

THE MILITARY FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

Without entering into particulars, which would lengthen our article beyond due bounds, we may say, that in the common school system, as in operation in these Provinces, everything necessary to a good education is provided out of the Provincial chest and by a tax upon property, with the exception of the school books, the expense of which must be borne by the parents of children attending school. The school houses are built by the rate-payers; the teachers are paid from the two sources above indicated. A very excellent series of books is prepared in all the branches of school instruction, which covers not only Reading, Writing and Arithmetic, with Spelling, Grammar, Geography, and History, but the rudiments of Geometry, Algebra, Chemistry, &c. The school houses are of superior build, and all are generally available. In sparse districts, extra assistance is given to enable the trustees to employ teachers. We believe that the system in operation in the Maritime Provinces will compare favorably with that in operation in any other country on this continent. There are Grammar and Superior Schools where Latin and even Greek are taught, so that boys or girls, who are capable and desirous of having a collegiate education, have an opportunity of preparing for Matriculation in one or other of the Colleges throughout the land.

In regard to religion, there are many sects, earnest and energetic, among which to choose—Church of England, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, and Roman Catholic being the chief bodies. In some districts there may be a want of the Sabbath Service, but this is rapidly being supplied.

To the farmer who enquires whether he will not be condemned to associate with uncouth wild men and women, similar to, if not identical with, the Indian, we have to say that the farmers and peasants of this country are, as a class, equal, we had almost said superior, to those of the same grade in any European land. Their experience has been to them an education, giving them the mastery over Nature, and making them feel superior to their former selves—self-reliant, energetic, and as it were, of imperial stamp.

Young men may wish to know whether there is any respite from toil—any pleasures. We say yes; no country has greater. The piscator will find trout in all the streams and lakes, and salmon in the principal rivers. The moose and caribou in the remote woods are still plentiful. There are foxes, red and silver, rabbits or rather hares, muskies in all the low lands by the waters, and bears, if danger in the chase is sought; coveys of partridges in the woods and clearings, snipe by all the springs, and wild ducks and geese in their season. The fowler, huntsman, and angler, can find plenty of enjoyment, and the gun, rod, and snare, need not be idle.

In an article of this kind, climate is a matter not to be overlooked. That of New Brunswick is cold in winter, yet pleasant, and seldom more intense than in Boston or New York. The cold wave generally extends in force as it reaches our coasts, and the thermometer is found to register a higher figure during the "snaps" than in Chicago, Cleveland, Toronto, Montreal, or anywhere west. In summer the heat is never intense. The fogs which are brought up the Bay of Fundy from the Banks, by the south-westerly, qualify the burning rays, and the inhabitants, not only of inland towns, but also of southern seaboard cities, are glad to fly from their luxurious homes to get a breath of the cool air of Halifax or St. John. If any one has a distaste for "the fog," he has only to get on board the cars or steamboat, and take a short trip of some ten or twelve miles to find himself under an unclouded sky. Among the advantages of these Provinces, we rate the climate as not the least. Even the fog is not an unmixed evil, keeping, as it does, the complexion fresh and pure; and if, as most travellers allow, the ladies by the Bay of Fundy are remarkable for their clearness of complexion, they owe this charm to the absence of those intense heats which whet too soon the delicate colors of their more southern sisters.

The means of travel are various and excellent. There are many hundreds of main and bye roads, trunk and branch lines of Railway, and there are steamboats on all the rivers and bays. You can hardly get out of hearing of the locomotive or the steamboat's whistle. Particularly is this the case in New Brunswick, which probably contains more miles of railway in proportion to its population, than any other country, while good and substantial steamers ply on the St. John River and on its Lakes, and all round the ports on the Bay Shore. The great highways are well supplied out of the Provincial chest. A spin anywhere along any of them, behind a fast horse, will bring to view a variety of hill and dale, of wood and water, such as would be hard to surpass in any country.

