

power—for the promotion of their own objects. They shared the common infirmities of human nature, which it required great strength of character to overcome. Mr. Mill recommended that appeals should be made to the more enlightened landlords, of whom there were many, to exert themselves to assist the Association in getting rid of past anomalies. Mr. Mill, after referring to the past history of the land laws, went on to say that the principle laid down by the Land Tenure Reform Association was that landed property was subject to the will of the State. By the land he (Mr. Mill) understood the whole raw material of the globe, not having been made by man, but the gift of nature to the whole human race, which had been appropriated by the permission, express or tacit, of society; and society retained the right to revoke its permission. There was a society known as the Land and Labour League, which maintained that society ought to exercise this inherent right. According to them, the whole land of the country should be nationalized and rent paid into the Exchequer, compensation being paid to the proprietors. This Association did not go so far as that. Speaking for himself, Mr. Mill said he should hold that that might rightfully be done if it were expedient to do it, and he did not know what might be reserved for us in the future. At present, he did not think it was expedient. He had so poor an opinion of State management, or municipal management, that he was afraid many years would elapse before the revenue realized by the State would be sufficient to pay the compensation which would be justly claimed by the dispossessed proprietors. It would require a higher standard of public virtue than we had yet attained to administer the lands by the State. The administration of waste lands was as much as we were capable of. At any rate we ought to begin with that. Mr. Mill recommends that part of these lands should be kept open for the lovers of natural beauty, and the remainder leased in allotments at moderate rents to the poor. In this way new life might be imparted to the unfortunate agricultural labourer. The great estates of public bodies, Mr. Mill said ought to be taken in hand by the State and thoroughly reformed; and thorough reform would generally mean that the land should either be managed for them by the State or taken away altogether, and such as were fit to be continued should receive endowments instead. He had been told that one-fifth of London belonged to these bodies. If these lands were taken, facilities might be afforded for improved dwellings for the working classes. With respect to property in the hands of private owners, the Association did not propose to take from them any part of the land already acquired, but there was a limit which went beyond that, which this Association did not respect. Land was limited in quantity, while the demand for land in a prosperous country was always progressing. The price of land, therefore, rose not by any effort of the landlords, but by the mere impulse of the population. The Association saw no reason why this increased value should be permitted to the land owners. It seemed to be an unreasonable thing that because their ancestors a few generations ago happened to hold land, men should still continue to hold what had become in this metropolis of the value of millions, to which they had contributed nothing. Let them see at least that no more gigantic fortunes were built up in a similar way. Let there be an increasing tax on land, and he saw no reason why they should not allow a landlord who desired to free himself for life or a term of years, by

paying a fixed annual sum, by which the State would at once profit. It did not appear to him that was too much to ask in England, and less than that the working classes were not likely to accept. Among the other speakers were Hon. Lyulph Stanley and Sir Charles Dickie. A resolution affirming the necessity of reform in the law of landed tenure was carried by a large majority, an amendment in favour of the principles of the Land and Labour League having been negatived.

In discussing the merits of naval armaments, the VOLUNTEER REVIEW has always held that the future war vessel would be one of small size heavy armament and great power. The events of the late war in Europe amply justifies that opinion which was based on some practical experience, and the following from the *Broad Arrow* illustrates the conditions by which the necessity for adopting that class of vessels is governed:

