

third would be say \$5,000,000, which would be the sum we should have to expend on a standing army and navy under present circumstances.

Now, a soldier in the British army costs (including officers, &c.) \$540 per man per annum; ours, from difference of pay and other contingencies, would cost fully double that, or say \$1,000 per man per annum, which would just enable us to maintain 5,000 men, or about eight battalions, with out any naval force, for the defence of a coast line of nearly 3,000 miles. So much for the standing army idea.

The total export and import trade of Great Britain averages about £500,000,000 sterling per annum, or \$2,500,000,000; the cost of the army is about £12,000,000, or 2½ per cent. Our total import and export trade would be say \$200,000,000, which would give us say, at 2½ per cent., \$5,000,000, precisely the sum before stated. Moreover, England, with 1½ times more commerce, is only taxed \$12 per head of population, while our taxation amounts to \$5 per head. Her total revenue of £70,000,000 sterling is 14 per cent. on her industry, while ours is equal to 7½ per cent. on our commercial transactions. Now, it is evident that this state of affairs precludes the possibility of a further increase in taxation for any purpose, because our income is barely sufficient to cover expenditure; and the high rates at which all manufactured articles are held precludes the possibility of further taxation. According to a fair ratio between ourselves and the people of Great Britain, our taxes should be only \$1.25 per head of population. This view of the case is decisive as far as a standing army is concerned, because it necessarily limits the number to less than would be necessary to garrison one of our frontier towns on a peace establishment. But \$5,000,000 per annum would represent a capital of over \$83,000,000 at six per cent. interest, which could be disposed of as follows: \$30,000,000 to equip a force of 500,000 men, which the united provinces could furnish as Militia; \$20,000,000 for the equipment of a naval force on the great lakes, and \$33,000,000 for the construction of the Intercolonial Railroad and the Ottawa Ship Canal—both military necessities.

In the articles on "Military Organization," in THE REVIEW, the mode in which the Militia of this province should be raised was sketched out; it will apply to the united provinces. In lieu of the standing army, a force of 10,000 men will have to be kept on foot for garrison duty; but the term of service therein will only be four months; in fact, this corps should only be thought of as a training school for officers and men, and it should be formed by Volunteers from each battalion, to which they should return when their period of service has expired. A circumstance which occurred during the past year will thoroughly illustrate this position. A certain corps was marched to the front in October, 1865, and remained in service till July, 1866. The inhabitants of the locality beheld with justifiable pride the soldierly bearing of the men on their return; but it was speedily ascertained that they had enough of soldiering for a while, and the greater part resigned and left the corps immediately afterwards. It is true they were well drilled, equally true they were well treated; but they were kept too long at it. The men are not lost to the country; but if they had a recognized organization to which they should belong when they return from service, their habits of discipline would not be lost, and their value to the country would be greatly increased. This is the great evil of the present volunteering system; the

men cannot be kept steadily in their respective corps. The great object, then, would be to give the country such an organization as would enable the public to reap the benefit of knowledge already acquired, and maintain proper discipline without trenching on the resources or liberty of the people. A combination of the old regimental divisions with the volunteering system would meet the difficulty; and by providing a status for every man in the ranks of the Militia, preserve whatever discipline might be acquired by experience, as well as furnish the readiest means of immediate concentration.

This subject has been treated at considerable length in the papers referred to; and the proof that it is the only one adapted to the wants of the country is to be found in the fact that none of the positions laid down have been assailed. The failure of any future Militia Bill may safely be predicted if its provisions are directly opposite to the principles already recognized and discussed, and simply because it would be impossible to carry out expensive measures.

