

## "A SLAP IN THE FACE."

(Montreal News.)

### THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE DOMINION BOARD OF TRADE.

More strength to the sinews and power to the arm  
That wiped out one stain in our country's disgrace!  
And gave Annexation, the symbol of harm,  
A vigorous right handed "slap in the face!"  
In the veins of the conclave of Canada's sons  
Who met to discuss the affairs of the State,  
The true British life blood of loyal runs!  
Long, long may it course there and govern our fate.

This noble Dominion can flourish and grow  
In power and commerce beneath our own vine,  
Without the unwelcome exotics that blow  
Their poison across the "American" line  
Accuse be the hand that would lower the flag—  
The emblem of Freedom that shelters our race,  
To make way for a rotten Republican rag  
To flutter in mockery in its loved place.

When the demagogue wrapt up in selfishness, tries  
To preach disaffection and loosen the bond  
Which unites us to Britain with strongest of ties,  
The love of our country confiding and fond!  
May Canada's spirit arise in its might  
Whate'er the occasion, wherever the place,  
And put the foul bird of ill-omen to flight  
By a vigorous back-handed "slap in the face!"

Let the sinner be hoary who'd make us forget  
The land that we sprang from, "great, glorious  
and free!"

Or young in the ambush that treason has set  
To cut us adrift from the Queen of the sea,  
When he raises his weapon with treacherous  
sleight

To part the connexion—the pride of our race!  
May a patriot arm be ready for fight  
To give him a back-handed "slap in the face!"

WILLIAM PITTMAN LETT.

Ottawa, January 20th, 1872.—[Ottawa Citizen.]

## THE SWISS MILITARY SYSTEM.

(Continued from page 48.)

The arms and other equipment range from nearly 4*l.* for the infantry man to 14*l.* 10*s.* for the cavalrist. For the rifle of the infantry soldier 3*l.* 7*s.* is estimated, and for that of the sharpshooters as much as 5*l.* which proves that, in this respect at least, the Swiss system does not deal stingily with its Militia.

The cost of instruction is estimated at about 2*l.* 12*s.* for the infantry man, 5*l.* 15*s.* for the sharpshooter, 6*l.* 15*s.* for the Engineer Corps and branches, 13*l.* 10*s.* for the artillery, and rather upwards of 30*l.* for the cavalry per man and horses.

The Swiss Militiam in thus represents individually a money outlay under the several heads of clothing, arm, and equipment, and of instruction, from first to last as follows, according to the arm to which he is assigned: Infantry about 11*l.*, sharpshooters and engineers about 17*l.*, artillery between 36*l.*, and 45*l.*, cavalry 54*l.*

Of this amount, in some of the cantons, each man upon entering on duty as recruit, has to bear a part which ranges from 1*l.* 13*s.* for the infantry soldier to nearly 4*l.* for the cavalrist. This does not, however, represent the expense to which the man is put while on drill and practice. The Swiss loves to eat five times a day, and to drink in proportion, and these occasions are made the most of for a little extra indulgence beyond the frugal habits of every day life. The poorest brings some money with him, and if his own pocket does not suffice, his wealthier comrades see to it that he fares none the worse.

Colonel Herzog, who recently commanded the corps of observation on the French frontier, to which Bourbaki surrendered, expressed some years ago to Mr. Martini his grave doubts whether the Swiss system was quite so cheap as it appeared from the cantonal and federal budgets. *Per contra*, Mr. Stampfli proves triumphantly that Belgium, which most closely resembles Switzerland in many

respects, spends annually upwards of 2,000,000*l.* in its war budget, while the Swiss system gives an organized effective force of double the number for less than 400,000*l.*

At the risk of becoming wearisome by repetition, I wish once more to direct attention to the cardinal principle of the Swiss organization. The central or federal authority assumes the supreme direction of military affairs; it fixes by law the organization and formation, the dress, equipment, arming, and a minimum of drill. It takes upon itself, and at its own expense, the higher military instruction, and also that of special arms. But—and this is a more important "but"—everything else is left to the twenty-five Cantonal Governments. These clothe, equip, and arm the men in accordance with the federal laws; these supply the war material and all necessary stores as well as the horses. As regards the infantry, that is to say the vast body of the troops the Cantonal Governments have hitherto been omnipotent in officering, drilling, and managing it.

