

or any other country has ever seen, was that devised by the late lamented Minister of Militia and Defence, and it simply requires that justice and care in its future development, which its representatives in Parliament are not apparently anxious to enforce or advocate to make it the most effective and best in the world.

Canada will always support and supply a volunteer army, but there is neither force nor provision to compel her people to render military service to their own disadvantage, a proposition respectfully dedicated to the political economists.

We gladly present to our readers the concluding portion of an article from one of the leading English journals. The *Pall Mall Gazette*, reviewing "The Report of the Adjutant General on the state of the Militia," and we do this for the express purpose of showing how highly our system is valued at home, and how accurately the writer has described the dangers to which it is exposed from false views of political economy—while we do not wholly agree with all the propositions enumerated, our experience being that a local force should be trained for the special service it is required, and not for contingencies which are not likely to occur. But we are at one on the necessity for steady persistence in a regular course of drill.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—

"Having thus sketched out the organization of the Canadian army, it may not be out of place to point to some of the defects which threaten to prevent the full beneficial effects which might arise from so well perfected a system. In the first place, there is the danger pertaining to all constitutionally governed countries which possess very free institutions of a feeling arising, that because the present aspect of affairs is profoundly peaceful, wars have ceased or are removed so far into the future that no fears of them need be entertained. Consequently a pressure is put on the Government for the reduction of the estimates, and the efficiency of the force is marred to meet the popular cry. There is also a fear lest, owing to the withdrawal of the troops, who formed a pattern to which the militia might conform, the standard of efficiency should become lowered, and the force should almost imperceptibly deteriorate. Both these dangers are foreshadowed in the report; the first is shown by the reduction of estimates for the current year; the second is the proposal not to diminish the number of men to meet this reduction, but to shorten by one half the period of training. The reliance of the nation will thus gradually be found resting on a paper force with numerous and gaily uniformed officers, who from want of opportunity are ignorant of their professional duties. As is even the case at present the militia of Canada, although physically equal if not superior to the country militia of England, are, as a rule, less well trained, and this from no fault of their own, for the men are well conducted and intelligent, and the officers zealous and active, but from the want of a permanent regimental staff. Without the almost total disorganization of the force, the

period of training cannot be diminished, and we should be sorry to see the true interests of the country injured by a too great reliance on the peaceful prospects of the day."

Appended to the volume is a narrative of the Adjutant General Colonel R. Ross's journey across the continent to the Pacific coast, including proposals for protecting what may soon become a wealthy and productive region from Indian hostilities, and from the dangers arising from a sudden influx of settlers. The ensuing year may see the attention not only of Canada but of Europe attracted to these at present, almost unknown regions, and the advent of the emigrant will force into notice the questions with which this report deals, and will necessitate a careful consideration of the best method of meeting the numerous difficulties attending the rapid settlement of a country traversed, if not inhabited, by Indian tribes.

REVIEWS.

Blackwood for May contains the following articles:—A True Reformer—Part XV. The Doctor abroad—Part I. The member for Muirshire. The Parisians—Book VI. Two acts of Self Devotion. To Lina O. Some one prays. Home spun songs, Keuchum Chillingly.

The Leonard Scott Publishing Company, 140 Fulton St. New York.

The *Phrenological Journal* for June has been received.

The *London Quarterly Review* for April contains the following articles:—The state of English Painting. Middlemarch, a study of Provincial life. Railways and the State. Autumns on the Spey. Charles Comte de Montalembert. Greek at the Universities. Lord Lytton. Central Asia. The Irish University bill, and the defeat of the Ministry.

The Leonard Scott publishing Company, 140 Fulton St. New York.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of a neatly printed pamphlet of forty two pages entitled "Militia Reform" with a "special reference to the militia reserve and the new organization scheme."

The author Captain G. A. Raikes of the 3rd West York Light Infantry Militia, is well known to our readers as the author of the valuable historical work "The History of our Reserve Forces" holds a captain's certificate from the school of instruction at Wellington Barracks, a first class certificate from the musketry school at Hythe, and a Field Officer's certificate from the School of instruction at Chelsea Barracks. He is also the author of records of the British army, and a number of articles on military organization. With characteristic modesty he has refrained from putting his name to all his other works, but this is a reprint from "Col bourn's United Service Magazine" on a most important subject.

From Captain Raikes pamphlet we learn that there are no less than sixty four statutes in force relating to the Militia and its organization in Great Britain and Ireland, ten relate exclusive to Scotland, and thirteen to Ireland, so that if ever any institution was thoroughly legislated for, the militia of the United Kingdom was that institution. It also shows how difficult it is to deal intelligently with such a crude mass of enactments for purposes of effective organization. We can see no effectual remedy for this state of affairs except a total repeal of those varied and often contradictory enactments, and a simple measure embodied in a simple act, such as the late lamented Minister of Militia and defence, Sir George E. Cartier provided for Canada.

Captain Raikes is in singular harmony with the views of that great man, inasmuch as he prefers the voluntary system and finds its greatest drawbacks in the opposition and selfish interests of employers of labor. His views on the system in England are as follows:

"The ballot need only be resorted to in order to complete the quota when the supply of volunteers is below the required number. The percentage of the population required would be so small that it could never be a burden or a tax on labour. Not only would the men obtained be of a far superior class in every respect, but it would also have the effect in a great measure of filling up the present large number of vacancies—nearly one third—in the commissioned ranks. The annual saving in bounty alone would be upwards of £120,000. The law is ready made, and only suspended; and it is to be hoped that it may very soon have a fair trial."

This extract embodies the very essence of our militia laws.

It will be seen that Captain Raikes has rendered valuable services by those statistics, and his ideas of Militia Reform are those of a practical soldier and administrator.

We have received the *Aldine* for June, and a very superior number it is, equal in fact to any of its predecessors, and that is saying a great deal. It is the best literary and pictorial magazine in the United States, and are glad to learn that it counts its subscribers by thousands.

In France artillery schools have been established in Douay, La Fere, Besancon, Valenciennes, Grenoble, Toulouse, Rennes, Bourges, Versailles, Tarbes, and Vincennes, and a school for gunners exclusively in Bourges.

The Spanish government has authorized the creation of another society for the abolition of slavery in Porto Rico.

The Carlist chief Dorregaray is marching on Logrona with a large force. The national troops are concentrating to attack him before he reaches the city.