

four, but the ordinary membership has fallen off from 42 to 29.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$30.54. The value of the stores belonging to the Association is \$2,517.64.

Lieut. Col. Gilmor said he had been requested to announce that Lieut.-Col. Gzowski had not been able to attend, but that he would renew his subscription of \$100. Also that the men going to Wimbeldon would receive Martini-Henri rifles as soon as possible to practice with in Canada, the Dominion Rifle Club being held responsible for them and for the amount of the ammunition; that 100,000 rounds had been ordered for 1875, for practice and competition; and that in consequence of a motion with regard to the introduction of steel barrels they would be sold at cost price.

It was moved by Lieut.-Col. Scoble and seconded by Capt. Mason, and was carried:—

"That the Secretary be instructed to endeavour to effect an arrangement with the several corps and clubs of Toronto, whereby the actual expenses of practice may be defrayed; and failing this, that the affiliation fee of city corps and clubs be raised to \$10 per battalion, \$30 per club, and \$25 per independent company."

It was arranged that the match for the present year should commence on the 22nd June. Lieut. Cols. Gilmor and Scoble, Sergt. Major Cruik, and the Secretary were appointed to arrange the details.

Militia and Defence.

There is probably no one subject before the House and the country, on which exists such wide divergency of opinion, as that which relates to the military organization and defence of the country. From total disarmament to a standing army, each theory finds staunch advocates, who are prepared to support their theories by incontrovertible argument. Perhaps, in no case can the rule, *in medio tutissimus*, be more safely adopted. Between the advocates of the millennial doctrines enunciated by Mr. M. Cameron, and the extreme alarmists who breathe fire and smoke and see indications of war in every passing cloud, lies a safe middle course, perhaps not acceptable to either, but certainly calculated for the welfare of the country. We cannot afford to be defenceless, lest our position should invite attack; and we certainly cannot afford a standing army that would be adequate to the defence of the country. The only solution of the problem is, therefore, a citizen soldiery, an armed nationality. For the proper education of this force, many schemes have been tried, and each proved in a certain degree valueless; not because of the intrinsic demerits of the scheme, but because no Government has been willing to make the question a national one, and to dissociate its interests from party politics. Truth to tell, the patronage, direct and indirect, is so considerable, the lever is so powerful that moves some 40,000 electors—or at least politicians—that no Government has cared to relinquish it. Therefore, Adjutants-General have been sacrificed who trod on the toes of political majors; discipline has been subverted to save political friendships, and military titles have been the cheap reward of political services. Hence numerous breaches of recognized military rule, disheartening to men of military tastes and habits, who have made the subject their study; many of whom have left the service in consequence. Hence the demoralization of the force, which cannot be kept up to a proper standard, when its vital interests are sacrificed to political exigencies. It is

evident, therefore, that a radical change is necessary, and it was consequently with some hope of relief that we hailed the appointment of a Major-General to command the militia and act as military adviser of the Government, in the belief that his high position and large experience would place him above the reach of petty politics. It is too soon to hazard an opinion whether such is the case or not; but a perusal of the report on the State of the Militia indicates an amount of bluff soldierly independence that leads us to hope for the best. True, his report contains nothing new, his suggestions have been forestalled by others; his ideas are crude, and to a certain extent, erroneous. But the steps he advocates are in a right direction; and were he to inform himself more thoroughly before committing himself to any direct recommendation, his appointment will be likely to prove a great boon to our militia. The errors that he has fallen into are principally induced by class prejudices, of which it would be absurd to expect him to divest himself at once. That of recommending a further introduction of officers from the regular service, as Staff Officers, Adjutants, etc., is probably the most serious. A regular officer, accustomed to the monotony of the service, comes to regard a soldier as a mere instrument of his will; as an unreasoning machine. He cannot divest himself of this opinion when placed in command of volunteers. His contempt of *amateur* soldiers, his class prejudices, and *de haut en bas* manner of treating his men, renders him unpopular, and consequently unfit to command. As a subordinate officer, he is apt to decry the capabilities of his superiors who are not "to the manor born," and with his inferiors he is haughty and exacting. Consequently, he is a failure. It is not intended to argue that an officer should popularize himself at the expense of discipline; nor that he should know nothing of his duties, in order that he might suit the ignorance of both superiors and inferiors; on the contrary, it is often the case that volunteer officers are more severe disciplinarians than their comrades who have been of the regular service, and yet they are better obeyed and better liked. To those who have been on service, there is a subtle distinction, more appreciated than explicable, between the *ex militaire* and the volunteer pure and simple, which renders us predisposed against the rule of the former, and for the regime of the latter. And it must be taken into consideration, that our volunteers, ready as they have always been to render a reasoning obedience, are not fitted by education and social position to act as mere machines; and that the introduction of martinism is more likely to destroy their *morale* than to improve their discipline. Let us have no more importations from the regular service who have no heart in their work, and regard residence in this country as an exile only to be borne for the sake of their pay; rather let us seek out for the service those officers whose interests are identified with Canada, and who know the constituents of the force. There are many who have distinguished themselves to take some part in our military organization. It is to be hoped their interests will not be lost sight of in making new appointments.

