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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, APRIL 4, 1876.

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 word "Printer's Copy" written and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage. No communication, however, will be inserted unless the writer's name is given, not necessarily for publication, but that we may know from whom it is sent.

We have for the past *nine* years endeavored to furnish the Volunteer Force of Canada with a paper worthy of their support, but, we regret to say, have not met with that tangible encouragement which we confidently expected when we undertook the publication of a paper wholly devoted to their interests. We now appeal to their chivalry and ask each of our subscribers to procure another, or to a person sending us the names of four or five new subscribers and the money—will be entitled to receive one copy for the year *free*. A little exertion on the part of our friends would materially assist us, besides extending the usefulness of the paper among the Force—keeping them thoroughly posted in all the changes and improvements in the art of war so essential for a military man to know. Our ambition is to improve the *Volunteer Review* in every respect, so as to make it second to none. Will our friends help us to do it? Premiums will be given to those getting up the largest lists. The *Review* being the only military paper published in Canada, it ought to be liberally supported by the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of each Battalion.

In a recent issue we had to call attention to the very important and remarkable paragraph in the "Militia Report for 1875," respecting the defenceless state of our great maritime ports and the necessity of providing for their security in a far more ample manner than that advised by the General Commanding-in-Chief.

The plan we proposed would be only capable of providing for the security of Quebec and Montreal from the danger of sudden naval raids, but would not provide for the safety of the communications with the

maritime Provinces, as the Intercolonial Railway would be under the guns of any petty cruiser below the mouth of the Saguenay.

The Bay of Chaleurs has become a most important strategical naval point in any future defence of Canada, and the maintenance of a naval force there similar to that proposed to cover Quebec (two armoured floating batteries) is a necessity.

Under the *ancien regime* France covered Canada by placing her chief naval station at Louisbourg, in the Island of Cape Breton. It was necessary when the propelling power was supplied by the wind to have a port which could be made or sailed from in all weathers, hence the reason of the selection. But with an Imperial naval station at Halifax with the advantage of steam power rendering naval manœuvres all but independent of atmospheric influences the value of a strategical station must now be measured more by its nearness to the direct interests to be defended, than to its capabilities in other and less important respects.

The position of the Bay of Chaleurs would enable a naval force stationed there to close the navigation of the St. Lawrence from the sea at any moment, and prevent the possibility of a sudden raid.

We do not despise in this connection the value of the system of fortifications which covers Quebec, but at best they are only auxiliaries to a naval force and could hardly be depended on to stop a military expedition; without them a fast wooden steamer could lay that city and Montreal under contribution, and they would therefore be open to the attempt of any filibustering free booter who could get a few daring associates and a few thousand dollars together. With them the same object could be effected by a very thinly armored ironclad. It follows then that the prudent policy in this case would be to organize a local naval service for the Dominion, and to have such an understanding with the Imperial authorities as would secure to a gun boat service on the lakes in case of necessity. That the country is face to face with the question of naval organization admits of no doubt; it is a part of the penalty demanded by propriety, and must be paid if Canada desires to maintain her institutions in peace.

"The German Government has always been supposed to be more or less opposed to emigration, for a very simple reason. For many years past a 'man' has signified a potential 'soldier' in the eyes of every Prussian official; and if too many individuals of the male sex are withdrawn from the possibility of bearing arms, this would amount to a real grievance in a military State. Thus it has been long established as a principle, that no man can emigrate from his country (except by special and rarely accorded permission) until he has at least served his time in the army. Those native Germans whose addresses are known, have always been summoned, we believe, to return to their duty, and, on refusal have suffered the loss of civil status, or even worse. It is no secret

that the large number of young men who now leave, or seek to leave, their native country as emigrants, mainly in order to avoid compulsory military service, is the cause of much anxiety to the Prussian authorities. A very able work, however, written mainly in support of the theory of emigration as tending to knit together the various nations of the earth, and to create a good impression of the mother country in those lands to which the emigrants resort, has just appeared in Berlin. The author is Herr J. J. Sturg, a well known and very successful German emigrant, who entered New York forty-five years ago. He discusses the question not only from the point of view of German emigration, but from that of other nations also."

This above paragraph is earnestly recommended to the consideration of those advocates of *compulsory service* and the *ballot* who occasionally favour the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW* with their ideas on the best form of military organization for Canada. We would also recommend to their perusal the article on "The Armed Peace of Europe" in the *London Quarterly Review* for January, 1876. At page 46 we have the following paragraph:

"Every State in which the law of conscription exists has by some device mitigated the severity of the rule, and in general, only a certain proportion of these liable have been actually called upon to serve the selection being made by lot. Conscription so regulated is certainly not free from the vice of inequality since it imposes a grievous hardship upon some men from which others are exempt, and the inequality is rendered all the more galling by the fact that the exemptions are distributed by blind chance. A ballot determines who are, and who are not, to be soldiers, and according to what is regarded as the most perfect system of conscription the selection thus made is final, those who are drawn for service not being allowed to seek for substitutes amongst those who have escaped. This regulation is held to be necessary to prevent rich men from eluding their fair share of service to their country, but its working is absurd and alike injurious to the State and the men themselves. Some men are fitted by nature for the life of soldiers—others detest it and can never become good ones though qualified to do excellent service to their country in peaceful pursuits. When chance alone determines the selection some of the last class must often be chosen to serve in the army and some of the first be left out."

This view of the case has been repeatedly urged in the columns of this journal and almost in the same words—yet people will be found who are so attached to their own theories—that they try to apply them to political and social conditions totally different to those on which the supposed facts which warrants such theories are held to have occurred.

The following has been taken from the *United States Army and Navy Journal*. The individual *blower* is that some personage whose attempts to improve Rodman's splendid cast iron smooth bore artillery, by an absurd system of rifling, proved so destructively abortive as detailed at the time by our contemporary and noticed in the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW*: