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Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.

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MONTREAL, JUNE 15, 1895.

**Notes and Comments**

Nothing appears to be getting too bad for our service. We have received so much bad news during the past few months that we are prepared to hear almost anything that is unsatisfactory now. We have the very best authority for announcing that the government has decided to allow the city corps only eight days pay for the present drill season instead of twelve as usual. The allowance of only twelve days' pay a year was in all conscience bad enough, for there was not a city corps in the country that did not put in three times that much drill. But where the hardship of this decision of the government comes in is that several city corps have already completed their

drill for this season and all have done the larger half of the annual drill. If this is not obtaining service under false pretences what on earth is?

The shoe pinches in many ways. The pay of most city corps is founded to supplement the government's scanty allowances and officers' grants to bands, rifle associations and other regimental institutions, to purchase full dress, head dress, to fit and alter uniforms, etc. The regimental fund, even with heavy contributions from the officers, and often the mens' pockets, is barely equal to the demands upon it even with the twelve days' pay. The contemplated reduction will impose a heavy additional burden upon the city battalions for contracts for bands, drill instructors, etc., had already been made on the basis of the old rate of pay, and not only have the contracts been made but they have been carried out.

Of course the financial year does not begin until the first of July, but that is no excuse for this sudden determination to cut down the pay of the city corps, for it has been the practice in the past to allow the battalions to put in the annual drill for the succeeding financial year in the spring.

We sincerely hope that the government will reconsider their decision, and would most earnestly appeal to the Minister of Militia to insist that this injustice should not be done. Mr. Dickey, during the short time he has been at the head of the department, has by his invariable courtesy won the esteem of the force, and the hope has been confidently expressed that in him

the Militia will have a Minister who will insist upon the claims of the force being recognized. Here is a golden opportunity for the honorable gentlemen to show that this confidence has not been misplaced.

We make this appeal to Mr. Dickey, not in the interest of the city corps alone, but of the whole force. The contemplated reduction of pay would have the worst effect possible upon the city corps, creating an uncertainty which would result in their delaying the commencement of their annual drill until the best part of the year was over. The efficiency of the city corps would be reduced fifty per cent., and as they set the pace for the whole force, the standard of the rural corps would be lowered to a corresponding degree.

Necessary reductions in pay and allowances would be cheerfully responded to by all ranks, for the militia are willing in every respect to share in such general economics as may be necessitated in other governmental departments, but to confine the pruning knife to the Militia Department alone is more than Parliament has a right to expect the militia to stand without a protest.

We are enabled to state, also with authority, that the reports that the city artillery corps were to receive no annual pay this year are quite unfounded. It is the intention of the government to pay artillery corps the same as the infantry.

According to the *United Service Gazette*, Lord Robert's appointment as Field Marshal to fill the vacancy