

The Dominion Illustrated.

\$4.00 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED PUBLISHING COMPANY (Limited), Publishers,

GEORGE E. DESBARATS, MANAGER,
73 St. James Street, Montreal.

GEORGE E. MACRAE, WESTERN AGENT,
36 King Street East, Toronto.

J. H. BROWNLEE, BRANDON,
Agent for Manitoba and the North West Provinces.

London (England) Agency:

JOHN HADDON & CO.,
3 & 4 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, E.C.
SOLE AGENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

2ND NOVEMBER, 1889.



This last year, according to the *Militia Gazette*, has been a most satisfactory one with regard to military matters all over the Dominion. Hamilton's Thirteenth Battalion has been distinguishing itself. At Washington its fine band won deserved praise. Toronto's Thanksgiving Day parade will afford another opportunity for testing its merits. The Queen City is justly proud of its projected drill hall, which, if the plans are adhered to, will be one of the finest in Canada. It is also looking forward to the establishment of its Cavalry School. London is not behind the sister cities of Ontario—its credit being well maintained by D Company of the Infantry School Corps, which, having vanquished C Company with the rifle, is about to engage in a like contest with C Battery, British Columbia. B Battery, Quebec, has had an enthusiastic and successful rifle meeting. Prince Edward Island's artillery men have also had their triumph; so have the island rifles. In Montreal Major Atkinson's contemplated cadet corps is inspiring the expectation of great things, which will doubtless be fulfilled. In fact the activity in militia circles all over the Dominion is healthy, fruitful and hopeful. Our volunteers have that spirit of self-reliance, which, with the generous patriotism which gladly sacrifices time and means to the demands of duty, has accomplished so much in the past, and is destined to have still grander triumphs in the future. "Taken all through," says our contemporary, in closing its review, "there has probably been greater progress made by the militia this year than in any other since the organization of the force."

These retrospects are always interesting. But, except for a comparatively brief period, they are virtually impossible. Sometime ago we had occasion to make inquiry about a very simple fact connected with the militia annals of this district, but though we spent some days in the quest, we could find no record of it. Every military district, every battalion, indeed, ought to have its historiographer. The military history of Canada is not lacking, we need scarcely say, in features of romance. Even the reports of the Departments abound in incidents of interest and value as evidence of our national growth. Those who would have a vivid conception of the change that has overtaken our military organization in a comparatively brief period should read Col. Robertson Ross's account of the "Reconnaissance of the North-West Provinces and Indian Territories" which he made in 1872. Having finished his annual training in the old provinces he proceeded by Lake Superior and the Dawson route to Manitoba, whence he crossed

the plains and mountains to the Pacific coast. He arrived at Victoria on the 28th of October, having accomplished the journey from Fort Garry in seventy days, of which fifty-one were occupied in actual travel—the distance by the route selected being nearly three thousand miles, of which more than two thousand miles were travelled on horseback. Some of his party saw "immense herds of buffalo," but the brisk trade carried on between the Indians and the whiskey smugglers was making sad havoc in their ranks. During his stay in British Columbia Col. Robertson Ross arranged for the organization of the militia in that young province, and it was mainly to his suggestions, based upon careful examination of the condition and needs of the country, that the formation of the North-West Mounted Police was due.

The following is the section of the North-West Territories Act to the repeal of which the present movement is directed: "Either the English or the French language may be used by any person in the debates of the Council or Legislative Assembly of the Territories and in the proceedings before the courts; and both those languages shall be used in the records and journals of the said Council or Assembly; and all ordinances made under the Act shall be printed in both those languages." According to the *Calgary Herald*, this section was introduced by Senator Girard, of Manitoba, into the Amended Act of 1877.

