

be stricter, as it is well known that a campaign relaxes discipline sorely. The system of property accountability is much stricter, drill more accurate, and service much harder and more wearisome.

Still, it seems to be settled that the experiment is to be tried, and time alone can determine whether it will succeed. By the passage of the law the enlisted man is at once placed on a higher plane. He sees before him the fair prospect, with good behavior, of winning a commission, and, it is plain that this will probably induce a far higher class of men to enlist than could be expected under the 'casto' system.

It is upon this contingency that the experiment will entirely depend for its success. There is no doubt that the 'casto' system, in the English army as well as our own, has discouraged the enlistment of a good class of men. The records of desertion and courts martial and the popular distaste for enlistment in both countries are evidence of this. To make officers out of the present average material of the enlisted men of the Army, would probably be to lower the standard of the whole Army to a great degree. It is to the future material as a whole, and to the better part of that now existing that we must look for our officers to fill the vacancies which West Point cannot satisfy with sufficient numbers. The raising of the pay of sergeants, from whom sixty per cent. and upwards of the future officers are to come, is one measure that will tend to raise the standard of the force; but there will be need of many and careful restrictions as to education and ability to be thrown around the provisions of the Banning bill if the Army is not to deteriorate under its influence. That its provisions will finally have a beneficial effect we doubt not, for they will place the Army on a firm and consistent basis throughout, but the change is so radical that it will necessitate a great deal of weeding from the present enlisted men and the enlistment of a different general class before it can work smoothly throughout the Army."

The following letter giving details of an extraordinary instance of longevity was addressed to the editor of the *Toronto Globe*, in whose columns it appeared on the 3rd April:

Sir:—Since reading your observations the other day under the heading of "A Very old Citizen" and the assumed possibilities of his early acquaintanceship, I have been enabled, through one of his sons from whom I had the information, to trace up a few facts of his history which I have every reason to believe are correct, and which serve to show that in his case at least, without requiring to fall back on the imagination to connect his long life with the notabilities of that era, he had a history of his own both curious and romantic, and through his immediate forefathers directly connected with and participating in that revolutionary period through which both they and he passed.

He belonged to the Glengarry branch of the clan McDonald. His grandfather and father were both out fighting with Prince Charlie in the '45. They were both at Culloden. His grandfather, as an officer holding command of a portion of the clan, was wounded, his leg being broken, and after lying on the field of battle all night was, in accordance with the cruel mandate of the victorious Duke of Cumberland, who had ordered his troops to give no quarter to the unfortunate Highlanders, on being found next morning, propped up in a sitting pos-

ture against a stone fence and shot through the head.

His son, after wandering about in a wretched manner among the caves and mountains of the Highlands, escaped along with Prince Charlie to France; and here it may be remarked this looks extremely likely, as the clan McDonald appear to have been most devoted and most faithful to the Prince in his misfortunes, and at this time, although a reward of £30,000 sterling was offered for his head, the poor Highlanders were as true as steel to him and his cause, and the name of Flora McDonald will forever be associated with this portion of his chequered history, as serving to show the intensity of the feeling in the whole clan, both male and female.

At this period, 1746, Lower Canada was a colony of France; and shortly after his escape this McDonald, who fought at Culloden, was induced to come out and settle there, where at the Cedars, about 24 miles above Montreal, then only a French port, his son John McDonald, the subject of this notice, was born in the year 1765, on the 17th of March and his baptism recorded by the priest of the parish on the 24th of the same month.

Shortly after this son was born his father removed to the States; then a colony of Britain, and it is possible that owing to the taking of Quebec by General Wolfe about four years previously overturning the French domination in Canada; and thus breaking up the French system with which he had then been associated by ties of friendship for about nineteen years, may have had something to do with his removal to another part of the colony.

After being in the States—now so-called—a few years the American Revolution in 1775 broke out, and here we find this McDonald, who had been hunted like a partridge in the land of his birth as a rebel against the existing dynasty of kings in Britain, espousing their cause against the rebellion then broken out, and fighting through the whole of the American War faithful to the British Crown.

And yet there was nothing so inconsistent in this as at first sight would appear. With the simple trust and veneration of a Highlander, accustomed by all his traditions for generations back to look up to a central head in the spirit of clanship as king over all, he in his nature abhorred this overturning of governments without any head at all to take its place.

On the conclusion of the American Revolution he, as a United Empire Loyalist, received for his services a grant of one thousand acres of land in Canada, and settled near Cornwall, where afterwards several hundreds of his countrymen and clan formed a settlement, and are known to this day as the stalwart Glengarry Highlanders.

This spirit of fealty to the British Crown seems to have animated all his family, as we find that one of his sons, this old centenarian who died at Collingwood a few days ago, fought all through the war of 1812 on the side of the British, and that another son who is still living aged 91 years was one of the recipients of the bounty lately distributed by the Canadian Government to all the surviving veterans who could be certified as having participated in that struggle.

So that this old citizen of 111 years of age was, at the period of his birth, probably among the first, if not the very first, Canadian of British parents born in the colony. The year of his birth was nearly the same as that of the First Napoleon, the Duke of Wellington, and Lord Nelson, those great fighting captains now all dead long ago; and

although in humble circumstances compared with such mighty names, he came of the right stock of which heroes are made, and when the day of trial came was not found wanting, but as a loyal citizen was found fighting to uphold the honour of the British Crown as well as the best in the land of his nativity—Canada.

I am, yours, &c.,

DAVID FLEMING.

Collingwood, March 31, 1876.

"The defence of London from attack by way of the Thames is nearly complete, so far as is thought necessary at present. The new fortifications at Oliffe, below Gravesend, and Coalhouse Point, on the opposite bank of the river, have their guns mounted in position, and the similar work at Shornmead, on the south shore, is ready to receive the powerful armament which is lying at the Royal Arsenal for conveyance as soon as the weather is sufficiently settled. These new forts, combined with the older defences at Sheerness, the Isle of Grain, Tilbury Fort, and New Tavern Fort, Gravesend, all armed with heavy guns of the most approved character, are thought to be ample to provide for the security of the metropolis and the Royal Arsenal from the approach of an enemy's fleet."—*Broad Arrow*.

Our readers will be gratified to learn by the above paragraph that the safety of the metropolis of the British race is at last secure from attack by the Thames. Its security from insult and danger in any other direction must depend on the stalwart sons of the soil who have never been wanting to their country in the hour of danger.

The leading article from the same journal from which the paragraph at the head of this is copied will be found in another page, it is entitled "Peace and Panic," and points a lesson which we should take to heart, as well as the people of the British Isles.

Connected with all this there is a natural political law, which no exigency of statecraft should be allowed to set aside, and that is the primary duty of the Government to provide for the national defence without reference to any other contingency.

*Broad Arrow* of 11th March has communication No. 5 from 'Swingletree' on "Dearth of Artillery"—it will be found in another column of this issue—although it possesses little practical interest for our people, it fairly depicts the reasons why the organization in the Regular Service is in such a deplorable state, and why clever young men are deterred from encountering such a state of affairs as the writer points out. We shall watch with great interest for the remedy or remedies he proposes, because something valuable to our own organization may turn up, not that the same evils which afflict the regular service are to be dreaded or avoided, but as we need a large artillery force the scheme for quickening promotion propounded by such an able practical writer will surely be worth something.

Work has been commenced for the season on the Penitentiary at New Westminster.