

Let us look, then first, at the composition of the Canadian Militia, and how it is organized, recruited, and officered; and, then, after taking a glance at its interior economy, proceed to examine its present condition, and its ability to perform the duty expected from it, viz: to defend British North America.

Before going into our own part of the subject, it will not be out of place to show how men are obtained for the Militia in Great Britain and Ireland, and how the force is officered there.

The supplies for a certain number of men are voted yearly by Parliament. The present fixed establishment for the militia is 120,000 men, to be increased in time of war to 180,000. This number is divided among the counties according to population, the contingent for one regiment sometimes being drawn from three or four counties, while in other cases the county may furnish three or four battalions. Each regiment has its adjutant, sergeant-major and non-commissioned staff, on permanent service, and recruiting for the regiment and militia reserve goes on continuously. The men are regularly enlisted for five years, and after having passed the doctor, are regularly attested. They receive a bounty of five dollars on enlistment, and five dollars each subsequent year of their service *in addition* to their pay of 38 cents a day. Twenty cents more is added to the pay of each man for the first day of training, and a pair of boots, two shirts and two pair of socks, each the best of their kind, is given to every man at the termination of the season's drill. The officers are all men of good standing and social position, a good proportion of them in every regiment being regular officers on half pay, or who have retired from the army. Until last year, all the officers were commissioned by the Lord Lieutenant of the county; now they are appointed direct by the Queen, and every man must qualify within six months after being gazetted. The rank and file of the British militia is made up from the laboring class, principally from the men whose average earnings is one and sixpence to two shillings per day; yet, while out on their annual training, their pay and allowances are almost double their daily wages.

The annual drill lasts 28 days, with from fourteen days, to six weeks preliminary drill for recruits. Duty is performed in the most thorough manner. Crime of all kinds is rare, and promptly punished, while a rigid inspection from the General in command of the District at the end of the drill, and his report to the Commander-in-Chief, enables the War Office authorities to tell at a glance, the strength and efficiency of every regiment of militia in the service.

Turn now to how things are done in Canada. In the first place, the Volunteers hold the relative position of the regular militia of Great Britain. Parliament votes the money for the annual drill, and until 1871 all the drill allowed for was eight days in the year; now sixteen days are given. Ontario is supposed to furnish 18,070 men; Quebec, 14,382; Nova Scotia, 4,284; New Brunswick, 3,264. Well, how is the quota of each Province secured? Take Ontario, for example. There are in the Province 82 Regimental divisions and eight Brigade divisions. One would naturally think that each regimental division would furnish men in proportion to its general population, and that the brigades would be of corresponding strength. Not at all; there