

same editors to glance over the American service papers they might wake up to the fact that any moment may see an American army at our doors, that a powder train is laid to which at any time the match may be set and start the struggle for which Americans—for reasons best known to themselves—seem to be pining.

Some idea of the feeling in the United States may be gathered from the following article from the Army and Navy Journal of New York:

"THE LONG ROLL SOUNDED."

President Cleveland's patriotic message on the Venezuelan situation met an enthusiastic reception in Congress. In both houses it was received with cheers and applause, without regard to party lines. Republicans were fully as enthusiastic in their applause of the message of the Democratic President as were Mr. Cleveland's most ardent supporters in his own party. The President's firm and straightforward message is an unmistakable notice to Great Britain and to all the world that the United States will be governed by the principles laid down by President Monroe, in which he enunciated the doctrine of non-interference by European nations in American affairs, which has since been known by his name.

The message is capable of but one interpretation, which is that Great Britain having definitely refused to submit the boundary dispute to arbitration, the administration accepts that refusal as final and is prepared to ascertain the true boundary between Venezuela and British Guiana and, having once settled this, to defend Venezuela from British aggression, even though it should be necessary to draw the sword in defence of this position.

The hearty and universal applause with which the concluding words of the President's message were greeted in both houses of Congress were an indication that both political parties would support him in any steps he might find it necessary to take. There was also a great significance in the action of the house on Wednesday, when, after short speeches by Mr. Hitt, on the Republican side, and Mr. Crisp, on the Democratic side, Mr. Hitt's bill appropriating \$100,000 to defray the expenses of the commission was passed without a single dissenting vote. It shewed that the popular branch of Congress stood ready to a man to support the President, though he belonged to the political party opposed to the vast majority of the House. The President's message has brought Congress face to face with a realization that war with Great Britain is not an impossibility, and has directed the attention of Senators and Representatives to the inadequacy of the present military and naval establishments to meet the issue that may be thrust upon them. The seriousness of the situation is such that it is fully realized by men who in former Congresses have opposed adequate provision for the Army and Navy. Whether war finally ensues between the United States and Great Britain or not,

the effect of this vivid presentation of the necessity for preparation for war cannot but result in benefit to both the Army and Navy. Representative Hull, of Iowa, speaking of the prospects for Army legislation in view of the strained relations between the United States and Great Britain, said it showed the absolute necessity of having at least a skeleton Army organization which in time of war could be quickly filled to a war footing and put the nation in possession of a force of some importance. If the present situation was maintained Congress would not only pass a bill providing for a reorganization of the army on modern lines, but would at the same time make a considerable increase in its strength. He believed one of the most beneficial results that would follow the awakening of Congress to a realization of the present lack of preparation for war would be the adoption of a liberal policy in providing for coast defenses.

Friends of the Navy are also much encouraged as to the outlook, as it practically assures liberal provision by the present Congress for continuing the building of new vessels and for the increase in the enlisted force, which is badly needed. The passage of a satisfactory personnel bill is also regarded as probable.

One immediate effect of the war scare has been the introduction into the Senate and House of bills appropriating \$100,000,000 to be immediately available for constructing fortifications and procuring 100,000 infantry rifles, 1,000 field guns, and not to exceed 5,000 guns for fortifications.

Our legislature will be meeting in the course of a few days and it is to be hoped that it will at once repair its apathy of the past on militia matters and take vigorous measures to increase the effectiveness of the militia.

It is in times like these that it can be impressed on the country that there are cheaper ways of saving money than by cutting down the already too limited 16 days drill to eight, that it is cheaper to have our national defensive force armed with a more modern weapon than the old Sniders, condemned by the English war office since confederation, that it is cheaper to have good modern equipments in store, than to have to keep regiments from the front for weeks and weeks in case of unexpected trouble, (and that is the way it always comes) for lack of proper outfit.

Mr. Editor, Canadians should insist that their representatives at Ottawa do their duty to their country, even at the cost of depriving some of their political followers of some of their "boodle" and perquisites and now is their opportunity for doing so

CANUCK.

### Imperial Defenses.

To the Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—Some time ago I had written, and was about sending you a letter containing my views on Canada's obligation as a member of the empire, to come into line on the question of Imperial defense. The immediate occasion of my remarks was the utterance by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Chamberlain, of his now well-known views on the duty of the colonies, to contribute to the support of the fleet. I intended to show that Canada's most effective contribution to Imperial defense would be the adoption of a wise and far-reaching policy as to the militia. That had Canada a definite unit of troops, well disciplined, armed, and equipped, and

ready for service in the field at short notice; that were all the necessary reserves of warlike stores for such a unit in the country and available for emergency; that were there a well considered system for the rapid enrollment and equipment of the fighting strength of Canada, an immense deal would have been accomplished so far, as Canada's immediate duty to the empire is concerned. In short, that it was high time that our people woke up, insisted on thorough efficiency in the militia, and took the necessary steps to secure it.

I was not surprised to find that little or no notice was taken of Mr. Chamberlain's hints, and certainly no reference has been made to the question by our "statesmen," who have since had considerable opportunity of instructing the electorate on their duty on other questions. I therefore put away my article, convinced that nothing from my obscure pen would arouse our people to their plain duty. My reflections took a better turn when I thought of the multitudes of Canadians, fond on every possible occasion of proclaiming their love of British connection, determined as they say, to do nothing to imperil it, truculent at times to their near neighbors on this continent as seemingly secure under the mantle of England, vigorous in their denunciation of all "annexationists" and "traitors," not hesitating at times to stigmatize by these harsh epithets a large number of their own fellow countrymen, and yet willing to allow their "statesmen," (Heaven save the mark), to starve, yes, actually starve, the few militiamen—the country's only contribution to their own defence or that by the empire.

What an opportunity for a broad-minded public man to make this country ring with denunciations of our politicians who are so fond of arrogating to themselves the exclusive possession of loyalty at election times, and who allow the militia to starve at all times.

Mr. Editor, by birth and training I belong to the party known among us as Grits, and I assure you the moral discipline involved in hardening myself calmly, to be included among the so-called "traitors" and "annexationists" as proclaimed hereabouts by all the second rate politicians, has not been pleasant. I could bear it the more equably were the party of my choice in opposition to any large measure of Canadian defence advocated by our opponents. I am not ashamed to say that with the whole miserable business of party politics, as conducted in Canada, I for one, and I am only of the many, am heartily sick. I look in vain among our public men for one who cares a bawbee for the high duties to which Canada is called as a member of the empire, judging by the paucity of their deeds and not by their occasional empty high-standing words.

However, be that as it may, this Canada of ours has come to the parting of the ways. The Cleveland message and the "war scare" of the last few days have shown or should certainly suggest to our people in the most emphatic possible way our plain duty.

Will our politicians, soon to assemble, give over for a while at any rate the scramble for place and power, the bandying of emptying words, and pause long enough to face the condition in which we are placed; to consider calmly whether it is not about time to put our common country in a position to defend itself; to give its earnest manful attentions to the militia it has neglected so long; in short, to prove that our boasted pride in British connection is not a form of but a vital, living force? We shall see, and let them be well aware that the eye of the country is upon them

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