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## The Volunteer Review,

AND

## MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,  
To guard the Monarch, fence the Law."

OTTAWA, MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 1872.

LIEUT.-COLONEL WAINSWRIGHT GRIFFITHS, at present on a tour through British Columbia, has kindly consented to act as the Agent for the VOLUNTEER REVIEW in that Province.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be *pre-paid*. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and in the corner the words "Printer's copy" written, and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage.

In the last issue of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW the effect produced on our industrial resources by the rise in price in Iron and Coal was discussed. Recent advices state that one Railway Company has actually imported Belgian coal, and it is not at all improbable that "bringing coals to Newcastle" will not be the work of supererogation the proverb was meant to illustrate.

There is moreover another aspect of the

case which nearly concerns this country, and that is the effect an advanced rate of wages will have on Emigration, and consequently on the class from whom the soldiers for the reorganized British army must be recruited.

It is evident under the circumstances that England cannot compete with the lower priced labor and material of Continental Europe in the markets of the world, and that her true policy would be to direct surplus capital to the development of her colonial resources. It is also apparent that a large withdrawal of capital now embarked in the industries connected with the iron and coal trades must be effected at no distant day, therefore the action of the Home and Colonial Governments should be directed towards inducing its investment in the Colonies, where abundant material easily accessible will, to a great measure, restore the balance of manufacturing power in her favor and enable the skilled labor in danger of being lost in pauperism to be profitably employed. It is by measures having this tendency that we hope to see a stronger tide of Emigration setting in. The only fear we have is that English statesmen are not practically equal to the requirements of the hour; hitherto the legislation of the party in power has been altogether theoretical, no practical benefit has resulted from it, and with a mere pedagogue at its head famous for vacillation if not for *coup de theatres* nothing else could be expected.

The *British Quarterly Review* for July last has an article on the "Agricultural Labourers' Strike," which is suggestive as to the value of the statesmanship of the Whig Radicals. After describing the condition of the English peasant and shewing that the manufacturing class had managed to throw a large part of the local taxation on the agricultural interest as well as burdening it with the proportion of their own general taxation, and by retaining an over population in the large towns for the purpose of making labour cheap, and bringing it to competition with English agricultural produce that from countries not blessed with manufacturing monopolies, rendering it impossible for the agriculturist to compete with this cheap labour and compelling him to turn his broad acres into pasture lands—(for it must be remembered that this operation did not take place before the repeal of the corn laws, a measure altogether for the manufacturers benefit)—thereby rendering the condition of the peasant hopeless. The result of all this mismanagement is that the most energetic and active emigrate, and their places are supplied with a worse class of Irish and Germans.

If all this mismanagement were not enough the interests of the manufacturing classes was consulted in the reorganization of the army as it had been consulted in all the measures which led to the colliers, iron workers and agricultural labourers strikes by which the price of labour was enhanced

and material in a corresponding degree; while the selfish legislation and dishonest policy of the Whig Radicals and their masters of the Manchester school has evoked an avenging Nemesis to punish their folly.

It was held forth to the people of England that the aristocracy had eaten up the land, had monopolized the Army, Navy and all the learned professions—forthwith the first effort must be made to revolutionize the Army and Navy—the result, as shown by the *British Quarterly* which cannot be expected to have any very great liking for the aristocracy, is suggestive; at page 88 it says:—"Again one of the most serious consequences which will arise from any notable improvement in the material condition of the peasantry is the effect it will induce on the organization of the Army. It is not too much to say that the system of voluntary enlistment requires for its success that the mass of the agricultural labourers should be on the margin of subsistence. The English army is the costliest in the world. It presents, however, very few attractions to any but the least prosperous and least hopeful of the laboring classes. It is only from a section of the laborers that this army can be collected, for the hot atmosphere of factories and workshops renders the manufacturing towns the very worst nurseries for recruits. It is therefore from the agricultural districts that supplies of men must be obtained.

"It is notorious that the expatriation of the Irish and the clearance of the Scotch Highlands have very much limited the numbers of those from whom recruits were once abundantly obtained; and the present scheme is a grand effort to organize a system under which recruits can be collected at the various military centres. The military reasons which have induced the selection of those centres are notoriously those of offering the opportunity of enlistment in regions where labor is abundant and wages are low.

If, however, wages rise under the operation of the present movement, it seems impossible but that the whole scheme should collapse and that the project for reconstructing the army will rapidly become antiquated and impossible.

"Under the present condition of things in the agricultural districts the plea of enlistment for short periods is an experiment of more than doubtful efficiency. It is not without a serious element: for soldiers taken from the ranks of agricultural labor drilled and sent back to his calling after a period of five or six years will undoubtedly be at a disadvantage when put into competition with such laborers as have been continuously employed and have therefore not suffered in the industry with which they had become familiar to become rusted.

"Now it needs no great intelligence to predict that a section of the population which has been subjected to military drill and the regular diet of barracks, will be likely to be exceedingly disaffected and even