

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1896.

LONG IN THE SERVICE.

REGIMENTAL COLONELS WHO MAY BE CHANGED.

They Hold on to Office and Discourage Officers Who Want to Reach the Top of the Ladder—Some Examples of Deserving Promotion Noted.

HALIFAX, May 7.—The statement that the militia department had decided to limit the time during which the colonel commanding militia battalions could hold office to five, or at most to eight years, was good news to every officer on the Halifax force except Colonels Curren, Humphrey and Egan. These officers have already served for eight, seven, and four years respectively, and it looked, at first, as if they must necessarily retire at once and make room for ambitious successors. A second consideration of the order, however, gives them a large grain of comfort, for it seems the order is not to be "retroactive" and that they still have the five or the eight years during which to enjoy the sweets of command.

It is not fair to the junior officers of a battalion, that they should serve year after year with no hope of promotion till the colonel passes the age limit of sixty, or chooses to step out. Many a good officer has left the service because he saw no chance to gratify a laudable ambition to reach the command of his battalion unless death should step in to make room for him. Take the Halifax garrison artillery, for instance, Colonel Curren is a good officer in nearly every respect, lacking perhaps in one thing that he has not sufficient determination to do the right in matters of discipline no matter though the heavens should fall. A certain weakness in this matter is almost his only drawback to perfection, as a C. O. But good officer as he is, the chances are that if he were to stay there as long as he would wish to remain, that every spark of ambition to rise to the command would soon have died out of the hearts of such men as Major Garrison, Major Maxwell, Major Oxley, Major Hesselin or Major Stewart. These men are all the contemporaries in age with Colonel Curren and ere he was tired of the command they would be compelled by the expiry of the major's age to leave the battalion.

The same holds true of the 66th Princess Louise Fusiliers of this city. When would gallant Colonel W. M. Humphrey become so satisfied with military honors that he would voluntarily retire from the command of the "plungers"? Not, at least, till after the 60 years age limit had passed. Then what chance is there for such ambitious men as Major Byron A. Weston or Major John Menger, to reach the top, or what hope is there for such captains as Chipman, Brown, Whitman or King.

The 63rd Rifles have had a lot of trouble with their colonel, at least Captain Dixon has had a protracted quarrel with him. Egan seems to be coming out on top and with right on his side too, but what incentive was there to the younger officers to work their way up and do the best of which they are capable when there was no hope of ever reaching the top of the ladder. Colonel Egan has been commanding officer only since 1892 and it he stayed there till he was 60 what would become of Major James Noble Cran, and of Major A. G. Cunningham, or of such Captains as Hechler, Twining, James, Sircorn, Gunning and Dixon. They would simply not be in it for the top of the ladder.

Now, even if the years of command the colonels have already enjoyed do not count, as it seems in the case, they will have to come down five years, hence for with the years already put in they can hardly think of asking the extension of the three years addition. The change therefore, as far as Halifax is concerned, is a good thing.

But how much better the change is for some other battalions in Nova Scotia. There is the 68th, with headquarters at Kentville. For twenty-seven long years L. De V. Chipman has been colonel, while a long list of officers have been waiting for a quarter a century or more to be allowed a period of rule as commanding officer. What about Majors Balcher and Harris, or Captains Steadman, R. Allen, Borlen, Beckwith, Ross, Roscoe, Dodge, West and Cassidy.

The 60th of Annapolis is another glaring instance of this killing out of ambition in the junior officers by long commands by carloads. Colonel W. E. Starrat, has seen only one month less service as commanding officer than Colonel Chipman. Majors Cole and Harris, especially the former, may also become grey-haired waiting for a step up, which came not because the rule now being put in force limiting to five or eight years a Colonel's tenure of office, was not known. Captain Morse, Wade, Charlton, Buckler, Elliott, Kelly, LeCain, Miller and Purdy must ere this, have had a taste of that "hope deferred which makes the heart sick."

The 72nd of Annapolis is not nearly so bad as regards its commanding officer for Colonel Shippy Spurr has held the position only since 1877. There is therefore no so

much sympathy for naturally ambitious men like Majors Shaflin and Jacques, nor for Captains Morse, Roach, Bowlby, Ritey Dodge and Phinney.

In the 75th of Lunenburg Colonel Charles A. Kaulback was appointed in 1880, and had the new rule been in force ere this Mayor Griffiths or Captains King, Ross, Hamm or Langille might have been in a fair way for the command.

