

of Louisiana by the United States is not a case in point, inasmuch as there was no question as to the French title and all other States had surrendered their lands to the Federal Government. But the Canadian Confederation was erected on an entirely different basis. While the older Provinces, having saddled Confederation with their debts, still retain their public lands, it cannot be expected that Manitoba, unwillingly forced into Confederation, will tamely submit to see her rich heritage the common spoil of the other Provinces.

There is no "gross misuse of language" in this demand for equality of rights, and there would be little of the Anglo-Saxon spirit among the settlers of the North-West if they did not insist upon them to the uttermost. "Unsettled questions," we have been told, "have no peace for the repose of nations," and this is a question which, until settled, will prove a disturbing factor in Confederation. A startling light is thrown upon the question by events now occurring in the distant North-West, where public discontent, having its origin largely in the maladministration of the public lands by the Dominion Government, has at length assumed the proportions of an open revolt. But, be the issue of the agitation in Manitoba what it may, eastern politicians may rest assured that the same battle must in the future be fought out in each of the rising Provinces of the North-West.

J. D. C.

### OUR MILITARY EFFORT.

THE army of the Dominion has hitherto been quite an exceptional one amongst those of civilized nations. It has been without an intendant, or nearly so. When the present "rebellion" arose, and after the unfortunate engagement at Duck Lake, an immediate cry for "troops" was sent to Eastern Canada. "Help us, or we perish," was the message from the unfortunate settlers along the North Saskatchewan, hundreds of miles from the line of railway, and surrounded by excited savages bent on plunder and rapine. With commendable zeal the militia regiments of Eastern Canada answered the call with promptness and enthusiasm. Regiment after regiment was mustered and despatched on its way to the scene of the disturbance. Some of them underwent great hardship in being transferred across the gaps in the line of railway along the north shore of Lake Superior, and bore it like brave soldiers without murmuring. It soon becomes evident, however, that an army is not like a self-binding reaping machine which can be dispatched to a given point and guaranteed to do its work as soon as it arrives. Soldiers must be carefully equipped in the first instance, they must be protected from the weather to a certain extent, food and forage, pay, ammunition and medical attendance have to be provided. In the case of the Dominion Army those important departments have to be expanded or improvised on the spur of the moment, and it is needless to say considerable confusion results. The sage advice "Make haste slowly" has not been acted on. The part of the North-West Territory through which the troops have to pass produces almost nothing for their subsistence. Everything they require must be sent from a distance. At the present moment (April 25th) General Middleton is on his way north towards Prince Albert in command of about nine hundred men, with some three hundred on his line of communications, Col. Otter marching on to Battleford with between five and six hundred, and General Strange is making a dash towards Edmonton with some one hundred and twenty infantry and about the same number of scouts. To keep those forces supplied with necessities severely taxes the energies of the few zealous gentlemen who have been nominated supply officers at the stations on the line of the Pacific Railway, which forms the base. Patriotic settlers in the North-West do not estimate their own services or those of their teams at a low rate—eight to twelve dollars a day is their modest computation of their combined value, food and forage in the same ratio. The hay delivered to the General's column at Humboldt was found to cost there \$120 a ton, and the greater part of it was consumed by the teams themselves in transit, so that only two hundredweight of the load they had started with was delivered when they reached their destination. The difficulties of keeping even the small column that advanced from Qu'Appelle supplied with rations and forage were found to be so great, owing to the badness of the trail road, and the impossibility of despatching a sufficient number of teams along it with any chance of their delivering their loads at their destination within a reasonable time, that a change of base to Swift Current was made. From this point it is hoped that the steamers on the South branch of the Saskatchewan may be utilized as means of transport, and regular communication kept up.

