

As for the general blood tax demanded from every man who desired to say *civis Romanus sum*, it would simply amount to compulsory qualification to bear arms for those physically fit, and submission to such discipline as even our every-day civil life demands. It would scarcely be felt for the following reasons:

1st. It is abundantly proved, even by the Royal Canadian Gunnery Schools, that an infantry soldier can be drilled in three months. To be disciplined takes longer—one year would suffice. If the officers to impart it are the suitable staff, always providing Parliament is not perpetually promulgating wordy incomprehensible army discipline acts subversive of all discipline. Therefore, the young Englishman need only give one year of his life, under ordinary circumstances, unless the nation is engaged in a life and death struggle, then, if he desires national existence, let him pay the patriot price, and bind himself to join the old standards under which he was trained; whether he would find his old comrades flocking. He should not find himself organized off by a deaky D. A. G. into some impossible army corps arrangement that could only exist on paper.

2nd. If we had a federated empire, the Colonies would follow the example of universal military training; short, sharp and decisive, involving a minimum waste of time and producing a maximum of good results to the individual and the State. Failing this, the colonies would have to cut the Imperial concern, and drift off into unknown responsibilities of their own.

3rd. The advantages of universal service would be the absolutely essential inculcation of habits of discipline, and the obligation of duty among our men, of all classes, without which we are rapidly drifting into discord, bred of selfishness.

4th. Universal conscription would render the recurrence of any but absolutely essential wars almost impossible, on the principle that "Let those who make the quarrels be the very ones to fight." The wars of England are now waged by two classes only. The younger sons of aristocratic or plutocratic families who monopolize the command of our armies since the real old soldier caste has been pushed out by wealthy conscription wallahs, (for competitive education is expensive). Whether that is a survival of the fittest, we are practically learning! Such are the officers who lead our rank and file, composed solely of the conscripts of hunger who are feebler soldiers than the conscripts of crime, with whom we partially recruited our ranks in the old Peninsular wars. The whole nation, as represented in Parliament, votes that the above two classes should fight. Under conscription, every man would be fighting whether he himself should fight or not.

5th. I believe there would be an absolute economy, the few years taken for military training, between school, trade or profession, would be a positive gain to the nation and the individual.

6th. The army would be the school of the nation, and that same jealousy of soldiers that is latent, though always dead, would cease.

7th. We believe it is the only chance of restoring to Englishmen the manhood that seems lost in the worship of pelf or popularity—that prevents a parliament from acting with vigor, and makes soldiers defect from truth, when they recommend the huddling home of troops to save expense before the wounds of war are healed—and refuse reinforcements or hospital

nurses for those under their command.

But stay, is *de mortuis nil nisi bonum* to be applied only in the case of the responsible? and the holocaust of dead to be disregarded to save the reputation of the leader; he had only one life to give, he gave it, but with it how many rank and file? Englishmen must awake—arise or be forever fallen! The practical question of an obligatory blood tax or abandonment of empire, has to be practically answered sooner or later—probably sooner than the complacent ones suppose. Meanwhile, it is satisfactory to hear the rumor that no staff college pet will be entrusted with the command in Africa, but General Roberts, a good, square soldier from the school of Indian war—the only school in which there is no prejudice as regards the color of a coat.

A Canadian Artillery Team for Competition in England.

Report has it that the "powers that be" have in contemplation the sending of a team of Volunteer Field Artillery to join the annual camp of the National Artillery Association at Shoeburyness next summer.

The idea, we believe, has arisen from the fact of the great efficiency gained by the Dominion Field Batteries this year, and the high scores made at the 9 pr. competitions—a practical contradiction of the depreciating statement of our blue-nose gunner. Our friends of the infantry persuasion have long enjoyed the privilege of being represented each year at Wimbledon, and well have they kept up the credit of Canada.

This has been found to be an immense incentive to rifle shooting and general efficiency, and a like result would undoubtedly be the case with the gunners.

The riflemen of the mother country have always been most hospitable and generous, in allowing our men to compete for their prizes, and we have no doubt that the Canadian Volunteer Artillery would receive the same courtesy from the officers and men of their own kind.

The good to this branch of the service that such a yearly expedition as this, under the auspices of the Dominion Artillery Association, would do can hardly be overestimated, and the cost would be trifling.

We hear on good authority that one gallant artillery officer alone has offered \$100 towards the expenses of the team for this year.

Nothing could be more popular with the Volunteer services generally, and we trust that our young and energetic Minister of Militia—upon whom the mantle of Sir George Cartier seems to have fallen—may see his way to inaugurate his accession to power by such a graceful act.

We are sure that His Excellency the Governor-General, who is himself a Gunner, and takes great interest in that branch, would do everything to facilitate matters.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN MILITARY REVIEW.

Srs.—I notice in an editor's memo on a letter in your February issue, referring to Soider us, Martini rifles for Canadian Militia, that some doubt is expressed as to the suitability of the mechanical arrangement of the Martini for the severe climate of Canada.

