

country. It has been, by the observance of this principle, carried out to great perfection, that the Prussians have attained to their present military power and success, and to the position which they now occupy in the world. What seems really required to place a country in a strong military position in the present day, is the organization of a great militia system permeating through every township or parish, whereby in the event of war the whole nation may spring to arms; to enable them to do so effectually, the observance in time of peace of such a system as will enable all the men to obtain in rotation a reasonable amount of military training, is necessary, and the proposed introduction of the ballot system for the militia in England, now being advocated by the most experienced officers, is sufficient proof of this necessity in a military and national point of view. Another great source of dissatisfaction which exists in the Active Militia, and was brought to my notice at the time of inspection, is the payment of only one dollar per diem to all officers alike, without regard to rank, during the days of actual drill in camp at the annual training, the non-commissioned officers, moreover, receiving only the same daily rate of pay as the men, and neither officers, non-commissioned officers nor men getting rations; and I would respectfully recommend that, with a view of removing this just grievance, they be in future paid according to their rank, duties, and responsibilities, receiving at the annual drill in camp, (being then withdrawn from their civil avocations, and put to the same expense and inconvenience as when on actual service,) the rates of pay laid down according to their respective ranks in paragraph 268 of the Militia Regulations and Orders, with free rations to all.

In submitting for favorable consideration the recommendations herein contained, which are calculated to increase the efficiency of the Militia, I beg to say that with a view to economy, I have limited the same to what, as a professional soldier, I consider absolutely necessary to enable it to undertake effectually the defence of the country against such raids as it has of late years been exposed to, and to place it in a position more commensurate with that now occupied by the Dominion, and if the recommendations herein contained be approved of, and adopted, especially those asking Parliament for money grants to enable the Department to introduce:

1st. An extension of the period for annual drill, and the carrying out of the same in brigade camps of instruction wherever practicable.

2nd. The payment of officers, non-commissioned officers and men during the days of annual drill in camp, at the rate laid down in the "Regulations and Orders for Active Militia" with free rations to all, and

3rd. The plying of the vessels intended to co-operate with the militia as gunboats on a better footing, and the acquisition of an additional one, many causes of dissatisfaction will be removed, and the expenditure incurred amply compensated for by the increased security afforded to the country and its power of defence.

From the Report of the "Director of Stores" it will be seen that while a reasonable supply of Reserve Stores, to meet the immediate wants of the Active Militia, has been acquired, yet this supply would be found totally inadequate to meet the wants of the whole Militia of the Dominion, should their services ever be required under exceptional circumstances. I would therefore respectfully submit for the serious consideration of Government, in view of future emer-

gencies, the propriety, in a military point of view, of gradually increasing the "Reserve Stores," to such extent as may be deemed sufficient, and also the desirability of commencing the manufacture of ammunition in Canada, by the establishment, on a small scale, of a laboratory at Kingston, where there is every facility for doing so.

In concluding this Report it affords me much pleasure to bring to your notice the great support and assistance I have received from all the staff officers of the Militia, especially those at head-quarters, as also from all officers in command of corps during the past year, which may be well considered one of exceptional trial to the service in which I have the honor to hold the Military command.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
P. ROBERTSON-ROSS,
Colonel and Adjutant General.

HEAD QUARTERS,
OTTAWA, 15 February, 1871.
(To be continued.)

MISSOURI BUBBLE.

THE NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

A DESERT OFFERED AS SECURITY FOR A GOLD LOAN.

Editor Daily Telegraph.

SIR,—I sent you one or two short notes in reference to this railway project, stating, in substance, that the lands along the route were on the whole either altogether worthless or very poor. As my statements have been called in question, I wish to verify them, chiefly as a caution to Canadians who may think of buying those bonds or settling along the line.

I may premise that the road already built across American territory is the "Union and Central Pacific" usually called the "Union Pacific," and runs from Chicago, (latitude 41° 52') to San Francisco (latitude 37° 48', near the parallel of Cape Serrat in Northern Africa) and is 2400 miles long. Its highest grades are 7300 feet (more than one mile and a quarter) above the sea, 6200, 4750, 4400 ft. &c. I give the latitudes and altitudes for reasons which will appear further on.

