

they could take the field at once, sufficient time would be gained for the equipment of the paper army of the reserve, our undrilled *landwehr*.

Those corps now efficient, and there are many very fine ones, should be found in every requisite of a soldier, and be really ready to take the field at short notice in marching order complete in every respect. Probably but few could do this now ; perhaps, strictly speaking, none, with the exception of those embodied at the Schools of Gunnery.

One regiment has no valises, another no havresacks ; and none have any proper boots or shoes.

As articles of the very first necessity these latter have had honorable mention from Marshal Saxe, Wellington, and many a soldier since.

In this country, the men of our City Volunteer Militia Corps principally wear a boot with elastic sides, a narrow sole, and very high heels ; the first day's march would lame half a regiment.

A large reserve of good boots for the mounted services, and strong shoes, something like the ammunition shoe of the British Line Regiments, might be kept on hand.

Should they show signs of deteriorating from age before being wanted they might be issued free to the force—which does not get too much encouragement at present—and a fresh supply obtained. It is presumed that boots may be treated of under the head of *munitions de guerre* ; they are not, at all events, *munitions de bouche*, except perhaps in very extreme cases.

It behooves us in these warlike times to see that our house is in order, and to remember that we are part and parcel of a great Empire over which the Eastern war-cloud looms rather darkly just now.

That we ought to do something more towards providing for our own defence, considering the protection so generously afforded us by Great Britain, will hardly be denied.

Even putting aside the sentiments of loyalty and patriotism so strong in all classes in the Dominion, and taking the