

Militia is the old rule of England, and must be resorted to in her next great struggle. On this continent large standing armies are neither necessary, desirable, or possible. Our neighbors have a comparatively small standing army, and the rate of wages in new countries, place such institutions simply out of the question. The United States have however, at West Point a school for professional officers. How are these officers utilized in peace? Those of the scientific corps are employed on public works, railroads, canals bridges, &c.

The U.S. infantry, and mounted rifles, (they have no hussars or heavy dragoons) are for the most part employed in the Indian country, or in keeping down the seething South. Fortunately for us we have no desperate southern malcontents; no hostile Indians as yet; but we have a huge undertaking in the Pacific railway. Can we expect to build it without depots for supplies, which must be guarded? Let us then take a leaf from the book of our astute neighbors. We want no military loafers around our great towns. But now the British troops are withdrawn, we do want a nucleus, a pattern, a school of instruction for our Militia. Our old military school system has done good work, but its day is past. They only taught infantry drill, not the science of war, as it is now understood, not even discipline. The mere barrack square infantry drill has been wiped out by the changes in modern tactics involved from the last great war. Our Adjutant General has done wisely in commencing with gunnery schools, but they require expansion and development. Canada can't afford separate educational establishments for all arms, like Woolwich and Shoeburyness for artillery, Chatham for Engineers, a Staff college at Sandhurst, a Naval college and a gunnery ship. The training of the scientific corps, Artillery and Engineers run side by side, and at Woolwich they follow the same curriculum of study which covers all the subjects taught at the staff college, including strategy, tactics, military surveying and fortification. At West Point the officers for all arms are taught together, the best are allowed to select the Engineers and Artillery; but as they have wisely a greater number of trained officers than are required for their small establishment of troops, instead of allowing them to rust or serve as idle "Cavaliers des dames." The most scientific are employed on public works, and we have huge public works on hand, the engineering of which to some extent, is confided to foreigners, who may or may not use the knowledge they thus acquire of our country, to the advantage of our possible, if not probable enemies. The Royal Engineers are at present surveying our North West boundary, a few of our officers, non-commissioned officers and men, from our gunnery schools might be attached to the boundary survey, a few to the Pacific Railway staff, to form when the Royal Engi-

neers leave our shore, the nucleus of the future Canadian scientific staff corps, thus acquiring a perfect knowledge of our country, and that practical, scientific, engineering skill in peace, which their previous military training would render invaluable in time of war.

Our artillery schools by having attached to them a small regular force of all arms would serve the double purpose of practical training, and a nucleus to the militia in a sudden emergency. Not solely a garrison of infantry soldiers with too much time on their hands, and we know who is the proverbial employer of idle hands. The Canadian team at Wimbledon have proved how the militia system of this country produces good shooting. Add to this, intelligent skimming and discipline, under officers trained to the science of war, and you have infantry, the great backbone of an army. Cavalry require a little longer training, not altogether the riding school sort. The excitement of national danger would bring forth a numerous volunteer infantry, but no amount of excitement will produce scientific officers at short notice, and wars in these days are affairs of weeks. We might thus improve on West Point which is after all a mere theoretical school, by giving our schools the practical character of the Prussian arms, but we have no conscription to fill our schools, and the ballot is unpopular with the believers of the Washington Treaty millennium. Therefore, we must offer inducements of employment in public works, land grants in Manitoba and the Saskatchewan, to the better class of officers, non-commissioned officers and men, at the expiration of a limited service. Military posts in those territories would be a preventive of irregularities, better than the violent cure we may be driven to.

We have an Artillery school at Kingston, another at Quebec, why not one at Montreal the great commercial centre of the Dominion, where there is a large volunteer force, to avail themselves of a systematic training? It is rumoured we are to have no camps of exercise next year, and the money so saved might well be devoted to the formation of an Artillery school at Montreal, of such a character as to afford the higher military instruction common to all arms.

BREAKFAST.—EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—The very agreeable character of this preparation has rendered it a general favorite. The *Civil Service Gazette* remarks:—"The singular success which Mr Epps attained by his homœopathic preparation of cocoa has never been surpassed by any experimentalist. By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills." Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold by the Trade only in 1lb., 1lb., and 1lb. tin-lined packets, labelled—JAMES EPPS & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London, England.

The Russian expedition to Khiva, under General Kauffmann, numbers only 7,000 men mostly drawn from troops stationed in the military districts of Turkistan, and Orenburg. The Grand Duke Nicholas Constantinovich has left for Tashkend, where he will join the expedition. Russian officers of the Guards have petitioned the War Ministry in great numbers to take part. "The great but also the small Asiatic sovereigns," says the *Russian World*, "are unable to understand the superiority in force of any power, and consequently fancy they will be able to continue to perpetrate their crimes with perfect impunity. It is necessary, therefore, to prove to the Khan of Khiva that we are able not only to defend our territory, but also to punish the treachery and crimes of our neighbors." According to the *World*, "the delay in sending out the expedition, is attributable to the extraordinary difficulties which the troops will have to surmount during the march to the Khanato."

General Trochu, in his last speech in the Assembly, when bidding farewell to public life, warned his countrymen against the danger of legends and the stars and spangles of over patriotic historians. The legend in Paris and in all the large democratic centres of France is that the hastily raised Republican forces played greater havoc with the Germans than the troops of the Empire led by incapables and traitors. One or two military writers have raised up their voices against these fictions, and the startling belief held in the capital that the defence of Paris is the most splendid exploit on record. If anything could demolish those legends it would be the statistics of the losses of the German army, to which M. Watcher, in the interest of truth and honesty, draws the attention of his countrymen. M. Watcher declares that these figures are correct; they show in round numbers that the Germans at St. Privat lost 20,500 men; nearly 15,000 at Rezonville; over 10,000 at Wörth, 9,000 at Sedan; 5,000 at the siege of Metz; about 1,000 at the siege of Strasbourg, and at the siege of Paris, which lasted from September 18, to January 28, 11,500. The above figures show that the 40,000 troops of MacMahon killed and wounded in a few hours nearly as many men as the 500,000 defenders of Paris did in four months and a half. The statistics also show that out of the 127,000 Germans killed and wounded during the war, 76,000 were *pet hors de combat* by the army of the Rhine. However, no amount of trustworthy statistics will kill such legends as that of General Cremer having destroyed over 7,000 Badenians at Nuits, and the tremendous slaughter inflicted by Republican generals.

The British and American Mixed Commission have adversely decided what are known as the "Calcutta cases" growing out of the detention of United States vessels, under the proclamation of the Queen, during the late rebellion, preventing them sailing from British East India ports with cargoes of salt-petre. The Commission will adjourn about the 1st of May till the 2nd of June, when they will meet at Newport, Rhode Island. Of the 497 cases, 271 have been adjudicated. Of all the cases only nineteen were American.

The negotiations relating to the definite retirement of the German troops from France are now said to be not so far advanced as had been supposed.

A camp is being formed at Lyons, and from 20,000 to 30,000 men, will assemble there in May and June.