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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, APRIL 18, 1876.

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. No communication, however, will be inserted unless the writer's name is given, not necessarily for publication, but that we may know from whom it is sent.

We have for the past nine years endeavored to furnish the Volunteer Force of Canada with a paper worthy of their support, but, we regret to say, have not met with that tangible encouragement which we confidently expected when we undertook the publication of a paper wholly devoted to their interests. We now appeal to their chivalry and ask each of our subscribers to procure another, or to a person sending us the names of four or five new subscribers and the money will be entitled to receive one copy for the year *free*. A little exertion on the part of our friends would materially assist us, besides extending the usefulness of the paper among the Forces—keeping them thoroughly posted in all the changes and improvements in the art of war so essential for a military man to know. Our ambition is to improve the *Volunteer Review* in every respect, so as to make it second to none. Will our friends help us to do it? Premiums will be given to those getting up the largest lists. The *Review* being the only military paper published in Canada, it ought to be liberally supported by the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of each Battalion.

In our issue of the 4th April there is a very valuable letter from Captain J. H. Radford, commanding No. 6 company 47th battalion, respecting the militia organization of Canada, touching the defects and excellencies of the system in an intelligent and practical manner, and although we do not hold ourselves accountable for the letters of our correspondents, in this case the writer is so thoroughly in accord with known facts, and has had such practical experience that we

unhesitatingly endorse that portion of his letter relating to the working of the system.

We hold that in common with all organizations of the same date the error of *over education* in a military sense has been committed—that is after having trained the then existing Regimental Officers of the force at military schools at considerable expense, precautions were not taken to make their knowledge available for instruction to others.

This was due in a considerable degree to the introduction of the idea of making the battalion the tactical unit, and in a great measure, placing the power of company commander in the hands of a subaltern Adjutant—thus camps of instruction became merely drill schools in which nothing but tactical manœuvres, which ought to be learned at the company headquarters, were taught, and no effort made to train men to the actual realization of the warfare the physical and topographical condition of the country demanded.

In this view the abrogation of those camps is not such an unmitigated evil as the gallant Captain supposes, inasmuch as the necessity has arisen for changing their whole character, the falling off in the supply of recruits is a much more serious matter, and one that evidently requires a good deal of consideration—not that we fear any inconvenience to the service therefrom—a little excitement would fill the ranks with the best material in the world; but in the mean time, as our correspondent justly remarks, training would be wanting.

It is evident that no attempt at conscription would succeed, and we doubt even if the *ballot* could be enforced, or there would be any necessity for that measure, for in the event of war we should have the whole *manhood* of Canada as volunteers and the *residuum* engaged in actively assisting the soldiers—but it has appeared to us that a solution of the recruiting problem might be found in legally defining "the proportion each locality should supply towards the volunteer or active force, and that proportion should serve at least for three years."

If one or two townships possessed sufficient population to raise a company of *first* and *second* class militiamen no good reason could be urged why they should not serve—that is be embodied and submit to a certain number of days training in the year at the company's headquarters—for which they should be paid—and if they *chose to go* to the District Camp of Instruction in addition they should be allowed that *privilege*—the latter Institution being confined to its legitimate object of training in major tactics.

This scheme would make all the organizations local—battalions should be maintained for administration purposes—and the mode of recruitment would be that the officer commanding the Reserve Militia should simply warn the first names on his roster for duty with the local, volunteer or active militia company.

We think this would meet the requirements of the case and it would ensure the training of the whole resident population, thus entirely obviating another powerful objection Captain Radford justly urges against the present mode of recruitment, but even this should only be applied when the voluntary principles failed.

The outlay by the company officers under the present system must be very great, and it is a very small compensation to leave open to them any position of emolument on the General or District staff.

With respect to the organization of the Reserve, or as our correspondent calls it the Sedentary Militia, it has never been effected even on paper—officers have been gazetted without having a force organized, and it is little wonder they do not know their duties—while the extension of the *enrollment* to periods of five years totally destroys the value of that attempt at organization.

We are afraid our correspondent is too sanguine in expecting aid towards the formation of an efficient military force from the purely religious element in the people. Our experience is that it is most hostile to any movement of the kind, and if he tried how many of the Y. M. C. A. were members of corps he would find the number small indeed. There is no good reason for this except a morbid sentimentality and fanaticism—but it is a fact that the religious and trader classes are opposed to military organizations in any sense, although perfectly willing to take advantage of the peace and national security such organizations insure.

Our ideas on tactics are the same as those of our correspondent and for the same reasons, and we think a little more discussion on those subjects and some intelligent handling in our correspondent's style from officers with practical experience could not fail to be of service.

We thank Captain Radford for his interesting and valuable letter.

The following from our contemporary the United States *Army and Navy Journal* of 1st April contains a very valuable historical—political analysis of what is foreshadowed by the "Royal Titles Bill." It must be particularly gratifying to the British people to find that our nearest relatives are proud of the bold and sagacious policy that bids fair to create such a powerful United Empire, and we can have but one regret that it does not include the nationality to which the writer belongs.

The *entente cordiale* of the Crimean war was the consequence of the enlightened statesmanship of the late Emperor Louis Napoleon, whose sagacious mind perceived the true interests of France to consist in preserving the balance of power on the continent of Europe, thereby ensuring that peace by which she prospered so much, and which could have been maintained to this day were it not for the incompetency and stupid