

attain financial strength, and a reputation as a recognised and important commercial mart. These men of the profession of arms were, however, birds of passage in a sense; and as the gigantic and ultimately successful efforts of the British government to expel France from North America developed, Halifax was occasionally left with a very small garrison of regular troops. At all times during this stormy period, the militia was in a fair measure of readiness for emergencies, and at times had severe and unpleasant duty to perform in the exigencies of border warfare. At the first General Assembly of the people's representatives—begun 2nd October, 1758—one of the earliest Acts passed identified the force more closely with the national life of the province than was possible under the former proclamation, and stamped on it the seal of public approval. It was entitled "An Act for Establishing and Regulating a Militia," and is a most interesting relic of early legislation in Nova Scotia. It is perhaps unnecessary to give you this and subsequent Acts in full; but they are well worth examination by those interested in our early measures of defence. This Act may be summarized as follows:—

Clause 1. Provides that from and after 1st of December, 1758, all males between 16 and 60 years shall bear arms and attend all musters, etc.

2. Each company shall have certain defined precincts, and the clerk of each company shall make a quarterly roll of all eligible within said precincts and present the roll to the Captain of the company. Failure to do this was punishable by a fine of 40 shillings.

3. Duty shall be continuous until discharged. Any evasion meant a fine of 10 shillings.

4. Each person must provide a musket, gun, or fuzil, (not less than 3 feet long in barrel) 2 spare flints, and 12 charges of powder and ball. Fine for non-compliance, 40 shillings, or one month at hard labour. Musters to be held once every