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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, DECEMBER 7, 1875.

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.

LIEUT. J. B. VINTER, of Victoria, and Captain H. V. EDMONDS of New Westminster, are our authorized Agents for British Columbia.

WE are indebted to our friend and valued correspondent Captain RAIKES, for a "copy of a memorandum prepared for the War Office in December, 1870, being the previous history and objections against that form of conscription known as ballot for the militia, together with the various appendices thereto."

This document was "ordered by the House of Commons to be printed 30th July, 1875," and appears to have been prepared by C. M. CLODE, Esq., the military historian in December, 1870.

As an historical document, it is full of interest and appears to have furnished more than half the facts cited by Captain IRMS in his celebrated prize essay.

Our friend Captain RAIKES, in his "History of the reserve forces of the Crown," embodies all the leading facts (which are corroborated by the memorandum) of this question in the paper now under consideration, their effect on the great question of military organization is considered, and the results given with a clearness and force that at once secures for the document the authority of an able state paper.

At the outset the reason why the ballot cannot be enforced and the Act of the Imperial Parliament giving it effect is a *dead letter* is given as follows in Part I "Military Conscription":

"In dealing with this subject, it is necessary to bear in mind two fundamental principles of constitutional law:

"The first, that the Crown has an inherent right to the service of all men to defend the realm, under which prerogative seafaring persons can be lawfully impressed to man the fleets (as the first line), and other able bodied men (with few exceptions) to defend the coast or shores (as the second line of defence) the army not being (originally) a constitutional force.

"The second principle—viz, that every free man has an absolute right to abide in his own home so that no authority save that of Parliament can send him out of the kingdom (even to Ireland or the Channel Islands) against his will.

"Further, it must be borne in mind that as the first principle (on which the militia system rests) may be so exercised by a conscription for the Army, as to violate the second, Parliament has very jealously watched the exercise of the prerogative."

This is the key to the mystery why the land forces of Great Britain are not in the strength her wealth, position, and national prestige require, and which will continue as long as her *Army* is maintained as a separate and extra constitutional force.

Another and very serious difficulty arises in the complications thrown around primary organization; and Mr. CLODE's able "memorandum" exhibits this feature in a striking degree, at paragraph 97 he says: "In regard to the agency for raising men, it may be doubted whether county lawyers, acting as clerks of general and sub-division meetings are the most economical agents that could be used. The late Sir ROBERT PEELE represented the legal expense of the ballot as the reason for discontinuing it in 1829, and the late Lord SALISBURY in January, 1867, when the establishment of a local militia was urged, calling especial attention to the great cost which the existing machinery would entail on the country and on the Treasury." No better remedy is recommended than to throw this expense on the municipal taxes.

The plan proposed for the "Reorganization of the auxiliary forces" is to consolidate the volunteers and local militia as a force for defensive purposes, and to apply conscription without allowing substitutes to the purpose of keeping the ranks of what should be known as the *Sedentary Militia* full.

And for an offensive army, a force recruited by *voluntary* enlistment, the obligation being service in the regular army for a given period in the first battalions, and the remainder in that army's reserve or second battalions at home. The latter force being liable to foreign service, and the former for home defence.

It will be seen that this plan, although much simpler than any yet proposed, is still clogged with the difficulties of complicated machinery in organization.

It makes in reality two separate and independent armies instead of basing the whole military force on one system of organization. The failure is to be found in the principle of making the *Regular Army* the channel of organization for the militia, thus limiting its recruits to those who will take the *shilling* instead of reversing the process and making the *militia* the channel by which the army should be entered.

If commissions in the latter were confined to qualified officers, who could bring their own contingent of recruits from their local militia regiments to the first battalions in the regular service, half the difficulties in the way of reorganizing the British Army would be overcome; the other half would be obviated by consolidating volunteers and militia into one reserve for the United Kingdom—dividing the same into brigade, battalion and company divisions with the proper officers—from each of which a certain portion of first class service men could be trained every year, and to whose ranks the *passed service* soldier would return. In fact, by adopting in its integrity the "militia law," under which the Canadian force is organized.

Every intelligent attempt at a reorganization of the British Army tends more and more in the direction of that master piece of statesmanship, and every departure from it only shews what class interests are involved or supposed to be in danger.

The following extraordinary paragraph is copied from *Broad Arrow*, and shews a ridiculous feature of what a regular *beaucratic* regime may impose on even a free country like Great Britain. At the same time it exhibits a feeling of scepticism as to the professional capabilities of our naval officers not creditable to the Government of the mother country, and if true, of a character to excite grave apprehensions for the future.

Time was, and not long since, when the British Naval Officer was a seaman without a superior. If *Broad Arrow* reports truly, Reform tactics has changed him into something like a *horse marine* that ridiculous caricature of a sailor's imagination:

"Already there are six hundred and odd applications lodged at the Board of Trade for the appointments under the Unseaworthy Ships Act. Half the unemployed officers of the Royal Navy are among the applicants, and so much is an appointment to be coveted, that there was an admiral among the applicants, who a few years ago was in charge of one of Her Majesty's dockyards, whose recommendations were penned by the First Lord of the Admiralty and a well known West of England member of Parliament, whose seat overlooks Cornwall from the Devonshire side of the Tamar. The story goes that this gallant officer was received by the hon. President of the Board's private secretary—his son—with all the easy nonchalance of an embryo official, engaged at the