

The policy of both the great governing parties of England has been for some years past to reduce the colonial military garrisons, and to throw on the colonists the cost of maintaining such garrisons as they may respectively desire to retain. And in general terms this policy is just and wise, provided always the diminution of our forces serving abroad is not made the excuse—as it has lately been, and with what wisdom the present condition of Europe bears convincing testimony—for a *pro tanto* reduction of the army. But this is a danger to which we must always be exposed by our form of government, by the operation of which, while wisdom is with the few the power of the purse is with the many, who will never be persuaded to tax themselves to provide against a danger which is not certain and pressing. And whenever, by reason of the withdrawal of colonial garrisons, the number of troops at home becomes largely increased, there is a certainty—except in a case like the present, when war is raging around us—that the public will cry out against the extravagance of maintaining the increased numbers brought under their eyes, and will force on the Government a reduction of the army.

But although the policy of requiring the colonists to maintain the military force stationed among them for their convenience and protection is abstractedly just, it would be quite as absurd and illogical to apply it to all colonies alike as to fit all mankind with boots of the same measure. There is no analogy between the case of Canada and that of colonies like New Zealand and Australia, which have maintained the garrisons at their own charges.

New Zealand is inhabited by savage tribes, whose friendly or hostile demeanor depends very much on the acts of the self governing colonists; and it is fitting that these latter, if they provoke a war with the natives, should bear the charge of carrying it on.

The military force stationed in Australia is principally necessary for police purposes in connection with the gold-fields; and as it is solely for the comfort and convenience of the colonists, it is right they should bear the burden of the cost.

Canada, on the other hand, possesses a vast length of frontier separating her from a foreign nation of an aggressive and jealous disposition, greatly her superior in wealth and population, and with purely democratic institutions, which render it always difficult, sometimes impossible for the executive to control the popular feeling; and if a regular garrison is required in Canada at all, it is for imperial and not colonial purposes. Lord Granville and Mr. Cardwell assert that a regular garrison is not needed in Canada at all; and Lord Granville has on more than one occasion advanced the singular argument, that the withdrawal of British troops would remove what has been heretofore a standing temptation to Americans to attack Canada, the principal inducement being supposed by his lordship to consist in the wish to humiliate England by the capture of her red coats.

This is certainly a remarkable conclusion, the direct opposite of which appears to us to be the true one. So long as Canada remains a dependency, the presence of a hostile force on the Canadian soil is the same in principle as the presence of a hostile force in Sussex or Yorkshire. England cannot escape insult from the act of any foreign power invading one of her colonies by the withdrawal of her troops; neither can she evade the obligation to resent and oppose

such invasion. In view of a war with the United States, it might fairly become a question whether, accepting the obligation to defend Canada if attacked, the maintenance therein of a regular military force would be the best means to that end in the absence of adequate support from colonial levies and colonial fortifications.

In the event of a war there are two possible methods of defending Canada—the one direct, the other indirect.

The direct method would consist in opposing an invading army on Canadian soil.

The indirect method would consist in waging a naval warfare against the United States seaboard, in the hope of inflicting such damage as should compel the enemy to make peace on our own terms: a method which would have the disadvantage of leaving Canada temporarily to her own resources to wage an unequal contest against an invading enemy greatly her superior in numbers and in all the appliances of war.

Now, in respect to the direct method of defence, it would obviously be a great disadvantage to England, if Canada were to be the battle-field, that the communications of that battle-field with its base of operations should be by a line three thousand miles in length across a stormy ocean, while the enemy would be fighting at its own door. The base of operations for the defence of Canada should be organised in Canada itself, and to this end the following measures are necessary, viz:

1st. The organisation of the militia of the Dominion.

2nd. The construction of intrenched camps in the great centres of population, where the arms and stores which would be required for the warlike equipment of the militia and fighting population of the different districts might be kept constantly in readiness for an emergency.

