

event of war, if its Provinces are to remain an integral part of the greatest Empire the world has yet produced.

Companies of Militia Staff, as provided for by this plan, and being thoroughly instructed to the standard required of all ranks in the regular army, would be up to their work as the Regimental Staff of Battalions, as far as their numbers would permit. The limits of men and time for drill in this sketch (as stated in Tables No. 2 and 3), is a matter of necessity, not of choice; and when adequate means are placed at the disposal of the Minister for Militia Affairs, he could augment the force of Militia Staff from 4 to 8 in a 100, the 8 per cent. being the due proportion to secure efficiency and increase the period of drill to all the year round, as the best means to secure an approximation to perfection, the great essential to military pre-eminence, without which victory is a phantom followed but not obtained.

As I am writing for the information of those who may not be conversant with military matters, I will state that every Regiment of Infantry, say of 800 rank and file, require 121 officers and non-commissioned officers of all ranks to sustain that perfect discipline so conspicuous throughout the ranks of the British Army. Now, if this be necessary to sustain order and enforce obedience in corps thoroughly established, how much more so must it be to the organization of raw levies? And where are you to obtain the Regimental Staff to incorporate and drill the 300,000 Active Service men for Canada, as established by the very last census, if in peace you do not organize a Militia Staff for war, which in Lower Canada is more necessary than in Upper, for as the men must be taken from the rural population, how are they to be instructed unless in their vernacular tongue? We have seen too much of the absurdity of sending Sergeants not knowing one word of French to drill our French Canadian lads.

If the unwelcome tidings of war were announced what a panic would seize the public, what confusion and helplessness would be found in the Department for Militia Affairs, not from want of ability in the Responsible Minister, but from the nullity of the Militia Act. That honorable gentleman would have to appoint 7,962 officers of all ranks to take charge of 300,000 Militiamen, officers and men all ignorant of the important duty suddenly thrust on them; and whilst the appointments are being made and told off to their respective commands, much precious time is wasted, no progress is made in the organization of 300,000 Active Service men, and when the 300 Battalions are incorporated, where are you to obtain 24,000 non-commissioned officers for the drill instruction of these inexperienced officers and men, if you have not previously arranged to secure so indispensable a power to the organization of the masses—and will it not be too late when the enemy is thundering with his cannon at your gates?

If the number of our Active Service men were limited to a few Battalions it would be an easy matter to obtain drill-instructors from the regular