

way, of the field and garrison artillery; and the companies of infantry of the militia infantry. Supposing about 34,000 men (*i. e.*, rank and file) to be the numbers of the active militia, divided in equal proportions between three districts; that is, three regiments of cavalry equal to 1,800; twelve batteries of artillery 3,000; and thirty six regiments of infantry 28,000, with possibly a small force of engineers numbering 200, and of a military train 200. These troops, as is the case at the present time, to be called out for yearly training and inspection. The duration of the drill to be fixed by statute, regard being had to real efficiency. To correspond with this force, at each of the three training schools would be one half troop of cavalry numbering about 40 non-commissioned officers and men and 30 horses; one battery of artillery numbering about 250 men, of which two guns only would be fully horsed, requiring seventy-eight horses; three companies of infantry, each section of each company corresponding with a regiment of infantry, in all 240 men, and a few non-commissioned officers to be instructed in the duties of engineers and train; the whole force at each of the three schools would not be more than 350 non-commissioned officers and men. With regard to officers it would probably be necessary at the present time to obtain commanders of the these schools from the regular army, as is now done at the artillery schools of Quebec and Kingston. These should be selected either from officers who have been educated at the staff college, due regard, of course being had to other qualifications; or from those who, known to be good regimental officers, have passed through one or more of the various schools at Shoeburyness, Chatham, or Hythe."

The idea thus thrown out is elaborated in the subsequent pages of the pamphlet, the object of the proposition being to have in readiness a highly trained body of about 1500 men, supplying a standard of efficiency as high at least as an Imperial regiment, and available in case of emergency. It is intended as an improvement on the military school idea, and an approach apparently to the training afforded at West Point. The author of the pamphlet does not offer his suggestion as a ripened plan, but rather for the purpose of provoking discussion among those whose experience will enable them to discuss the subject with advantage. The cost of three Training Schools such as those recommended, it may be observed, would be about \$600,000. It is doubtful, however, from some of the figures given, whether the expense could be restricted to that sum. Sergeant Majors, for instance, are put down at \$1, sergeants at 80 cents, and privates at 50 and 60 cents. This, of course, is exclusive of rations; but when the present rate of wages is taken into account, it is questionable whether the ranks could be filled up with suitable men at these figures. We do not propose, however, to criticize the details of the scheme. Viewed as a whole, several considerations may be urged in its favour. Perhaps, in the present apathy on the subject of military organization, its greatest merit in the eyes of many may be that it does not propose a large expenditure. On the other hand, unless the expectations of Col. Fletcher as to the efficiency to be attained were realized, the money would probably be spent to very small advantage. We have already in our Manitoba troops the nucleus of a small regular army; the suggestion of Col. Fletcher is designed to provide a body much more highly trained, and serviceable as instructors and officers in the event of an

alarm of war; but there will no doubt be considerable difference of opinion respecting the policy of increasing our military establishment at the moment our neighbours are curtailing theirs to limits which are far from being calculated to awaken the faintest suspicion of an aggressive movement. — *Montreal Gazette*.

THE MILITIA.

The *Montreal Gazette* thus concludes its notice of Col. Fletcher's pamphlet on the Militia, reviewed a short time ago in our columns:—

"The cost of three Training Schools such as those recommended, it may be observed, would be about \$600,000. It is doubtful, however, from some of the figures given, whether the expense could be restricted to that sum. Sergeant Majors, for instance, are put down at \$1, sergeants at 80 cents, and private at 50 and 60 cents. This, of course, is exclusive of rations; but when the present rate of wages is taken into account, it is questionable whether the ranks could be filled up with suitable men at these figures. We do not propose, however, to criticize the details of the scheme. Viewed as a whole, several considerations may be urged in its favor. Perhaps, in the present apathy on the subject of military organization, its greatest merit in the eyes of many may be that it does not propose a large expenditure. On the other hand, unless the expectations of Col. Fletcher as to the efficiency to be attained were realized, the money would probably be spent to very small advantage. We have already in our Manitoba troops the nucleus of a small regular army; the suggestion of Col. Fletcher is designed to provide a body much more highly trained, and serviceable as instructors and officers in the event of an alarm of war; but there will no doubt be considerable difference of opinion respecting the policy of increasing our military establishment at the moment our neighbours are curtailing theirs to limits which are far from being calculated to awaken the faintest suspicion of an aggressive movement.

