

many more men than it ought, and consequently exempting a more populous locality from furnishing that proportion of the contingent for which it might justly be called upon. In whatever way I look at the mode of drawing men by lot under the present law, I fail to discover in it any thing but injustice or to foresee from it any thing but dissatisfaction. Nevertheless I distrust myself, and I wait for experience to confirm my fears or dispel my misgivings.

By this bill, as soon as the contingents are enrolled, the names of the men composing them are transmitted by the Captains of Companies to the commanding Officers of Battalions, who will be responsible for the correctness of the Rolls. The Commanding Officers of Battalions compile from these Rolls their Service Militia Returns, which they transmit to head quarters through the Colonels of their Regimental Divisions. **At this point the duties of the Officers of the Sedentary Militia end and those of the Commander in Chief, acting through the Adjutant General's Department, commence.**

In view of the probability of Military Divisions varying in size and population being formed under this Bill, if it becomes law, and in order to admit of the strength of the battalions being proportioned to the population of the respective divisions, it is provided that the companies may consist of from forty-five to ninety rank and file, exclusive of officers and non-commissioned officers, and that battalions may be composed of from four to ten companies.

Now, once the service militiamen are enrolled and the officers appointed by the Commander in Chief, will it not be the easiest thing in the world to cause the whole of the force thus organized to march to head quarters, or to any part whatever of the Province? All being thus prepared in advance, I think I may be forgiven the expression, which was perhaps a little too figurative and a little too military, made use of by me some time ago, namely, "that with the plan I had in view, I could make the militia march at the first sound of the bugle." And yet this expression need not cause the least alarm in the world. The government does not intend to march the militia to the frontier unnecessarily, nor even to withdraw the enrolled men from their employments unless it becomes absolutely necessary to do so. Organizing the militia upon an efficient footing is not provoking war; it is taking a prudent precaution against a danger which is remote perhaps, but still possible. Besides, it is not improbable that, for years to come, the only duty which the service militia will have to perform will be that of appearing at the annual review, and nothing more.