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THE CANADIAN

Military Gazette

Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.

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MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER 15, 1895.

Notes and Comments

It may not be long before the question of a Canadian contribution towards the maintenance of the Royal Navy will be a matter of practical politics in Canada. On the very day that the London papers were announcing that Mr. Chamberlain, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, was anxious for a scheme of Imperial defence with a provision for colonial contribution towards the maintenance of the navy, Vice Admiral Erskine, Commander-in-Chief of the North American and West Indian squadron, was pointing out to the mayor and aldermen of Montreal the remarkable conditions which give to Canada the protection of the most

powerful navy in the world, and—for nothing. Naval and civil authorities in Britain agree that all the colonies should, like Australia, contribute towards the support of the Royal Navy, and the people of Canada cannot but acknowledge that the present arrangement is unfair.

Great Britain is annually increasing the strength of the fleet specially charged with the protection of Canada's eastern seaboard, and some very important reinforcements are announced for the near future. But should we be able to count upon adequate naval protection in the event of the Mother Country being involved in a great war? Powerful and admirable as is the Royal Navy in every way, is it so powerful as to be able to leave a fleet of sufficient strength in Canadian waters for the protection of the great seaports of the Dominion and of our coastwise trade routes? With Britain's many possessions and enormous interests afloat and ashore in every quarter of the world, the resources of the navy would be subjected to the severest strain, and of course, as is only fair, the ships of the navy would be sent to protect the interests of those who pay for their maintenance. An annual grant by Canada towards the maintenance of the Royal Navy would, however, be something more than a Dominion insurance investment; it would be a step towards the strengthening of the Empire itself as well as of the bonds which bind Canada to the Mother Country. If Canada finds it advantageous to remain a portion of the British

Empire, Canadians should feel themselves just as much interested in the maintenance of the armed forces of the Empire as are their kinsmen over the sea, for without adequate defences the Empire must fall to pieces.

Notwithstanding the constant cry of immigration agents that Canada has need of every man in the country for the development of her latent natural wealth, we are firmly of the opinion that the Dominion should be willing to devote more of her sons as well as of her means towards the armed forces of the Crown. There are plenty of lads and young men in our cities and towns who will not engage in farming, and for whom the army and navy offers equal inducements with the other paths of life open to them. The writer personally knows of half a dozen Canadian lads who have in a few years joined the United States navy, and even more Canadian men who have enlisted in the United States army. Probably most people living in Canada know of as many others who have gone into the service of Uncle Sam because there was no other means at hand to gratify the natural Anglo Saxon desire for a life of adventure. Were there a training ship and a recruiting depot for the army in Canada, Uncle Sam would immediately find his supply of recruits from this side of the lines cut off. Her Majesty's ships *Magicienne* and *Canada* have been lying at Montreal for some weeks and daily applications have been received from lads and men of the most desirable class who were desirous of joining the navy or