



THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

(SUCCESSOR TO THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE.)

VOL. IX
No. 2

MONTREAL, 15th JANUARY, 1894

Subscription \$2.00 Yearly.
Single Copies 10 cents.

THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

(Successor to the Canadian Militia Gazette.)

ESTABLISHED 1885.

PUBLISHED AT MONTREAL ON THE 1ST AND 15TH OF EACH MONTH.

DEVOTED TO THE Interests of the Military Forces of Canada

SUBSCRIPTION:

Canada and the United States, - Per Annum	\$2.00
Great Britain, Ireland and Postal Union Countries, - - - - -	10s 6d. stg
Single Copies, - - - - -	10 cents

Subscriptions are in every instance payable in advance, and the publishers request the favour of prompt remittance.

Unpaid accounts are subject to sight draft.

Remittances should be made by post-office order or registered letter. No responsibility is assumed for subscriptions paid to agents, and it is best to remit direct.

The date when the subscription expires is on the Address Label of each paper, the change of which to a subsequent date becomes a receipt for remittance. No other receipt is sent unless requested.

Immediate notice should be given of any delay or failure in the receipt of the GAZETTE.

No attention is paid to anonymous communications, but the wishes of contributors as to the use of their names will be scrupulously regarded.

All communications and remittances should be addressed to the Editor, P.O. Box 1931, Montreal.

VOL. IX MONTREAL, 15th JAN. 1894 No. 2

Note and Comment.

Periodically we find the English service papers devoting attention to the vital question of Imperial defence. These very important and influential organs of military opinion have so much of their time taken up with matters affecting merely the special interests of the regular army and navy and of the Home militia and volunteer forces that it is only on odd occasions that they find opportunity to refer to the various colonial forces such as our own Canadian Militia, which really is worthy the closest attention by all those in any way interested in the preparation of a practical scheme of Imperial defence.

Under the circumstances it is astonishing that in all the space devoted to the question of Imperial defence in the British papers, service as well as lay journals, we so seldom see any reference to the Canadian

militia, and such references as we do find are generally of the most superficial description. It is not vanity which leads us to regret that such is the case, but an appreciation of the fact that were the master minds of the British services directed towards the deficiencies of our service occasionally said deficiencies would grow beautifully less.

* * * *

All Canadians are proud of the Active Militia force, and have good cause to be, but they should not allow their admiration for the past grand record of the militia and for the devotion and patriotism of the men who keep the force up to its present standard, to close their eyes to the glaring defects in the present system. The average Canadian tax-payer flatters himself with the comforting thought that the militia is in as efficient a state as it can be or needs to be. It put five thousand men into the field at a few days' notice and put Mr. Riel's little rebellion down in good shape; and the same year, at two hours' notice, nearly three thousand good men and true paraded at Montreal to aid in maintaining the civil authority.

* * * *

If the militia can be depended upon to do as much in the future, that is all the Dominion needs in the way of military protection, argues the average Canadian.

"Why," he asks, "go to the expense of saddling the country with a more elaborate military system? Uncle Sam is a peaceful neighbor, and if England goes to war with any continental power the only result Canada will experience will be an improved demand for her natural products."

* * * *

Whether Uncle Sam, with such advisers as the Spread Eagle, Washington statesmen, who now and again amuse themselves by trying to twist the lion's tail, is such a guileless, harmless neighbor as we would like to regard him, is an open question as yet. There can be no doubt though

that England's participation in a big European war would result in at least a large portion of the Active Militia being placed on service, for Canada would have to be defended, and there is enough patriotism in Canada to insist upon the defence of the Dominion in a time of emergency, entailing as slight a drain as possible upon the military resources of the Imperial Government.

* * * *

It is very comforting for us to go down to Halifax and look at the big guns on the "Blake" and her smart consorts; but will Britain, with her colonies scattered all over the world, and the necessity of protecting the shores of her own "tight little island" be able in the event of a great war, to spare sufficient naval force to protect unassisted the Canadian seabords? It has lately been pretty clearly shown that the naval strength of the countries most likely to combine against Britain is superior to that of the Mistress of the Seas; so that Canada can appreciate the folly of depending wholly on the navy for the defence of the Dominion in the event of a European war.

* * * *

Our people must somehow or another be made to look upon the militia more seriously than they have been accustomed to, as something more than an organization of special constables available when required to aid the civil power in exerting its authority over riotous subjects. As soon as the loyal people of the country realize that the militia is Canada's contribution towards the great scheme of Imperial defence they will insist on its being put on a more sound footing, and the public mind once made up, the Government will soon produce the dollars. A little attention to the position of the militia by the British service papers would soon bring Canadians to an appreciation of the importance of the force in so far as the defence of the whole