

that *three months* will make a well drilled soldier as many years will hardly suffice to turn out a thoroughly competent officer, and our present system above all others is that best adapted to produce good officers if it was fairly developed.

In the House of Commons this has been systematically ignored, it is not looked on with favour by a large and influential class, and that the very first to feel the disastrous effects of its inefficiency in case of national complication the pittance required for its maintenance has always been a stumbling block to the Minister of Finance and one in truth for which he could offer least excuse; and although the force has been well represented in Parliament it would appear that party obligations occupied the whole attention of those who should have made all questions affecting it a source of interest and inquiry. Our contemporary has earned the gratitude of the force by the course taken in the present article, and we hope the proposed inquiry will meet with the favor a proposition of its magnitude and value deserves. Not only have the affairs of "Our Militia System" been neglected by the High Court of Parliament, but they have received scant courtesy from the Press, and we hope the vigorous article from *The Nation* will be followed up by others from influential journals written, not with a desire to subvert a system or a party, but with the true intention of strengthening a great national institution.

The following from the columns of *Broad Arrow* of 4th April shews in what direction the current is setting, it is entitled "An Imperial Guard."

The New York papers have the following:—

"An independent military organization is now being formed in this (under the above title), to number 500 members, and which will be one of the finest organizations of the kind in the country. The object of this organization is instruction in the school of the soldier, without that annoyance and tax on the time of its members which is incumbent on the members of the National Guards, and, by its reception during the winter months, to promote social union and fellowship among its members.

"The proposed uniform is scarlet coat with scarlet trimmings, dark blue pants, bearskin hat, black belts, light blue overcoat (same as worn by the National Guard), fatigue cap. The cost of the complete uniform will be about \$125. Members are expected to have their uniforms in time for the first parade after their election to membership. It will be seen that the full dress uniform is similar to that worn by the British Grenadiers.

"Squad drills will be held weekly; company drills will be held monthly. There will be no drills during the summer months. The annual parade will take place, probably in September of each year. Special parades will take place when ordered by the company. The first parade will take place either in June or September.

"The non-commissioned will not be elected until the permanent organization is effected.

"The armoury-building which it is proposed to erect will contain a meeting-room, reading-room and library, a suite of parlours, hat and cloak-rooms, a banquetting-hall, property-rooms for the safe keeping of such articles of uniform as the members may desire to leave at the armoury, and a large assembly room with galleries sufficient to accommodate some four thousand persons, exclusive of the floor which will accommodate some fifteen hundred more. This hall will be one of the finest and largest in the country, and when not required for the use of the organization will be rented for balls, concerts, &c., from which a revenue may be derived, which will be devoted to the liquidation of the debt incurred in its erection.

"Receptions will be given by the Imperial Guard during the winter, for the members and invited guests only. No tickets to be sold. These receptions will be on a scale of splendour surpassing those of any similar organization.

"The expense of membership in the Imperial Guard will be—Uniform, \$125; annual dues, \$20. There is no initiation fee. Fines for non-attendance of drills and parades have not yet been fixed, but will be nominal.

"Candidates for membership in the Imperial Guards must be not less than five feet six inches in height and of good moral character. The term of service is unlimited, any member being at liberty to resign at any time he may desire."

As nothing is yet said about the Emperor who is to command these Republican Pretorians, the scheme looks very like buying the saddle first, and then going into the market for a horse to fit it.

Our contemporary's comment is not to the point. The horse a thorough-bred one at that, and saddle already provided. Our cousins are merely looking for the trained Jockey and he is not difficult to find. From the nature of things a return to their national allegiance is the evident destiny of all North America, and we look at such manifestations as this simply as indicative of the strong current of feeling underlying our neighbors' assumed antipathy; they cannot but be sensible of the vast advantages we in Canada enjoy under the stability of a limited Constitutional Monarchy compared with the all but anarchy of their own institutions. It is evident that sooner or later the solution of all their difficulties will be sought in a return to the paternal care of the Sovereign of the British Empire; so that the idea of an Imperial Guard is by no means so foolish as our contemporary *Broad Arrow* supposes. Speculative and practical Republicanism are totally different things. Our contemporary admires the former; the promoters of the Imperial Guard understand the latter thoroughly, and we profess our admiration of their good sense in providing all their machinery before they set to work the miller.

"The first torpedo vessel of the British Navy was launched at Pembroke Dockyard last week. The *Vesuvius* is a handsome little vessel, and when fully equipped her hull will only be some three feet above the water, and her screw below. Her principal dimensions are—length between perpendiculars, 90ft.; breadth extreme, 22ft.; depth

in hold, 11ft. 4in.; displacement in tons, 241. She is propelled by twin screws driven by engines on the surface condenser principle, of 360 indicated horse-power, with boilers bearing a pressure of 70lbs. to the square inch. She will not produce any smoke—coke only being used, and the funnel a horizontal one, lying along the deck, which is semi oval. The crew will be stationed below, and ventilation will be provided by a draught of air produced in furnaces by hand, until steam is got up, afterwards generated by means of a donkey engine, which drives a fan in addition to her large engines used for various purposes. This unique specimen of marine architecture was designed by Mr. N. Barnaby, chief naval architect at the Admiralty; and was constructed under the immediate supervision of Mr. Martin, the master-shipwright at the Pembroke Dockyard. It is to be hoped that we shall soon be able to give some account of her performances.

*Broad Arrow* of 4th April gives the foregoing paragraph. It is curious to find in the leading military journal of Great Britain an announcement of a fact that proves an intention on the part of the military and naval authorities of that country, to take under their patronage a system which has proved a failure in the United States and of whose latest development the leading journal, the *Army and Navy Journal* of that country has recently given such laughable and ludicrous description as "a polo with a tank of powder at one end." The duty of vessels like the *Vesuvius* being to poke said pole under the bottom of any ship that would be courteous enough to allow the experiment to be tried with equal danger to all parties.

In our issue to-day will be found a lecture delivered by the talented author of "the Wellington Prize Essay," Lieut. MAURICE, R.A., at the Royal United Service Institute and addressed to officers of the Volunteer Corps, the title being "On the connection between the Ordinary work of Soldiers in peacetime and Militia Efficiency," but in reality a well considered vigorous essay on discipline pure and simple. We commend its careful study to our readers as one of the best and most comprehensive essay we have ever read on this most interesting subject, especially as it places before our volunteer officers an analysis of what is meant by commanding men and their duty as soldiers in peace or war.

The lesson taught by the talented lecturer is one much needed by volunteer officers, and a good deal of the alleged inefficiency of the force may be traced to the lack of knowledge of the subordination of duties and responsibilities which should exist between officers and men.

In another page will be found two articles from the *Army and Navy Gazette*, one a paper on "Armament of Ships of War," the other on the "New Cavalry Tactics," both are sufficiently interesting to warrant us in placing them before our readers; they are indeed most valuable because they exhibit the practical experience of soldiers and seamen standing high in their professions.