

On the other hand, in case of their services being required, it will not be enough to bring the men together and make them acquainted with the officers who are to command them. Their instruction must be provided for. The question of how this is to be done is not an easy one to settle, and yet it is a very important one and deserves to be well considered. In the first place, in ordinary cases in time of peace, would it be reasonable to withdraw one sixth part of the most active of the population of the Province from their daily occupations in order to teach them the elements of the military art? I believe that the great majority of thinking persons will answer that it would not. But if war is at your doors; if there is an appearance of danger, even although the danger may not be imminent, naturally the case is changed. Ought we, in that case, to prepare ourselves a little, to do something? I believe it is indispensable to do something in such a case. It is very well to say so, some one may reply, but *what is to be done?* Have we the means of drilling from fifty to sixty thousand men for fifteen or twenty or thirty days, or longer? I think not; the expense would be very great without any equivalent advantage being obtained to say nothing of the absolute loss which the whole Province would sustain from the interruption of profitable labour. For the purpose of bringing so large a force together in camps of instruction the whole apparatus required for a regular army would have to be provided, including commissariat, waggon trains, tents, &c., &c., &c. A state of war only would justify such an expenditure. If, then, on the one hand it is impossible for us to make too great sacrifices, and on the other we admit that it would be imprudent not to make any, we must try to find a middle course. This middle course seems to me to be the keeping up of the military schools. To train an army of from fifty to sixty thousand men would be too expensive; but if we cannot train such a force, we can at least prepare a certain number of young men to act as officers and non-commissioned officers, and qualify them to instruct the militiamen when mustered into camp under the pressure of any imminent danger.

And here I must admit that the Military Schools are working better than I expected; and I cannot help acknowledging, as it is only just that I should do, that I was wrong last year in expressing doubts as to their usefulness before they were tried. I think now that if there is one good thing in the law at present in force it surely is the provision for the establishment of Military Schools; and I am happy to have it in my power to ascribe all the merit of that provision to my predecessor. But