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## The Volunteer Review,

AND

## MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,  
To guard the Monarch, fence the Law."

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1875.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be pre-paid. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and at the corner the words "Printer's Copy" written and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage.

LIEUT. J. B. VINTER, of Victoria, and Captain H. V. EDMONDS of New Westminster, are our authorized Agents for British Columbia.

THE Honorable the Minister of Public Works and Premier of Canada during his recent visit to Great Britain was presented by the corporation of Dundee with the freedom of that ancient burgh, and entertained on the evening of 13th July last, at a magnificent banquet—on which occasion he upheld in a manner worthy of his reputation as a statesman—the interests of this country. The following extract from his speech, as reported in the *Scotsman* of 14th July, will give our readers an idea of the general scope of the information conveyed to our fellow subjects, and from the justice done to the services of a gallant and talented soldier, an assurance that the public interests were ably supported by the honorable speaker:

"Mr. Mackenzie, after thanking the company for the honour done him, went on to say—I can only hope what you have been pleased to say may be the case—that the improved condition of commercial intercourse between Canada and this country may be the result of my visit. I need not say we consider ourselves in Canada quite

as much belonging to the Empire as any part of Great Britain or Ireland. (Applause.) And we have in Canada ceased to speak of the possibility of anything else taking place than the advancement of the intimate political relations that at present exist. We believe it is quite consistent with England's greatness and Canada's happiness that these relations should continue. We believe, as I stated in my remarks to-day, there is room in the American Continent for two political systems. We have had our little trials already. Colonel Sandeman, in speaking of the condition of the volunteer force in England, alluded to the necessity that existed in Canada for an active and efficient force. We have a force of about 45,000 men. That force we can turn out on very short notice. I shall just mention one fact as an instance of this. When the second Fenian raid took place in 1870, the Commander-in-Chief (Colonel Robertson Ross, C.B.) was able to turn out upon the frontier within twenty-four hours 24,000 men—not merely 24,000 men, but well-drilled men, thoroughly equipped and clothed, and with all arms of the service—artillery, cavalry, infantry, and rifles—fully represented. (Applause.) To that complete organization of the Militia service we undoubtedly owe the salvation of the country, and I may say I was out with the rest of my compatriots. (Cheers.) I believe that secured us from all further molestation from the Fenian bands in the United States, and destroyed all hope of United States politicians that anything like a separation of the countries could be obtained by any means in the power of man unless there should be a desire on the part of England to separate from us. (Cheers.) We believe that in that country we have the means of building up a great and powerful nationality."

We cannot touch on the political, financial or commercial, policy shadowed forth in this very able and valuable speech which has all the authority of a state document, and is now a matter of historical import, but it brings painfully to mind that the great services rendered by Colonel ROBERTSON ROSS on that and several other occasions during his four year's service as Commander-in-Chief of the Canadian Army have never met with any recognition at the hands of the Canadian authorities.

For this, however, the present administration is not to blame, nor can the neglect be fairly laid at the door of their predecessors—but it would be an act of justice and generosity if the claims Colonel P. ROBERTSON ROSS has on the gratitude of the country should be considered, and we are quite satisfied that the Premier, with his knowledge of those services, will let the comrades of that gallant officer and the soldiers who have served under his command see that those who have done well for their country shall have their exertions appreciated and their honest services properly rewarded.

His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief of the British Army appointed Col. P. ROBERTSON ROSS to the command of the 9th Brigade District immediately after he relinquished the command of the Canadian Army—and at the distribution of rewards for meritorious military service on the occasion of the anniversary of the last Royal Birthday he was appointed C. B., a distinct

ion he owes his sovereign for long and valuable military service. It remains for the Canadian Government to follow the examples set by such high authorities.

THE *Broad Arrow* gives us an article on "Our Aggressive Naval Strength," which will be found on another page. It states that our total efficient sea-going fleet is represented by ten or eleven ironclads, leaving out what some of the naval constructors are pleased to call the "most efficient and powerful war vessel afloat, the *Devastation*, whose special uses remain to be discovered when a naval war shall give them opportunities of exhibiting their enormous powers and developing their tactical capabilities." Our contemporary states that this alarming condition of affairs is due to a false economy—but as that principle was introduced by his "heroic friends the Whig Radicals as a necessary condition of national existence, and as they also introduced the practice of throwing everything in the state, shipbuilding for war purposes included, into open competition, and thus enabling a combination of monopolists to be effected by which the cost of material and labour was increased enormously, he should not now find fault with or raise an alarmist outcry, because the people who succeeded are unable at once to repair the ruin and disorder arising from five years of misrule and mischievous activity on the part of merc doctrinaires, whose only consciousness of England's interests or duty was confined to the manufacturing and trading class.

To the direct action of those people are due the facts on which our contemporary founds his most decisive paragraph. After showing the weak state of the effective navy and the length of time which must elapse before new vessels can be built, and the deterioration of the machinery of those in commission, he says:

"But this is not the worst aspect of the case. The repairs at our dockyards are proceeding at a very slow rate. Mr. Huxr admitted, but a short time since, that a difficulty was experienced in getting hired workmen for the dockyards. As he then explained the rate of pay offered is so small, compared with that given in mercantile yards, that the workmen require the additional inducement of a permanent engagement, which alone retains the established artisans. Here again we have the old story of estimates cut down to injurious limits."

About six years ago the Whig Radicals in a fit of economy closed a number of Government dockyards, sold off the plant and material, and even in more than one instance, the very site—scattering the trained workmen and artisans over the world—because as they pleaded the work could be done cheaper and better in the yards of private builders, and here is the result of that economy.

We quite agree with *Broad Arrow* that