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The Volunteer Review,

AND

MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE

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

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1875.

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JOSEPH J. B. VINNER, of Victoria, and Captain H. V. EDMONDS of New Westminster, are our authorized Agents for British Columbia.

The Honorable member for South Grenville, Dr. Brouse, has distinguished himself in the Canadian House of Commons by his judicious and enlightened action on military affairs. He has done honor to his head and heart by the mode in which he advocated the claims of the veteran heroes of 1812-15, as well as by the success attending his efforts to secure substantial recognition of the splendid services rendered by those gallant soldiers both from Great Britain as well as Canada; and it argues well for the future appreciation of the soldier's service to find a sum of \$30,000 voted during the present session for and in recognition of services rendered sixty years ago.

But the honorable member has not held his hand at achieving this success, having on the 15th inst. moved that a committee should be appointed to report on the present system of military drill, which with an enlightened perception of its value he would introduce into the educational estab-

lishments of the country and make it a portion of the training which our youths should acquire. Although this motion had to be withdrawn for the present owing to the fact that the House of Commons does not control the educational establishments of Canada, as every Province make its own school laws, yet there can be no doubt of the soundness of the principle involved, or that the honorable member will fail in carrying out so obvious and so necessary a measure.

As a medical practitioner of great experience and repute, Dr. Brouse is fully aware of the value of Calisthenics in developing the human frame, and quite right in restricting the time now occupied in dwarfing the stature as well as confusing the mind of the rising generation by cramming them with a very superficial knowledge of all the *o'ologies* of no value in ninety-nine cases out of every hundred to the victims, either in this world or as a preparation for the next.

Whereas for the mere physical results alone any Government would be warranted in subjecting the youth of the community to habits of military order and discipline, not for the purpose of creating a military spirit, but for the purpose of physical and mental development,

As the honorable member for South Grenville very evidently understands the true position of each individual in the state with reference to military service, so he has placed in the hands of the Government by his motion the means of fitting the people to discharge that duty in the most natural and inexpensive manner.

The knowledge which he proposes to impart is of a character to benefit a man no matter what his future pursuit may be, if it would only reach to inculcating the habit of obedience it would be a decided gain to social order.

We hope that next session the honorable member will introduce this motion again and stand by it with the unflagging perseverance which is his characteristic.

COLONEL FLETCHER's lecture and Dr. Brouse's motion suggest the probability that the late stagnation in military affairs is drawing to a close, and that a period of renowned activity will give the country that development in military organization which the "Militia Law of 1868" provided for. The need of an efficient staff other than the General Staff now in existence has long been felt, but no steps have as yet been taken to organize the semblance of such a necessary adjunct to our military force. Even at head quarters the staff proper on all occasions of ceremony used, and does not principally consist of officers either on the Retired list or belonging to the Reserve force; this is all very well for the time being, but it is not development, and it is not what is wanted.

There can be no doubt but the Military College will provide a staff in course of time, but in the interim an organization into which the qualified officers of the College could pass should be improvised.

For present use and purpose this organization should consist of two parts, such officers as would volunteer for duty, as Aid de Camps, and an Engineer Corps; the former might be any energetic intelligent young fellows, or others that understood enough of tactics to carry intelligently an order and see it executed; the latter should be volunteers from the professional Engineers of the provinces,—neither need add to the cost of the force, except their services were specially required, and they should be locally attached to the different military districts, inasmuch as their local and professional knowledge would supply a want referred to in Colonel Fletcher's lecture. It is, moreover, evident that the period when meetings for "annual drill and rifle practice" were all that our organization required has passed away, and that we must now delegate minor tactics to the battalion and company units and try to give our soldiers such a knowledge of military operations as "extended Autumn Manœuvres" can do in the short period allotted our yearly musters—and this cannot be done without an organized staff.

We have to thank Lieutenant Colonel E. Rice, United States Army, for a very handsome pamphlet issued by the authorities of the "National Armory, Springfield, Massachusetts, containing reports of experiments with Rice's Trowel Bayonet made by officers of the Army."

Our readers will recollect that we published the "Tactical instructions" for the use of this very efficient weapon and intrenching tool in our last volume, Col. Rice is its inventor, and not only so, but has invented the "Hooks and swivels for stacking arms," that we noticed before.

Judging from the engravings in the pamphlet he has succeeded in substituting for the old three sided bayonet a nice, tasteful, and effective weapon which can be used as a tool for rapid field intrenchment.

The pamphlet contains fifty-seven pages, thirty-nine of which are filled with reports on this weapon, and eighteen with beautifully engraved illustrations of it, the hooks and swivels, and the shelter trenches improvised by its use. A number of Trowel bayonets were issued to the United States Army, it is with the reports from the officers under whose supervision they were used that the pamphlet is filled. We cannot do more than summarise the results as shown therein, as follows:—

"Reports of the officers of the Third U.S. Infantry.

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