

1818, and as neither himself, colleagues, nor any of the people of Canada (except, perhaps, the *Herald*) appear to have been in the confidence of the Whig-Radical administration they could not know what plots Gladstone and his colleagues were engaged in to support their failing rule in England; and this country has yet to learn what Imperial policy means in the sense of the astute statesmanlike writer in the *Herald*. Is it the bartering away of territory? Is it the giving to a foreign country municipal jurisdiction within the British Dominions? Is it the unconditional surrender of everything which constitutes national independence? And is it a readiness to accede to any or every demand under the idea that peace can be brought? When the *Herald* answers these questions on their merits the VOLUNTEER REVIEW will submit to its consideration a few of the consequences likely to arise from the ratification of that portion of the treaty relating to Canada, and will expect the *Herald* to show how they can be averted. In the meantime it should be a gratification to every true and loyal advocate of Imperial connection that all shades of political parties in Canada are opposed to the ratification of that portion of the treaty relating to the fisheries and local affairs.

The *Herald* generously and honorably insinuates that the VOLUNTEER REVIEW was actuated by *professional motives* in opposing the treaty, and counselling resistance to its provisions in the event of the Gladstone faction in England ratifying it before the opinion of the Canadian Parliament could be taken thereon—a course they are quite capable of pursuing. In the meantime their Yankee friends, taking advantage thereof and treating Canada with the contempt they affect for her, should attempt to exercise the assumed rights and fish by force, would the *Herald* counsel submission thereto? Believing the Gladstone Ministry are not all England, nor the *Herald* the sole representative of Canadian public opinion, the VOLUNTEER REVIEW counsels resistance to the destructive policy of the one from the very same motives that puts it in direct antagonism to the other—opposition to the disintegration of the Empire by force or fraud. Annexation is a word which the *Herald* has declined to use, and the VOLUNTEER REVIEW has no wish to insinuate that such a course would be adopted by that journal—but its policy is neither Imperial nor Canadian. It is not so long since its course on the abrogation of reciprocity laid it open to the gravest possible charges. Its prophetic utterances on that occasion proved false, and no one who has watched the course of events since, the unexampled prosperity this country has enjoyed, would be insane enough to counsel any closer connection with our neighbors. If the *Herald's* political career hitherto has not been above suspicion, sneering at or insinuating interested motives as the moving cause of public

opinion in Canada will not set it right with the people, or be likely to influence the action of Parliament in any degree. From the almost unanimous opposition to the treaty—paternalism—a word of more restricted meaning than “Imperial policy,” might in charity have suggested itself to the *Herald* as the motive power in this case, but “*Honi soit qui mal y pense.*”

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW while giving insertion to correspondence does not assume accountability for the views of the authors. Desiring in all cases to provoke discussion so that both sides of every question may be fairly placed before its readers. In accordance with this principle attention is invited to the letter of our Montreal correspondent, in which the official disbanding of the 5th Battalion or Royal Light Infantry Regiment of Montreal, is treated with some feeling. In fact it would appear that the corps had been hardly dealt with, were it not well known that for some time past, as the correspondence admits, the process of disorganization had been making progress, as clearly evidenced by decreasing musters, and the resignation of its commanding officers brought matters to the climax towards which they had been tending, leaving no option to the authorities but to strike the battalion off the active militia list, a duty discharged with extreme reluctance and never resorted to except in unavoidable cases.

This circumstance suggests the possibility of the Volunteer material becoming exhausted in Montreal—by this is not meant the military spirit of the people, but the fact that it has always supplied a much larger contingent to the active militia in proportion to its population than any other city in Canada. Whether the service had not become to some extent burdensome on the most willing, and hence the falling off in numbers which led to the disappearance of the “Royals” from the active militia list, a matter to be regretted in every point of view. It is just possible that a desirable and advantageous amendment might be introduced in the militia law, by which such a misfortune as that which befel the “Royals” might in future be spared the country. As the commercial wealth of the country is concentrated within its cities and towns, would it not be well to have the whole able bodied urban population from the ages of 18 to 60 years embodied as part of the active force, armed and drilled to a certain extent, but that under ordinary circumstances no portion of the force beyond the contingent due to population in common with the suburban districts should at any time be called out from their business or sent to any distance from city or town. Economists will be found to cry out against such a measure; but experience has proved that in military preparedness is to be found that safety and security which is at once the secret and cause of

commercial prosperity and success. As a matter of local economy the enrolment and military organization of a whole community will be singularly advantageous, as it must materially reduce the taxation for municipal police purposes, while the gain of even one per cent. by increased security to their commercial profits would more than counterbalance the evils of time lost or other inconveniences suffered.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THE attention of the civilized world has been concentrated on France during the last twelve months; the excitement at Paris before and after the declaration of war, the rapid political changes of which it was the theatre, its memorable siege, capitulation, the second investment, fierce fighting, and terrible vengeance taken on the Communists and their leaders—all make a page of history unrivalled in the annals of ancient or modern times. It would be hard to find a more fiendish lot of scoundrels than those who plotted the insurrection which placed the capital of France at their mercy. After robbing for their own benefit all the public institutions, murdering the Archbishop of Paris and his clergy, they deliberately employed the women of the lower orders, the wives of the dear working men, to burn down and destroy the whole city, and as soon as the troops began to enter the city the hellish work commenced—the gas and water pipes were deliberately cut, petroleum was placed in the houses; the magnificent Hotel de Ville, the Tuilleries, the Palais of Justice, and the old Louvre, the improvements made by Houssman, costing 20,000,000 of francs, were destroyed. The infamous ruffians had determined to destroy the whole city, and have been known to set the houses at one end of a street on fire with petroleum shells and deliberately drive the terror stricken inhabitants from the other into the flames. It is calculated that over sixty thousand people lost their lives by this means. It is very little wonder that the troops showed no mercy or that 45,000 of the insurgents were made to bite the dust. Those numbers would represent the loss of life to some extent, but the first is a mere approximation and said to be considerably under the mark. Taught by bitter experience the Provisional Government seem desirous of moderately enforcing authority, and will probably leave to the people the right to select the future form of government under which the resources of the country will be consolidated. The law banishing the Orleans princes has been repealed; their right to sit in the Assembly confirmed by a majority of 335, and they have paid a visit to M. Thiers, quietly resigning their seats afterwards. It is said Comte de Chambord, the child of the miracle, and the last of the Bourbon Kings of France in the direct line, will be recognized by the Prince de Joinville and the Duke d'Aumale as the