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THE NEW STORY.

In this issue we give a further liberal instalment of WILKIE COLLINS' new story,

THE LAW AND THE LADY.

This story, considered the best yet written by Mr. Collins, was begun in the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS of Nov. 7, (Number 19).

Back numbers can be had on application.

We beg to call the attention of News Dealers throughout the country to the fact that we have secured the sole right for Canada of publishing "The Law and the Lady" in serial form.

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for the advertising and subscription departments of this paper. Good percentage, large and exclusive territory, given to each canvasser, who will be expected, on the other hand, to furnish security. Also for the sale of Johnson's new MAP OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, March 20th, 1875.

THE MILITIA OF THE DOMINION.

Major General SELBY SMYTH has just published his report on the state of the Canadian militia. From the biography of this officer, published in the present number of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, our readers will attach all the importance which anything emanating from his pen deserves.

In making his inspection, the first point to which the General addressed himself was—how are the officers, the sergeants, and rank and file of the Militia instructed and grounded in every quality that creates a soldier?

His answer to this is not altogether reassuring. He confesses that he met some very cultivated officers with many military attainments, and full of zeal, but in the condition of things he states that their number must be limited, and Military Schools no longer exist.

The conclusion which he draws is that with the annual diminution of the instructed element, the military spirit languishes throughout the country, and, unless some means of attraction or incentive are produced, may decline into a blank.

In seeking a remedy for this prospective evil, General SMYTH advocates the creation of some substitute for the Military School of the past. With this view, he submits that a company of Engineers and three companies of Infantry be forthwith embodied, the former in half companies, attached to the Artillery at Quebec and Kingston. The Infantry, one company at Toronto in the New Fort, one at Ottawa as the seat of the Government, and one either in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, each to have a highly proficient instructor from the Royal Army, but otherwise officered from the militia. The effect of these Infantry Schools would be to infuse a rapid supply of trained officers and sergeants throughout the militia of the Dominion, qualified to give instruction, and the immediately important result would be to supply the most serious de-

fect in the militia organization:—officers and sergeants qualified to form a permanent regimental staff, "without which battalions are as machinery without propellers."

We learn from the report that there are about 60,000 Snider-Enfield rifles in the country. But the War Department should retain for the Dominion at least 60,000 more, to be bought year after year as funds may be provided. One skilled armourer, at least, should be attached to each military store depot, not only to keep in order the spare arms, but also to repair the regimental arms, many of which are, and some have been a long time, unserviceable in every infantry battalion and company in the Dominion; there should be not less than four additional armourers provided as soon as possible, and the arms put in thorough repair. There is at present in Canada, an insufficient number of rounds of Snider ball cartridge per rifle for the establishment of active militia; there should not be less than 400 rounds per rifle, and, when possible, a reserve of double that quantity.

The Active Militia enrolled is 48,000, being 1 1/5 per cent of the population, to which must be added the Grand Trunk Railway Brigade of 2,128 very efficient men. The Reserve Militia, divided into three classes, amounts to 655,000, making a total of 700,000 men between the ages of 18 and 61, liable by law to be called out in defence of their country. It is a matter of vast importance, as every one will allow, that the rolls of the active militia should be kept complete to the full number provided by the Statutes, even if the sum voted only admits of a portion being annually called out for training; the remainder being assembled for muster, if only for one day in each year at battalion headquarters, taking by turn to come out for training consecutively.

The Reserve Militia is enrolled by officers duly appointed, only once in four years; but it would be desirable that the officers and sergeants should be annually trained, either by attaching them to regiments of the active militia, temporarily for that purpose or preferably, at convenient times, by the permanent staff of those regiments when appointed. The active militia is raised by voluntary enlistment for three years, and in the country generally there appears no want of men to volunteer for its ranks.

There are seven brigades of Garrison Artillery composed of forty-five batteries, and there are sixteen independent batteries; altogether sixty-one garrison batteries. There are also sixteen field batteries, six of which are already armed with the most approved new rifled gun.

There are three regiments of Cavalry, comprising eighteen troops, and there are three squadrons, viz: at Quebec, Port Hope and Kingston, as well as sixteen independent troops; in all, forty troops of Cavalry.

The country is divided into military districts, of which there are twelve, viz: four in Ontario, three in Quebec, one each in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, one in Prince Edward Island, and one each in Manitoba and British Columbia; for each of these there is a Deputy Adjutant General, with a Brigade Staff. The whole is under a General officer of the Royal Army, with a Deputy Adjutant-General at Headquarters.

THE NEW POSTAL LAW.

The House of Commons has fully assented, after discussion, to the principle of the Postal Bill, introduced by the Hon. Mr. MACDONALD, Post-Master General. When finally passed it will take effect on the first of August next. It proposes the very greatest change in our system, in that it provides that no letter destined for any part of the Dominion or the United States will be forwarded, unless it is prepaid. Everybody, therefore, will have to remember to prepay their letters. The simplification of system that will thus be introduced is very great, and this is most necessary in a sparsely settled country like

Canada. It is also announced that the free delivery system, which works reasonably well in Montreal, will be extended, as soon as possible, to cities of smaller population, such as Kingston and Hamilton. An important change is also introduced for newspaper publishers, in that all mail matter will have to be prepaid at the office of publication, at so much a pound. The lowest possible price will be charged, but nothing will be carried without payment, as was practically, in many cases, done, by the old loose system. The price to be charged is the trifling one of 1 cent per pound weight. There was, however, opposition to this provision of the measure by Ontario publishers, and an amendment was moved, but the House negated it by a very large majority. The Post Master General read a statement from the Post Master of New York, where this system has been introduced, to the effect that it had increased the circulation of papers and had been found satisfactory. It was, however, in the first place met by opposition. The same result will likely follow in Canada, for there surely can be no difficulty in publishers making arrangements with their subscribers for the prepayment of a cheap postage of one cent for a pound weight. There certainly cannot in the case of prepaid publications, and the system of any subscriptions to newspapers or other publications not prepaid is unsound. Newspapers not from the office of publication will be forwarded with a half cent postage stamp attached.