It must be borne in mind that only the volunteer militia, numbering 40,000 men, who can be regarded merely as the advance guard of the main Canadian army, have as yet received any training or equipment. But the intrenched camps would form rallying points for the fighting population of their respective districts, who would find arms and supplies, and would soon acquire some military organisation, within the secure area of the camps. Without these fortified places there would be no means of utilising the strong and willing arms of the population; for the depots of arms and warlike material being now fixed at one extremity of the long frontier, and the communications lying just within and parallel to the frontier, a powerful enemy could easily forbid the transport of any part of these stores to the different districts west of Montreal, and to this end his first efforts would be directed.

Both of the measures here enumerated have, since the close of the American Civil War, been repeatedly urged on the Canadian Government by successive English Ministers; and the Canadian Parliament responded by passing in the session of 1868—

1st. A Militia Law, applicable to all the provinces of the new Dominion, which provides for the yearly training of 40,000 men of the active or volunteer militia, as well as for the enrollment, by a very simple machinery, of the whole male population liable to military service; and the bill contains the important proviso that *the enrolment of the men has the same force in law as their enrolment*, so that the Governor General has the legal power, by a stroke of the pen, to place the whole or any part of the militia of

the country on active duty without the further intervention of Parliament.

2nd. A bill empowering the Government to raise a loan of five million dollars for the construction of fortifications on the guarantee of the Imperial Parliament, the works to be executed at such localities and on such plan as might be prescribed by the Home Government.

These measures were passed against the strong opposition of a large party of economical reformers; but the working of the Militia Law depends of course on the yearly voted estimates, and no expenditure can take place under the Fortification Bill without the previous approval by Parliament of the details; and the Canadian Government will want all the strength they can command to give practical effect to those measures.

We confess our inability to discover on what equitable grounds Canada can be called upon to provide the cost of fortifications of which the object is altogether imperial; and we hold that England would be bound to defend Canada *directly*, if attacked, by the employment of an English army on Canadian soil, even though Canada declines to assume any responsibility beyond the equipment and training of her 40,000 excellent volunteer militia—a force which, in proportion to the wealth and population of the two countries respectively, is much larger than the English army and militia, and even exceeds that army with all its reserves taken together.

(To be continued.)

The annual rifle match of No. 3 Company, Q.O.R., took place at the Garrison range, Toronto, on Saturday, Oct. 15th. Ranges 200, 300, 400 and 500 yards; five rounds at each range; 200 yards from the shoulder, remainder any position; ties to be decided according to Wimbledon rules.

	Points.
1st prize, silver urn, value \$18, won by Pte. G. Fox.....	59
2nd " silver tea set, value \$12, won by Col. Sgt. John Bailey.....	59
3rd " barrel of ale, presented by Thompson & Allen, value \$7.50, won by Sgt. C. E. Gardner.....	57
4th " silver coffee pot, value \$7, won by Pte. John Trotter.....	51
5th " pair toilet glasses and perfumery, presented by Elliott & Co., value \$5, won by Pte. H. Teskey.....	49
6th " silver cup, value \$5, won by Capt. Bennett.....	17
7th " pair salts, mustard and pepper castor, value \$5, won by Private W. Montgomery.....	17
8th " silver cup and box cigars, presented by J. Brown, British Hotel, value \$5, won by Sgt. W. W. Fox.....	17
9th " box cigars, presented by Taylor and Wilson, value \$4, won by Private H. Mace.....	10
10th " satchel, presented by Miss Maggie Fox, value \$2.50, won by Pte. F. Segrain.....	38
11th " butter cooler, presented by Miss Fox, value \$2, won by Private W. Warren.....	36
12th " work box, value \$1.50, won by H. Blight.....	31

John Gordon, Esq., of Gordon & McKay, presented to the Company \$25 in cash for the purchase of prizes.

100TH (PRINCE OF WALES'S ROYAL CANADIAN).—The regiment was inspected by Major General Sir John Garvoek, K.C.B., at Salford Barracks, on Saturday, the 1st inst. The troops went through the bayonet and platoon exercise, and various evolutions, and at the conclusion the General expressed himself in terms of approbation on the soldier-like appearance and efficiency of the men. He particularly complimented Col. Campbell on the high state of efficiency the regiment had attained in the new drill.