We think, also, that the people of Canada at a time of profound peace, and in the enjoyment of very friendly relations with the United States, do not desire, even if they could afford, further heavy expenditures upon the militia, or costly experiments with a force which has been but too much disturbed, trifled with, and discouraged already by all sorts of theorists, to say nothing of how it has been made to serve political or party purposes. Is it not better to have a moderately well drilled, contented Force, with fairly trained officers, who take an interest in their duties, than a large, ill assorted, dissatisfied combination constantly taught to strain after an ideal unattainable by colonial volunteers, with the result of deficiency in that plain, practical drill which is sufficient for all the service our citizen soldiery are likely to be called upon to perform? If matters were well enough it would have been far better to have left them in that state. Neither the militia, nor any other institution, can be tinkered at all the time with good results. We do not argue that the Force is in a satisfactory state, and cannot be improved; far from it. We believe there is much room for improvement but should such a bettering be effected, and the militia be made tolerably efficient, it might be well to stop the practice of perpetual change, and allow the Force to become thoroughly acquainted with its organi-

zation, its chiefs and its duties, so that it should solidify, as it were, or assume the form and character of permanency. Thus a good intelligence and *esprit de corps* would be fostered and the country and the service brought into more intimate and confidential relations.

We cannot say at this moment how the Militia Force, especially the Volunteer branch of it, looks on paper. We however, suspect that if closely and critically examined even in that respect it would be found sadly wanting. But how it appears in the country, what is thought of it by our citizens when regarded, as they have the right to regard it, as a ready means of defence, needs no illustration. There was a time, now approaching ten years ago, when the people were proud of their Active Force. They saw the men in the ranks disciplined and enthusiastic—a fine soldiery body. Now the ranks are broken, only the fragments remain to the fore with the lawdly array of captains, and colonels, and other staff dignitaries. There can be no doubt that the present Volunteer Militia Force is neither creditable, or in a position to be serviceable. Probably no branch of the public service yields so poor a return for the money annually appropriated for its maintenance. In connexion with the service there are however a number of excellent officers. It is not their fault, but that of the system that the force is not in a better condition; they would form a valuable nucleus of a volunteer body of a high degree of efficiency. The reform of the Volunteer Militia is one of the legacies of the work, and not the highest of them, handed down to Mr. Mackenzie's Administration, and the country may be assured that the best under the circumstances will be done.—*Ottawa Times* February 10.

THE VOLUNTEER MILITIA.

Among other subjects which should come under the consideration of Parliament during the approaching Session is the condition of the Canadian volunteer army, which at the present time is in anything but a satisfactory state. No one who is a member of the force will venture to defend the neglect with which it has been treated by Government, and under the new regime the Volunteers will look for the new broom which should clear away the dust which has settled upon the Militia Department. Without, on this occasion, discussing the question whether it is expedient to maintain the active force at the prescribed nominal strength of 43,000 men, we propose to touch upon a few of the grievances which at the present time are driving men out of the ranks. First of all in importance is the want of suitable drill-sheds at the headquarters of several city battalions and many scattered rural companies. It is very certain that in a climate like that of Canada it is impossible for men to drill during the winter unless a convenient building is provided, and wherever such a deficiency exists there is an important obstacle to the attainment of efficiency. Especially in the case of recruits is the want of a drill-shed experienced, as commanding officers are always anxious to get young men who have newly joined well grounded in squad drill and the manual exercise against the season arriving when the weather admits of battalion and other field movements being performed in the open air. Among the cities of Ontario at present unprovided with this important desideratum may be mentioned Ottawa and Toronto, both of which, from the number of Volunteers they furnish,