

is totally inadequate for all practical purposes of defence—but the great evil of the present so-called military system is that this vote can be utilized for political purposes only, at the absolute discretion of the Minister of Militia. The hands of the General Commanding are, to all intents and purposes, tied, even in such matters as discipline and the efficiency of the officers of the forces. The powers of the Executive Officers will have to be clearly defined, so that there need be none of those innumerable discussions which have marked the past relations of the Civil and Military chiefs. The military forces must have no relations with political parties, and there must be no payment of political support by promotion and appointments in the army.

As long as the General Commanding the Militia is an officer of the Imperial Army, there will be a tendency to patronage being exercised by the Minister of Militia himself. When the General Commanding and the Ottawa War Office officials are men of the country, things will soon right themselves, so the sooner the government of the army is taken over by Canada herself, the better it will be for the efficiency of the Forces. It is idle to say that there are no officers of ability and knowledge sufficient to perform the duties in a perfectly satisfactory manner.

It has been shown that the United Kingdom provides about one-fifth of its revenue for the Land Forces only, quite independent of the sum she expends upon the Navy. Canada might reasonably commence by setting apart a sum of say one-tenth her revenue for her military services. This would amount to \$5,000,000, and would serve as a fund on which to build up the skeleton of her future organization. It would, however, be necessary to initiate a programme which would allow of an annual increase in this item of her public expenditure until the total sum necessary for the completion of the programme is reached. Her first requirements are a supply of guns, rifles, ammunition and stores. With these the present unorganized citizens could make some show of a defence—without these and without organization, the country is as helpless as a stalled ox.

We have seen how the nations of Europe, with little exception, have

baited our country during the South African War. Fortunately they feared to close with the Empire in fight, but other days and other reasons might hearten up our enemies to attempt what they lately would not dare. The United Kingdom might have to use her every man and every ship in defence of her own shores. At such a moment how would Canada be able to deal with an enemy? She has shores to defend against a hostile fleet, and many ports which could be seized and laid under contribution. When the British fleet is called off, the struggle to maintain her land inviolate will fall entirely upon the Land Forces. Let us beware lest any enemy believe that such an adventure as the seizure of our ports is an easy thing. The silly statement which is given out that Canada possesses a Reserve of Militia of 1,000,000, is of no more value than were the painted wooden guns on Chinese fortifications. The armed nations of the world know to a gun and a man what the military strength of every country is, and our unpreparedness and our weakness are well gauged and perfectly understood. We can, however, now satisfy ourselves that the world has learned what the stubborn courage and soldierlike capacity of the Canadian soldier are, and once we take up the matter of armament and reorganization, we may rest assured that respect for the Dominion of Canada will grow more and more, giving weight and emphasis to what our diplomatists may urge.

The present is a most excellent time to inaugurate such a change as is necessary in our military system. There are many officers who have served with marked ability during the war in South Africa, and have that experience so necessary for the matter in hand. These officers are in the prime of manhood and full of zeal and energy. We may expect that they will closely study the details of the organization of the particular service that will fall under their charge, and they will take a particular pride in building up the solid edifice on which will stand the safety of their country and people. It is quite impossible that the state of dependence of Canada upon the Fleet and Army, and also upon the resources of the Mother Country can continue much longer. Canada is bound to prepare herself for maintaining her claim