

migration agent. Besides, the Department itself should have a man present to distribute literature and information.

Major Blaiklock's suggestion that the buildings should be Canadian in every particular is an excellent one. Major Hughes premises that his district will provide the lumber without charge. *THE MILITARY GAZETTE* will undertake to find, among its numerous friends, manufacturers who will furnish one, if not all the buildings, with articles made in the Dominion. This will include even the pictures of Canadian scenery to decorate the walls.

CHANGE IN THE GAZETTE.

FOR eleven years *THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE* has worked more or less vigorously in the interests of the militia. It has been controlled by men who sacrificed their time and money for the good of the service. The paper has done much. It would have done more if we had all given it the moral support it deserved. Instead we have been over critical. We expected too much. The United States service paper, with ten times our field for circulation and advertising, is published at \$6 a year. We have found fault because those interested in *THE GAZETTE* with all their disadvantages did not give us a better paper for \$2.

Publishers in any other circumstances would have given it up years ago. But those interested in *THE GAZETTE* had their heart and soul in their work. They were prepared to lose money—and did—if they could help the force. They toiled on, hoping that some day their efforts would be appreciated. One after another they became discouraged and dropped out.

They were not alone, however; we have all, both officers and men, felt that our sacrifices were not recognized. Like *THE MILITARY GAZETTE*, we have all at many times decided to retire. If governments had to economize, they reduced the military grants regardless of the efficiency of the force. In making important appointments influence, not qualifications, was considered. In a year or two the novelty of the uniform and of the drill, and the show parades and the field days, wears away and we begin to take our work seriously. We feel that some time we may have to operate in the presence of a real enemy who uses lead instead of blanks. He has the best modern rifle and begins to decimate our ranks while he is yet miles off. All that are left of us and our ancient guns cannot begin effective work until he and his deadly weapons are within half a mile. He has the best of discipline; he has been trained in the very latest tactics; his officers are selected because of their ability. We are very weak in all these qualifications. We find ourselves badly handled at critical moments. This happened in 1866. It was painfully evident in 1885. It is appalling to think what may happen if we have to

oppose an enemy who may outnumber us ten to one.

Now, many politicians laugh, and some newspapers sneer, when we point out the necessity of better training. They forget that when the day of trouble comes we have to bear the fearful hardships and the miseries of which they can have no conception. They remain at home in comfort and in plenty, while we are starving at the front, our feet the cold, wet ground and our only covering the skies.

It is because these thoughts come to us all that we make strong representation for the recognition of our interests. We regard the possibilities of the future far more seriously than non-military men imagine. We hope to avoid the trouble but want to be prepared for it.

To secure proper recognition we must be united. We can only be united thoroughly by having an organ which shall be used as a channel for the discussion of what policy is in the best interests of the service. When that policy is agreed upon, acting as one man we must insist that the Government and the authorities carry it out in the heartiest possible manner. We must create in every part of Canada a sentiment in favor of the force, and we must deserve it by ourselves making even greater sacrifices for the common good.

THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE has a large circulation in every part of Canada. We all recognize it as necessary for the welfare of the force. Under its late management it has made a steady improvement, but it has not been a success financially. It will in future be controlled by a strong syndicate of militiamen who will endeavor to make it a success. Under some of its former managers it was supposed to be a Government organ. That cannot be said of it in future. Prominent members of the two great parties are now interested in it. With them all it will be the militia before party on every occasion.

A gentleman has been appointed to take entire charge, devoting all his energies to it. Arrangements have been made with The MacLean Publishing Co., of Montreal and Toronto, to look after the publication and business departments. The principal members of this concern have been in the militia for many years, and can be depended upon to do all in their power to make the paper a success.

This is the first number under the new management. It is hardly representative. Future numbers will show an improvement.

THE UNIFORM QUESTION.

The uniform question is an important one. It will be dealt with in future issues. Regiments which desire it must be permitted to draw the allowance and buy, under proper restrictions, the clothing, where they can do

so to best advantage. Contractors must not be allowed to control the Canadian Government. There is a growing feeling that the clothing should be made by prison labor. It would cost less and be more satisfactory.

A RIDICULOUS ANSWER.

The Young Liberals' Association, of Toronto, passed a resolution requesting the Government not to allow politics to interfere in military affairs. This was presented to Sir Mackenzie Bowell during a recent interview. The Premier expressed great surprise that anyone should hint that politics were ever allowed to interfere.

No one knows better than Sir Mackenzie that such an answer is decidedly at variance with the facts. Does he contend for a moment that the present commandant would remain at the head of the Royal Military College for one day more if it were not for political influence? The Commission appointed to inquire into the affairs of that institution verify what has long been known. They say plainly that Major-General Cameron is not the man for the position, and that affairs in the college are in a most disgraceful condition. It comes to us indirectly from one of the Commission that things were found so bad that they were afraid to publish them, and that they were embodied in a confidential report to the Government. As he said, "affairs at the college are rotten."

Does he contend for a moment that politics do not influence appointments to the permanent corps? We know of but one of the many gentlemen who have been gazetted in the past ten or twelve years who owes that appointment to his ability. The others got theirs through the political influence of their friends or relatives.

At a complimentary banquet given to the Right Hon. Lord Lamington, K.C.M.G., Governor of Queensland, at the Hotel Metropole, London, January 21, 1896, the chairman was Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, and the guests were: His Excellency the Italian Ambassador, General Sir Henry Norman, Lord Ampthill, the Right Hon. the Earl of Selborne, Sir E. Dawes, K.C.M.G., the Right Hon. Geo. Curzon, M.P., Admiral Kennedy and many others. G. H. Munn & Co.'s extra dry was specially served; vintage, 1889. Same as now in consumption in Canada. The same wine was also served at a dinner to the Duke of Norfolk on his retirement from London County Council, January 29, 1896. Guests were: The Lord Mayor of London, Lieut.-Col. the Earl of Denbigh and Desmond, Sir Richard Webster, the Earl of Onslow, Sir Horace Farquhar, Bart., M.P., Sir F. Dixon Harland, etc., etc.