

The door was firmly shut against any future demands by Canada upon Imperial supplies. In February, 1870, Lord Granville wrote that the barracks and fortifications vacated by British troops would be handed over to Canada, but he added: "It must be remembered that if at any future period troops are sent to Canada at the request of the local Government, or in furtherance of colonial interests, the Dominion will be expected to provide them barracks or lodging to the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government." Canada was satisfied to do this, but the demand might have been put differently.

The same is true of the loan of small arms. On withdrawing the troops the Imperial authorities handed over unconditionally to Canada nearly 50,000 rifles and carbines, but, wrote the cautious Secretary, "no further issues on loan will be made, except under circumstances of special emergency." These very circumstances had already arisen in the opinion of the Canadian Government. Canada was sure—though Mr. Gladstone's Ministry could not be got to see it—that further Fenian troubles were at hand. In November, 1869, Canada pointed out that a loan of 10,000 rifles, hitherto agreed upon, had not yet been actually issued and asked to have them sent on. But Lord Granville was too wide awake to be caught napping. "It may be questioned," he says, "how far the decision of the Imperial Government in 1868, authorizing the issue of 10,000 additional rifles, is to be considered as in force, your Government not having availed themselves of that decision until the regulations under which it had been made were withdrawn." Therefore, he announced that the Secretary for War, Mr. Cardwell, declined to issue them under the old regulations. This is at a time when another serious invasion, due entirely to the Imperial connection, was imminent!

But this was a time, as we know, when the colonies were all but told to go. The "Little England" party—now quite defunct—were paramount in Imperial administration. The feeling had set in years before. As early as 1864 the late Hon. George Brown, than whom the British Empire never had a more devoted admirer, wrote privately from England to Sir John Macdonald: "I am much concerned to observe—and I write it to you as a thing that must seriously be considered by all men taking a lead hereafter in Cana-

dian public matters—that there is a manifest desire in almost every quarter that ere long the British American colonies should shift for themselves, and in some quarters evident regret that we did not at once declare for independence. I am very sorry to observe this."

But nous avons change tout cela. The Imperial authorities are as ardently attached to the colonies now as they were apathetic before.

MUST SUPPLY THE EXTRA EQUIPMENT.

There are a number of regiments in Canada which drill many more men than they receive pay for. The regimental fund has to provide these men with uniforms and equipment, for the Government will allow nothing. This is unfair to the regiments who work hard to keep up their strength and efficiency. If not pay, certainly equipment should be allowed. This question came up the other day in England. Sir Stafford Northcote drew the attention of Lord Lansdowne, Secretary of State for War, to it, and he at once admitted the gross injustice. The result has been that the supplementary estimates contain a sum to pay for equipment for men drilled in excess of the number on the establishment lists. When our Government gets through settling the Manitoba question this is one which should demand their immediate attention. It may be remarked that they send men of standing to Parliament at home. In Canada we elect too many ward "heelers" and office seekers.

THE NEW PATTERN SWORD.

THE new pattern sword recently adopted by the Imperial army has been approved for adoption by the staff and by officers of infantry, rifles and Highland regiments, and general orders will shortly be issued to that effect. This sword differs from the one now in use in that it is intended for pointing or thrusting rather than cutting. It is lighter, and a more serviceable weapon in every way. The hilt is steel, half-basket, pierced with scroll design, and Royal Cypher and Crown chased. Black fish-skin grip, bound with three strands of silver wire, back checkered to pommel, with flat part near guard for the thumb, straight blade, grooved and spear-pointed. The measurements are:

Blade, full size—32½ inches long and 1 inch wide at the shoulder.

Hilt, total length—5¼ to 5⅞ inches.

Grip, total length—5 inches.

Weight—From 1 lb. 11 oz. to 1 lb. 12 oz., without scabbard.

Officers will not be compelled to provide themselves with the new pattern, but it is to be hoped that those who do not will have their present swords re-hilted for the sake of uniformity. A regiment does not look half so smart in different kinds of dress.

Mounted officers adopting the new pattern sword will wear steel scabbards and steel spurs of swan-neck pattern, except in the evening, at Court and at levees, when brass spurs will be worn.

WHO IS TO BE ADJUTANT GENERAL?

THE vacancy in the office of adjutant-general of militia continues unfilled. The question arises: Why? Hon. Mr. Dickey, when Minister of Militia, is understood to have recommended to the Cabinet the name of Lieut.-Col. Aylmer, deputy adjutant-general. Why is not Lieut.-Col. Aylmer appointed? If the principle of promotion means anything, Lieut.-Col. Aylmer is entitled to promotion. And the principle of promotion is the principle which of all the public service should most govern the militia part.

If so vital a principle is not followed in this case, what is the trouble? Is it political? Let us speak plainly. It is hinted, and more than hinted, in the lobbies of Parliament, that the reason why Lieut.-Col. Aylmer does not receive the promotion for which the circumstances call is that he belongs to a family which has been Liberal in politics, and because his brother is likely to be a Liberal candidate for Parliament in the Eastern Townships. No other reason for blocking Lieut.-Col. Aylmer's elevation to the office of adjutant-general is intimated. He is stated by those capable of judging to be an officer qualified to do justice to the important position vacant. Certainly there is no assertion in any quarter that any other candidate is a more competent man. This appearing to be the case, it is a wrong, and a serious wrong, if a political job is contemplated in connection with the office. There is no place where politics could be worse introduced than in the management of the militia, and it is to be hoped the Government will prove itself to be above that sort of thing. Lieut.-Col. Aylmer's position in the Department,