



The Volunteer Review

AND

MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,
To guard the Monarch, hence the Law."

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, JAN. 6, 1874.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be *pre-paid*. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and at the corner the words "Printer's copy" written and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage.

The current number is the Eighth Volume of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW. The period covered has been remarkable in developing the soldierly instincts and aptitudes of the people of Canada, the great social prosperity which has blessed the land, and the political progress which has created in the Dominion of Canada a new power on this continent, established on the principles of British Constitutionalism, thereby adding to the resources of the Empire and strengthening the ties that binds British North America to the Mother Country. But great as has been the national progress achieved, socially and politically, as an institution which has interwoven itself with the habits of the people, the Military Organization of Canada has obtained, and is destined to hold, a marked pre-eminence, combining the principle of voluntary service with the duty due the State—the militia of Canada presents the most complete and perfect organization that can be adapted to the needs of a few people.

It is true that during the past years there has been an abatement of the enthusiasm which distinguished the early days of the Organization, but this is partly due to the conviction that no immediate need requires the services of the force and partly to the curtailment of the expenditure necessary to equip the camps of instruction—to those causes alone are to be traced an apparent apathy which the first note of danger would awaken into terrible and earnest activity.

The most noticeable events connected with the force during the present year are—the death of the Hon. Sir G. E. CARTIER, Bart., the First Minister of Militia and Defence for the Dominion, author of the *Militia Law*, and one of the greatest Statesmen this country has ever seen; the resignation of the Adjutant General,

Colonel P. ROBERTSON-ROSS, and the abrogation of the camps of exercise. The year on the whole has been rather discouraging, but the events connected with a great organization are not to be measured by the occurrences of any particular period, but by the general results extending over a series of years, and the Volunteer Organization is marked by steady and substantial progress. It has more able and better trained officers than at any previous period of its history; and a knowledge of rudimentary tactics including familiarity with the use of the soldier's weapon—the rifle—has been disseminated amongst a greater number of the people—and there is every prospect that the current year will be marked by greater activity and progress.

Throughout the whole period the VOLUNTEER REVIEW has endeavoured to keep before the force the most useful, practical, and scientific military knowledge, to establish a proper *esprit de corps*, to support due subordination, and to afford the officers and men of the force the opportunity of placing before the public their opinions and ideas as to the working of the *militia law*. This duty to the country has been discharged without any other object beyond the advantage the force should derive therefrom, and under no ordinary discouragement we have to thank our readers for the patronage accorded, and to assure them that no exertion shall be spared in the future to make the VOLUNTEER REVIEW worthy the Military Organization of the Dominion of Canada.

The last number of the Seventh Volume of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW contained the gazette of Lieutenant Colonel W. H. JACKSON, as Deputy Adjutant General of Military District No. 4, a tardy act of justice to an accomplished soldier and thorough gentleman; as well as an earnest that the higher staff employments of the Canadian Army will be conferred on gentlemen who, like Colonel JACKSON, have qualified themselves by passing through every grade in the service with honour for the position.

It is sound policy to advance those officers who have served with credit from the first inception of the volunteer force to the highest commands which time or casualties may open to their ambition, as it will give them a definite object to aim at and strive for as well as incite a degree of emulation and desire to qualify for the commands to which they may aspire. Without asserting the right of Canadian officers to the exclusion of the scientific talent of the regular service, we have no hesitation in asserting that the time has arrived for throwing open to them the entire commands in their own military force, especially as its existence and maintenance depends in a great measure on the individual influence and efforts of the officers.

Our military organization is peculiar, partaking largely of adaptation to the social

condition of the people, and having the civil the predominant element, it is quite safe to predict that it is the only organization fitted to the condition of the country. Such a system demands local aid and knowledge for its development, and the problem connected with it should be worked out by those trained under its provisions, the higher scientific knowledge necessary for a complete system of military organization must be a growth of time; its substitute for the present should be experience, and to those officers of the force who have by long and faithful service in its superior commands acquired that experience its present development should be confided. For some time the Adjutant General's office has been vacant, the duties thereof have been discharged by the Deputy Adjutant General at Headquarters, and the Force has not deteriorated in his hands; if any officer in the Canadian Army has acquired experience by long service assuredly Lieutenant Colonel WALKER POWELL is that officer, for over eleven years he has filled his present appointment, during five of which he has been virtually Adjutant General of the army, and we are of opinion that a confirmation of rank in this case would be alike popular with the Volunteer Force, and amongst the people of Canada as a well-merited and earned distinction to an officer and gentleman who deserves well of the country.

The defence of a country must depend on its navy, army, and fortifications, and if the two latter combined can be made equal to any naval force which could be brought against them, the problem of defence would be solved as far as the defenders were concerned. Hitherto in most countries no definite attempt has been made to successfully defend their frontier or coast lines from risk of invasion, and as a consequence the belligerents on both sides have been more or less liable to surprise and insult, because the *Art of War* as practised in modern warfare was inapplicable to coast defence.

As long as all military operations depended on a regular or standing army; and a coast line offered an extent of some thousands of miles to an invader's choice, it was evident the cost of constant preparation was altogether too great for any nation, when in addition to this it was a question of time measured by weeks or months that would enable an army to concentrate for invasion or defence, the problem was further complicated, but as railways and application of steam power to vessels of war and transport have enabled a rapid concentration to be effected, it has become a grave question of national policy for the consideration of all countries having a maritime frontier as to how it is to be defended in case of war. England, with the most powerful navy in the world, is not free from anxiety and danger on this subject, as it is possible the