The medical service of the campaign has been so far ludicrous. In a healthy climate like the North-West there appears to be but little chance of epidemic disease breaking out. Dysentery, typhus, malarial fevers,

which are the scourge of armies in the field, are not likely to occur. No "engagement," in the usual sense of the term, is likely to take place with the Indians, and even the Half-breeds will scarcely offer organized resistance to regular troops; so one of the terrible calamities of modern warfare in the shape of a sudden influx of a number of wounded men is not likely to occur. Yet the number of medical men sent to the North-West in connection with the Expedition would suffice for a bloody campaign in an unhealthy district. A medical "Director-General" was appointed at Ottawa, who suddenly developed a remarkable talent for army medical organization. He excised from the equipment ordered by the surgeon who was going in charge of the field hospital such ordinary appliances as pocket dressing-cases, clinical thermometers and hypodermic syringes, so that when an assistant-surgeon, who was accompanying a mounted party, required these articles they were not forthcoming. But it was in providing the "personnel" of the field hospital that he shone chiefly. "First they came by ones and twos, and then they came by swarms," said an Irish gentleman describing the friends who came to drink with him on a race-course, and such was the advent of the doctors and dressers who joined the field hospital on its way to the front. Without consulting the surgeon in charge or the principal medical officer of the force, it was ordained from headquarters that the field hospital staff was to be composed of one surgeon-major, five surgeons, one apothecary, one steward, one captain of orderlies, one hospital sergeant-major, ten dressers, six ward orderlies, one superintendent of nurses, and ten privates as helpers! How transport and tents were to be provided for this hospital, where it was to be placed, and how many patients might require treatment, were matters of secondary consideration.

In addition to this field hospital, nearly every regiment had its surgeon and assistant-surgeon, the regimental system of hospitals (which is long obsolete in the armies of all civilized nations) being still retained, and these regimental medical officers asked for and obtained such equipment as they indented for. Some of these requisitions deserve to be chronicled. One regiment applied for, and it is said, on good authority, obtained a stone and a-half of violet powder; which, as an article of military outfit, should be handed down in the annals of campaigning.

For the number of men under arms sent forward, and the duration of the campaign, it is probable that the present Canadian expedition to the North-West will prove one of the costliest of modern times. That it will soon achieve its object is hoped for by every Canadian of whatever party. Whether the Government will take the lesson to heart, carefully examine into and re-model the military organization of the Dominion, is another question. It would do well to remember the motto, *Si vis pacem, para bellum*.

### EDUCATION NOTES.

Most of the faults which we pointed out in the Public School Bill were remedied by the good sense of the House before its final passage. It now permits trustees to be elected by ballot, and for the customary biennial term—not annually, as at first proposed. The school holidays in cities, towns and villages are made the same for both Public and High Schools; those for the summer are to extend from the first Friday in July to the last Monday in August. While no teacher whose name has not been already entered on the books of the Education Department will be allowed to contribute to the Superannuation Fund, those already on the books as contributors may continue paying four dollars per year, with the same privileges on retirement from teaching as they had under the old Act. Third Class Certificates are not to be limited to counties, as was at first proposed, but are to continue provincial. In regard to High Schools one or two changes of importance have been made. It is provided that if a Separate School exists in the same municipality as a High School, the Separate School Trustees may appoint a member of the High School Board. This change has not been made in answer to any public demand, nor because there is any necessity for it, but evidently at the instance of Mr. Fraser as the mouthpiece on the Executive Committee of the Roman Catholic hierarchy. The Legislative Grant to High Schools is no longer to be a stimulus for cramming by being even in part a "payment for results." It is to be apportioned on the basis of the salaries paid to the teachers, the character of the school buildings, etc., and on the average attendance.

THE Minister of Education, with the laudable intention of improving the taste as well as guarding the health of the pupils in rural and village schools, proclaimed Friday, the 8th of May, as a holiday to be known as Arbour Day, subject, of course, to the approval of the trustees. The day was to be devoted to the planting of shade-trees and otherwise ornamenting the school-grounds in the presence and with the assistance of the pupils. If teachers enter heartily into Mr. Ross's plan a good deal may be done, not only in fostering a taste for flowers and trees, but in directing the attention of our scholars to the preservation of our forest trees. It will be interesting to know how many schools have taken advantage of the holiday for the purpose intended.