George H. Sutherland, was appointed colonel of the 78th of Colchester in 1893, so there is nothing to complain of there, though there might have been a quarter of a century hence had it not been for the new rule.

M. B. Harrison has been colonel of the 93rd of Cumberland since 1895, and it is high time Major Black or Captains Oxley, Harrison, Mills, Black, Letcher or Potter had a chance to move upward.

For only two years has J. L. Bethune been colonel of the 94th Victoria Highlanders of Baddeck.

From this it will be seen that there is need of "a change." In another respect also "a change" is required, and that is in greater honesty in making up the returns of drill and drawing pay therefrom. With rare exceptions dishonest returns are sent in by companies and battalions. This is the case in Halifax and is probably true all over Canada. It is pleasing to know that there are exceptions; that honest company returns in some instances are sent in to headquarters, but all the returns should be honest. Scores of men are charged for as putting in the full number of drills and entitled to the full amount of pay, and this return is frequently sworn to, when the full number of drills was rather put in, and by no right under heaven could the full money be drawn. Yet it is drawn, nevertheless, and the cash is illegally paid into company funds. The H. G. A. are having trouble over alleged irregular doings at the inspection. There may be serious trouble over this other matter, and officers are hereby warned to be careful in future if they wish to avoid scandal and a "sensational" by the way it is said that Gunner Fader has affixed his own name to the charges that have been made against officers of the H. G. A., and that the document has been forwarded to Ottawa. If Fader fails to prove his case,—to substantiate his charge,—it is said that proceedings will be instituted against him in a court of law for alleged slander. Fader, however, says he has a sure thing, and that he knows he has not been "talking through his hat."

SACRED BAND CONCERTS.

At the Halifax Public Gardens on Sunday Afternoons Discussed.

HALIFAX, May 7.—The proposal has been made to have sacred band concerts at the public gardens on Sunday afternoons this summer. There are many who would express themselves in favor of this, and there is a very influential section who would bitterly oppose the innovation. The clergy and most of the church going classes are against it, and it is a question, if a ballot were taken on the subject, which view would command a majority of the people's votes. Secretary W. F. Pickering, of the garden commission, is warmly in favor of the Sunday concerts. He is working up an agitation in their favor, and doing all he can to secure music for the gardens on Sunday. He thinks, he says, that people would be legitimately amused and improved by listening to a programme of band music after church on Sundays.

Alderman Thomas Mitchell, the indefatigable chairman of the gardens, who has done more than any other man in recent years to make the gardens the place of beauty they undoubtedly are, is opposed to the innovation, and will do all he can to prevent it. The alderman is not a religious man, so called, but he believes that Sunday concerts in the public gardens are not in the best interests either of the people or of the gardens. In the first place, he says, he wants to know where the money would come from to pay for the bands, for neither military nor amateur bands will play without remuneration. It is a question, indeed if the military band would be allowed to appear on Sunday afternoons. Secondly the alderman thinks that people should attend church and that children should go to Sunday school on Sunday and that nothing should be done to interfere with this in the slightest. Bands at the gardens on Sundays, he thinks, would interfere with each,—that church and Sunday school attendance both would thereby be diminished. In the third place Alderman Mitchell says the gardens should be made an attractive point for all, and while many would like music there on Sunday there is another class who would stay away from the gardens for conscience sake, believing the Sunday music an evil, so that while none need stay away on account of the absence of music the institution of such Sunday concerts would drive large numbers from this place of popular resort. Alderman Mitchell objects to the Sunday concerts not as a religious man but as a man of the world who also has a sense of the value the church is to the world.

On the one hand Secretary Pickering wants to do what he thinks will be popular with a large class, and on the other hand Chairman Mitchell objects on the ground of lack of money, of an account of principle and from motives of expediency. The subject will probably soon be thoroughly threshed out.

CHILDREN WHO DANCE.

BRIGHT LITTLE GIRLS WHO ARE ON THE STAGE.

They are Fond of Dancing and in Turn Delight Thousands—Little Ruby will Give her "Trilby" Dance Before Du Maurier and the Princess of Wales.

It is a strange fact but nevertheless true that the infant dancers are so fond of their chosen occupation that their little minds harbor grievance sore and vindictive against the laws that restrain their endeavors. They are a numerous tribe, too. The stage is to them a pleasure and they in turn delight thousands.