As regards the system, the Report is not sufficiently radical. A common interest should unite all classes of the Dominion in preparing its means of defence, and deference to Quebec should not be made an excuse to prevent the perfecting of a suitable system. It is, no doubt, a matter of

difficulty to arrange all conflicting interests, and to determine upon a correct and equitable basis. But why not arrive at such a settlement by calling into the councils, those volunteer officers from each part of the Dominion, whose experience in the past, and knowledge of local requirements, would be some guarantee for a proper solution of the difficulty? It is unfair to assume that a regular officer, however great his experience in the service, should be able at first sight, to prepare a scheme which shall meet all demands, and render the militia question a vexed question no longer.—*The Nation*.

Militia Report.

The Report on the state of the Militia of Canada for the year 1874, with an introduction by Major General E. Selby Smyth, is received. A synopsis of the report will be found in the following paragraphs:—

He gives credit to Lieutenant Colonel Fletcher for his pamphlet on the defence of Canada. Since the departure of the regular forces and the abolition of Military Schools, he recommends that a company of engineers and three companies of infantry be forthwith embodied—one company of the infantry to be stationed at Toronto, one at Ottawa and one in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. Each of them should have a highly proficient instructor from the Royal Army, but otherwise be officered from the Militia. The effect of these infantry schools would be to secure a rapid supply of trained officers and sergeants throughout the Dominion, and those who passed through the schools would be qualified to form a permanent regimental staff. He also recommends that the adjutant of every battalion should be a regular army officer. Were such a course adopted, army and clothing would be carefully preserved where at present loss and waste occur, and the pay of caretakers would be saved. A responsible officer would have to be permanently at the head quarters of the battalion. Company exercise would then become of real and substantial value. The heavy cloth tunic has been found too hot for summer drills, a serge frock, to last for three years, made of excellent material manufactured in Canada, will be substituted. In his late tour of inspection he came to the conclusion that the arms in many cases are badly cared for. He recommends that in future the captains of rural battalions be not allowed to keep the accoutrements of their companies, but that they be stored at headquarters of battalions. He had found the military store depots at London, Toronto, Kingston, Montreal and Quebec in good order. There are at present 60,000 rifles in the country, and he recommends that 80,000 more be purchased as soon as the funds of the country will permit. The price of these rifles is £2 10s. each. The amount of powder in store is 200,000 pounds. The clothing in many cases has not been well taken care of. The active militia numbers 45,138; and the reserve militia 700,000. There are sixteen field batteries, six of which are already armed with the most approved new rifled field guns. The Gunnery Schools at Kingston and Quebec are praised for their efficiency. He recommends that the district staffs should only be appointed for five years, and objects to the large number of persons with military titles throughout the Dominion. The Kingston Military College, he is of opinion, will prove of great use, and will produce a scientific class of officers.

The Major General has embodied in his remarks many excellent suggestions, showing clearly that he has given the subject (For continuation see page 144.)