

and ably states the changes which modern improvements in firearms and tactics should induce in the arm of the service to which he specially refers,—in this short paper, and with special reference to this country, I would beg to draw your attention to the changes which advancing civilization must induce in the art of war in Canada.

Strategy has been ably defined by Col. Macdougall, as "*the art of placing in battle array, at the right place, a body of troops in fighting order, superior to that body which your enemy can there oppose to you.*" In an able article in a prominent magazine, upon this subject, it is further stated that "the principles of strategy up to this epoch might be tolerably well summed up in two plain rules," "*to act against the enemy's communications, while keeping your own guarded,*" and "*to bring masses of your own forces against fractions of the enemy.*" Let us see how these conditions will apply to Canadian requirements.

It is clear that I must start in the consideration of this subject by taking two things for granted. First, that the United States will be the enemy to guard against, and next, that England shall be our base of supplies. It is, alas, too clear that in the event of the former occurrence our poor Canada will be the *base of operations*, and it behoves us to provide such communications as will preserve us from being cut off from our base of supply, beside providing the means by which our base of operations can be effectually protected. To these ends the Imperial Government have suggested the Intercolonial Railway, and a system of fortification.

This brings me to the consideration of how modern improvements have changed the art of war since those times when Marshal Saxe said that "Battles were won by legs, rather than arms." The measured pace, the regulated day's march, were so many aids to time the required concentration of troops before railroads came into use as an auxiliary. But now-a-days the march is too slow, and though marches are still "measured by time, and not by distance," the time-table is of the railway, and not of the legs. During the wars of the last decade, since the Crimean war, the railway has been the principal agent of concentration, and thousands of men have been rapidly massed where otherwise it would have been an impossibility. Hence it is necessary that our railroad communication should be as great as possible, and each road that is added to the country is so much a contribution towards its successful defence. Notably, however, is that road required which shall connect us directly with our base of supply. Without it all our efforts would be rendered unavailing. So far our imperial directors have not gone astray.

The telegraph is the next material aid to prompt military movement. It enables a General to communicate immediately with his Lieutenants, and to time such supports, or concentrated action, as circumstances may render necessary. Though easily destroyed, it is easily repaired; and the side which controls the lines of telegraph have a decided advantage over their opponents. Thus also the network of telegraph wire which is spread over the land is an element of defence.

In the above paragraphs we have provided the means of supplying the losses in men and material with speed and certainty; and for the contingency of massing troops in a required place in the shortest space of time; but the consideration of the main subject is still to come. We require positions which

can be held, to which our supplies can be directed, and where our masses may assemble. For this a system of intrenched camps, guarded by forts in such positions as to command the approaches, has been suggested by the Imperial Government, and for the construction of such, or similar defences, a large sum of money has been voted. This arrangement has been the result of much study on the part of experienced men, and the principle is no doubt correct; but I should respectfully submit that the contemplated chain of forts be changed into batteries upon the Moncrieff plan. In the present era, the adoption of a system that may in a few months be superseded by another and a better one, is a matter of great hazard; but how much more so when the proposed system is the *most expensive*, and the least susceptible of attraction—should alteration be required. It is unnecessary for me to describe the Moncrieff system further than to explain that a hole in the ground is all the preparation necessary for planting the gun, and that the saving has been estimated by the inventor of from £4,382 to £16,143 stg. per gun. Besides this it protects the gunners, saves their labor, utilizes the dangerous recoil, and does away with the hazardous destruction of permanent works, with the restriction of lateral range of the embrasure, and inadequate protection of the gun mounted *en barbette*.

Having established a basis of operations, let us endeavour to ascertain how far the principles agree with the maxims of strategy first laid down. It is clear that numerically we could not carry out the first axiom, of opposing the enemy with a superior body. But with a system of intrenched camps, covering a radius of nine miles each, Col. Macdougall, tells us that an enemy of 100,000 men could be held at bay, his lines broken by repeated sorties; and his force probably compelled to retire by an opposing force of one half that number. This would leave the defending force at liberty to act in another direction, provided the railway communication is kept open—or to harass the retiring enemy, while small bodies garrisoned the batteries composing the system. In this manner the first principle of strategy is carried out, for though numerically weaker, the position counterbalances the lack of numbers.

