

appointment of a quartermaster general and an assistant adjutant general should prove of great benefit to the force, particularly when the personal qualifications of the officers appointed to these important positions are considered. By the way, talking of headquarters, what has become of the request made by General Herbert soon after his appointment to the effect that his position should be defined?

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In view of the interest taken in the capital lecture on the solving of tactical schemes delivered before the Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, by Capt. A. H. Lee, R. A., it is not out of place to enquire why we do not hear from the officers of our own permanent corps on such subjects. Is it because they are not asked or because they are incapable of undertaking the task? Of this there can be no doubt. Such lectures are really a necessary part of the instruction of officers and they should be included in the course of training at the military schools. If the officers of the schools are not capable of imparting this instruction through ignorance, they are not capable of holding the positions they do, and that a large proportion of them are not, goes without saying. It has always appeared to the writer that the time devoted to physical drill at the schools could with advantage be employed to give the attached officers some decent instruction in minor tactics and to impart to them, at least, sufficient knowledge in topography to enable them to intelligently read a map.

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Of course this is absolutely out of the question where there are no officers qualified to undertake the work of instruction, but there is no excuse for the officers of the permanent corps being so unqualified. All the officers of our well paid permanent corps should be just as capable of delivering such a lecture as the one in question as Capt. Lee, for there is no reason why the officers of our permanent corps should not have as complete a fund of technical knowledge as the officers of the Imperial army. Some of them doubtless have. If no political appointments had ever been made the same thing could be said of every officer in the permanent force.

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A correspondent asks why the positions of Brigadier at the recent manoeuvres at Toronto were not taken by the two commanding officers of the permanent corps stationed there. He says: "Commanding officers of battalions have enough to do in perfecting themselves in the work connected with the intelligent

command of their battalions. They would never get a chance to command a brigade in the case of actual service. That would fall to the permanent officers, and as they are paid to provide ordinary militiamen like ourselves with instruction in those departments of military work in which we are deficient, why don't they seize the opportunity afforded by these field days to show us how brigades should be handled?" Echo answers "Why?"

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Isn't it vandalism, or worse, snobbishness, to change the name of the "Old Fort," Toronto, to "Fort Stanley." Our late Governor-General deserves well of the militia. He never lost an opportunity to evince the most kindly interest in the force, and being a gallant and experienced soldier himself he knew how to exert that interest to some good purpose. Every member of the militia would like to see the name of the soldier Governor-General perpetuated in some way, but for goodness sake let it be a reasonable way. We maintain that it is neither reasonable nor patriotic to take away the old name of the fort at Toronto for the sake of making it a memorial of the ex-Governor. What was the matter, anyway, with the old name of the fort "Rouille," a name associated with deeds of patriotism and serving to recall whole eras of stirring history? Our national history is so brief and meagre at the best that we cannot afford to have the landmarks heedlessly blotted out by general order in this way. If it was necessary to call a fort after Lord Stanley why was not the brand new institution at London chosen? Perhaps they are reserving the name of a minister of the crown for that.

News of the Service.

NOTE.—Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Without we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the doings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, so long as not enclosed in an envelope, for one cent. At any rate forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades.

Address,
EDITOR, CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE,
P.O. Box 327, Montreal, Que.

TORONTO.

The annual meeting of the Canadian Military Institute takes place in the latter part of January, and the members will probably receive a most favorable report, for the institution is in a very flourishing condition. There are more members than ever and a member has given notice that he will move that the membership fee for outside members be raised to two dollars a year. The institute has nicely furnished and well cared for rooms, conveniently situated and with all of the convenience of a club. It consequently proves a great convenience to military men living out of town and having occasion to visit Toronto now and again. The Institute is doing

good military work too. No less than twelve military publications are taken regularly, covering, besides Canada, the United States, Britain, South Africa and Australia, and this besides the daily papers. Then there are 1,000 volumes in the library. The published transactions of the Institute have been most favorably received throughout the world, and the United Service Institutions of both Great Britain and the United States have asked permission to republish certain of the articles. I understand that the following have been invited to deliver lectures before the Institute this season: Major General Herbert, Col. Lake, Qr. M. Gen., Capt. Twining, R.E., Lt.-Col. Turnbull, R.C.D., Lt.-Col. Cotton, D.A.G., Lt.-Col. D'Ossonnens, D.A.G., Lt.-Col. Munro, Oxford Rifles, Sgt.-Major Keefer, late of the Bengal Army, Capt. Ross, of the Oxford Rifles, late of the Cameronians, Lieut.-Col. Lindsay of the 24th Batt., Lt.-Col. Wayling, Lt.-Col. Deinson, G.G.B. G., Lt.-Col. Straubensee, Surgeon Major Strange, Major Buchan, Lt.-Col. Gyn, and Captain Mutton. Much of the success of the Institute is doubtless due to the indefatigable exertions of the secretary, who devotes a great deal of time to the work of the Institute.

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Christmas is an off-day for Tommy Atkins. On this day he can "cut loose" in cowboy parlance and "everything goes," with the "old man" when he walks the carpet next morning. Christmas day is celebrated by the members of Her Majesty's army all over the world. The Christmas dinner, even in the trenches, partakes, to a certain extent, of the good cheer of the season "at home." The event this year was celebrated at the Stanley barracks with all the customary formalities that have prevailed for centuries to British mess-rooms. The officers dined sumptuously in their quarters, and then visited the sergeants' mess in a body, headed by Lieut.-Col. Otter. Besides the commandant, there were Major Buchan, Capt. Macdonald, Capt. Leppard, and Lieut. Laurie. Lieut.-Col. Otter wished the sergeants a merry Christmas, and after they had fraternized as much as the R. & O.'s would allow, the visit was returned by a reputation of the sergeants. The band then took up a position in one of the drill-sheds and furnished music during the afternoon. Sergeant Bourke sang "Pat Malloy." Other songs followed, which, like wedding presents, were too numerous to mention. As may be surmised from this, a very pleasant day was spent.—Mail, Dec. 26th.

MONTREAL.

The funeral of the late Staff-Sergeant Anthony of the Sixth Fusiliers, which took place on Saturday afternoon, December 23, was one of the largest which ever left Point St. Charles. The funeral was a military one and was in charge of Major Atkinson, adjutant of the Fusiliers. The cortege was headed by the usual firing party, under the command of Sergeant Hiams, of "E" Company. The brass band of the Sixth followed and then came a gun carriage of the Montreal Field Battery, bearing the