

"As therefore a Battalion of the Sedentary Militia from being attached to a territorial division of the country, included within its ranks promiscuously, "1st class service men," "2nd class service men" and "reserve men," it is obvious it could not be called out for service as a Battalion without violating this provision of the law.

"It is therefore evident that in consequence of making the Battalions of Sedentary Militia, so to speak, *adscripti glebo*, the whole machinery of the law was rendered practically useless, and if war actually occurred, this machinery would afford no assistance whatever in the creation of a Canadian army for actual service.

"The whole process of embodying the "first class service men" in battalions, appointing the officers and making the other necessary preliminary arrangements for service, would have to be gone through on the breaking out of hostilities precisely in the same manner as if the Sedentary Militia organization had never existed.

"The Governor General is desirous to impress these considerations connected with the general organization of the people of Canada, and the manifest inutility, for any practical purpose, of the present system, on the minds of the members of the Administration, with a view to the remedy of these defects, by legislation, in the approaching session of Parliament.

"There remains still to be considered in connection with the facts disclosed in Lieut. Col. Wiley's report, the second question as to the number of men whom it is expedient to arm, clothe and discipline at the present time.

"The nominal roll of the Volunteers at the period of Lieut. Col. Wiley's inspection, contained a total, as already stated, of 684 officers and 9226 non-commissioned officers and men.

"This number has since been increased to the nominal strength of about 921 officers and 15,005 non-commissioned officers and men."

"It has been already shewn, as might have been expected, that the force at the time of Lieut. Col. Wiley's inspection was mainly drawn from the inhabitants of the cities and large towns, and as the causes which produced this result are permanent in their operation there is no reason to expect that the present or future additions to this force will be derived from the rural districts.

"A Commission composed of military officers of high reputation and great experience, was appointed this year by the Governor General to make a confidential report on the military defence of Canada.

"The attention of this Commission was naturally directed, amongst other considerations, to the support which the population of Canada should give to Her Majesty's troops in the defence of the Province in the event of war, and the deliberate opinion of the members of that Commission was that the contingent of Canadians under such circumstances, should not be, including reserves, less than 150,000 men.

"Assuming that an effective plan for the general organization of the people were in existence, and that the machinery were created by which, at short notice, the reserves could be placed on foot, the Governor General has reason to believe that if one-third of the above number of men were at the present time organized, clothed and even partially drilled, the military authorities would, in a professional point of view, be satisfied that enough had been done to secure the safety of the Province from foreign attack.