

developing the character and resources of the staff.

It should be arranged that the Major-General commanding, or a Deputy Adjutant-General, should muster and inspect men and arms during the continuance of the camp.

A desirable feature of these camps would be the assemblage of all past military school cadets resident in the division, and not actually serving in the force, under officers to be named from their own ranks, and constituted into separate companies or battalions. An opportunity would thus be offered, that would be eagerly embraced by most, of keeping up knowledge acquired in the military schools, and which, from want of use, is liable to become forgotten.

Having thus sketched the head and body of the organization, I may be permitted to dwell upon some details that seem to be most desirable.

1st. District stores and suitable magazines, containing arms, ammunition, clothing and stores sufficient to equip at least twice the number of the Service and Reserve Militia. These stores to have efficient storekeepers and trained assistants, to care for the property of Government in time of peace, and to issue it intelligently in case of war.

2nd. Laboratories in each Province for the manufacture of ammunition for small arms, with a capacity for extension in case of war. By this means, and the return of old cartridge cases and ammunition boxes, an annual saving might be effected, and a plentiful supply of blank cartridges provided for blank firing—a much-needed exercise for raw troops.

3rd. The establishment of depot companies in each Province, to serve as storekeepers, workers in the laboratory, military school instructors; to repair and alter arms, mark at rifle ranges, and to furnish guards upon the stores and the forts and armaments belonging to the Dominion.

This would be simply an extension of A and B Batteries, as at present constituted, making them the Provincial Schools of Military Instruction; attaching a cavalry and infantry instructor to each, and giving a general, instead of technical, training to cadets who might enter. The extension of the short or long course principle to all, would enable the commandant to select such men as he deemed fit for a special training in the higher branches of the military art; and the schools would thus act as a Staff College for the Dominion. I need not point out the desirability of such instruction.

It will be urged against this scheme that it will entail an enormously increased expenditure. As an answer, I have prepared an estimate, which I beg to submit for your consideration, hoping that you will consider that facts justify my attempting figures. To provide for the expenditure would be most simple.

Taking the number of men liable to serve in the Militia at 700,000 (which is doubtless short of the mark), and deducting therefrom 40,000 active service militiamen and 40,000 reserve, leaves 620,000 men who are liable to pay for the defence of the country. Suppose we rate these at \$2 per head (the rate exacted for statute labour). It gives us \$1,240,000.

This would leave about \$250,000 to be drawn from the public chest for the Militia Service. This scheme, of course, involves the principle of direct taxation; but I know of no tax which would be so cheerfully submitted to or more willingly paid. It is no

more an interference with the principle than the present school tax, and in many cases would not be considered half so objectionable. The tax could be collected by municipal machinery, and the quota, paid by each Province, into the Dominion Treasury.

In conclusion, I would beg to submit for your consideration the advisability of caution in introducing changes into the present system, without consulting the constituents of the existing Force. For years we have had to battle with difficulties which have been imposed upon us by a want of consideration of the feelings and prejudices of the Force; and the advent of the present Administration has been hailed with joy by most volunteers, believing that an enlightened consideration would take the place of political indifference where the interests of the

Militia are concerned. It would be looked upon as an act of graceful courtesy to those who have done and suffered much in the cause of our national defence, if the Government were to summon a board of officers to consider the present position of the Militia, and to suggest practical plans for the amelioration of the evils under which it suffers.

If such a course is taken, and any idea that I have originated commends itself to the judgment of yourself or your advisors, as practical and practicable, I shall feel that I have not addressed you in vain.

Apologizing for the length of this communication,

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

CENTURION.