In addition to the entrenched camps I should propose at important salient positions on the lines of railway, to establish Batteries—to be supplied with guns on the Moncrieff carriage, should occasion require. These could be easily mounted on railway trucks, and carried to any position on the line of rail, when it was necessary, or advisable, that such batteries should be placed.

But the great advantage of the Moncrieff system, as far as this country is concerned, is the extreme economy with which a sufficient scheme of defence could be carried out. Apart from the prime cost of permanent works, there would be required constant repairs, alterations and expenses of occupation, &c. With the Moncrieff Battery—the pit once dug, or the parapet thrown up—there is even no necessity for removing the gun from store, until circumstances require it,—as it can easily be placed in position at a few hours notice. All that would be required would be a sufficient arsenal at each to be defended, to contain the guns and munitions, with sufficient immediate defences to preserve it from danger of sudden attack.

Were this scheme adopted, and the money thus saved expended in opening out direct

communication from the waters of the St. Lawrence to the Georgian Bay; that in case our front communications were destroyed, our base of supplies might be still be attained by the rear; I think that the requirements of strategical defence would have been complied with so far as lies in our power, and that President Grant would treat us with that respect which is due to a friendly though independent neighbor.

TRENTE SEPTIEME.

#### BEDFORD DISTRICT RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The annual meeting of this association was held at Bedford County of Missisquoi, on the 24th February, the weather had been very stormy for some days previous, and the roads heavy, the attendance was therefore small. The office-bearers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, Hon. A. B. Foster, Senator; Vice Presidents, Lt. Col. Fletcher, Lt. Col. Hon. C. Dunkin, M. P., Hon. Thomas Wood, M. L. C., Lt. C. J. Stewart, Major Robinson, Major Miller, Major B. Chamberlin, M. P., Hon. L. S. Huntingdon, M. P., Revd. Geo. Slack, Dr. Brigham, M. P. P., Geo. Cloyes, Esq., Wm. Chilton, Esq., H. Foster, Esq., Dr. Gibson; Secretary, Capt. G. L. Kemp; Assistant Secretaries, Capt. Amgrauld and Dr. Whitwell; Treasurer, Dr. Meigs.

Council.—Captains Maynes, Rowe, Foudrier, P. Smith, Hall, Frasy, Monson, McCorkill, Bockus, W. A. Smith, E. Slack, Esq., J. J. Cowie, Esq., E. Finley, Esq., Dr. Hamilton and Dr. N. A. Smith.

The several committees were appointed. On account of the thinness of the meeting, it was agreed to postpone the selection of the time and place for the next annual match until another meeting, to be held on the 10th March, but unfortunately on that day, it stormed furiously, and the roads were in such a state that only two members were present, Lt. Col. Fletcher, and Capt. Kemp. They decided to postpone the meeting till the 18th May. The finances of the Association are in a flourishing condition, shewing a balance on hand of \$120. The next annual prize meeting promises to be a successful one.

Since the Raid of 1866 when the Fenians plundered the borders, rifle practice has been well encouraged by the people of the district, they feel the knowledge of the use of the rifle is a safe-guard against the depredations of such ruffians as robbed their dwelling in June of that year. Before the raid, very few fire arms could be found on the frontier, with the exception of here and there a fowling piece, or old flint lock left there since the troubles in 1837, but now it is different, there is scarcely a household along the border but what has one or more good breech-loaders and plenty of ammunition, and the border men are prepared for "Independent Practice" on the first Fenian that crosses the lines.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* says that the death of Lord Gough will cause no army promotions. The colonelcy of the Blues is, of course, rendered vacant, and no doubt the claims of Lord Stratford will secure for him that post, the line colonelcy thus vacated going to General Colomb, now of the 4th West India Regiment, whose corps will disappear from the next Army List. By the death of Lord Gough, the Duke of Cambridge becomes formally the senior officer of the British army. By length of service the senior is General Sir J. F. Fitzgerald, who entered the army in 1793.