

the people of Canada have to solve involves the consideration of the respective value of both those routes. In the threefold aspect of commercial, political, and military necessities any one at all acquainted with the conflicting interests will thank Sir J. A. Macdonald for the masterly and statesmanlike way in which he proposes to deal therewith.

Connecting Lake Ontario and the Ottawa the Rideau Canal, by far the best specimen of modern engineering on this continent, is to a certain extent rendered unproductive for want of an outlet on the Ottawa River of a magnitude corresponding to its own; the canals connecting the Ottawa and St. Lawrence being of a smaller capacity than the Rideau. The Richelieu River is the outlet of Lake Champlain and affords access to Albany in New York, on the Hudson River, by the lake and a canal of small dimensions. It is itself rendered navigable throughout by a canal connecting two of its reaches at Chambly. As it falls into the St. Lawrence 60 miles below Montreal it is proposed to connect Lake Champlain by a canal at Caughnawaga with that river, the distance being about thirty-two miles. This, if completed, will be the greatest length of canal in the Dominion: the Welland being only twenty-eight miles in length, the Beauharnois only eleven miles, while the greatest length on the proposed Ottawa navigation would be only three and a-half miles. There is a bill before Parliament for the construction of the Caughnawaga Canal by a private company. The length of canal necessary to be constructed at the Sault Ste. Marie would be one mile—all the information attainable on the Northwest system has been furnished our readers in our last issue. It is evident that the commission will have not only a most important duty to perform but a highly interesting investigation to make, involving important results to the future of Canada.

"The Report on the State of the Militia of Canada, for the year 1869," is a blue book of 158 pages, accompanied by a valuable map showing the districts into which Canada has been divided for the purposes of strategy and military administration. The first twenty-five pages contain the Adjutant-General's report—a document distinguished by its perspicuity, terseness, and simplicity of general arrangements by which the very complicated and interesting statistical information conveyed to the public is rendered easily accessible.

The report states that the map is merely a diagram intended to illustrate the division of the Dominion into nine military districts, twenty-two brigades, and one hundred and eighty-six regimental divisions, the latter of which, with few exceptions, are identical with the electoral divisions of the respective Provinces. Ontario containing four military districts, numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4, eight brigades, and eighty-two regimental divisions. Quebec contains three military dis-

tricts, numbered 5, 6, and 7, eight brigades, and seventy regimental divisions. New Brunswick forms one district, No. 8, has three brigades, and fifteen regimental divisions. Nova Scotia forms one military district, No. 9, and has three brigades, and nineteen regimental divisions.

"The organization under the present law is simple and effective, and the whole system works with ease and smoothness; the Minister of Militia and Defence is responsible to Parliament and the country for the administration of militia affairs. The Adjutant-General is the chief executive officer, and is charged, under the orders of Her Majesty, with the military command and discipline of the militia, and he is assisted by the Deputy Adjutant-General at headquarters. To each military district there is a Deputy Adjutant-General, acting under the orders of the Adjutant-General, and who have the command of the militia in their respective districts, and to each brigade division there is a Brigade Major. One District Paymaster is attached to each of the military districts, and seven store-keepers who act under the orders of the Director of Stores at headquarters, will suffice to take charge of and regulate the receipt and issue of the necessary military stores required by the whole militia force of the Dominion."

This comprises the staff of what may be properly called the Canadian army, and it is only to be regretted that a Quartermaster-General's Department, including a proper Engineer Corps, has not yet been organized, as under the skilful and judicious management of the Militia Department it would not add materially to the expense, while its services are absolutely necessary. After recommending that the services of one store-keeper and five district paymasters be dispensed with as unnecessary, the report says: "As a permanent and adequate staff is the first necessity, and the most important element in an army and the hinge, as it were, on which it can be turned and applied I beg to point out that any further reduction of the staff beyond that already proposed would not only be at variance with the organizations contemplated by the law, but would be attended with the serious evil of impaired efficiency to the force."

This axiom admits of no controversy; it cannot be disputed the staff are the mechanical engineers that construct that at once most simple and most complex machine—an army—work it and provide the intellectual capacity by which its operations are governed,—without that all organization is impossible; and while it is perfectly impracticable to organize an army, and an efficient one too, in sixty days from raw material, it requires years of careful and elaborate training to make a staff officer of the keenest intellectual capacity, thoroughly *au fait* in the discharge of the onerous duties of his profession.

"To reduce any of the existing Brigade Majors would not only interfere with proper

inspection and supervision of the respective battalions and corps, but without the aid of such staff officers it would be impossible to brigade the force in accordance with military principles, either for the actual defence of the country or for carrying on its proper instruction by brigades in camp during the annual training. A Brigade Major is an officer belonging to a Brigade, and not attached personally to the officer in command thereof, as soon, therefore, as several battalions are brought together in brigade the services of a Brigade Major are indispensable, otherwise all would be confusion, for he is the Staff officer who, under the orders of the Brigadier or Commander, regulates the duties of the whole Brigade, and he is the proper channel and medium of communication with the various corps; he is to brigade what an Adjutant is to a battalion. Moreover, it is of great importance to have at all times a Brigade Major resident in each brigade division, who necessarily acquires local knowledge and experience therein. It would be unreasonable to suppose that any country can be said to be properly prepared for its defence in war without the existence during peace of—

"1st. Perfect unity in the military administration.

"2nd. The maintenance and preparation during peace of a permanent and adequate staff.

"3rd. A supply department capable of instant expansion to meet all the possible wants of an army in the field.

"4. A perfect corps, brigade and divisional organization both for the active and reserve forces whereby every corps, battalion and battery may fall at once into their appointed place.

"The success which attended Prussia during the war of 1866 was from the observance during peace of such a system and the disasters that attended the early efforts of the Northern States in the neighboring Republic to subdue the South from a total want of any such system are fair illustrations of this truth. The present Militia Law of the Dominion provides for the necessary organization, and on its basis a very effective military system can be established, whereby should the necessity ever arise the whole military power of the country could without difficulty be developed for its defence.

"The Militia, which is divided into two great classes of Active and Reserve Militia, according to returns rendered up to 31st December, 1869, amounts to a total of 656,008 men, of which the Active Militia numbers 43,541, the Reserve Militia 612,467."

The active force is distributed as follows:

Ontario quota	18,070	nominal strength	20,956
Quebec	14,382	"	15,066
N. Brunswick	3,264	"	3,327
Nova Scotia	4,284	"	4,192
	40,000		43,541

The force consists of			
Cavalry	1,500	officers & men.	
10 Field Batteries	750	"	{ 42 guns
Garrison Artillery	3,558	"	{ 441 horses
4 Cos. Engineers	232	"	
Naval Brigade at Halifax	233	"	
73 Battalions, Rifles and Infantry	37,268	"	
	43,541		

The report further states that there are 25 corps enrolled in the Province of Quebec and Nova Scotia whose services are accepted