# ESTIMATE FOR PROPOSED MILITIA EXPENDITURE.

<b>1. Details of Salaries of Military Branch:</b>		
1 Major-General, and Inspector of Militia Reserve Forces.....	\$3,000 00	
1 Adjutant-General at headquarters.....	3,000 00	
1 Quartermaster-General at do.....	2,000 00	
1 Deputy Adjutant-General, Cavalry, at headquarters.....	2,000 00	
1 do do Artillery, do.....	2,000 00	
1 do do Engineers, do.....	2,000 00	
1 do do Infantry, do.....	2,000 00	
1 Assistant Adjutant-General do.....	1,000 00	
1 Commandant and Deputy-Inspector, Militia Reserve, Nova Scotia.....	1,800 00	
1 do do do New Brunswick.....	1,800 00	
1 do do do P. E. I.....	1,800 00	
1 do do do Manitoba.....	1,800 00	
1 do do do British Columbia.....	1,800 00	
11 District Paymasters.....	at \$1,200 00	13,200 00
11 "Storekeepers.....	600 00	6,600 00
Travelling and field Allowances, Contingencies, Headquarters Staff.....		4,000 00
Military Surveys and maps, Quartermaster-General's Department.....		1,000 00
		<b>\$51,600 00</b>
<b>2. Division Staffs:</b>		
Command money, postage, stationery, &c., for Commandants.....	4,000 00	
Regimental Drill and Musketry Instructors and Storekeepers.....	27,600 00	
Repairs of arms and equipments by District Armourers.....	5,000 00	
		<b>36,600 00</b>
<b>3. Annual Drill Pay, &amp;c.:</b>		
Pay of 15,000 officers and men in Brigade Camps for 11 days.....	500,000 00	
" " 40,000 at Company Headquarters for 7 days.....	70,000 00	
Field and forage allowances for mounted officers.....	10,000 00	
Stations and Hospital subsistence in Brigade Camps.....	15,000 00	
Transport and marching money.....	25,000 00	
Contingencies, prizes to best shots, and unforeseen expenses.....	25,000 00	
Compensation for injuries at Drill.....	5,000 00	
		<b>650,000 00</b>
<b>4. Ammunition.....</b>		<b>50,000 00</b>
<b>5. Clothing.....</b>		<b>100,000 00</b>
<b>6. Military stores and equipments.....</b>		<b>50,000 00</b>
<b>7. Public armouries and care of arms.....</b>		<b>10,000 00</b>
<b>8. Drill Sheds, Rifle Ranges, and Targets.....</b>		<b>10,000 00</b>
<b>9. Allowances to efficient Regiments for encouragement to Rifle practice, efficient bands and contingencies.....</b>		<b>27,000 00</b>
<b>10. Grants to Dominion and Provincial Rifle Associations.....</b>		<b>10,000 00</b>
<b>11. Care of Ordnance properties.....</b>		<b>10,000 00</b>
<b>12. Improved Fire-arms and Ordnance.....</b>		<b>50,000 00</b>
<b>13. Contingencies and unforeseen expenses.....</b>		<b>50,000 00</b>
<b>14. Pay and maintenance of 6 Depot Companies and Military Schools, one for each Province.....</b>		<b>300,000 00</b>
<b>15. Pay and maintenance of Gun-boats.....</b>		<b>10,000 00</b>
		<b>\$1,440,600 00</b>

A terrible tragedy occurred on the Great Western Railway on Saturday night, the 23rd Feb., resulting in the death of seven or eight passengers and the serious wounding of twelve or fifteen others.

The Sarnia Express train left London at 6.20 p. m., with several petroleum and baggage cars, and one coach crowded with passengers. About midway between that city and Komoka Station, an oil lamp in the water closet fell from where it was suspended to the floor, and was broken. In a moment the oil ignited, and the whole of the interior of the closet was on fire. Panic at once seized the passengers, and efforts were made to stifle the flames with the use of the cushions, but it was found useless. The great speed at which the train was going, reckoned at over thirty miles an hour, fanned the fire to such an extent that no hope was left but an immediate stoppage of the train; but there being no bell rope attached, no communication could be passed until Conductor Mitchell, at much personal risk

ran forward and gave the warning. By this time the fire had gained full sway, and the affrighted passengers were throwing themselves from the platform and out of the windows which they smashed for the purpose. In a few minutes the car was consumed, and those who could not escape were burned to a crisp.

The *Globe* says, 500 Menonite families will come out by the Allan Line to settle in Manitoba. Twelve hundred families are going to Kansas and Dakota. Five hundred families from Russian Poland are not yet satisfactorily arranged for, but may find their way to Manitoba.

REMITTANCES Received on Subscription to THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW up to Saturday the 7th inst.

Emboro' Ont.—Maj. Geo. Duncan, to Aug. '73. \$8.00  
 Normanton, Ont.—Capt. Mitchell to Sept. '74. 0.00  
 Strling, Ont.—Lt. R. J. Craig, Sept. 16, 1874... 2.00  
 Stony Creek, Ont.—Capt. F. M. Carpenter, Feb. 1875 0.00