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## The Volunteer Review,

AND

### MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,  
To guard the Monarch, fence the Law."

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 1875.

**TO CORRESPONDENTS**—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be *pre-paid*. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and at the corner the words "Printer's Copy" written and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage.

LIEUT. J. B. VINTER, of Victoria, and Captain H. V. EDMONDS of New Westminster, are our authorized Agents for British Columbia.

We have to thank our kind friend, T. D. SULLIVAN, Esq., Librarian of the Royal United Service Institution, for a very interesting historical and practical pamphlet "On the proposed enclosure of Dover Bay—Review of designs, and historical Essay on the Harbour by JOHN BALDY REDMAN, F.R.G.S.M.I. C.E., &c. It is similar to Sir JOHN COODE's paper on Harbour of Refuge, and we shall review it in connection therewith at an early day.

On another page will be found an article entitled, "Our Rifled Ordnance," which is copied from the *United States Army and Navy Journal*, of 13th February, from which it would appear that a very decided stride has been made towards solving the problem of converting cast iron smooth-bore ordnance into rifled guns. The experiments as far as carried out are certainly encouraging, to say the least, and appear to be an innovation on European practice in the manufacture of guns of large calibre. It appears that the United States ordnance consisted of cast iron guns of calibres ranging up to ten inches for spherical shot—that this latter nature of gun has been bored up to *thirteen* and one-half inches in diameter, and a "lining tube of coiled wrought-iron (welded), the

breach of this to a distance of *thirty-two* one half inches being a double tube, the outer one shrank on the inner—the former, however, having the same exterior diameter as the inner tube at the muzzle end." The tube is adjusted to the cast iron body with great care—the rifling consists of fifteen grooves with a twist of one turn in 40 feet. In Europe the practice is to use *cast steel* for the inner tube, and wrought iron for the outer case or shell. If it does turn out that our neighbors have succeeded in accomplishing the revolution involved in the success of their system they will certainly have solved a very interesting problem in finding the cheap material for the manufacture of heavy gun.

*Broad Arrow* of 20th March, has an article on "Compulsory Service," which we have copied in another column, its chief value consists in an extract from the speech of the Right Honorable GATHORNE HARDY, Secretary of State for War, the principle of compulsory service is obscurely hinted at. We say obscurely, because it is by no means evident that compulsory service in its proper acceptance was intended—the ballot as applied (or rather not applied, because its operations is unequal and public feeling is against it) to the British Militia is not by any means a popular law—under the complicated system devised by the late Government who styled themselves the friends of the people the whole burden of military service as might be expected fell on their clients, and in such a way too as to make the service detestable—in fact, it appeared to be the fixed idea with Mr. GLADSTONE and his colleagues that the further they could separate the interests of rich and poor, and the greater distance which could be placed between the people and their natural leaders the better it would be for the interests of the party they represented. Acting on this principle they disorganised and destroyed the military system that had rendered England formidable for two centuries—the Naval system on which her existence depends as well as the basis of her prosperity, and carefully took such measures as were best adapted to restrict martial or patriotic feelings amongst the people.

Instead of making "military service" obligatory on all, by cherishing the relations between the people and their natural leaders, they occupied themselves in trying to ape the vicious conduct of the rebels of the Long Parliament, by depriving the landed gentry of the commands they held in the militia, which should be recruited from their tenants, and concentrating it in the House of Commons where they reckoned on the majority of representatives being traders, whose policy would be peace at any price, and patriotism a negative quantity measured by their gains. By Legislative interference they so complicated (what is after all the simplest of all political machinery) the orga-

nisation for offensive or defensive purposes that it is practically worthless, and that the boasted British Army costing fifteen million pounds sterling annually could not turn out 50,000 effective men for any purpose, nor will the present Secretary of State for War effect any reform till he undoes the whole work his predecessor so laboriously built, and begin *de novo*.

In that case compulsory service would mean the liability of every man physically able to bear arms, and the basis of such a system must be to restore the landed gentry to their position in the militia proper—i.e. the force raised in the agricultural districts, while the volunteer force should be raised in the great manufacturing towns the centers of population and industry.

The law should apply to all equally as regards service—the only exemption from serving in the militia should be the liberty of serving in a volunteer corps—from both those forces the Regular Army should be recruited by offering to picked men solid advantages and inducements—service for life being the general rule with ample pensions in case of ill health or being invalided. The whole civil departments of the army should be swept away, there should be no non-combatants, and retired officers as well as soldiers should be engaged in doing the work that is now performed by political clerks who absorb about two-fifths of the whole cost for no good purpose except to extend ministerial patronage.

In this case the ears of the people would not be offended with the word Ballot—their duty would be performed by *roster* according as their names stood on the list of their battalion. In this case what was universal, was not compulsory any more than other necessary social regulations, and need not interfere with the liberty of the subject in any appreciable and certainly not in an oppressive degree?

This we are sure would suit the great mass of the British people and would meet no opposition except from the party who have always been their country's worst foe.

The following very sensible, liberal, and generous article is taken from the *United States Army and Navy Journal*, of 15th May, and shows conclusively that the experience gained by the great contest through what that country has passed has not been lost upon the educated and thinking classes of the community—and we hope the hand of friendship here held out will be cordially grasped by a people who ought to be at one, and have a far higher mission than merely slaughtering each other at the call of scheming politicians or in the interests of a selfish class. We are, of course, well pleased to find our contemporary fearlessly recognises the truth of history without resorting to euphonisms, and we are satisfied that most wars spring from as mean, petty and selfish motives as the war of the Revo-