

Debates of 1868 show that this broad legal principle was already honoured in the breach.

Mr. Dorion, of Quebec and Mr. Alexander Mackenzie, of Ontario, moved an amending resolution asking the House to consider "the encouragement of the volunteer organizations."

These obviously existed or they would not have referred to them.

The amendment went on to say --

"The volunteer system is of proved efficiency and is specially adapted to the spirit and circumstances of the people, and is capable of supplying a more efficient and available force than that proposed to be substituted."

Mr. Dorion's amendment was defeated, of course, but it was the voluntary system that was carried out in practice.