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Notes and Comments

In view of the investigation into the workings of the Police Force in Montreal, the following comments from the American Army and Navy Journal, on a letter which appeared in the New York Herald will be read with interest.

The New York Herald of Sept. 16 publishes a strong article by a contributor in favor of a military police force for New York city and the abolition of the present civilian force. Incidentally the article pays a well-deserved compliment to our Regular Army, where it says: "The qualities that are typical of the trained soldier are honor and obedience, and it happens that these are just the qualities that are needed in a re-organization of the

Police Department." The London police force is under the command of an ex-Army officer, and the system would work perfectly well in New York except for one objection. For many years the city has been in the hands of a police force that is now proved to be excessively corrupt. Probably many of the police regulations and perhaps some legislative acts have been passed with the intention of placing the citizens and their industries at the mercy of oppressive rules which it is easy to relax at the price of a bribe, but can be rigidly enforced against an upright merchant. To throw the service into the hands of men who would enforce such laws indiscriminately would be an injury to trade that the helpless merchants would object to. In the end such a reorganization of the force would be an inestimable service to the city, but it would entail a reorganization equally thorough of the laws of the police magistracy and of some other departments.

There is not much to be added except that our English or Canadian army—Regulars and Militia—are numerous and well drilled enough to furnish a large proportion of the Police officers and men, in the different cities of the Dominion. Many of them, including Montreal where the trouble now is, are at present under the command of officers, either active or retired, but in this latter city at least and probably most others, aldermanic influence often paralyzes the hands of the head, and makes him but a figure head.

This situation is one in which chiefs of Police will doubtless have the full sympathy of the Major-Generals commanding the Militia in Canada.

With the resignation of Major Hall, of the Montreal Field Battery,

from the Quebec Ministry, in which he held the treasurer's portfolio, the militia will lose almost its most active supporter in this house.

The Province of Quebec Rifle Association will have to lay new batteries to obtain the renewal of its grant, which has been so unjustly withheld from it by the present administration.

The Ontario Government gives, we believe, no less than \$1,800.00 yearly to the Ontario Rifle Association, while the Quebec Government has refused even its old time paltry pittance of \$400.00 a year.

Surely the militia of this province have influence enough to obtain this much from their government. If the cabinet have not enough patriotism to be willing to spend this much in so great a cause they should be made to.

We believe that again an outsider, not even a Canadian, and still less a Kingston graduate, a man with no special qualifications has secured an appointment to one of the permanent corps.

If this continues much longer, it will not be a matter of surprise should the college itself drop out of existence. Its object is to supply officers to Canada, and if its graduates cannot obtain the positions when vacancies occur, the taxpayers will not be backward in "kicking" most vigorously.

"The new location of the American standing army will increase the troops along the Canadian border, and especially along that part