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MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE

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

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, MAY 2, 1870.

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. 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 forces—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.

The *Mail* of 8th April gives the following synopsis of the "Militia Estimates" for the current year:

"On Thursday night more than one member of the House expressed the hope that the militia expenditure would in future be cut down. All agreed that a militia organization was necessary, but the view was generally taken that the force should be reduced to a mere skeleton. It is proposed to expend \$942,000 this year, but as \$292,000 of this sum will be taken up by the Mounted

Police in Manitoba, the actual militia expenditure will be \$650,900, as compared with \$1,160,000 voted last year. The following are the details:

Salaries of Military Branch and Staff.....	\$29,400
Salaries of Brigade Majors.....	28,600
Allowances for Drill Instruction.....	40,000
Ammunition.....	40,000
Clothing.....	40,000
Military Stores.....	40,000
Public Armouries.....	52,000
Drill and Training.....	125,000
Contingencies.....	50,000
Targets.....	3,000
Drill Sheds and Rifle Ranges.....	10,000
Care of Property.....	7,000
Field Artillery Equipment.....	10,000
A and B Batteries, Pay, etc.....	110,000
Military College, Kingston.....	26,000
Military Schools, N. S. and N. B.....	10,000
Dominion Forces, Manitoba.....	30,000

Total..... \$650,900

The item in which the greatest reduction has been made this year is that of Drill and Training, for which \$375,000 was voted last year, there being a saving of no less than \$250,000. Mr. Vail does not know yet what course will be pursued relative to the summer camps; but as the appropriation is only one-third of last year's there are only two courses open, viz., to drill only a third of the force drilled last year, or to drill the same number of men a third of the time devoted to last summer's exercises.

There is a great deal of truth in what Mr. Pope says about the large sum spent on staff salaries and the small inducements held out to the men themselves. There seems to be altogether too many District Deputies and Deputy Assistants, so many in fact that it must be a hard task to set the whole machinery of the service at work on an emergency. But Major General Smyth will doubtless remedy any defects in that direction."

It is greatly to be regretted that the general feeling of the House of Commons, as intimated by the writer of the above, should have been directed into such a suicidal groove as to desire a reduction of the paltry sum required to keep up the present active force, and we have no hesitation in stating our conviction that it is in no sense in accordance with either the interest or opinions of the people of Canada.

The sum annually required to keep in a fairly efficient state a nominal force of 43,000 men was about \$1,250,000 (one million, two hundred and fifty thousand dollars) or a little over 30 cents per head of population; the staff (about which so much nonsense has been written and spoken) cost \$29,400 for this large force, or at a rate of about 0 cts. per head of the force for administration. Now Switzerland comes nearest to our system of military organization—the cost of its staff for an active force of 81,369 men is \$93,770—looking at the difference in the price of labor in both countries the balance in favor of economy is largely on our side. If, as the *Mail* says, it is necessary to reduce the force to a skeleton, what is the use of maintaining the Artillery Schools or the Military College? Those establishments cost the country \$146,000 per annum, they are relatively of less value than the instruction and maintenance of the Infantry of the

force, because the aid they could give in any emergency would be insignificant, and if there was to be a pruning down in our opinion that was the direction it should take.

Now, however, the question is beyond recall and a fine opportunity has arisen for the resuscitation of General O'Neill and his squads—business is slack in the States and the plunder of Montreal would not be too difficult a task to be attempted. That is a question for the traders and political economists to settle amongst themselves. We do not think Mr. Pope is a reliable military oracle, or that the District Staff presented many difficulties in the way of management; we have shown it to be the cheapest as far as salary (and the Militia Reports speak to its efficiency) of any in the world, while it is well known to be the simplest in organization, and as a matter of course, the best in our circumstances.

In dealing with those matters the Canadian press appears to be actuated by the true spirit of political optimism—it is convenient to forget what has gone before and trouble some to look forward—the services rendered by the staff of the active force and its efficiency has been more than once proved—it is barely sufficient for the work it was originally organized to perform—the real fault is that work was never given it to do.

If the *Mail* would lend its great energies and the undoubted ability displayed in its management to the task of putting the people of Canada in possession of the facts connected with their most important institution and not indulge in patronizing the fallacies of the political economists of the House of Commons—a great service would be rendered to the country and justice would be done to a class of deserving officers who are thoroughly capable of discharging the duties confided to them with honor to themselves and profit to Canada.

On the other hand if the system of disintegration and misrepresentation is allowed to go on the end will be the dissolution of the present organization—it will be represented solely by the staff at Ottawa, and if that is advisable the oracles of public opinion had better let the farmers of Canada know at once—they will probably be able, like the celebrated and famous "Home Guards" at Eccle's Hill, to provide for their own safety and let the great towns provide for theirs.

The following communication appeared in the *Globe* of the 8th April:

(To the Editor of the *Globe*.)

SIR,—One of the "Queen's Own" might, with as much propriety, step into Mr. Macdonald's store and lecture him upon his method of doing business, as for Mr. Macdonald to presume to say what should be the colour and who should supply the material for the uniform clothing. Mr. Macdonald would have a profound contempt for the opinion of the volunteer, who, in return for Mr. Macdonald's sentiments upon military uniform, would mutter, "Fools rush in