One of the brightest of the tots is "Little Ruby," who, in private life is known as the baby daughter of Mrs. K. A. Johnson, and who lives, when in New York, at 357 West Twenty-third street.

She is one of the most precocious of these little dancers. Ruby is scarcely 6 years old and a thoroughly healthy, wholesome child, with no thoughts beyond the playthings of babyhood until the stage is mentioned. Dancing and acting are the two subjects that can stir the infant from her dolls and even the inanimate sawdust creatures are put through the steps of intricate mazes and utilized as the stately dames of stage-land. Dancing is as



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she was to give a performance eight times a week and each one lasting only eight minutes, including encores, the rate of compensation was equal to about \$1 a dancing minute.

Dainty Violet Dale, with her filmy skirts and beautiful wavy hair, is a picture even

comedy where ample opportunity was given for the display of her specialty. She also sings and acts, but outside of New York state.

The stage has a very decided tendency to age a performer especially those of the gentler sex, but Mrs. Paige, who always

SERIOUS BUSINESS TROUBLES.

Of a Well Known Halifax Firm—An Unfavorable Settlement Effected.

HALIFAX, May 7.—The difficulty in which a large mercantile firm of Halifax found itself last week furnishes an illustration of how dependent one commercial house often is upon another. The firm in question, it is pleasing to know, has not been compelled to assign; indeed all they required was an extension of time in which to make their payment. They have offered to meet all their liabilities at a maximum time limit of eighteen months, paying interest at the rate of six per cent. This firm does one of the largest businesses in the city, and while it was bad news to know that they were in trouble it is consoling to find that so hopeful a view is taken of the situation. They carried on a large milling and corn and flour enterprise. Heavy losses have been sustained by them during the past few months. The firm of A. N. Whitman which is in liquidation, causes them the loss of some \$1500. They lost \$2000 by a recent failure in St. Pierre Miquelon, and by the failure of J. H. McKinlay they found themselves out nearly \$3000 more. These and other losses have made it impossible for the firm to do otherwise than ask for an extension of time, their payments to creditors being spread over eighteen months.

It is interesting to trace the close connection between a comparatively small occurrence more than a year ago and the important event which now is recorded in the extension of time asked for by this large firm. Considerably more than a year ago G. H. McKinlay endorsed accommodation paper for a man who has been out of the city for several months, interested in gold mines, but who is expected back sooner or later, to the extent of \$600 or so. McKinlay got into difficulties, and more than a year ago an assignment was drawn up ready to be filed whenever it was unavoidable to do otherwise. This was kept quiet and McKinlay was kept going till at last accommodation paper for the Halifax business man brought him down. The bank of Montreal notified McKinlay that if the notes were not paid they would enter suit for the amount and secure judgement. True many others in the same boat with McKinlay obtained similar notices from the bank, but they paid part and renewed, or made some other arrangement. McKinlay failed to do this either because he did not wish to try, or knew that he could not succeed if he did. This made an assignment necessary and the assignment document drawn up a year ago, was brought into requisition. The large firm under discussion, which asked for the extension of time was sorely taxed owing to their loss of \$3000 suffered by McKinlay's failure, and which, together with other heavy losses, brought them to their present position.

Had McKinlay not endorsed the absent gold mining citizen's paper for \$600 McKinlay might still have been considered to be in fair business standing, and the firm now in difficulty might not have endured the strain of an additional \$3,000 taken out of their assets.

The firm has the best wishes of all in the gallant attempt they are making to pay dollar for dollar with interest, and the chances are that with ordinary luck they will succeed.

Are You Moving?

No doubt this question has been answered a great many times during the past week, and we have had our share of the fun with those who would answer in the affirmative.

Our Dyeing and Cleaning Department has been very busy during this moving season, but we know that there are lots of people who have overlooked some articles to be cleaned or dyed. When you are setting your house to rights look them up and send to UNGAR and have a first-class job.

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LITTEE RUBY. VIOLET DALE. FOSTINA RUGELFA.

natural to "Little Ruby" and as enjoyable as water and swimming are to a young duck.

