

practical and material view, let us remember that our merchant service is the third largest in the world, and, as has been pointed out by a late writer in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, in every sea sails under the ægis of the glorious old flag and backed by the full power of the Royal Navy of the Mistress of the Seas.

In every port our seamen claim the aid and protection of the British Consul, and all this at no cost to ourselves.

True it is that our neighbours across the line keep up but a little standing army; but their case is not at all analogous to ours in Canada.

They maintain a formidable naval force for the protection of their mercantile marine. We have not a single Canadian ship of war, and rely entirely upon the splendid navy of the little island which we proudly call our mother country; and yet, with all the heavy insurance paid for us so generously by her, we have as yet scarcely shouldered any of the burden of the defence of the Empire.

The Kingston Military College is a step in the right direction; the establishment of a small arsenal of our own would be another.

We do not too greatly centralize our store of war *matériel*, an error which told so disastrously against the gallant French in the late war. Their bravery and desperate valour were fatally handicapped by the want of supplies.

We do centralize, however, in peace time at least, the power of ordering the issue of our military stores. Doubtless this system would be modified in time of danger; but a great military principle is sacrificed—that of practicing in peace what will have to be done in war.

The story of the Franco-Prussian War shows plainly a tale of sad disaster consequent upon these questions not being thoroughly worked up and arranged on a proper basis before the commencement of hostilities. France, thinking herself ready, and clamouring for war, had her fields bathed in blood, and the two fair provinces of Alsace and Lorraine wrested from her Empire,