As the question of the defence of these provinces has already occupied a good deal of attention, and as philosophers of the Goldwin Smith school maintain that they are utterly defenceless, it may be as well to state that it is a problem of military science which can be solved with almost as much certainty as any mathematical proposition. Naval preponderance will decide the question, which may be thus stated: Canada, confederate, or without the Maritime Provinces, has only one enemy as long as she is attached to the British Empire. The attention of her opponents could be occupied with the preservation of their own coast line, and the bases of operation against Canada would be confined to two points: that resting at New York, using the old line of advance along the valley of the Hudson and Lake Champlain; and that at Chicago. It may be briefly stated that any attack by the United States from both those points should look to naval supremacy on the upper lakes to insure success in any case. If that was not established, the base of operations at Chicago would be paralyzed and useless; while any force acting on that at New York would be obliged to operate in diverging lines, which every military tyro knows to be unsafe. The Maritime Provinces are left out of account; because, although their frontiers are continuous to the States for many miles, the country is totally impracticable to any force operating thereon. It is certain, then, that the question of defence is removed to naval superiority on the ocean and lakes, or lacking the latter, to a probable advance through the valley of Lake Champlain—the grave of so many military reputations, and, alas! of such hosts of brave soldiers. History repeats itself; and what could be effected by a handful of brave French Canadians in days gone by, against four or five times their number of well disciplined troops, is not impossible to the Canadian people at the present time.

We want an efficient military organization to do our duty to ourselves and the Empire to which we belong.

THE FENIANS IN IRELAND.

The attack on Drogheda, from a Fenian point of view, had it succeeded, would have materially aided their cause. It is a seaport, but the Boyne at low tide leaves the shipping on the mud, hence men of war could not enter the harbor, and gunboats might be reluctant to risk the tidal experiment. The Northern Railway from Dublin to Belfast passes through Drogheda, and has to

traverse the Boyne by a bridge 100 feet above high-water mark. The destruction of this bridge was probably contemplated as a means of arresting the advance of troops from Dublin, which is 24 Irish miles distant. On the opposite or Northern side no soldiers are to be found, short of Dundalk, 16 Irish miles off, and those troops consist exclusively of the 10th Hussars, three hundred strong. Drogheda is on the borders of the county of Louth, of which Dundalk is the Assize town; but the Irish Government last year relinquished the idea of calling out the Louth Militia, or any local force, as many of the Irish Militia regiments are known to be infected with Fenianism. As in each county there is a depot for the Militia arms and equipments, we may be prepared to hear of efforts made to capture them. It is a significant proof of how successfully the conspirators hoodwinked the authorities, and impressed them with the conviction that all danger had blown over, that orders were transmitted by the Inspector-General of Militia, on the 31st January, to the officers in command, ordering the guards which had been placed at the depots to be discontinued, as there was no longer any necessity for their services.

SPEECHES AT THE MILITARY SOIREE AT METCALFE.

In noticing the military soiree at the village of Metcalfe, County of Russell, last week, want of space compelled us to omit the speeches.

Lieut.-Col. Jackson, Brigade-Major, being called upon advanced amid much applause, and observed that although he had frequently attended such appropriate entertainments as the present, he was not always expected to make a speech. However, as Brigade-Major of the District, he felt the deepest interest in all that tended to advance the interests of the force. It was certainly pleasing to see so large a concourse of the citizens soldiery of Canada present. It was gratifying to him and must be doubly so to Captain Morgan. (Applause.) He noticed throughout the District that when the people themselves took an interest in the formation and well-being of Volunteer companies, the movement was sure to succeed well in such places. He was happy to have this to say of Metcalfe. (Cheers.) Many people in Canada, he was sorry to say, held the criminal doctrine that the best defence was no defence at all; but he held that Canada must be defended—and the well defended too—at all hazards. Now that we were about expanding into the dignity of a Kingdom, this step became all the more imperative. He then gave a short and interesting account of the Volunteer movement in Canada, and stated that the first Volunteer Rifle Company in Canada was raised at Brockville twelve years ago by a gentleman now sitting beside him on the platform—Capt. Smytho. (Cheers.) That gentleman was the pioneer of Volunteering in this country. He organized the Company under very great disadvantages, and he (the speaker) was proud to say that he was one of Captain Smytho's first recruits. He was proud, he repeated, to be able to say as much. From that until the Trent difficulty very little comparatively was done in military matters. But we have now a force of 35,000 very well drilled men, able to take their stand, he knew, against all comers. (Cheers.) The district of which he was Brigade-Major was one of the best in Canada and contributed its full quota of Volunteers. The Metcalfe Com-