

after story as is usual after such convivial meetings.

We understand that the officers of this fine regiment are determined to carry out the desires of the President of their Band Committee by completing their very fine Band with Messrs. Distin & Co., celebrated musical instruments (some of which were ordered soon after he took charge of the Band;) and we hear that the order went home to London by last Saturday's Canadian Mail. The officers of this Battalion deserve great credit for their perseverance in their endeavors to make their Band second to none in the Force. Great credit is due also to their talented Bandmaster Prof. Smith, who has in the short time of six months brought on his band to such perfection that they now play operatic music.

The officers of the 14th give two grand concerts during the time of the Brigade camp in Kingston, the patron of the first, on the 27th of this month, being the Adjutant General Colonel Robertson Ross who has kindly accepted that position.

There are rumors of the different officers for the staff of the Brigade camp here; but we cannot give them any credence until the appointments are made known in orders; nothing can be relied on, and when they are officially made known we will send the names.

A most absurd editorial appeared in one of our city papers the other day, advocating the advisability of doing away with the Volunteers altogether because why? (However as no man in his sane senses could guess the answer I will give it you) forsooth because the Yankees had signed, sealed and delivered the Washington Treaty. That's all as Mark Twain or some body else says—now would any one in the 19th century believe that an editor would suggest anything so absurd? would anyone imagine that because a treaty is signed that therefore trouble could not ensue? Do we not know, alas! that great nations not only make and break treaties now *when the chance arises*. Is any person so blind that he cannot see through all Gladstone's excuses as to Russia's conduct, and the cause of the London Conference on the 1856 Treaty. Pshaw! we cannot think men are like ostriches when chased and make themselves blind. Treaties now are not the sacred things they were before learning and civilization taught men their value lessons.

We in good old Kingston laugh at such editors and let them become Mark Twains.

THE VOLUNTEER FORCE AND THE BALLOT.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

The Adjutant General has earned the thanks of the Volunteer Force of the Dominion by his bold recommendation of the ballot in his last report to the Minister of Militia. Every word in that report in refer-

ence to the ballot is most undoubtedly true and he deserves well of his country for so boldly telling the people the plain truth; a thing not always so well received as when garbled.

There are various reasons why the ballot should be the accepted system whereby the ranks of our battalions etc. should be recruited; but before going into explanations on some of those reasons, let us see why we cannot do without, and at the same time acknowledge that should danger arise, we could fill the ranks two or three times over, which has been proved at the time of the Fenian Raids in days gone by.

It is well known among the Company Officers that the general answer men give when asked to enrol (and the practice of officers doing their own recruiting, we consider to be a very bad one,) is, "Oh what's the use of being a Volunteer now; there's no chance of a row," or "If there is another raid or any chance of a row you may count upon me, but I don't see the use of wasting my time volunteering, now there's no necessity"—these are mere specimens, but good ones all the same, of the answer officers get in recruiting. These, we are assured, are some of the most common among men's reasons for not volunteering, and of course go to prove how necessary it is to establish the ballot. These reasons too, since the famous Washington Treaty has been signed, have actually appeared in the editorial columns of some daily papers—patriotic men those editors!!!

Above we have given one very good reason for establishing the ballot; but before going to the others we may say that the volunteering spirit, the rage, so to speak, for volunteering is gradually dying out for want of some danger to stir it up. British blood is proverbially slow in motive power unless raised to boiling pitch, when it probably boils over; but in these days of efficient systems, breechloading weapons, and large powers of concentration it behooves the owners of that blood to stir it up, so that they may cast off their sleep, open their eyes, and awake to the danger they stand in peril of, if not prepared—in *pace paratres* is the motto of the age—let it be ours, let us act up to it; let us establish a system for our Canadian Army, that the ranks shall always be full in peace, or in war. Let us take example from that once, not long ago either, small power Russia; look at her, admire her organization, her powers of self-denial, her training, and there see what can be effected by a good system of recruiting for her army. But to our reasons for establishing the ballot.

First we place the death of the volunteering spirit among the people—the trouble of getting recruits to the officers. We next come to a reason noted in the Adjutant-Generals report viz., that it is not fair to those who have been for a long period of years in the Force—lastly to one, we believe, most important, if not the most important one of

any that can be named; we mean using the ballot in such a manner as that after every period of, say 3 years, service a fresh batch of men shall be enrolled, placing those who have served in reserves, of a first and second class. With a system established on the plan suggested by our last reason for the ballot we should in the course of nine years have a force, at the rate of \$1,500 a year, in the Dominion of 133,500 trained men ready for service at a week's notice. Of course we cannot in a short article lay down the system of how the mens place of abode, change of residence etc.; should be kept in the different District Books; nor yet how notifications of such changes should be sent from one district to another; all such details are better left to the authorities. It is our duty to place our ideas before our readers, to do our best to better the condition of the service which we advocate, and to endeavor to help the country to obtain a system of defence that shall be second to none in the world.

We understand there are some men in the Dominion of Canada who grudge the money spent on our volunteers; we would merely remind such that if we had no volunteers in past times, their homes and their flourishing business would have been scarcely in that prosperous condition in which they now are; or in the words of the great Cicero in his defence of Lucius Mornna. "The highest dignity is in those men who excel in military glory. For all things which are in the empire, and in the constitution of the state, are supposed to be depended, and strengthened by them. *There is also the greatest usefulness in them, since it is by their wisdom and their danger that we can enjoy both the republic and also our own private possessions.*"

MONTREAL SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTIONS.

STAFF—Commandant, Lt. Col. A. C. de L. Harwood, D. A. G.—Adjutant; Lt. Col. D'orsennens, B. M.—Interpreter; Major N. Labranche, M. R. Rifles.—Instructor; Captain Atkinson, G. T. Brigade.—Assistant Instructors; Sergt. Linton, R. E., Sergt. Porteous, 1st or Prince of Wales Rifles.

The school is progressing favourably, under the superintendence of the above officers. The class of cadets are very superior, and appear intelligent and active in the performance of their duties, the chief Instructor, Capt. Atkinson, was late of H. M. 60th Rifles, and the Assistant Instructors were likewise formerly of H. M. Service. The examinations for 1st and 2nd class certificates are rigid, and no cadet can obtain one unless thoroughly posted up in all the branches of the new drill.

Major Labranche's services as Interpreter, are highly spoken of, in a word the school is a perfect success.—COMMUNICATION.

It appears that during the siege of Paris the asphalt pavement was largely used both for fuel and for the distillation of gas to fill balloons.