

service, as was done in the war of 1812; but now that our ranks of defenders contain 300,000 men for Canada alone, the necessity of a perfectly well-disciplined Militia Staff, to give vitality to our national phalanx, is a manifest necessity—for every man of the Active Service Militia must be incorporated into armies if we wish to avoid being coerced into forming part of the North American Republic; for I apprehend the third invasion of Canada by that power will be on a scale of numbers and efficiency calling for a ready demonstration of a powerful and determined front on our part. We are not prepared for such an exhibition, but let us see what a good Militia Staff would do for us. If the reader will refer to Table No. 6, he will find that 40 companies of the Lower Canada Militia Staff are stationed in Montreal and 40 at Quebec; that the companies are told off to counties, in the proportion as near as possible of one company to 1000 men; that the distance from Montreal and Quebec to the several counties to which the 80 companies are told off will be by steamboat and railway, all within a few hours of their respective appointed localities. The reader will also bear in mind that the Captains of companies are, or would be by the present Act of Militia, in possession of a nominal roll of the men composing their Battalions, and the officers and non-commissioned officers of the Sedentary Militia should be by law bound to assist them in collecting their men. Now, with this system is it too much to say that 80,000 men could be mustered, clothed, accoutered and armed in one week? Will any one say that this is not a rapid incorporation of our Active Service men—80,000 men in a week for Lower Canada—or that it is unnecessary?

It will be perceived that I have confined myself to Lower Canada as an example of a principle which, if extended to its full scope through the breadth of the Provinces of British America, would organize 500,000 men with the same rapidity and efficiency as had been evinced for 80,000 men in Lower Canada. From this point of view it follows that one Militia Act for all the Provinces of British America is indispensable to consolidate England's power in this hemisphere. And to complete our system of defence we require all that is necessary of arms, ammunition and equipments for 500,000 men, to be deposited in store at safe and central points in Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

We would also require some British infantry, cavalry and artillery, not on account of numbers, but for the moral support their presence would confer on our brave but inexperienced defenders.

A good force of British field artillery and cavalry would be most valuable, for when opposed to armies of the highest character they are most formidable, and would be still more so to a new army, wanting experienced officers and steady infantry under fire, qualities that long wars only can generate, and to which point of steadiness the American army has not yet attained.