At present she is in London with her mother. They went thither on a special cable summons to appear before her royal highness, the Princess of Wales in Ruby's new "Trilby" dance. She will also appear in a number of fashionable drawing rooms before her return and may go to Paris as a very lucrative offer has been made by a famous manager of that capital. The crowning glory of this particular dance will be given when she appears before Du Maurier the author and instigator of the "Trilby" craze.

"Little Ruby" sailed away from these shores in the Paris and the last glimpse of her was patriotic. She was seated at the bow of the vessel waving a miniature United States flag.

is much sought after by shrewd managers.

before the music sets her feet moving. She is a winsome child of 13 years, bright and happy with a thoroughly artistic temperament not a whit affected by her success on the stage and as truly childlike as mother could wish a girl so young in years to be. With her mother she helps to keep house in a cosy uptown apartment in New York, and treats her friends to many an impromptu performance. Mrs. Dale who is an artist, has brought her art to bear on the early training of this midget [cansuse and watches over her daughter, so that the fascination of birds and bottles to the music of tender phrases whispered by insincere youths will never be hers.

Although debarred from public appearance, she still keeps up her studies for the ballet premiere's; it is simply the accentuation of the natural longing to dance, and be merry—only nature with a few artistic

accompanies Mabel, has always managed to keep her in an atmosphere of home life just as soon as her performances are over.

A charming young girl is Rosa Marston, who lives with her mother, also in New York. Utterly devoid of any flavor of the stage, she is, however, thoroughly in love with her chosen profession, and grieves much that the law declares her an infant, although she is within sight of her thirteenth birthday. Her dancing in the "World Against Her" company where she played the part of Ned, was one of the stellar attractions of that play. She is a pretty little thing with a face that breaks into the most delightful smiles when she smiles and a captivating pair of brown eyes that are rather roguish, beam beneath her curved eyebrows.

While Vesta Tilley, the celebrated English male impersonator, was in this country, she took a great fancy to tiny Miss Lillian Marke, the 5-year-old daughter of Mrs. William Marks, of 121 East Eighty-sixth street, New York.

Miss Tilley is a pretty good judge of stage dancing and was charmed by "Little Lil's" dainty step and lovely grace.

"Little Lil" is a very small girl to be a dancer, but like the others she took to it naturally and by heradroitness in home dancing suggested her public performances. Miss Tilley tried hard to take her back to England with her but Mrs. Marks did not see her way clear to agree to the proposition.

A bright, sunny tempered infant, hardly able to speak without a baby lisp, but full of life and health, she dances about the houses for her own amusement. Her dances in public are all short, lasting but a very few minutes, and when asked after one of her dances if she is tired, the tot invariably replies: "No, I can dance more; want to see me?" and then, because she likes to do it, the little feet go pattering off into new steps.

There are many others. Tiny Fostina Ruggiera is a compatriot of Tagliani and Nina, Conti whom she some day hopes to rival. Little Fostina can hardly keep her small feet from executing pas-da-seul, as she is brought up by her mother for an introduction and to lisp her quaint greeting in broken English. Fostina, has had no instructor; she simply sways with the music and tying a little shawl around her head will pick up her skirts and give excellent imitations of the graceful peasant dancers of her country.

Dancing is a gift. The butterfly dances of the older actresses, the calcium light effects and the paint and powder are never used by these little tots. With them the inspiration is nature and they dance as the fairies are said to dance, from sheer abundance of rejoicing.

GEORGINA WALLACE HITCHCOCK.



MABEL PAIGE. ROSO MARSTON.

There is also a wonderful dramatic force in the little frame that shows in all her dances. One forgets when looking at her graceful poses and twinkling feet that there are schools for dancing and dramatic institutions. Her motion abounds with the freedom that nature only can confer. There is no forced art; she is a born dancer and enjoys the full measure of her gift, and One offer from a New York theater accompanied by a contract all ready for her guardians' signature, had the salary placed at the comfortable sum of \$250 a week. Not many men 56 years of age make that amount each week, and considering that

touches added to help it over rough spots. Little Miss Mabel Paige is a native of New York and, although she has been on the stage since she was four and a half years old, and is now fourteen, she will have to wait many months before she will be allowed to make her debut in New York. But this has not prevented her from gaining a remarkable reputation as a dancer.

Her first public appearance was in Washington, D. C. in "Queen," and at the age of seven she took the leading part in "Little Lord Fauntleroy," and for the past three seasons has been a star of an operatic