

rection of national spirit, but that great movement was still in the womb of the future. Demagogues predicted that it was a mere matter of time for Napoleon to subdue Russia and then march back to France, cross the Pyrenees and drive the "hateful leopards into the sea." The garrisons of regular troops in Canada had been reduced to the lowest possible limit to meet the demands for troops necessitated by the campaign for the world's freedom in Europe. It was judged to be the hour of England's direst extremity, and of her enemies' crowning opportunity.

Before the breaking of the storm, General Brock, with the clear foresight of a born soldier, had taken steps to parry the first blow, wherever it might fall. With a total population of but 77,000 souls, and with but 1,500 regular troops available to defend a frontier of 1,300 miles in length, the prospect was enough to have daunted a less brave heart than that of Brock.

During 1811, the formation of a special service battalion of 400 rank and file (soon increased to 600) among the Highland settlers, to be called the Glengarry Light Infantry, was authorized, and the organization and equipment completed before the end of the year.

On the advice of General Brock an amendment was passed to the Militia Act in March, 1812, providing for the embedment of two companies from each militia regiment, to be considered as flank companies of their respective regiments, and to be regularly and frequently trained as such. A vote of five thousand pounds sterling was passed to put this provision into effect. Many of these flank companies were immediately raised, though the men were required to attend six trainings per month, without pay, without uniforms, and without travelling allowances. Even before war was declared, Brock asked for authority to issue at least rations and clothing to the men undergoing training, and his persistence carried the day, to some extent.

The battalion of incorporated militia which is spoken of so frequently in histories of the war, and which lost so heavily at Landy's Lane, was a Canadian regular regiment recruited and officered in 1813 almost exclusively from among the men of these flank companies. The flank companies were really regarded as the active part or first line of the militia; the bulk of each regiment, formed, when an emergency called for its embodiment, into companies, called the service companies, being considered as a reserve only called out when absolutely necessary.

Brock thus practically divided the militia into two distinct classes, first, a voluntarily enrolled, organized, trained, available body—an active force; and, secondly, the rest of the militia liable by law for service, but not embodied or trained. The creation of this distinction, which continues, theoretically, to the present, was in line with the development of the parent service in the Mother Country.

In 1806 a "Training Act" was passed in England which provided for the raising by ballot of a force of 200,000 men to be trained for a whole year every third year. Any man balloted had the option of serving as an efficient in a volunteer corps.

In 1808 a force of "local militia" was established in England and Scotland by Lord Castlereagh in addition to the "general militia," which became a sort of sedentary militia, the "local militia" being organized into regiments, the men, from 18 to 30, serving for four years.

Brock's system of extracting from the Canadian general militia a select or active force by the organization of flank or service companies, was early justified by the excellent work of the militia at the capture of Detroit and the battle of Queenston Heights. The flank companies which took part in the capture of Detroit were probably the first Canadian militia to be uniformed, Brock, at the suggestion of Major Evans of the 8th Regiment, having clothed them in the cast-off clothing of the 41st Regiment.