

There is no record to show in the first place that political interference with the administration and management of the Canadian army has been pushed beyond its legitimate use, or is in any way accountable for the present state of affairs, beyond the general charge of totally neglecting the development of the militia organisation in accordance with the provisions of the Militia Law—and for this there was and is the practical excuse—that the commercial and financial classes who really govern the country are opposed to the expenditure necessary for such development, and we very much doubt the power of any Ministry to carry through parliament an estimate, even slightly increased beyond the present outlay for that purpose.

Our contemporary is quite right in deprecating any reduction in the numbers of the active force, 43,000 soldiers is a very small army for our Territory, needs and position—and any "improvements" required should not look to the reduction of that force, but to its increase.

In the second place it is not a fact that the force is either "disorganised or demoralised." We have only to refer our contemporary to the appendix to the "Report on the State of the Militia," for proof of this assertion and in disproof of the allegation. 33,000 men has responded to the call of duty in 1874 out of 43,000 all told, and we have no hesitation in saying that the British army could not muster more *effectives* out of the same number for any similar purpose, and we are quite certain it could not be done within the same time.

We quite agree with *The Nation* that there are officers in our active force thoroughly capable of discharging the duties connected therewith, whether administratively, tactically, or otherwise.

Our army is a national institution founded on the social condition of the people, and it must be developed according to the natural laws which govern such institutions or it cannot exist.

Its component parts are civilians as well as soldiers, and as civilians they must of necessity exercise no ordinary power in the state; but hitherto they do not seem to have in any way exercised that power, and if we are to judge of the force by its representatives in Parliament it is never very likely to give any government trouble or travel out to of the true record of their duty to the State. And this is a proof of the wisdom of the "Militia Bill," which did not aim at organising "Prætorian Guards," as the military Reformers in Great Britain have done, but defenders of the State—and so well is that law adapted to our social conditions that no political blandishments have been sufficient to disturb the relations between the volunteer and the citizen. We have been thoroughly acquainted with the force since its first inception, and we can find no record of the disorganization and insubordination so

graphically described by our contemporary, nor have we ever before heard of such.

The *New Brunswick Reporter* of 10th March on this same subject takes different ground, and in this case more in accordance with the interests of the country. Speaking for its own Province it says that the present law is generally all that can be desired—that no difficulty is encountered in turning out the requisite number of men, and that the system is capable of serving the requirements of the country. The experience of the other Provinces are the same, and if any difficulty is to be found in Quebec, it is due to that parsimony that will not recognise the fact that the wages of the soldier should be at least equal to the value of his services in the ordinary labour market.

* *Military* criticism is at all times an ungenerous task, and it becomes more distasteful when it is necessary to bear heavily on those whom fortune has placed amongst the vanquished.

In another column will be found from the *U. S. Army and Navy Journal* of 6th March, a memorial or letter addressed to the President of the United States by FITZ JOHN PORTER, late Major General in the United States army, who appears to have been sacrificed because Major General PORR was not the equal of that great soldier, the late General LEE. In every civilised country in the world except England, the United States and Canada, the head of the war department politically and Legislatively is a soldier, and in most cases a tried one. FITZ JOHN PORTER pathetically points out how mere civilians like SWANTON could paralyse the efforts of the greatest strategists, and we know what happened in France when GAMBERTA dictated to D'AURELLE DE PALADINE and CHATZY. The case before our readers partakes largely of all the melancholy accessories of the late examples, but fortunately for the United States—they had a Chief Magistrate of singular judicial capacity, and the blunders of the Cabinet were corrected by the will of the President—the catastrophe which deprived him of life also deprived FITZ JOHN PORTER of justice; but it is to be hoped, he will, at last attain what has been so long denied.

THE *Globe* of March 12, has the following paragraph:

"The list of the veterans of 1812-13, which we give this morning, is an interesting and suggestive one. Old soldiers and pensioners are proverbially long lived, but we doubt if for the number of inhabitants and militia in Canada at the time mentioned, there could be produced a case of upwards of 500 persons, each of whom, 63 years ago, must have been at the very youngest about 20 years of age. Surely Canada must be a healthy place in spite of all that is said about the severity of her winters, and the scorching power of her summer suns."

* This article together with the one it refers to should have preceded the one in our last issue on the same subject, as it is a reply to Major General Porter's.

While we agree with our contemporary that the climate of Canada is most favourable to longevity, we must also point out that the physical conditions which fit men to be soldiers are also of a superior class, and the men of 1812-15 were pre-eminently distinguished in this respect.

The "*peace at any price party*" are always the grovellers of the earth, and are distinguished by nothing but blatant impudence.

We are well pleased to see the stand such a widely read and influential journal as the *Globe* has taken in our military affairs—it is the only journal in Canada that seems to think the subject worth attention, and it has handled those matters with rare skill and judgment in the interests of Canada.

THE *U. S. Army and Navy Journal* of 13th March, has a leading article on the late "Wimpffen" libel suit, which will be found in another column.

Our readers will remember we copied an article from *Broad Arrow* on the same case some time ago. The present article is remarkable for the tone our contemporary assumes in dealing with the cause of Prussian success in the late war.

We never permitted ourselves to be dazzled by the glare of victories won by superior numbers and a reckless disregard of human life—therefore we were always able to estimate Prussian success at just what it was worth.

Their military system is adapted to the genius of the people, and will not be available for other nationalities—even most of its details are only suited to the regions of civil and military despotism.

We have at various times given our readers the history of the organization of the Prussian military system, and we can see nothing in it beyond a well developed organization—mechanically, scientifically, and industriously, the main or underlying feature of which is compulsory, universal, service—without any consideration of individual rights or commercial advantages—the state as a whole has to be considered without reference to the mass of the people.

In opposition to this the great mistake of the French was too much consideration for individual interests, which, as in WIMPFFEN's case, were to be developed at the expense of the state and people, with the results which followed.

From the whole this practical lesson can be gleaned—"that the true principle is to develop the army as a primary institution of the state, subordinate to the welfare of the people, the preservation of their property, and the maintenance of law and order."

We have kept our readers pretty well posted on the *Torpedo* question—its latest development appears to be the building of powerful Steam Launches, in which it is to serve as armament, and modern theorists think it can be used in line of battle. Gér