

was bad policy to replace a seasoned veteran with a *Green un*—a raw recruit—who chose the service for a mouthful of bread in place of a man who adopted a soldier's life as a career. All these things and many more were omitted in the scheme of that wonderful man who has hid his light under a cornet, though it ought to be of foolscap, and as a consequence, the British army exists only on paper.

Its proposed "Reorganizers" (for the work of "Reorganization" has to be done *de novo*) failed to conceive the true idea of what a regular army in a country geographically placed, as Great Britain is, should be. They talk glibly of conscription, compulsory service, and all other kinds of arbitrary, as well as impracticable expedients, but no attempt has been made to ascertain what is wanting.

In the first place, Great Britain does not require a standing military force of 500,000 men in the British Isles—she does not require a regular army of 100,000, or in fact, a regular army for home service at all. She requires in the second place, a regular army of about 200,000 men (her present force all told) for foreign service—that is service in India and such of the Colonies as need it or are strategical positions.

Her force for home service should be her militia—and volunteers without ballot or conscription—every male on attaining the age of eighteen years should be enrolled as a militia soldier, liable to serve when called on, or any one who should choose voluntary service of his own accord in the volunteers of which every county or shire should be obliged to keep a battalion always organized, and as many of the cities, towns or villages that had a population sufficiently numerous, should also be compelled to keep up a similar organization.

The militia should be divided into two classes—Regular and Reserve—the former composed of all men capable of active service from 18 to 45 years of age, the Reserve of all over that age—service practically for life or during capability.

To raise the army necessary for foreign service from both those bodies it would be only necessary to require each officer volunteering or wishing to serve to bring the contingent due to his rank—say Ensign 15 men, Lieutenant 30 men, Captain 50 men—and to have those numbers recruited from the battalion of militia or local volunteers to which the first levies belonged; for instance, say the whole organized force would be nominally 5,000,000—this would give 5,000 battalions of a nominal strength of 1,000 men and officers each, and 50 men from each battalion would give a force of 250,000 for foreign service, of which 50,000 would be in the depots at home or in process of training to supply vacancies, &c., and if the army was made a *life career*, at which fair average wages could be earned, it would be readily adopted for its intrinsic attractions, but those entirely fail under the present system, the end of which is the *Union Workhouse*.

No necessity exists to make the plan sketched out one shilling more costly than the present system, because to volunteers or militia soldiers no pay should be given except when on active service—neither need their pursuits be interfered with by attempts to train them to tactical precision—the use of their arms, and the power of marching with a few simple movements which could be acquired at leisure is all that would be necessary—especially in Great Britain where every fence is an earthwork and every farm house could be turned into a redoubt. The invasion of such a country is hardly possible, and its defence is reduced to the simplest principles of the art of war.

Taking this country as an example of what can be done by a proper system of organization—we have 43,000 volunteers under arms and a force of regular and reserve militia of 675,000 men—the first one-tenth of the proposed regular British Army, the second about one-seventh of the force Great Britain should have enrolled—the whole cost of maintenance and administration is a round number £300,000 sterling which would make the cost of the proposed system in Great Britain £2,500,000. Our officers serve without pay, raise and recruit their own contingents; we are a comparatively poor people and if we can do this from patriotic and national impulses, what should the landed proprietors or gentry and merchant princes of Great Britain do?

Political economists must have found out by this time that national military organization is as necessary as a local police force and for the same reasons, and that the most costly way of raising an army is to have an Adjutant at the street corners with a hat full of bank notes to tempt what JOHN BRIGGS calls the *residuum* of the population instead of its manhood into the ranks.

This question of military organization depends on this principle—"That it must be adapted to the social condition and needs of the people," and its corollary is that "a regular army is the highly elaborated outcome of a national organization"—not the *nuclei* around which it is supposed to rally—which is a fallacy very dear to military men.

MILITARY DRILL—The local school for military instruction which Lt. Col. SULLIVAN and officers of the 62nd Battalion, St. John, N.B., have organized appears to be working very satisfactorily. There are about two dozen students in attendance, and each, on entering, undergoes a thorough training in every military movement, commencing with elementary squad drill. Each student takes his turn at instruction; and some of them certainly show excellent qualities as instructors, not only in fire fire command but in facility for communicating knowledge. Sergeant Major HUNTER is the chief instructor. This school is, we believe, the first of the kind started in the Dominion. It is not confined to men belonging to any particular

corps, as engineers and artillerymen are as freely admitted as infantry. It costs the Government nothing, the services of all connected with it being given gratis, and merely for love of the service. There is no reason why cadets who have received instruction in this school, and are able to pass a satisfactory examination, should not receive certificates of proficiency the same as those who have passed through the Government School at Fredericton. The class meets every Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening, in Murray's Building, Water street, and instruction is given from 8 o'clock until 10—thus making six hours drill in the week. The school is conducted under the same regulations as those authorized by Government, and all cadets desiring to enter are required to pass the necessary examinations. The officers of the school are Lt. Col. SULLIVAN, 62nd, Commandant, Major BLAIN, 62nd, Adjutant these officers and Capt. HAZEN, 62nd, are also examiners; Ass't. Surg. EARLE, 62nd, Medical Officer; Sergeant Major HUNTER, (formerly of H. M. 78th Highlanders) and Paymaster Sergeant McDONALD, M.S., are the instructors. It is intended to keep the school in operation until 1st May next.—Com

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible to individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

St. John, N.B., Jan. 15th, 1876.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR,—Can you inform me what are the regulation Stars and Crowns to be worn by Officers of the Canadian Militia on their tunics? Are they gold, silver, or both, according to rank?

Also, kindly describe the proper buttons we are entitled to wear, as there are several patterns in use here.

Apologizing for troubling you, which I would not do if we had any Canadian dress regulations to refer to.

Yours truly,
MILITEN.

Gold Stars and Crowns are to be worn by officers of militia on their scarlet tunics. The buttons for tunics are same as those worn by privates except that they are silvered. The new pattern button has a crown in the centre with the word Canada over and the word militia under it—the whole surrounded with a wreath of leaves.—Ed. Vol. Rev.

Mount Vesuvius.

A NIGHT OF TERROR IN NAPLES.

It was, indeed, reported last week that the mountain had already burst out, and there were many who rushed into the streets to witness it, but the alarm was false; but had it been true the many mists which covered Vesuvius would have prevented anyone from witnessing the grand and awful spectacle. That which has often happened, however, when there is some delay in the