

heavy armament. Experience has shown that vessels of the *Staunch* class, viz., about two hundred tons burthen, twin propellers, and schooner rigged, without armor, carrying a heavy gun would furnish us with the best and most formidable naval force for our purposes at a minimum of cost. We should also have two or three heavily armored vessels on the turret principle, and could then undertake to keep the peace in North America, settle *Alabama* difficulties, and treat the President's message with all the Republican buncombe to the contempt it deserves.

The "Year Book and Almanack" of Canada, for 1871, under the head of "The Militia," at page 191, has the following extraordinary statement:—"The organization of the Militia of Canada is based upon the principle recognized in the Swiss and Prussian systems—that every man owes it to his country to serve in its defence against its enemies. But here it is not carried as in those countries to its logical issue, i.e. the training of every man to the use of arms—although all men between 18 and 60 are enrolled and the enrolment of 1869 showed a total of over 650,000, yet only about 40,000 men are at any time in the ranks uniformed and undergoing drill, and these are not necessarily of the ages—as in the countries above referred to—which are most apt for training or for actual military service. Nor is the training long enough (as in Prussia) to make them effective soldiers. The system of volunteering in the Dominion which allows men of any age to be drilled and borne on the effective strength of battalions without any sufficient medical examination does not give us an armed and drilled nation (as in the states we have named) on the one hand, nor that perfection of discipline and drill, and complete efficiency, which has been attained in Britain and elsewhere. Yet under our law so long as Volunteers of any sort fill up the ranks and outnumber the quota of the several Provinces (as is now the case) the draft cannot be put in requisition to secure the military instruction of the youth of the country. Thus is the weakness of the force found in the system of enrolment, its strength is found in its popularity in almost all parts of the Dominion, by the enrolment of all the men for whom pay can be procured from Parliament and these in very large proportions of the ages and character fitted for actual warfare."

This article is about equal to the famous description the French savants appended to the word *lobster* in the world-renowned Encyclopedia of that language, but which was declared by Agassiz to be perfect only that the *lobster* was not a fish, it did not walk backwards and its color was not red. So our Militia system is neither Swiss nor Prussian, it is simply an extension of the old English Militia law, and, although there are only 40,000 men in the ranks, yet as those are changed every three years, perhaps oftener,

a much greater number of partially trained men are to be found in this country than in any other.

The popularity of the the system of Volunteering shows that it is the mode best adapted to the interests of the country which does not require a standing army of elaborately trained soldiers; the same cause ensures the accession to the ranks of the active force of all that portion of the population adapted to the toil of military life, so that a medical examination is not a matter of necessity inasmuch as no man suffering from physical inability or over age would be allowed, as a general rule, to serve, the men of each corps taking a pride in keeping their ranks full of the most healthy. As a proof of this the two battalions at Fort Garry, amounting in the aggregate to 750 men, had only three or four men rejected or returned from the hardships of an expedition unique in its way. It is impossible to understand what is meant by the weakness of a force consisting in its enrolment when that very agent is the cause of its popularity. In fact the Canadian people have got a militia law suited to their social condition, capable of immediate expansion and in which forced service by drafting finds no place. In case of actual necessity it can mobilize the whole fighting population or only so much of it as may be necessary without compulsion. It is quite right to place to the account of Parliament the restriction of the operation of the Militia Bill, and it was just as well that the article concluded with the admission that there is a very large proportion "of the ages and character fitted for actual warfare" in the ranks of the Volunteer force.

There is one other mistake in page 192 where it is stated that "In case of actual warfare the Militia is placed upon the command of the officer commanding H.M. Forces—commander-in-Chief in British North America, Lieut.-Gen. Sir Hastings Doyle, K.C., M.G., Lieut.-Governor of Nova Scotia, &c. &c."

The Militia Bill makes Her Majesty Commander-in-Chief, and it does not follow that her chief officer in command necessarily commands the Militia, it would require an order in Council to place that power in his hands; Sir Hastings Doyle is not the commander-in-chief of the Militia of Canada, but the Adjutant-General, Col. P. Robertson-Ross, is, and the *Year Book* had better make a note on it.

In our last issue we noticed the injustice and neglect accorded to our *Volunteers* in the distribution of honors for services rendered on the Red River Expedition. The *Gazette* on that occasion could get only in one solitary instance below the line that defined the difference between officers who had served in the Regular Army, and that instance was the more creditable because it was evident that distinguished services on the part of Brigade Major MacLeod, rendered it impossible to overlook his claims. We are very far from

believing that any special favor was intended; it was simply a case which could not be overlooked. Out of *nine* officers decorated *eight* belonged to the regular service—whose proportion of troops was about *one-fourth* of the whole employed, and it is to be remembered that the institution of the Order was solely for the purpose of placing within the reach of the Provincial soldier some recognition of services which were heretofore monopolized by the regular army. Without calling in question the propriety of distributing decorations in this one-sided fashion, and believing that all those gentlemen were well entitled to the distinction, we cannot be blamed for pointing out the fact that at least *three-fourths* of the work of the expedition fell to the lot of the Volunteer battalions that they were obliged to remain in the Province after its occupation; that the superior officers in command of the expedition left them to their own resources, and that it was at Ottawa those rewards should have been first distributed and not in London. A little plain speaking on this subject may save this country as well as Great Britain a great deal of trouble in future, and it is this, that on the next occasion the Regular and Provincial troops act together care be taken that the whole of the honors are not monopolized by the former, while the hard work is left wholly to the latter.

Canada can afford at least to reward her own soldiers, and a brevet to the field officers of the expeditionary force would be some compensation for the neglect with which they have been treated.

It must be very annoying to President Grant's advisers to find that all the bluster of that potentate's speech has failed in making the slightest impression on the Canadian people or statesmen; that, on the contrary, it has elicited shouts of derision from one end of the Dominion to the other, and that statesmen and people alike look with contempt on the cowardly, dishonest, and imbecile policy it foreshadows. Standing on the vantage ground of right, perfectly indifferent to what our neighbors feel or think of our action, we are in no mood to be trifled with, and will allow no meddling on the part of the Washington thimble-riggers.

Ambitious Presidents before now have tried to signalize their administration by a conquest of Canada, and secure a re-election by the blood of the dupes sent on that fruitless mission. Ulysses the Second goes a more cautious way to work, and, according to his organs, will endeavor to accomplish the purpose by legislation—a safe and easy way enough, but one that has hitherto been singularly fruitless in results. If the people of Great Britain will repudiate the *Alabama* claims as dishonest and dangerous to the future peace of the world, demand of Jonathan once for all a settlement of all outstanding differences, and take measures to enforce the claims, they will have the aid of