

## Centralization or Co-operation

Canada's position in defence falls naturally for purposes of consideration under two heads, (1) **Military** defence, or defence by land, and (2) **Naval** defence, or defence by sea; and as respects both military and naval defence should be viewed with reference to (1) her own defence, and (2) assistance or co-operation in the defence of other parts of the Empire.

**Previous to Confederation** the defence of what now constitutes the Dominion of Canada was entirely in the hands of the Imperial Government, who for that purpose maintained troops in each Province supported by various local Volunteer Militia Corps.

**After Confederation**, the Imperial troops were gradually withdrawn from this country and at present none remain.

**During the Red River Rebellion in 1870 and the North-West Rebellion in 1885**, Great Britain sent officers and soldiers from the Home Land to assist the Canadian forces in suppressing these uprisings. In the case of the Red River Expedition, 800, or about one-third of the force were imperial troops; in the case of the North-West Rebellion, staff officers alone were loaned.

At the time of the **Soudan War in 1884**, when New South Wales offered the Imperial Government a body of troops, Canada declined **under the Conservative Administration of Sir John A. Macdonald** to send any troops from Canada to participate in this war. Sir John maintained the position that it was for Canada to say to what extent she would participate in European, African or Asiatic conflicts in which Great Britain might be involved, and sustained this position by refusing to participate at all.

Great Britain was relieved **under the Laurier Administration**, of the expense of maintaining garrisons in Canada, this obligation being assumed by the Canadian Government. Great Britain, moreover, was not called upon during Sir Wilfrid's Administration to render military aid of any kind to the Dominion.

**During the South African War**, Canada voluntarily came to the assistance of the mother country and despatched fully equipped contingents of infantry, artillery and cavalry to take part in that war. This was done, not as the recognition of an obligation on Canada's part to participate in all wars no matter where arising, or what the cause, but, voluntarily, in accordance with the position resolutely maintained, to determine "as the need arises" the extent of her co-operation. The attitude of the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier towards participation in imperial wars was exactly the same as that of the government of Sir John Macdonald, the only difference in application being that Sir John asserted it by refusing to participate, Sir Wilfrid by offering to lend assistance, and actually aiding.

**Since the South African War**, arrangements to facilitate co-operation between different parts of the Empire in matters of defence have been much considered, and a scheme of organization effected which,