The "Northern Pacific"—"Missouri bubble," the one advertised in most countries in Europe and on this continent, is the one under discussion, and is to run from Duluth (the western end of Lake Superior, latitude 46° 40') to Puget's Sound (latitude 48°) with a branch to the Columbia river (latitude 46°). Its route will be along the valley of the Missouri and branches of the Columbia, 2000 miles. The land grant is 50,000,000 acres, 78,125 square miles, or 20,000 square miles greater than England and Wales, and nearly the size of the whole of Great Britain. That such a vast territory was given to the Company was no doubt on the assumed truth of their own representations when applying for the grant, namely, that the lands were worthless. This was also the argument used by the Union Pacific Company in asking for their grants; but afterwards they represented them as the best lands on the continent. Now the Northern Pacific Company says, "The Union Pacific Road runs through an inhospitable wilderness, where settlers can never live. The lands through this region are of no value." (Land grants, pamphlet, p. 7.)

*Six pamphlets have been sent to me which for brief reference I number. No. 1, Northern Pacific Road; No. 2, Land Grants; No. 3, to investors; 4, Puget Sound; 5, the charter; 6, the 7-30 gold loan.

They depreciate still more the country north of their line; "a road," they say, "through the British possession is impracticable, and the difficulties insurmountable." (No. 1 N. P. Road, p. 19.)

Let us inquire whether their own lands are any better than those of the Union Pacific, and whether their representations to Congress, that they were worthless, were not the truth.

In No. 1, pamphlet, p. 5, they pretend to quote from Blodget's climatology, but neither here or elsewhere do they give the page for any of their statements. Being quite certain that the language was not Blodget's—for his is a peculiar style—and knowing it to be the opposite of the opinions expressed in his work, and jealous, moreover, of the character of a scientific man, I have re-read all Blodget says on this subject, but cannot find anything like the statement attributed to him, which is, "that west of the 98th meridian, and above the parallel lies an area not inferior (in size) to the whole of the United States east of the Mississippi, perfectly adapted to the fullest occupation by cultivated nations," &c. If this language refers to the country north of the 49th parallel—that is to British America—I would admit its truth; but supposing the language to be Blodget's (which I do not admit,) it could not apply to United States territory, for reasons given below; and besides, between 43° and 49° west of the 98th meridian there is by no means "an area equal to the whole of the United States east of the Mississippi." The letter from Blodget (p. 15, No. 1)—assuming, as I do, that it is genuine, for really these pamphlets contain so many statements and inferences (†) of such a monstrous nature that one doubts everything in them)—is very cautiously worded, and, except one sentence, I would take it to refer wholly to the country north of 49° especially as Sir George Simpson is quoted, whose descriptions apply to the country north of the proposed line.

But let us see what Blodget has said as a scientific man. He is besides the chief authority on the climates, &c., of the interior of the continent, and his opinions are corroborated by every traveller, (I don't include railway surveyors and land agents) into the interior. As Blodget and all the others were citizens of the Republic, we may be sure they would not undervalue their country; this, at all events, is not a Yankee failing.

Our comments refer chiefly to the following points; 1st. That the country is mostly a desert, made such by the absence of summer rains. 2. That the soils are so impregnated with salts and alkalies, as to be des-

† See for example the statement (at p. 8, No. 1) so made as to leave the impression that Minnesota produced over 20,000,000 bushels of wheat in 1859. The estimate is for all the grain of the State. One Montreal paper made the assertion, in puffing this bubble, that Minnesota exported more than twenty million bushels of wheat. First it is asserted that so many bushels of grain of all kinds are grown, then the N. P. Co. turn them into wheat, and finally it is declared that that State exported more than twenty million bushels of wheat, and that that northern district could produce over six hundred millions! The story of the three black crows. Minnesota in 1859 had a population of 100,000, and cultivated only 1,100,000 acres. This would give fifty bushels exported for every man, woman and child in the State, and require twenty bushels per acre for the exports. Where were the other millions of wheat, grain and hay to come from for man and beast till next harvest? We may merely add that Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan have always asserted to be, for the grains and grasses, the best in the States, and do not include them in our strictures, for they lie N. E. of the desert areas and the lakes; but as the winds on that part of the continent blow almost invariably from S.W. to N.E., the two former States especially receive the dry arid winds from off the desert, hence they are not free from protracted droughts. Now that the only State touching on the parallel of 49° is so highly lauded, ought to turn attention to Canada.