

We all remember General Brock's dying
command at the Battle of Queenston Heights :

"Forward, York Volunteers."

Thus early -- notwithstanding the law --
had the voluntary system made itself evident.

When Confederation was achieved, one of the
first Bills brought in by the new government was
the Militia Act -- introduced in 1868 by Canada's
first Minister of Militia and Defence, Sir George
Etienne Cartier.

This Bill was based on the traditional law
of Canada in that it declared that the militia of
Canada consisted of every able-bodied man in Canada
from 16 to 60.

Every such man was liable to be called out for
military service for the defence of Canada within the
country's territorial limits and without.