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MONTREAL, APRIL 15, 1894.

Note and Comment.

Invitations to join the Cavalry Association of Canada were sent to every Cavalry officer in Canada, but it was very difficult to get the correct addresses, and from communications received it is evident that some notices were not received. The hon. secretary-treasurer informs us that every Cavalry officer in Canada is invited to become a member of the association, and that he can be enrolled at once by sending the secretary his name and address, accompanied by the annual subscription of one dollar.

It is rather amusing to read the correspondence in the Auditor-General's report, between the Auditor-General and the Deputy-Minister of

Militia. The Auditor-General writes the Deputy-Minister to enquire why Major-General Herbert's recommendation that district paymasters be abolished is not carried out. The Deputy, fortified by a memorandum from the Accountant of the Department, replies. The Auditor-General, very tersely points out the procedure in the case of a claim against the Militia Department. It is first sent to the D. A. G., who certifies to it and passes it on to the District Paymaster, who, after examination, marks it "Examined and found correct," and passes it on to the Department at Ottawa for authority to pay. The Deputy authorizes payment, but instead of a cheque issuing at Ottawa for the amount, a credit cheque is sent to the District Paymaster and he is authorized to pay the claim with his own cheque issued against the credit sent him from Ottawa. The party receiving the cheque signs a receipt and returns it to the District Paymaster, who passes it on to Ottawa. It is very difficult to see the use or necessity of the District Paymaster in this matter. The Deputy contends that it is necessary to have trained men as Staff Paymasters, as men not accustomed to such work would be liable to make serious mistakes. The Auditor General, in a very sarcastic letter, calls attention to the page after page of over-payments by District Paymasters, and asks the Deputy to obtain refunds. General Herbert thinks this work could be just as well done, if not better, by the D. A. G.'s and Deputy Ministers direct. It may be recalled that the principal pay-officers in the Northwest rebellion, as well as the Chief Staff Paymaster, were neither of them District Paymasters when appointed; yet there is no evidence of any overpayments.

In another letter General Herbert defends the payment of various amounts from \$250.00 to \$150.00 to officers of the Permanent Cavalry at Winnipeg on account of change of uniform. General Herbert says officers "specially qualified" had to be selected from the other permanent corps. It is noteworthy that some of these "specially qualified" officers are now at Kingston trying to obtain a *qualifying* certificate. Unqualified men are appointed, the government buys them uniforms and pays them two and a half times (\$2.50 a day) as much as other militia officers to enable them to qualify. This is the political way of officering the Permanent Corps.

Misfortunes never come singly. This has again proven to be the rule in connection with the well-known military outfitting firm of John Martin & Company. The heavy losses incurred by the firm in the fur trade have been followed by a serious fire, which has greatly interfered with the military outfitting business, but the firm expects to be doing work as promptly as usual for its patrons in the course of a few days now.

The Major-General's report on the state of the militia comes out so close to the issue of this edition as to prevent further comment than the remark that the force has a great deal to thank the General for for his frankness, even if a great many members and friends of the force think that some of the General's more personal remarks might have been eliminated from the published reports.

When is there going to be some official information about those long-promised and long-coming long service decorations?