

...rity of our country depends upon preparation being made good time to meet any emergency. The colonists shewed early that they were ready and eager to bear their share of danger at a time war seemed almost certain; there is no reason to suppose that they are not equally ready to enter upon a reasonable agreement for the apportionment of the expense of adequate preparations in time of peace. It would be a triumph for a Liberal Administration, some of whose members have been accused of disregard of the greater concerns of the country, if they succeeded in putting beyond the limit of discussion the organizations of 'Imperial defence.'

In the present politically unsettled state of the world, the importance of this subject cannot be overstated, the "thin red line of Britain," no matter what its valour may be, pales before the enormous armies of continental Europe, and the recent policy of Russia in purchasing and equipping fast gun boats in continental and American ports, for the purpose of letting them, like "blood hounds," in the event of war, to prey upon our mercantile navy, and intercept our "highways on the water"—which blockading our commercial routes and harbours, would send consternation throughout the length and breadth of England's possessions—should carry serious thoughts into the minds of our rulers at Ottawa.

Among the many military organizers whose attentions are being bestowed upon the urgent problem of the hour, none, perhaps, have rendered so great a service to, or are more entitled to the sincere thanks of our Empire than Captain J. C. R. Colomb, who in placing before England and her Colonies a practical solution of this momentous question in his book entitled "The Defence of Great and Greater Britain," takes rank as a benefactor to his native land.

For the purpose of reviewing Capt. Colomb's book in our next, with remarks bearing upon the military service of our own Domi-

**Militia Items.**

The first great drama and last spectacle on the Plains of Abraham, divided by an interval of over a century of time, has led to mind the wonderful improvements that have taken place in the construction of modern weapons of war, and with it a total revolution in the movements and disposition of fighting armies. No longer could a regiment of Fraser Highlanders throw down their arms and drive back, with their bayonets fixed to their rifles, the defending forces through the gates of the city, rather would it appear that a defending army judiciously equipped, properly armed and entrenched, could bid defiance to a host of assailants. The long range of rifled guns, the rapidity, accuracy and efficacy of their fire, would annihilate bodies of men in close formation, and render the new system of evolutions in extended order an absolute necessity. Field artillery must be met by field artillery, and the deadly fire from this silenced cre infantry dare venture to shew themselves in the open, whilst machine guns are almost sure to play an important part in any future battle. The lessons learned from the retrospect of the past continental campaigns shew clearly the deep science the "art of war" has become, and it is to be sincerely hoped that the Volunteers will carry back to their homes the practical scientific instruction taught by the past, and which, if taken to heart, is sure to prove a united and lasting benefit to the efficiency of our colonial army.

The Queen's Own Canadian Hussars, commanded by Colonel Forsyth, consisting of two troops, "A" and "B," have been actively commanded by Colonels Turnbull and Gray, and have been undergoing their annual course of training at the Citadel, Quebec, during the past month. The efficiency of this cavalry regiment, which reflects the great credit upon our service, entails the thanks of the authorities upon Lieut.-Colonel Turnbull for the manner in which he has lavished both time and money in bringing them to such a state of perfection.

—Circumstances in this world are generally compensating. The dire consternation which seized the Quebec civic authorities, sending the volunteer regiments under arms, in the expectation that it would be necessary to call upon them to quell apparent labor riots, must have proved highly beneficial, in a military point of view, and to the men themselves, for not only were both officers and men called upon to perform all the ordinary regimental duty and barrack work of a regular garrison during several days, but the Commandant of the Royal School of Gunnery, Lt.-Col. Strange, R.A., taking advantage of the various battalions being brigaded together, put the whole through an extended series of brigade drill, in close and extended formation on the Plains of Abraham, and the soldierly bearing and smart manner in which the evolutions were performed by the 8th and 9th Battalions cannot be too highly praised.

—Some remarks appeared in a recent issue of the *Toronto Mail*, emanating from the heated imagination of its Quebec correspondent, respecting the refusal of the 8th and 9th Battalions of Quebec Rifles to deposit their arms in the Citadel Armory during the late labor commotion. The statement was directly contrary to the facts; nothing could exceed the cheerfulness with which the men complied with the order, knowing it to be sheer madness, in the then state of affairs, to leave rifles scattered about in all directions. It is a pity that sensational correspondents do not take a little more trouble to learn the truth.

—The Quebec Field Battery, Captain Crawford Lindsay, Lieutenants Deau, Garneau and Thibaudeau, were quartered at the Citadel, Quebec, during the past month, undergoing their annual training. The Battery was inspected by Lt.-Col. Strange, R.A., D.I.A., on the parade ground at the Citadel, on the afternoon of the 25th ult., in the presence of His Excellency the Marquis of Lorne. The corps went through a series of field evolutions; dismounting, mounting and working ordnance, walking and trotting past, and a practical examination connected with the stores, equipment and working of a field battery. Upon the conclusion the inspecting officer expressed himself greatly pleased with the high state of efficiency this excellent Battery had arrived at. On the 26th ult., the men went through their annual firing competition at the Island of Orleans, for the Dominion Artillery Association prizes, sixteen men firing five rounds each, three common and two shrapnel. The practice was excellent, the target, being blown into pieces. On the 27th ult., the corps was again inspected by the Lieutenant-Governor on the Esplanade. The Battery then walked and trotted past to the music of "B" Battery band. Several movements were also performed in the most satisfactory manner. His Honor then presented badges to the following successful competitors:—Sergeant Marcheterre, Gunner Letarte, Gunner Martel, Bombardier Moisan, Sergeant Gronier, and Drivers Letarte and Drolet. His Honor addressed the men congratulating them upon the splendid appearance they had made, and stating that he "saw in their faces the spirit of the old volunteer veterans of 1812, and a proof that the chivalry of the French race had not died out on this continent." He added, he felt sure that "B" Battery, who were regular troops, and who, in his opinion, could not be excelled by any soldiers in the world, would feel proud, in the event of active service, to go into action side by side with them. This battery is to be congratulated upon the high state of efficiency it has attained, and the smart appearance of the men, due to the untiring energy of Capt. Lindsay. Lt.-Col. Baby, lately commanding this Battery, generously presented the whole of the men with cap lines and chains for their busbies.