The short of the principle of the whole of the new proposed system is so to simplify matters as to settle everything by a stamp affixed instead of keeping difficult and intricate postage accounts. Those who have studied the subject have long foreseen that this must come.

GALLIA REDIVIVA.

France has been considered fair game for the sarcasms and hectorings of scribblers, during the past four years. *Vae Victis!* On the assumed principle that the vanquished are always wrong, the misfortunes of that noble country have been the theme of much ungenerous animadversion. But to her honor be it said, she has paid no heed to these criticisms, or if any of these criticisms happened to be just, she has profited by them. Admitting her defeat which was purely military, not moral, and due to the brute force of overwhelming numbers, not to any inherent degeneracy, as so many have affected to imagine, she has striven with heroic perseverance to repair its disasters. And all the world must acknowledge that she has done so successfully. The payment of the war indemnity was an unparalleled feat. The subsequent submission to taxation is worthy of all praise. The consequence is that France has already recovered her position in the front rank of nations, and Paris is again looked to as the capital of the Continent.

Politically, the progress of France is no less remarkable. Spite of almost superhuman obstacles, dynastic and social, she has at length succeeded in establishing what promises to be a stable form of Government. And that form of Government is Republican. Notwithstanding all her excesses, her follies and her faults, it will ever be her glory that she leads the van of free institutions in Continental Europe. She may suffer by it, but from her sufferings other nations will profit, as they did in the great revolution of 1793.

The birth day of the French Conservative Republic is the 25th of February 1875, a date which must ever remain memorable in the annals of France. Its birth is due to a patriotic compromise. The Left receded from many of its advanced theories. The Right Centre yielded many of its dynastic pretensions. The common danger was Bonapartism, and it was crushed for the time by the mutual concessions of hitherto irreconcilable parties. The Constitution provides for a strong Executive and a responsible Second Chamber, and the first Ministry, the members of which are enumerated elsewhere,

is selected from the most moderate men of the Left and Right Centre.

The constitution of the Senate has some interest for us, in view of the changes proposed in our own Upper House. At first it was proposed to have the Senators elected directly by the people, in precisely the same way as the members of the Chamber of Deputies. But this was abandoned as unpractical and virtually useless. It was then determined to give the election of Senators to the Councils General. The Councils General being elected by the people, their Senatorial vote becomes an indirect popular vote, while it ensures a more concentrated and intelligent selection. It is well known that Frenchmen set great store by their Councils General. The people elect thereto their local magnates, their representative men, manufacturers, capitalists, landowners, merchants, and others. The authority and dignity of these Councils is so great that, two or three years ago, they were by law empowered to elect a provisional Assembly in the event of the lawful Assembly being dissolved by force. Hence their selection as the chief Senatorial electoral college appears a wise measure. To strengthen them still more in this function, there have been added to them the deputies of the department, the members of the Councils of the arrondissements, and delegates elected by the Municipal Councils. The Senate will number three hundred members, two hundred and twenty-five of whom are to be elected in the manner just described. The remaining seventy-five are to be life members, chosen by an absolute majority of votes in the Assembly, without any restriction as to the persons to be chosen. All subsequent vacancies among the latter class are to be elected by the Senate itself. It is already rumored that M. THIERS will be a candidate for the Presidency of the Senate, and, if so, it is to be hoped that he will be chosen, for all the events of the present day, the establishment of the Conservative Republic, the creation of an elective Senate, the definition and consolidation of the Executive powers, were all urged by him as necessary to the salvation of France, three years ago. What has just taken place is the justification and the triumph of the wonderful old man. Much praise is also due to M. GAMBETTA, whose prudence, moderation, and patriotic foresight prove that he possesses some of the highest qualities of statesmanship.

It is officially announced that the French Ministry has been formed as follows:—

M. Buffet, Minister of the Interior.
M. Dufaure, Minister of Justice.
M. Leon Say, Minister of Finance.
M. Wallon, Minister of Instruction.
Vicomte de Meaux (of the Right), Minister of Agriculture.
Duc Decazes, Minister of Foreign Affairs.
Gen. De Cissey, Minister of War.
Admiral De Montaignac, Minister of Marine.

M. Caillaux, Minister of Public Works.
The *Courier de France* reports that M. Dufaure has drawn up a programme of policy for the new Ministry, the leading features of which are as follows: The Assembly on meeting after the Easter holidays is to vote the Budget. The Senatorial elections are to be held next September, and the dissolution of the Assembly is to follow in October. The Government will demand the maintenance of the present electoral system, and raise the state of siege in all the Departments, except the Seine, Rhone and Bouches Du Rhone.

A return recently presented to the House at Ottawa, shows the number of applicants for the pensions, who were members of the Militia of 1812. They number exactly 554. The ages are only given in a few cases, but in none is it below 76, and the highest is 90. The French members are well divided with the British, and some applications come even from the United States.