



THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

(SUCCESSOR TO THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE.)

VOL. VIII
No. 21

MONTREAL, 1st NOVEMBER, 1893

Subscription \$2.00 Yearly.
Single Copies 10 cents.

THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

(Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.)

ESTABLISHED 1865.

PUBLISHED AT MONTREAL ON THE
1ST AND 15TH OF EACH MONTH.

DEVOTED TO THE
Interests of the Military Forces of Canada.

SUBSCRIPTION:

Canada and the United States, - Per Annum	\$2.00
Great Britain, Ireland and Postal Union Countries, - - - - -	10s 6d. stg.
Single Copies, - - - - -	10 cents

Subscriptions are in every instance payable in advance, and the publishers request the favour of prompt remittance.

Unpaid accounts are subject to sight draft.

Remittances should be made by post-office order or registered letter. No responsibility is assumed for subscriptions paid to agents, and it is best to remit direct.

The date when the subscription expires is on the Address Label of each paper, the change of which to a subsequent date becomes a receipt for remittance. No other receipt is sent unless requested.

Immediate notice should be given of any delay or failure in the receipt of the GAZETTE.

No attention is paid to anonymous communications, but the wishes of contributors as to the use of their names will be scrupulously regarded.

All communications and remittances should be addressed to the Editor, P.O. Box 1931, Montreal.

VOL VIII MONTREAL, 1st NOV. 1893 No. 21

NOTE AND COMMENT.

If a soldier tries to console himself with the thought that it matters not if he is absent, somebody will take his place, he is grossly neglecting his duty. Further, this indifference, if permitted to gain sway in one instance, may hold sway in another, as for example, when this same member is called temporarily to perform another's duties. No battalion or organization can continue to prosper unless the component elements of the same have united earnest interest in its welfare; and no battalion can continue to have a prosperous career unless its members feel a deep interest in its prosperity. Regular attendance, better than anything else, will tend to strengthen the interest, and this is the first step toward securing regularity at drill and all else pertaining to the welfare of the battalion and company.

Whenever is this farce of ignoring the graduates of the Royal Military College in making appointments to the permanent force to stop? We had fondly hoped that we had about seen the end of this inexpressibly absurd practice when we had the assurance that the General Officer Commanding had expressed himself in favour of appointing graduates only, but we can all see now that the same old system of ignoring the graduates of the R. M. C. is to be followed. The two last appointees to commissions in the Regiment of Canadian Artillery as per the last general orders are not graduates of the Royal Military College. The excuse that there were no available graduates does not hold good for we happen to know of at least one application for a commission on the part of a graduate in every way acceptable, and there may have been many more.

• • • •

The only excuse then that there can be for these appointments is political expediency; but that is no excuse; it is an accentuation of error committed in the public service.

It makes of a grave error in the administration of public affairs an unsavoury public scandal. The members of the Government have no more right to consider their own advantage in making public appointments than they have to hold themselves from the public coffers entrusted to their charge, whenever they feel the need of a little pocket money. If such appointments as those just gazetted are not made for political purposes, what in the name of all that is just and sensible are they made for? No one will venture to say, we should imagine that the young gentlemen just appointed are better qualified for commissions than graduates of the Royal Military College, who have been trained from boyhood in all the technicalities of the military profession in one of the first military colleges in the world.

Certainly the two lucky officers have been in the militia for a few years, have taken courses at the Royal School of Gunnery and are spoken of by those who know them as very good fellows. Probably they are promising militia officers, but there has been nothing in their record in the service that any one knows of to entitle them to special consideration. We would not go to the length of saying that the officers of the Active Militia should be shut out altogether from the chance of obtaining commissions in the permanent corps, but certainly, so long as there is any chance of obtaining the services of capable graduates of the Royal Military College no commission in the permanent force should be allotted to an officer in the Active Militia without he has markedly distinguished himself in some way or has given unmistakable evidence of rare military genius.

• • • •

This appointment of young men, scarcely known among the workers of the force, simply because they are Mr. Somebody's constituents, or Mr. Somebody Else's grandsons, ignoring well trained and capable men would have been all very well in the days of George the III, and might have passed without causing surprise in Canada a few years ago, but we had hoped that with so outspoken and determined a general at headquarters and with so promising a young minister ruling at the Militia Department, we had heard the last of rank political jobbery of this kind. The Royal Military College costs the country a large sum of money every year. Either this expenditure is judicious or it is not.

• • • •

If the expense is warranted the college produces every year a number of young gentlemen qualified in every way to take commissions in the permanent force. If the graduates are not so qualified all the money expended on the institution is