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COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

A recent speech by Viscount Wolseley at the battalion banquet of the Artists' Rifle Volunteers, in which he sounds a note of warning respecting the necessity for making preparations during fine weather for the dangers that sooner or later are sure to come, furnishes the text for articles in the English newspapers especially devoted to the interests of the army. The *United Service Gazette*, in endorsing his remarks, calls attention to the fact that ten years ago the Duke of Cambridge spoke in the same strain: "We cannot go on altogether as we are. To say that the pay of our soldiers is to go on as it was sixty or seventy years ago is simply ridiculous. Common sense tells you so, and it does not require my observations to bring you to that conclusion. Unless you pay a man fairly you will not get him. We should be prepared, for it is economy that we should not find ourselves in the wrong boat. It is always wisest to be on the safe side rather than running great risks and bringing about great losses." The article then proceeds to show where the blame lies for the present undesirable state of affairs. "Here we have two of our highest military authorities, at an interval of ten years, preaching from the same text—the insufficiency of our forces. The question naturally arises, why do they speak in vain? The fact resolves itself into this: the civilian element wholly overrides the

naval and military, and to the greed of office are sacrificed our national interests. The Chancellor of the Exchequer frames his budget, not for the benefit of the country, but for the safety of his own party, in order to keep them in office. Cassandra may deliver her prophecies, but they pass unheeded, like the idle wind. 'The country will last my time,' is the motto for each minister who wilfully neglects our defences and imperils the stability of the Empire. 'Unless the ranks are properly augmented, our military machinery will stop altogether.' These are Viscount Wolseley's words; but the nation will be guided by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who will fix the number of men required for the next twelve months—while he will fail to get even this quota."

This is strong language, but every militiaman in Canada will recognize its truthfulness. In this country we suffer in precisely the same way, and from the same causes. Every general who has commanded the force has again and again called attention in vigorous terms to its wants. We do not doubt that the gentlemen who have in the past presided over the Department of Militia would most gladly have carried out these suggestions. It is well understood that Sir Adolphe Caron would do so now if he were able. But, like men whose houses have never been burnt down, our rulers do not seem to see the necessity for a full line of insurance, or for having on hand the best appliances to extinguish a conflagration. Could anything be more true than the words of the Duke of Cambridge, "unless you pay a man fairly you will not get him." And yet we expect to get men for fifty cents a day, when in the labor market they can command at least twice that sum. The consequence, of course, is that we do not and cannot get the men we want, and have to take young lads or the undesirable floating population of our large cities. We refer, of course, to the annual camps. So long as corps drill at night at their own headquarters they are able to attract a fine, intelligent body of men, but when trouble arises these men cannot leave their homes without making great sacrifices. If they are bachelors without any one depending upon them for support the case is not so bad, but if they are married or the support of parents or relatives the small pay is totally inadequate to making any proper provision for their maintenance. If no trouble arises and men in steady employment are sent into camp even the poorest of them have to sacrifice at least double the amount they receive as pay. Sooner or later our government must recognize the fact that they are competing in the labor market for the men they require, and they should not expect to get men at half rates than they would expect them to accept any other government employment at the same proportion of pay.

We see that the proposed team match between the three Maritime Provinces is in a fair way of becoming an accomplished fact. The Nova Scotia Rifle Association having now endorsed the scheme, which was inaugurated by New Brunswick, and which has since been favorably received by the Island. The conditions given strike us as being almost all that are required, the adoption of Martini's being a particularly strong point, and indicating a progressive spirit. It might have been