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The Volunteer Review,

AND

MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,
To guard the Monarch, hence the Law."

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1875.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be pre-paid. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and at the corner the words "Printer's Copy" written and a two or five cent stamp attached. The Editor will pay the postage.

LIEUT. J. B. VINTER, of Victoria, and Captain H. V. EDMONDS, of New Westminster, are our authorized Agents for British Columbia.

THE speech of His Excellency the Governor General (which we published in a late issue) has been freely criticised by the English press, and we are happy to say in no hostile spirit.

Indeed, the calm utterances of a statesman, the unbiassed convictions of a matured judgment, and the evident practical experience of a nobleman illustrious by his position and eminent by his personal talents could not fail to make a profound impression on the most sceptical; especially when it is well known that the speaker is universally beloved by the people he rules.

One of the greatest blessings of British constitutionalism is the fact that the Sovereign, and, as a matter of course, her representatives are placed above the exigencies of party—in other words—are the true representatives of the people and the people's interest; and it is in this connection the unbiassed criticisms of our Excellent Governor carries with them a force and conviction

that cannot fail to be of service to this country.

We have had a long list of talented, as well as illustrious viceroys, the results of whose administration of Canadian affairs can be read, and are summarised in the admirable speech now before us; and at the top of that list of eminent men history will yet place, as the people of Canada have already, the talented and illustrious speaker.

In an address filled with practical truisms—the Canadian people will most heartily respond to that in which the speaker claimed every man in the Dominion as a "personal friend"—and such is the case, not only as regards himself and his gifted consort in their capacities as representatives of our Gracious Queen, but also as the hospitable and genial residents of a country whose best political and social interests they have done so much to advance.

To the people of Canada the day which closes the administration of the Earl of Dufferin will be one of regret, although they value too highly his service to the Empire to allow any selfish considerations to interpose between him and the mere exalted position which those services demand.

Our English contemporaries have at last found in the Sovereign's representative in Canada the realization of the idealistic perfection of British Constitutional Government—a Constitutional Ruler—and apart from every other consideration the people of Canada are not likely under any circumstances to change the reality of monarchical freedom for the shallow of Republican license and the substance of mob despotism.

THE *London News* of the 14th July, which comes to us considerably enlarged and improved (if that was possible) has the following paragraph:

"The *Volunteer Review* makes the following statement:—'The Grand Trunk Rifle Brigade has been disbanded by orders from the English Board of Directors, who were under the impression that the Volunteer duties of the men interfered with their duties to the Railway Company.' We should like to see the names of those English directors published for the benefit of British patriots. The Grand Trunk Brigade was, we believe, one of the most efficient in Canada, and we hope the English directors have satisfactory reasons for their action. At home, we hardly think they would act with the same high hand towards our Volunteers. Volunteering may be different in Canada to what it is at home, but the services rendered by our citizen soldiers, at their own expense and inconvenience, need not interfere with their private and civilian duties. We had always understood the Grand Trunk Company encouraged Volunteering among their employees."

We can only refer our contemporary to any London share list for the names of the "Patriotic Directors," and to the following "Brigade Orders":

"MONTREAL, 25th May, 1875.

"No. 1. I have received from Lieut. Col. Hickson, a letter from the Militia De-

partment, to the effect that they had received his resignation as commandant, and also that of the whole force, and that they have accepted it; also that all arms, accoutrements, ammunition, and clothing, now in possession of the Brigade, be returned to the nearest District Stores. The storekeeper in such district is to be notified in advance of the shipment of any of the articles, and a requisition on the printed form for the return of the articles into store to be sent to them. These instructions are to be carried out without delay, and I enclose the printed forms alluded to.

"2. It is with the deepest regret that I thus have to separate myself officially from one of the greatest organizations of the kind ever formed in any country. With all the elements of discipline already formed in their daily railroad life, and having also a vast number of non-commissioned officers and men in her Majesty's Service in the ranks, they became as a military body invaluable, as has been testified on many occasions by distinguished military men of her Majesty's Service. In drill, on the rifle field, and with their excellent bands, they achieved many successes over the various Volunteer corps in the Dominion; they had also two of their number engaged in winning the great Kolapore Cup at Wimbledon in 1872.

"I shall always look back with pride at having been connected for so long with such a distinguished Volunteer force; and in bidding you all adieu, I say that as I never forget my comrades in the 60th Rifles, so with the same pleasure shall I look upon my old comrades in the once distinguished Grand Trunk Railway Brigade.

"(Signed,) P. W. WORSLEY,

"Lieut.-Colonel, Brigade Major, G.T.R.B."

Lieut.-Colonel HICKSON is the officer in command of the Grand Trunk Brigade and the Managing Director in Canada.

Lieut. Colonel WORSLEY has been an officer in the regular service, and commanded our first Canadian contingent at Wimbledon two years ago. We have repeatedly detailed the principles on which our military organization has been founded as that of purely voluntary service in peace and the enforcement of duty if necessary in the event of war. Under those circumstances the Grand Trunk corporation provided, as in duty bound, a contingent which its Brigade Major truly describes—for what reasons they have withdrawn that contingent is not yet quite apparent, and probably will not transpire till Parliament meets—but in any case it is decidedly against their own interests.

Their employees were not bound to a compulsory service, but were looked on solely as guards of the company's property whose efficiency were enhanced by discipline, and the force was worth *four times* its numerical strength owing to its peculiar training. We can heartily sympathize with the gallant Brigade Major.

We have great pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Royal Colonial Institute to our readers—the great service the late Honorary Secretary has rendered the Empire demands the fitting tribute which his successor accords, and we are rejoiced to see the fruits of his labours in the increasing