

fall to the lot of gunners, in the service of military machines, and the mounting and dismounting of ordnance.

The Inspection Reports show that the majority of the regiments have no bands. This is a serious drawback, although it may not be much felt at present. A band renders a corps popular and attractive, and supplies a welcome relief amid the monotony or hardships of service. Such a mode of attraction and relief is perhaps not yet absolutely needed, as more men presented themselves for enlistment on the last occasion than it was possible to accept, and the trainings are so short that tedium is unknown. The band is, nevertheless, an institution which ought to be held in readiness against the day of trial, and if its functions are duly performed, its immediate effect will be to enhance the smartness and elevate the spirit of the men.

It may be observed that none of the criticisms to which we have referred, reflect unfavourably on the rank and file. Indeed, it is notable that the general conduct of the several corps is almost invariably commended. Never had any Government finer raw material out of which to form an army. The hardy habits of the people, and the daily occupations in which they are to a great extent engaged, eminently fit them for the realities of campaigning, while the alacrity with which they come up for drill, and the aptitude with which they learn, prove that the military instinct is strong within them, but it is hardly necessary to say that this raw material has not been manipulated in the most skilful manner.

But this is not all. There are other and essential departments of the National defence in such a forlorn condition, that the organization and drill of the troops may, comparatively, be deemed respectable and even flourishing. We refer to the fortifications and ordnance. New defensive works were proposed a number of years ago, but the proposal has never been carried out. The garrison guns correspond with the character of the places in which they are mounted, being, with few exceptions, old smooth bores, in some cases not even sighted. It may truly be said that in the face of neighbouring modern artillery, they would be of no more use than the bows and arrows of the aboriginal inhabitants. The gun-carriages are crumbling away from want of paint, and it may be inferred that the other *matériel* are in equally deplorable state, when we find the Dominion