

say that the granting of transit through or over any part of the territory of the United States to the military force of a foreign power is wholly within the control and direction of the federal government; and he desires therefore that no military expedition of any foreign power, whether of troops or of boats intended for the purpose of taking part in any military or warlike expedition, or of warlike material, be allowed to pass through Sault Ste. Marie Canal without express instructions to that effect from the Government at Washington.

HAMILTON FISH.

To His Excellency H. P. Baldwin, Governor of Michigan:

WASHINGTON, May 16, 1870.

SIR:—I have the honor to inform you that I have received a telegram from the Governor General of Canada, stating that the Canadian steamer 'Chicora,' carrying an ordinary commercial freight and no war stores was prevented from going through the Sault Ste. Marie Canal, the superintendent stating, as is reported, that he would not allow the vessel to go through even empty. His Excellency has, therefore, requested me to convey to you his hope that the Government of the United States will give orders that the above mentioned canal shall remain on the same footing as regards Canadian vessels as the Welland Canal is with regard to vessels of the United States, there being no intention to send through the canal any munitions of war for the expedition which is about to proceed to the Red River Settlement, and that the 'Chicora' and other vessels of that class will be allowed to pass through. Any difficulty which may have existed with the inhabitants of that settlement has now been amicably arranged, and a liberal Act for the Government of that country as a Province has been passed by the Canadian Parliament; and the delegates from the convention representing the whole population of the Fort Garry District, have acknowledged themselves well dealt with and satisfied. The expedition, therefore, which is now being sent to that settlement, is in no way to bear a hostile character. It will be a peaceful expedition, with the object of maintaining good order in that district, and of ensuring the regular and harmonious establishment of the new Government.

I have the honor, &c., &c.,

EDWARD THORNTON.

To Hon. J. C. Bancroft Davis, Acting Secretary of State.

Mr. Davis to Governor Baldwin.
(Telegram.)

WASHINGTON, May 16.

SIR:—Referring to Secretary Fish's telegram of the 3rd inst., I have the honor to inform you that the British Minister at Washington notifies this department that the recent difficulties in the Red River country are amicably arranged to the satisfaction of the delegates from the convention representing the whole population of the Fort Garry district, and that the present expedition is a peaceful one, and that there is no purpose to send through the canal any troops or munitions of war. Under these circumstances, the President directs me to say that the Government of the United States does not desire to oppose the passage of the 'Chicora' and other vessels of that class through the canal in the jurisdiction of the United States, so long as they do not carry troops or munitions of war.

J. C. BANCROFT DAVIS,
Acting Secretary of State.

To His Excellency H. P. Baldwin, Governor of Michigan.

Mr. Thornton to Mr. Davis.

WASHINGTON, May 18, 1870.

SIR.—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of yesterday's date informing me of the notification which, under instructions from the President, has been made to His Excellency the Governor of Michigan; and I shall feel much obliged to you if you will convey to the President my best thanks for the decision which has been reached. I may add that since writing my note on the 16th inst., information has reached me that the Canadian steamer 'Chicora' was a regular trader on the line between Collingwood and Lake Superior, and carried when she was prevented from passing through the Sault Ste. Marie Canal, nothing but goods for the Hudson Bay Company.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with the highest consideration, your obedient servant,
(Signed.) EDWARD THORNTON.
To the Hon. J. C. Bancroft Davis, &c., &c.

VOLUNTEERS.—During the Fenian excitement, a letter was received from the States by an officer of the 17th Batt., Levis, offering the services of several young men who were formerly members of this Battalion. They were quite willing to come if required. We like to hear of cases of this kind, it plainly shows that Canadians are true to their country, whenever they live.—*Quebec Chronicle.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.]

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—As in some parts of the Province of Ontario it is the intention, if allowed, to perform the annual drill in camp some time this month, the present is a good time for Volunteer officers and all concerned to make such suggestions as they may deem useful as to the time that should be spent in camp, and the best way to get as much value for it as possible.

While it is generally admitted that in camp is the best and favourite way of performing the annual drill, it has also been as unanimously decided that the time allowed is far too short. Last year it was not much more than a pleasant picnic. One day was spent in coming to camp, putting up tents, &c., another in going home, another with the inspection, and one or two in preparing for it, so that there were only one or two days that could be devoted to actual and useful drill, and consequently nothing like sufficient time for commanding officers to carry out any regular plan of drill or show what could be made of their corps under more favourable circumstances as to time. It is felt that the time is not nearly long enough to fix the drill in the minds of the men and officers, and that consequently they very soon forget it, and when called out again the next year they are almost as raw as ever.

The matter has often been discussed and there are two ways in which the difficulty might be overcome without increasing the expense very much. One is, that if the government would supply rations and forage it

is thought that the force would be willing to spend at least twelve and probably sixteen days in camp for the sixteen days pay, instead of only eight as has been the practice. The other is to adopt something like the Swiss system and let a certain portion of the force be called out for three weeks or a month in turn (cavalry and artillery should have a longer period than infantry) in camp once in three years, and be called out for only two or three days a year for the other two years to keep up their drill. At present a commanding officer has very little chance of showing of what sort of stuff he and his men are made, but if each corps was called out in its turn once in two or three years for a month in camp or barracks it would then be possible to judge of the comparative ability of officers and men of different corps; under the present system it is hardly possible to do this.

A VOLUNTEER.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

There has been some discussion going on in the newspapers lately both in Kingston and Cobourg as to the appointment of Capt. and Adjutant Reid of the 14th Battalion, Kingston, to the Brigade Majorship of the 3rd Brigade Division, vacated by Lieut.-Col. Patterson. Setting aside all considerations as to the personal merits of the party appointed, I think it would be well to look at the thing in a legal point of view. In the first place there is nothing whatever laid down in the Militia Act, 31 Vic., Cap. 40, nor in the Rules and Regulations for the Militia, published on March 12th, 1870, as to what officers are eligible to hold the situation of Brigade Major. The duties of the Brigade Major, it is true, are clearly laid down in the Rules and Regulations in paragraphs 116, 117, 118 and 119, but nothing more; but on looking at the Militia Act mentioned above, at section 64 it is laid down that "the Active Militia shall be subject to the Queen's Regulations and Orders for the Army," and on turning to the Queen's Regulations for 1868, at paragraph 219, it is laid down that, "an officer under the rank of Captain is not eligible to hold the situation of Brigade Major, nor are effective field officers of regiments to be employed as Brigade town or fort Majors." Now, who are the field officers of a regiment? Why the Lt.-Col., the two Majors, and the Adjutant—none of whom are, therefore, eligible to be appointed as Brigade Majors. Captain Reid is Adjutant of the 14th Battalion and, therefore, not eligible to hold the appointment of Brigade Major. If this is the case, and I am right in my argument, it is manifestly absurd for the Government to pass acts of Parliament for the guidance of the Militia and then make appointments in direct contradiction to what is laid down in them. There is no objection whatever to Capt. Reid personally, but every officer of Volunteers is desirous that appointments should be made in accordance with the law.

I am, yours truly,

A VOLUNTEER.