"Some time ago we discussed the question of harbor defences, and strongly pressed upon the notice of the Government the urgent necessity which existed for a very large increase in our stores of torpedoes. It is satisfactory to learn that the Government appears to have thoroughly awakened to the value of these important engines, and is pushing the manufacture of them with the utmost despatch. But although torpedoes are essential to any complete system of coast defence, particularly for the protection of our great commercial harbors, they are very far from being the only defence required; and it is here that the lessons of the last war come in with great force to enlighten us. The reports of Admiral Brouet upon his Baltic expedition all tend to show, us, not that the torpedoes were the chief instrument in the defence of the German seaboard, both in the Baltic and the North Sea, but that, great as was the danger from the torpedoes, the danger of running aground was greater still. The real want of the French navy in the Baltic, then, appears to have been a sufficient number of vessels of light draught—vessels drawing not more than 10 or 12 feet, the less the better, capable of being armed with the very heaviest ordnance, and strongly armored enough to resist anything in the shape of shot or shell which the heaviest and biggest ironclads could endure. The shoal water of the Baltic, the destruction of the lighthouses and the removal of the buoys, in order to impede the navigation of the French fleet, rendered it absolutely impossible for the large ironclads to proceed within bombarding distance of the seaport towns, or even to venture at all where the channels were not defined. Another drawback under which the French fleet labored, according to Admiral Brouet, was the want of some swift, well armed vessels, and he gives examples of cases in which German ships made their escape from very superior forces, solely from the advantage they possessed over the French in the matter of speed. . . . The ease with which a cruising squadron may be evaded by swift steamers was sufficiently proved by the blockade runners in the late American war. What is wanted, undoubtedly, is a large number of vessels of the *Staunch* class, that is, small gunboats, which are, in effect, floating gun-carriages. There are many advantages to be derived from the adoption of this class of ships; they are capable of carrying the most powerful guns, the protection afforded by their im-

mensely thick plating, and the peculiar method of mounting their guns—an adaptation of the Moncrieff system to floating batteries—the facility with which they are handled, are features which render them peculiarly suitable for harbor defence, and extraordinarily capable of annoying and harassing an enemy. Unhappily the Government does not appear to be sufficiently alive to the danger which would be incurred by such places as Liverpool, Bristol, Hull, and other large seaports, in the event of our being engaged in a war. In any serious attempt at invasion, nothing is likelier than that while a channel fleet is engaged in watching the coast to prevent the landing of troops, an attack may be made upon these great commercial ports. The bait would be tempting, the enterprise would be brilliant, and yet not too dangerous to notice many an ambitious officer, but the loss and injury to us would be all but irreparable. Mr. Goschen promises us during the present year four more monitors, designed as sea-going ships. Only six gunboats are promised us of the *Staunch* type. Taking into consideration the very high value of these small vessels, and the very low cost at which they can be constructed, it is to be regretted that it is not the intention of the Government to give us more of them."—*Broad Arrow*.

GOOD ADVICE TO MR. CARDWELL.

A correspondent suggests that England might take a hint for the organization of the Reserve Force from the exercises to be carried out in the Canadian Dominion during the current year. Brigade camps of exercise are to be formed in every district of Canada, some for sixteen days some for only eight. 20,000 men, including ten field batteries, the whole cavalry force of the Dominion (about 1700 men), and the pick of the infantry, will be in the sixteen days camps. About 14,000 men will go into the eight day's camps; about 4000 garrison artillery will go for a few days' gun drill and shot and shell practice to different forts or batteries; and the remainder of the force (about 4000 men), comprising the city battalions, will be drilled at their own headquarters. The brigade camps are formed for the practice of field manoeuvres, for target practice, and to habituate officers commanding brigades to feed and transport, as well as to handle in the field, their respective corps. We are asked to compare this simple but comprehensive programme with our Militia battalions isolated from one another, and sweltering in their filthy billets; the pic-nic scrambles of our Volunteers at Brighton, &c., and then say whether we might not do worse than apply to our gallant colony for some one to teach us how to manipulate the splendid materials for an Army which we have at our disposal.—*Broad Arrow*.

VOLUNTEER INSPECTION.—On Tuesday evening, the annual inspection of Capt. Park's Company of New Brunswick Engineers took place in their drill room on Merritt's Wharf, before Lt.-Col. Maunsell, Deputy Adjutant General. The men went through the different movements in the manual and firing exercise, and marching with great precision. At the close Lt.-Col. Maunsell complimented the officers and men on their steadiness and soldierly appearance, and certainly the officers deserve every credit for the manner in which the Company has been kept together, and brought to its present state of efficiency. The Company was entertained in the armory after the inspection.—*Daily Morning News* (St. John N. B.)