

that we are much like a lamb feeding on one side of a chalked line with a lion roaming on the other. The lion is the most peaceful of lions—but still, he is a lion.

It is now time to summarize what the armed strength of Canada might become if universal service was introduced:

British Columbia, with a population of say 177,000, will turn out 10,000 men, of whom 5,000 could be mounted infantry.

Manitoba, with a population of 251,000, could supply 12,000 men, of whom 8,000 would be mounted.

New Brunswick, with 331,000 population, could furnish 20,000—3,000 of these mounted infantry.

Now, Scotia, with 459,000 population, could furnish 27,000 men of these 4,000 would be mounted infantry.

Prince Edward Island, population 110,000, could furnish 6,400 men.

Ontario, with a population of 2,182,947, might turn out 128,000, and of these 12,000 might be mounted.

Quebec, with her 1,648,000 population, could furnish 100,000 and of these 8,000 might be mounted.

The North-West Territories has a population of 159,000; she would no doubt supply 9,000 men, and of these as many as 6,000 would probably form an incompressible mounted arm.

I do not think that this would be an excessive number to count upon, if universal service was put into force. It gives an armed strength of about 313,000 men.

We will now look at the existing state of Canadian military affairs.

The Permanent Military Force of Canada consists at present of the following: 109 Dragoons, 60 Mounted Rifles, 229 Field Artillerymen, with 12 guns, 209 Garrison Artillery, 397 Infantry.

The Active Militia has the following establishment: 2,876 Cavalry; 96 guns of Field Artillery, with 1,628 men; 2,219 Garrison Artillery; 212 Engineers; 597 Mounted Rifles; 29,766 Infantry, including the Rocky Mountain Rangers.

The efficiency of the permanent force cannot be questioned, and it is a proof of what could be done with the material at the disposal of the country; but when we come to look into the efficiency of the Active Militia, we find that the cavalry are unsuitable, as shock

metics are unsuitable to any body which has but a limited training, and they would undoubtedly be better utilized as mounted infantry; that the field artillery have no second line of wagons, so absolutely essential for field service, and no magazines from which to draw supplies, to say nothing of the pattern of their guns; that the garrison artillery have no modern ordnance to practice with to make themselves conversant with their duties; that the infantry are never exercised in bodies under their district commanders, are grouped without regard to their organization for war, are wanting in staff, in modern arms, in equipment, in requirements for camping, for mobility, for supply, for rationing—are in fact an immobile, inert, well-nigh unarmed body, without every essential which is known to be necessary to support, feed and supply an army in the field.

Let me give one example of this state of unpreparedness. I have said that the line of advance which our supposed enemy will most certainly take is that striking across the prairies to cut the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway at some point between Winnipeg and Medicine Hat. The force to meet an enemy consists of the 10th District Command and consists of one field battery one, company of mounted rifles, one battalion of infantry, and one bearer company. There is no organization for a levy of any other portion of the Militia, no staff which could call such an organization into existence, no arsenal where arms could be obtained and necessary stores supplied in the emergency, no magazines from which ammunition can be drawn; and worst of all there is no supply base of any kind to the West, so that the blow which destroyed resistance in the centre of our line, would, for a time, paralyze the West also. Yet Manitoba and the North-West Territories could, under universal military service, put 21,000 men into the field, of which some 14,000 might be mounted, a body of mobile sharpshooters who would so harass an invading force of three times their number, as to seriously threaten the enemy's lines of communication unless these were most carefully and strongly guarded. The difference between the present condition and that which might be, is so great that the most indifferent mind is bound to pause before he accepts