

possessions. But it is far otherwise with Canada. The Navy of Great Britain can give no protection, and the Army of the whole Empire would take time to array itself for the defence of Canada should the United States of America determine to invade our land. It is certain that the United States could, and would, if she so desired it, put an army into the field which Canada, unprepared as she is at present, could not resist at any part of her boundaries between the Great Lakes and the Rockies. From the Great Lakes eastward the line of defence is stronger, and the population there is so dense that a waiting race might be fought out against fate. Similarly the passes of the Rockies, of the Selkirk and Coast ranges of mountains would present military positions which could be held by hundreds against thousands. This resistance might possibly be permanently successful. But I see no means by which the result of an invasion of Canadian dominion between the Great Lakes and the Rocky Mountains can possibly be more than temporarily arrested, until such time as aid comes from those parts of the Empire which lie beyond the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

We may assure ourselves in case of war, that the Eastern and Western provinces of Canada would be threatened so strongly that all the available forces belonging to those parts will be held for their own defence, and that a centre column would cross the prairies in order to seize the Canadian Pacific and any other railways, thus cutting lines of communication from East to West. It is difficult, if not impossible, to see how, with the military forces at our disposal, the success of this plan of a campaign can be averted. It will, therefore, be evident to even the humblest of non-military critics, that it is imperatively necessary that the organization and provisions for defence of the West should be independent of the organization and provisions for defence of the East. I allude more particularly to the magazines, arsenals, workshops, and stores upon which, not only the preparations for war, but also its maintenance are dependant.

It would be well that Canada should at once establish a military organization throughout every province, which would allow the manhood of the country to be put on a war footing without

any further preliminaries than a call to arms. Such an organization would naturally be a territorial one, each province being divided into districts. No better arrangement could be instituted than to make these the ordinary electoral districts; but these, where rural, should be massed into groups, over which, at all times, there would be the necessary staff. This staff would be responsible for, and carry out the annual training and be a record office as to the classification of the different classes of Active, War and Home Militia, and have in charge the arms, ammunition and accoutrements for the districts forming the particular group.

The mobilization of the urban populations would be founded on the basis of the present military, or rather Militia organization, but it would appear advisable that the cities should furnish the artillery and cavalry, as also such infantry as may be deemed to require a more thorough drilling than could be given to the rural levies. The artillery particularly could be more thoroughly taught in the cities where guns and stores can be kept, and where there would be more highly trained officers available. It is in the rural districts where we would count upon forming that very valuable arm of the service, the mounted infantry. The Militia men of these agricultural portions would mostly possess horses, they are nearly all good riders, they are accustomed to the rifle and gun, and they would possess a thorough knowledge of the country in which operations were carried on. It is impossible to reckon too highly the importance of this magnificent material.

The arrangements necessary for carrying out such an organization as that indicated would of course take time to perfect, and it would have to be supplemented by the establishment of stores for arms and accoutrements; as also by the erection of central and local magazines for ammunition. At the present time none such exists, I believe, for the whole distance between the Pacific Coast and the Lakes. This is a state of unpreparedness which can only be accounted for by an absolute faith in the pacific intentions of our friends and cousins across the line. It is true that these may be similarly unprepared, but then they can afford to wait. Our population is relatively so small, and our weakness is so great,