The failure to recognize the share of skilled workmen in the progress achieved in the industrial arts at our provincial and other exhibitions is a grievance of which the class left out in the cold has long had reason to complain. Prizes are, indeed, offered in abundance; but they are the prerogative of the manufacturer or dealer. The brain that planned and the hand that wrought the improvement are never taken into account, and only in the case of a rare coincidence is the credit allotted to him whose thought and toil deserve it. It is meet, of course, that the enterprise and foresight of those who invest their capital to advantage for themselves and their country should have due acknowledgment. But it is not fair that they should monopolize the whole honour. The workman should not be ignored. Even on the highest public grounds it is wise to show appreciation of his skill and industry. He has borne a part, at least, of the burden and heat of the day and ought not to be forgotten in the bestowal of honorary rewards. If medals and other prizes were awarded to efficient workmen for exhibits of their production, the effect would be to stimulate ingenuity and taste and painstaking, so that employers and the public would be the gainers as well as the prize-winners. This subject, to which the *Canadian Architect and Builder* opportunely called attention on the eve of the Toronto Exhibition, has of late been ventilated both in Great Britain and on the continent of Europe, as well as amongst our neighbours.

As an instance of this recognition of the rôle of the workman in a class of skilled labour with which, however meritorious his share in it, he is by name so rarely associated as to confirm the rule of negation, we may mention one of the most important undertakings of which the Canadian press has as yet assumed the responsibility—the reproduction of the "Œuvres de Champlain." On the title-page of the edition, which was brought out at Quebec in 1870, we are given to understand that it was published under the patronage of Laval

University, by (the late) Abbé C. H. Laverdière, M.A., Professor of History at that institution, and in the preface we learn that he was assisted by Abbé Verreau, Abbé Casgrain, M. J. C. Taché, and (the late) M. A. Gerin-Lajoie, and (the late) Abbés Ferland and Laplante. There are other points of interest mentioned in the preface which (apart from the exceptional character of the undertaking) make its publication memorable in the history of Canadian typography. For the present, however, we would simply cite, as an example of rare justice to the workman, the inscription which closes the last volume. It is this: "Noms des principaux ouvriers qui ont travaillé à cette seconde édition des Œuvres de Champlain—MM. Paul Dumas, chef d'atelier; Ignace Fortier, imprimeur; L.-Robert Dupont, compagnon imprimeur; Jacques Darveau, compositeur; Edouard Aubé, compositeur; Leggo et Cie., lithographes et phototypistes." And those who have made acquaintance with the work will appreciate the significance of that roll of honour.

OUR SCHOOL HISTORIES.

A paper on the study of Canadian history was read at the recent convention of teachers which met in this city. The essayist, Mr. Patterson, expressed the opinion that none of the text-books actually in use answered the requirements of our schools, and suggested that a committee should be entrusted with the task of compiling a work that would be acceptable in all the provinces. A motion to that effect was seconded by the Rev. Mr. Parsons, who claimed that existing text-books lacked interest, and the committee is to report at the next convention. It seems strange that such a grievance should have to be ventilated a third of a century after the establishment of our normal schools. If valid, it reflects no credit on either the profession or the educational authorities, and it is not complimentary to the publishers of the Dominion. But those on whom the implied reproach falls most heavily are the authors who, in the face of public apathy, have given their time and talents to the composition of school histories. We take it for granted that the gentlemen who brought the charge of inadequacy against the works of Drs. Bryce, Withrow, Miles, Hodgins Messrs. Archer, Jeffers, Adam, Mrs. Roy, and the other writers of Canadian histories, carefully examined their books before they decided that they should be all swept out of existence. They would hardly pass such a sweeping censure on books that had been approved by our highest educational authorities without grave reason. Such being the case, Canada makes a poor figure before the rest of civilization. Here is a country of some five millions of people, with an educational system second to none, with as many universities and colleges as the United Kingdom, with historical societies in every province, and hundreds of earnest students engaged in historical research, and yet with all these advantages it has not a school history that is worthy of the confidence of teachers.

There is certainly no lack of material for a history of Canada at once accurate and readable. There is no part of the American continent which has had a more eventful, more romantic past. For more than a hundred years Canada was the stage of a struggle which, in its successive phases, abounds in much that is heroic, pathetic and picturesque. Nor is its later history destitute of the charm that surrounds great ideas taking form