

BREVET PROMOTION.

THE feeling against the special brevet promotion of officers of the permanent corps, first strongly expressed in Toronto and Montreal, is being re-echoed from every part of Canada. Daily and other papers of all shades of politics have spoken editorially against and have ridiculed the scheme. We have not yet heard of one writing in favor of it.

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The Toronto Telegram had this to say last week: The more one reads and hears about the recent brevet promotion mistake, the more one is surprised that the Minister of Militia allowed himself to be persuaded into signing it. It is not hard to see the reason and why a few men at Ottawa were anxious for its adoption, or even to imagine these same men persuading General Gascoigne that it was a good move. The General had nothing to lose politically or any other way. The Minister of a new Government, from which everybody expected so much in the interests of the militia, had everything to lose, and if reports are to be depended upon, he has succeeded admirably. He cannot say that he was not warned. A hastily convened meeting of Toronto officers was fortunate enough in gaining the ear of Mr. Lount, the Government member for Centre Toronto, just about the time the order was being carried into effect. Mr. Lount saw at once the danger, in that his party had nothing to gain and very much to lose. He also saw that the interests of the militia were at stake, and very generously sent an urgent despatch to the Minister requesting him to hold the matter over until at least the true feeling of the force could be obtained. This was not done. Now it appears that a large majority of the permanent corps officers themselves are strongly opposed to the order. It is safe to say that not a dozen officers of that corps are pleased with the new state of things, and it would be a generous act on the part of those who have been promoted and antedated, to request the Minister of Militia to withdraw their promotions. It is currently reported that those who have been guilty of misleading the authorities in this matter will pay the penalty by losing their own official heads. They are not hard to discover; in fact, they say that the Minister could whistle them all in from his office window!

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An officer in Toronto who has Hon. Dr. Borden's confidence, told THE GAZETTE that "immediately the Minister had an inkling that there was something wrong he wired to Ottawa to stop the

general order. It was too late, however; it was rushed through with undue haste."

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The officers of the Quebec District on the afternoon of Saturday, Nov. 21, met the Hon. Dr. Borden, Minister of Militia and Defence, and Col. Panet, Deputy Minister, at the Brigade office, in response to the invitation to communicate with him on matters appertaining to the general welfare of the force which the Minister issued at the recent garrison dinner.

Some 25 officers were present and submitted several matters for the consideration of the Minister. Among others present were: Lieut.-Col. Geo. Rolt White, Majors G. E. A. Jones and J. S. Dunbar, Capt. W. J. Ray, W. C. H. Wood, H. J. Lamb and W. H. Davidson, and Lieuts. E. R. Hale, R. J. Davidson, J. J. Sharples, and A. E. Swift, of the 8th Royal Rifles; Lieut.-Col. T. A. H. Roy, Major L. F. Pinault, of the 9th Batt.; Major L. A. Hudon, Quebec Garrison Artillery; Lieut.-Col. L. G. Desjardins, 17th Batt.; Major L. N. Laurin and Capt. F. A. O'Farrell and A. de L. Panet, of the 87th Batt.; Capt. Ernest F. Wurtele, R. O. and others.

The first matter brought up was that connected with the now celebrated General Order No. 73. Several officers pointed out how in their opinion it was calculated to benefit the permanent corps officers at the expense of the others, and that in fact it was equal to an injustice. In view of the objections which had been taken against this order in Toronto, Montreal and elsewhere, Quebec was simply asking that the matter be looked fully into, and if their views were correct that some measure should be taken to rectify the same. After the expression of opinion of several officers, the Hon. the Minister informed those present that the General Officer Commanding had assumed all responsibility for the issue of this order, and was prepared to assert that it was done in the interest of the permanent corps, and without any detrimental effect to the rest of the militia. The hon. gentleman further stated that if it could not be shown to be such as is claimed for it, he would be prepared to cancel the order. Officers having views on this matter and feeling themselves injured had better communicate the same to Headquarters, and request that the justice of the order in question be made clear, and remove the feeling which is gradually growing stronger that matters are not being conducted in a manner to benefit the force as a whole.

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