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SHOULD BE SPANKED.

D'ARCY MACMAHON is the name of a youth with a political "pull"—in fact, he comes of a family that has very successfully worked the Government for appointments. His father, Hon. Justice MacMahon, was a lawyer in Toronto and his friends induced the Government to appoint him over the heads of men of greater ability and with better claims. This led Sir Frank Smith to withdraw from the Government at the time.

D'Arcy was a lieutenant in the 10th Grenadiers and without a profession. A situation had to be found for him. Sir Mackenzie Bowell, then Minister of Militia, appointed him to the R.R.C. He received notice of his appointment before it was gazetted and at once began to swagger as a lieutenant in the "reglars" and refused to carry out some regimental orders. The officer commanding the Grenadiers was too good a soldier to be trifled with and the matter was brought to the attention of General Herbert. The latter ordered him to be placed under arrest and he enjoyed his own company in a room at Stanley Barracks for some days before the G.O.C. ordered him to make a most abject apology and read him the most severe reprimand ever given an officer in the militia.

After some years of service he was allowed to retire retaining rank. He had little to do and soon got himself into trouble. He wrote an article reflecting

most seriously on Lieut.-Col. Wilson, R.C.A., Quebec, and sent it to Major Manley for publication in The Toronto Telegram. The latter acted most honorably in the matter and immediately apologized and gave Col. Wilson the name of their informant. Col. Wilson also had other very strong evidence, including the public typewriter in the Chateau Frontenac, Quebec, to whom MacMahon had given his scurrulous production to be re-written. He entered an action for \$20,000 for damages to his reputation. Finding himself cornered, he admitted that his statements were totally false, and apologized.

The Militia General Orders of two weeks ago struck his name off the list of the officers allowed to retain rank on retirement. This shows that the new General is not to be trifled with, and political influence did not prevent him doing his duty. If MacMahon's friends had been strong enough General Gascoigne might have had him as an A.D.C. But the General took the advice of his officers instead and gave the appointment to a young gentleman of more than average ability and an excellent record.

THREE OR FIVE-YEAR TERMS.

We hear of trouble in another corps. At the bottom of it all is again the question of how long an officer may retain the command of a regiment. The juniors think he may remain so long that their chances of securing the command are remote; the C.O.'s themselves, having taken so many years to arrive at the head of their regiment, feel that they should be permitted to enjoy the honors. For both there is a good deal of sympathy.

Attention was drawn to this matter in our last issue, and several communications have been received expressing hearty approval of the suggestion that a C.O. should not retain a command for more than three or five years; that he should then be given a brigade for another five, and if he possessed the necessary qualifications a division for a third five. One commanding officer writes that if such a scheme were carried out he would go to England at his own expense for a year or more to qualify for the command of a division. An R.M.C. graduate, who had worked his way up, would, of course, possess the necessary qualifications for divisional command, and it would not be necessary for him to go abroad.

THE COLLEGE QUESTION.

THE report of the Board of Visitors of the R. M. C. presented to Parliament is still unprinted. Just before last issue we traced it to Sir Charles Tupper. Since then it has been privately passed round among privileged members with an important page missing. This looks very suspicious.

Another report is in evidence, and is easily obtainable. It is called a minority report, and has been prepared by Mr. Sandford Fleming. He lets Major-General Cameron off very easily, and makes a number of suggestions that will not receive the support of practical military men. It is generally believed that Mr. Fleming's report was prepared at the request of the Government to counteract the strong representations made by the majority of the disgraceful condition of affairs in the institutions.

It has been several times remarked recently that there are no active friends of the force in the Liberal ranks outside of Mr. Mulock, and his other engagements prevent him following up questions as they should be. This college question has not been followed up in the House as it should have been. Let Liberal officers secure the nomination of men they know will fight for militia interests at all times.

Returning to the College, THE GAZETTE is informed on excellent authority that, owing to the laxity of discipline, drunkenness has been prevalent to an alarming extent during the last year or two. More liquor is drunk than ever before. This is given on the authority of a cadet now in attendance and by an ex-cadet. There can, therefore, be no doubt of it. We are not preaching temperance, but we do preach the necessity of compulsory moderation in the case of boys whose habits are just forming. Those in authority will have much to answer for if the future of the young men—brilliant young men they are too—is blighted because they are allowed to run riot now.

POLITICALLY SELECTED CAMPS

THE usual deputations are beginning to wait on the Government to ask that the militia camps be held near their town.

These municipal moguls make the location and conveniences of the camp a secondary consideration—if they are thought of at all. They do not therefore go to the officer commanding the district,