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The Volunteer Review,

AND

MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1874.

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 (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage.

The recent change in the administration of the Imperial Government has developed some extraordinary features connected with the course pursued by their predecessors. It will be recollected by our readers that the great distinguishing traits of the late Whig Radical administration were declared by themselves, their partisans, and admirers to be—"The abolition of purchase in the army, re organization of the army and navy, and the providing for the Empire military and naval establishments founded on the great principles of efficiency and economy." To this end a thorough revolution in both services have been attempted, and to use the words of our contemporary, *Broad Arrow*, "they have been dealt with in an heroic manner;" in other words, a clean sweep of old and tried

institutions and usages has been made, and the theories of irresponsible as well as incompetent parties foisted on the British people as substitutes with the direct effort in the first place of totally disorganizing the army, reducing its nominal strength, and adding five million pounds sterling per annum to the sum that necessary institution cost the people of England. It is not our intention to enter into a resume of the wholesale blunder perpetrated under the specious names of efficiency and economy, or of the injustice inflicted in all cases on the rank and file; for in pay and rewards for actual service they are far worse off now than under the old *regime*. But our readers may remember at the commencement of the so-called Reforms, we pointed out the absurdity of the manner in which the most important civil branch of the service, the Supply Department, with the fanciful name of *Control*, was organized under a mere statistical pedant who had not even the merit, though nominally a soldier, of knowing what military service much less organization meant, and whom the author of the true reform has done more to immortalize under the name of Sir MARMADUKE BURLEY, than the evils his administration of *Control* could do; it will also be recollected that the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW* not only pointed out the absurdity of the system but predicted its utter collapse; and how hard our contemporary, *Broad Arrow*, laboured to sustain the reputation of *its party* and the tottering fabric of useless rubbish it called a system, one by the way that actually took the command of the army out of the hands of a soldier and placed it in that of a presumptuous as well as ignorant civilian.

This *Control* branch, as it was called, has hardly waited the announcement that the great Mr. CARDWELL was to be rewarded with a peerage for destroying the British Army, we suppose, and sinking into the insignificance of a junior baron, before *Broad Arrow*, in its issue of 7th February, announces *Control in Extremes*, the resignation of the great Sir MARMADUKE BURLEY and the total collapse of the complicated castle of cards he built for Mr. CARDWELL's amusement, his own, and friends' profit, and the loss of the people of England.

That there may be no doubt about this matter we copy in another page the article from *Broad Arrow*, together with the flimsy and inconclusive reasons given why the command of the Army should consist of a civilian at the War Office, a *Horse Marine* at Somerset house, and a soldier at Horse Guards. As *Broad Arrow* is an advocate of Round-head system, and hesitated for a while whether CARDWELL was a CROWWELL or MURGEAT, it is probable that in trying the role of the former he may have been endowed with the apish qualities of the latter, and remembered the precedent set him by the authors of "the self denying Ordinance," in appointing a committee of *Lady Triers* to choose

and examine candidates for commissions in the cavalry. We do not know whether the successors of the late Imperial administration will be smitten with the idea of dealing *heroically* with the army and navy, but for the sake of the Empire of which we form so large a part, we hope that the good sense of saving questions of military or naval administration to soldiers and sailors will be a distinguishing trait of their rule.

The following interesting article on the organization of the "Italian Army" is worthy of careful consideration, and especially valuable to those officers of the Canadian Army who are desirous of seeing a change effected in the mode of organizing that force.

There is one change which has been long advocated by the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW*, and that is, giving *substantive* rank to every officer connected with the army—the chaplain being the only non-combatant.

"The accompanying particulars of the new organization of the Italian Army have been taken from the *Giornale Militare Officiale* of 27th October last, and will, no doubt, be interesting to our readers:—

The land forces of the Italian Kingdom comprise—1. The Army (*Esercito*), with its reserves, staff, and departments, the Carabinieri or Gendarmes being included therewith. 2. The Militia (*Milizia Mobile*). The general officers' list shows 130 officers, five of whom rank as *generali d'esercito*, corresponding with the marshals of other armies.

It should be observed that in the Italian Army commissioned officers of the Medical, Commissariat, Pay, and Veterinary Departments hold substantive instead of relative rank; their names, therefore, appear on the staff lists of their respective ranks with those of combatant officers. The Army Staff consists of 2 general field officers, and some 150 other officers, including representatives of the several army departments, and 110 clerks. There is also a standing committee, composed of a general officer of the highest rank, as president, with seven other generals as members, with a staff of thirty-three officers, specially selected from the Artillery and Engineers, and a large number of clerks whose duty it is to advise the Minister of War on all scientific questions relating to the army.

The Corps of Artillery is composed thus:—1. The Artillery Staff, comprising the officers attached to the standing committee above-mentioned, and the superintendents of the various Artillery manufacturing establishments, &c., &c. 2. Ten regiments of Field Artillery, each regiment with 10 batteries (6 light and 4 heavy) of 8 guns each, 4 companies of train and 1 depot. Each regiment is divided into three battery-brigades one of four, and the other two of three battalions each. These ten regiments muster on the peace establishment 770 officers, 13,760 non commissioned officers and men, and 6640 horses. The light batteries have 7 centimetre guns, and the heavy ones 12-centimetre guns. All the field guns are bronze breech loading pieces, with iron carriages. The peace establishment (*prima formazione*) of a battery is 4 guns. In the event of war, this will be increased to 6 guns (*seconda formazione*); the full war strength is, as stated above, 8 guns (*terza formazione*). 3. Four