

services of any battalion or any number of battalions arose, the Commander-in-Chief would only have to issue an order to the Lieut. Col. to desire that his battalion should parade for service and that every officer and man should know his place in the battalion.

“ Any scheme which does not accomplish this result is useless.

“ It is essential in fairness to the people at large, that, if actual service be required the population should be called upon to serve by means of the supposed organization in such an order as will, from the age and circumstances of those called upon, cause the smallest amount of general inconvenience.

“ The preparatory organization which it is proper to create in time of peace against the prospect of war should further contemplate the means of supplying the casualties of actual service by the provision of a reserve force.

“ The ideas here put forward have no claim to originality. They are, in fact, those upon which the organization of the Sedentary Militia of the Province under the present law was based :—for,

“ 1. It includes the entire population of the country capable of bearing arms.

“ 2. It provides that the men shall be called out for active service in an order regulated by age and circumstances.

“ 3. It professes to provide a reserve force to meet the casualties of actual war.

“ But while the present system of Sedentary Militia combines these necessary elements of a sound scheme, their operation is effectually neutralized, and the entire plan rendered worthless in practice by the mode in which the principles on which it is based are applied.

“ By the law enacting the present system, the Province was ordered to be divided into “ Military Districts ;” these again into “ Regimental Districts ;” the “ Regimental Districts ” into “ Battalion Districts ;” and the “ Battalion Districts ” were to be further subdivided into “ Company Districts ;” each Company District including a population of men over eighteen and under sixty years of age sufficient to form a company of Sedentary Militia, with its officers, and so on upwards in the scale.

“ In this arrangement the “ Military District ” might be supposed to represent a Division, the “ Regimental District ” a Brigade, and the “ Battalion District,” as its name implies, a Battalion.

“ The territorial nature of the arrangement so far as regarded “ Military Districts ” and “ Regimental Districts,” was perhaps as good as any other that could have been adopted, but when the same principle was applied to the Battalion, the unit of the army when embodied, it rendered the whole plan unworkable for any practical operation, because it is obvious that if a Battalion of the Sedentary Militia were called out for active service, the whole male population under sixty years of age of the district of which it was the battalion would be exhausted, to the exoneration of the inhabitants of all the surrounding districts of the country.

“ It would besides have been in direct violation of another portion of the law which enacts that the whole population shall be divided into three classes, according to age and circumstances, namely: “ 1st class service men,” “ 2nd class service men ” and “ Reserve men,” and that in case of need the people shall be called out for service in this order.