Thus far I have illustrated this peculiar function of the Cantonal Government rather by the irregularities which it inevitably imports into what is conventionally called the Swiss system. I wish now to express my firm conviction that the chief merit of the system resides precisely in this seeming effect. It is the extreme localization which makes the Swiss Militia effective, and I am persuaded that any imitation, even partial, in which this localization is lost sight of, will ignominiously break down in the first experimental attempt.

Each canton has its military administration complete within itself; each its own arsenals, store houses, parade-grounds, shoot-ranges &c. Each furnishes what it can best give—the forest cantons sharpshooters and mountain howitzer batteries, the large frontier towns, like Basle, Geneva, or Zurich, artillery in position, and in each case that which for defensive warfare is first required is already and normally in the place where it is wanted. Nor is the great disparity in size and population which prevails among the cantons—one having less than 6,000 males, and another nearly a quarter of a million—a serious difficulty. It rather tends to direct undivided attention in each canton to the perfection of that special arm which the pursuits and habits of its inhabitants best qualify it to supply to the federal forces.

Thus, if you wish to apply the Swiss system, with any prospect of success in this country, say the Volunteers, or Yeomanry, or Militia, you would have to provide not only distinct but appropriate organizations in every country, and even parts of counties. The seaboard would by preference have to furnish Coast-guard men, or some sort of naval Volunteers; agricultural districts, heavy cavalry and infantry; the great cities artillery; the Highlands, sharpshooters; the "Black Country," a Volunteer Engineer Corps.

Moreover, under the Swiss system, each man of the first and second ban takes his personal equipment and accoutrement home with him. It is only on passing into the landwehr that he surrenders back to the State his rifle and military belongings. Every homestead is thus constituted a sort of miniature depot of part of the common stock of war material available for the national defence. Of course strict prohibition exists against the man making use of any part of his military outfit otherwise than when on duty.

I think I need say no more to show the extreme difficulty of a wholesale application

of the Swiss system in other States. That it contains excellent principles, which are universally applicable no one can gainsay, but their practicable value will depend upon the judiciousness and discrimination with which they are adapted to altered circumstances. I think, for instance, that the Prussians have known how to use some of the best features of the Swiss system, and yet used them for purposes diametrically opposed to the Swiss—for the purposes of a highly centralized, intensely military, and from the necessities of its position, an aggressive State.

Even in Prussia, as the present audience well knows, the theory of universal liability to military duty is never practically enforced except in cases of extreme national necessity.

On the other hand, there is a striking instance which I believe is not generally known in this country, of a militia system, in theory identical with the Swiss, utterly breaking down. I refer to the United States of America. Most, if not all, the States of the American Union still retain upon their statute-books enactments to compel every able-bodied white male to present himself at stated times and places to be duly mustered, drilled, regimented, and brigaded according to the laws made and provided for the organization and instruction of an efficient militia. The only result—and to this there are literally no exceptions—in all the States was that imposing array of citizen generals, colonels, and majors, whose designations supplied the craving for titles or "handles to one's name," and which so puzzled the foreign students of American manners, until a terrible war brought the sham into too sharp a contrast with real military grades, but in America, the militia system, however, wherever and whenever tried, was never more than a farce. It did not suit the habits of the people, either north south, east, or west, although Volunteers for any actual service, either against the Indians, or against Mexico, or for fighting of any kind, were always abundant. The militia muster was compulsory, and therefore unpopular; it had no obvious purpose, and therefore appeared ridiculous. *Per contra*, nearly every town in America, and especially in the Southern and South western States, had its one or more Volunteer companies whom the State formally recognized as part of its organized force, by supplying them with arms, but otherwise left to themselves in all that regarded their internal government and discipline. They uniformed themselves more or less gaudily and grandly according to their own taste, and the only consideration the State expected, in return for the arms furnished was, that they should perform a certain amount of drill and of annual camp duty, and be at the orders of the civil authorities if a disturbance of the public peace, a conflagration, or other grave cause required the intervention of an armed force. These Volunteer companies were the first and only troops of whom the Confederacy could dispose on the outbreak of the War of Secession. They were the men who garrisoned Norfolk Navy Yard upon its precipitate abandonment by the Federal military authorities, and they were the men who won the victory of Bull Run, which first opened the eyes of Europe to the seriousness of the struggle. They had each and all volunteered to the governors of their respective States for war duty, such of their individual members as were from any cause prevented, resigning or constituting themselves depot companies at home. They had all exchanged their fancy uniforms for the sober Confederate grey, been