, and incidentally pocket a salary of about eight hundred dollars a year besides pickings.

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With General Herbert, evidently, to

think is to act, and the promptness with which he acted in the Emond vacancy just about took the breath of the political spoils crowd in this district away. Would-be applicants had barely had time to decide what they were prepared to bounses for the wirepullers when they woke up one fine morning, a very cold one for them, to find that the position had been filled by the appointment of Staff Sgt. Fellowes, of the Regiment of Canadian Artillery, Quebec, who recently arrived in Montreal as instructor of the Montreal Garrison Artillery and recruiting sergeant of the permanent artillery in Montreal. That the appointment meets with the approval of military men goes without saying, it would not be for them to express disapproval anyway, but the chief cause of the rejoicing among military men is the proof which this incident affords that the head of the militia does not intend that appointments in the service shall continue to be regarded as mere political spoils, to be disposed of with an utter disregard to the welfare of the force.

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It is only to be hoped that the same sound principle which was acted upon in this comparatively insignificant case will be adhered to in the allotment of commissions in the permanent force, namely that complete qualification shall be insisted upon and that political influence and personal favour be thrown to the dogs. If political orthodoxy or association with orthodox politicians is not sufficient qualification for a caretaker, surely it should not be enough for officers in the permanent force, but that has been the chief qualification insisted upon in the past and that on the admission of no less an authority than an ex-Minister of Militia. After the thorough exposure of the evils of this system which has been made in these columns it is unnecessary to go into the matter at length here, but

it is only natural to remark that the force will now await with greater interest the allotment of the commission now vacant in the establishment of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery.

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Great influence will, we understand, be brought to bear to secure the commission for a certain young Englishman who is an applicant. He has only been out in this country a few months, and consequently he has had a very short experience in the militia, and if he has shown any particular aptitude for military work nobody appears to know it. By the bye the little experience he has had has been in the cavalry, but under the spoils appointment system that would be considered no drawback. We only have a few permanent artillery officers, and the few we have should be the very best procurable. What an insult to scores of clever young officers in the volunteer militia artillery, not to speak of numbers of eligible graduates of the Royal Military College, to even talk of allotting this commission to an unknown young cavalry officer! One scarcely knows which to condemn most, the impudence of this enterprising applicant, or the degradation of the service which offers such applications any prospect of success.

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We have no particular objection to the appointment of Englishmen to the permanent corps if they are qualified, but we most strenuously do object to young men incapable of obtaining commissions in the Imperial Army being brought out here to fill the few commissions in our permanent corps for the sake of the pay, no matter what their qualification may be. The young man in question has not the least possible claim upon the country, and the country does not need his services, for not only are there hundreds of Canadians better qualified to fill the position for