

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

And Military and Naval Gazette.

VOLUME V.
1871.

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW enters on the fifth year of its existence. When it was first projected fears were entertained for its ultimate success, as two efforts of a similar kind had been made and failed for want of support; but we are happy to say those fears were groundless, and that the **VOLUNTEER REVIEW** may now be said to be firmly established, thanks to the support it has met with from the hands of the Volunteer Force of the Dominion. It now circulates largely through Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and even the new Province of Manitoba has extended its generous support. Nor is it confined to these Provinces only, but in the Mother Country, and even the United States it has subscribers and supporters. No other Journal in the Dominion has so wide and extended a circulation as the **VOLUNTEER REVIEW**, and therefore it offers unparalleled facilities to general advertisers. Our terms for advertising will be found liberal on application, either personally, or by letter post paid.

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AGENTS.

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REMITTANCES should be addressed to DAWSON KERR, Proprietor **VOLUNTEER REVIEW**, Ottawa.

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All Communications regarding the Militia or Volunteer movement, or for the Editorial Department, should be addressed to the Editor of THE **VOLUNTEER REVIEW**, Ottawa.

Communications intended for insertion should be written on one side of the paper only.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Correspondents must invariably send us confidentially, their name and address.

All letters must be Post-paid, or they will not be taken out of the Post Office.

Adjutants and Officers of Corps throughout the Provinces are particularly requested to favor us regularly with weekly information concerning the movements and doings of their respective Corps, including the fixtures for drill, marching out, rifle practice &c.

We shall feel obliged to forward all information of this kind as early as possible, so that it may reach us in time for publication.

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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, MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1871.

A BLUE BOOK of twelve pages, containing "Returns to addresses to the Senate and House of Commons, relative to the withdrawal of Troops from the Dominion and on the defence of the country, and Honorable Mr. Campbell's Report," gives to the public, amongst other important information, a memorandum from the pen of Lieut.-General Lindsay, which deserves serious consideration. This document is arranged under five heads or divisions, and treats of

- 1st. Permanent arrangements necessary in consequence of the withdrawal of the troops.
- 2nd. Special arrangements necessary in consequence of Fenian apprehensions.
- 3rd. The organization of command and administration of the militia.
- 4th. The care of armaments, munitions of war, reserve stores, fortifications, lands, and buildings.
- 5th. Military institutions."

Under the first head it is recommended that garrisons be maintained at Quebec, Kingston, and Isle aux Noix, and any other points fortified hereafter, must also be garrisoned. Under the second head it is stated the safety of the water frontier could be best insured from Cornwall to Go' rich by three gunboats, while the Huntingdon, Nia-

gara, and St. Clair frontier will be best secured by corps of mounted riflemen. In the 3rd division it is recommended that application be made to the Home authorities for a Major-General to command the Militia, and that the staff should only hold office for five years. A control and medical department are recommended; and under the fourth head the organization of an engineer corps and an artillery branch are advised, as also the employment of an artillery officer of the regular service as inspector of warlike stores, and lastly, some alteration in the admission of cadets to the military schools, the organization of a camp of instruction at La Prairie and rifle associations in every district is recommended.

This valuable document, which we republish, has been anticipated in most of its suggestions by the steady development of the Militia Law. The organization of the Quartermaster-General's Department, the engineer corps, the control and medical departments must occupy some time; but it is evident that alone prevents the full development of all the departments of the Canadian army. There are, however, two very important recommendations with which we are at direct issue with the gallant General, because we are sure in Canada they would have a most disastrous effect, and we are not at all certain that one of them will be a successful experiment in the British army—we mean the quinquennial rotation of staff officers. Its direct action here would be to give us a complete set of inexperienced men every five years, possibly dull men at that, while we would be sending away those who had learned somewhat of the business of their departments, to enable others to receive the same practical knowledge we would run the risk of having some people that knew a little, and very little, of their duties, and a great many that know nothing at all. We are not anxious to make our army a democratic mob, like the French soldiers, or as the tendencies of those special arrangements will lead the British army to; so we will keep good staff officers as long as they are fit for duty, and try to train others to take their places when that period arrives.

With respect to the importation of officers to command the Canadian army in the manner General Lindsay proposes, while we profess a personal respect for the talents and abilities of gentlemen trained in the school where that gallant officer acquired his experience, we submit it is time Canadian officers aspired to the higher ranks on the staff of their own army—if ever that force is to occupy its proper position towards the Empire and this country. We have at present as its commander-in-chief a soldier of undoubted ability and unwearied activity, who thoroughly understands the details of our Militia Law, as well as its application to the social condition of our people, as evidenced by the marked success with which he has organized