

rity by one day reading in the papers of the loss of several million dollars worth of property by fire, or, even by negligence; for, be it known, that modern war material requires constant watchfulness to prevent its becoming inert from atmospheric influences, or a source of danger from spontaneous combustion, or chemical action.

It was no doubt with an eye to these evil possibilities that a wise legislature brought into existence the two batteries of artillery which form the Canadian Schools of Gunnery, and which it is hoped will be sources of professional improvement to the Dominion Artillery, the two batteries and the companies at Manitoba, are, as a substitute for a regular force, perhaps, numerically, the weakest in the world. In this respect we are even more conspicuous than our neighbors who boast of having an army of only 30,000. Canada may exclaim with gusto that she has only about 500 embodied!

After this, the Yankees cannot affirm that they control the largest country on "earth," by the smallest army. A brief account of the school of gunnery at Quebec, which, since its formation six months ago has made rapid advancement besides arming, in the depth of a Canadian winter every bastion in the Citadel with Tim. B. L. Guns; the solitary exception being the King's bastion, armed by the Royal Artillery before leaving, may be interesting. There has been a course of lectures with practical drills culminating in the competitive practice of which I send you an account.

With few exceptions the men composing the command had no military experience of any kind, but unlike the ordinary army recruits, they are of a far more educated class and have not adopted the life of a soldier so much from necessity as choice. Many indeed there are who have left comfortable homes and whose connections are highly respectable, to embrace an opportunity of following a military career.

A few of the inevitable "black sheep," however, put in an appearance, only to be "shown the Gate" promptly at any manifestation of confirmed worthlessness. The soldier upon joining the battery is at once put into the awkward squad from which he cannot emerge until he has mastered the rudiments; his character and habits, his abilities and education ascertained and duly recorded. From the awkward squad he goes to small arm drill, and so on, upward through the great labyrinth of artillery, technically, theoretically and practically he enters into that vast field of science from which it takes so many years of incessant study to come out a proficient.

The first fruits of the school have been gathered in a recent competitive great gun-practice which took place on the 11th, 12th and 13th inst. The system of firing pursued was that recommended by the committee on competitive practice for the Royal Artillery last year,

It is a subject of great importance with arms of precision to select, the most intelligent and naturally keen sighted non-commissioned officers and gunners as Artillery marksmen instead of the wasteful practice of allowing every man to fire. Accordingly the selection of marksmen on this occasion was economically made by pointing unloaded guns. The distance of the target (1,300 yds), which was placed on the river ice was taken before commencing practice, by the officers of the battery using the gunner's spirit level quadrant to find the angle of depression; the height of the bastion above the River St. Lawrence being known. That the practice was excellent despite the plunging fire from the battery was only natural considering the intelligent status of the men, who are as a rule educationally superior to the Rank and File of the Regular Army. It is to be regretted that there are not more openings for a class of men who are not compelled to enlist by want of means, but impelled by a passion for military service; doubtless, however, with the natural growth of the Dominion forces those who join in its infancy will have a better chance of the prizes (if any such there be in Canada) that the profession of arms generally offers to the well conducted and valiant.

A very great drawback at the school has been, however, the absence of horses without which it is impossible to teach practically the movements of field artillery.

We are not in a position to know exactly how the Gunnery School at Kingston progresses, but have no doubt but they are doing their work steadily and satisfactorily.

For the practice of this Battery see General Orders, page 209.

The above communication shows the value of these Military Schools and is a sufficient practical answer to all snarling critics.

The old Whig maxim that Colonies are a source of power to the Crown, therefore dangerous to the liberty of the subject, and the duty of every true patriot would be best fulfilled by forcing them into independent political existence, has been improved upon by their successors, the Whig Radicals, who assert that they ought to be disowned and abandoned, because they are costly and return no profit, politically or otherwise.

That both propositions are false has been known, but lately, a Mr. Archibald Hamilton in a paper read before the Statistical Society has proved the fact, that the greatest proportion of British Trade is with her Colonial dependencies, that the largest profit even in the shape of direct revenue is derived from it, and her most costly mercantile transaction; those already yielding least profits are with her foreign customers, especially the United States, to which Mr. Gladstone's administration would so complacently have sacrificed Canada.

From the statements made, it appeared

that the whole value of British exports is £222,000,000 sterling, of this the Colonies actually absorb £51,000, in the following proportions: British North America, £1 5s 8d per head; Australia and New Zealand, £8 10s 6d. The Cape Colony, £8 12s; the West Indies, £2 7s. In nineteen years these colonies have paid to the Imperial Treasury £45,000,000 sterling.

The stock arguments of the Manchester School have always been that the Colonists taxed British produce and manufactures for their own advantage, and there can be no doubt that we levy an import duty which is paid by our people, so that we contribute not only a fair quota to the Imperial Treasury but are obliged to pay taxes again on the same article to support our own Government.

Taking our population at 4,000,000 souls our exports would realize in value about £5,200,000, of this £520,000 would be the annual contribution of Canada to the Imperial Treasury, a sum that covers the whole cost of Great Britain's armament in North America including the squadron on that station; and if we take the population of the West India Islands at 800,000 souls, they receive £1,880,000 sterling of exports, and pay into the Imperial Treasury £188,000 sterling per annum, so that her possessions in the west are an actual source of direct and increasing profits.

The account however does not stop there, she would be obliged to maintain her North American squadrons to protect her commercial relations with these pots of the Manchester School, the Yankees, if she had no colonies in America, and therefore those dependencies not only pay for the force necessary to protect her interests but yield her a profit besides.

Mr. Hamilton states that the whole expenditure for a period of nineteen years was £448,000, but it must be remembered that over three-fourths of that sum went to the maintenance of Gibraltar, Malta, Ceylon, Hong Kong, Aden, the penal settlements and other objects of a strictly imperial nature, so that the much abused colonies have paid for their own protection and also for that of the foreign trade of Great Britain.

In fact by the actual returns the total cost of British North America, Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania and the Cape of Good Hope, territories containing over four and a half million of square miles of the richest land, with the most varied and valuable natural products in the world, peopled by over seven millions of inhabitants is just half a million pounds sterling or barely what British North America pays into the British Treasury annually. We commend this fact to the political economist.

In this view of the case Mr. Hamilton assumes that the Exports are profits and takes the rate of taxation on income at ten per cent. as in the nineteen years above stated, the total value of Exports was £450,000,000 sterling.