The Government and Legislature are similar to those of Britain and her colonies. There are the Provincial Governor, who is now appointed by the Dominion Government; the Legislative Council, and the House of Assembly. The Executive Council are the heads of departments and the advisers of the Governor, and must be in the confidence of the people, who elect their representatives by ballot. There is some property qualification required of the voter, but almost all men have the suffrage. Any man may aspire to any position or office in the Province. Religion is no bar. Catholic and Protestant are alike eligible in the eye of the law.

We trust that, when the position, resources, means of education, culture, climate, easiness of access, political freedom, means of travel, nearness to the markets of the old and the new world, are considered by the intending emigrant, he will choose this country of ours as his future home, to which he will receive a cheerful welcome by those who have found comfort, enjoyment, and wealth, in its ample bosom, at a former time when it took a stern courage to meet and overcome difficulties which the advance of civilization have removed out of the way.

English boots are made on iron lasts, while those in Canada and the United States are made on wooden lasts. This latter fact accounts for the frequent changes that are made in the styles of boots in America.

An exposition of the resources, capabilities, institutions, and condition of Canada would be incomplete without some account of her Military Force. Not that it would, either in its nature or extent, be regarded as formidable from an European standpoint: for Canada has, on the whole, been so peaceful and prosperous a country, that she has until recently been spared the necessity of creating a Standing Force, (which, indeed, is only now in embryo), but has found herself justified in trusting to her Active Militia and to the public spirit which inspires it, the temper of which is indicated in the fact that it is entirely a Volunteer Force. For, although her tranquillity has rarely been seriously disturbed, there have yet arisen occasional calls on patriotism which have ever been nobly responded to.

It may, indeed, be doubted, whether any young and rising nation has ever achieved a scutcheon less marred by misconduct or defeat. From the earliest times it has been unstained. The traditions of the American War of Independence, and of the War of 1812-15, became venerable in Canada, not only by time, but because the Canadian Militia could look back with pride to the part taken by their forefathers in those struggles. But about twenty five years ago, the men who had fought in 1812-15, were few and old. A quarter of a century had elapsed even since the internal troubles of 1837-8. Nothing had intervened to necessitate the retention or reactivation of the forces then embodied, and the then existing organization was extremely limited. A dozen or two of isolated independent companies, and one or two city Battalions of Infantry, the Montreal Brigade of Garrison Artillery, six or seven Field Batteries, and about as many Troops of Cavalry, constituted the military power of Canada at the close of 1861.

Since that period, a great change has taken place. The first impulse towards a larger and more complete organization was communicated by the "Trent Affair," but it was reserved to the Fenian annoyances of 1866 to impart an impetus which has continued unweakened, and which, if then to some extent the result of a temporary stimulus, is now upheld and borne on by increase of population and wealth. In that year upwards of thirty Battalions of Infantry were organized.

A constant progression has characterized succeeding years. In 1867 came Confederation, marked in Militia annals by the control, as "Minister of Militia and Defence," of the lamented Sir George Cartier, whose unflinching public spirit elected to rely on the Volunteer principle alone to conserve the Active Militia. The act which he introduced does not therefore bear on the face of it the appearance of a strong measure, and there were not wanting men of experience who doubted its efficacy. Wisdom, however, is justified of her children, and the call to arms has never sounded without bearing out Sir George's confidence in his countrymen of both nationalities.

The natural tendency of Canadian policy has been to incur no greater military expenditure than occasion has from time to time required. It was thus that organization languished a little for two or three years after 1866. Riel's insurrection of 1870 applied a fresh stimulus. Two Battalions of Canadian Militia formed the bulk of the expedition sent up to Manitoba to quell the outbreak, and contributed a most desirable material towards the settlement of that Province.

Lord Wolseley's experience of this service gave him a high opinion of Canadian military capability—an opinion which he has at all times, as well as in his "Soldier's Pocket Book," freely expressed. In fact, the hardy habits of our stalwart population of farmers, lumberers, miners, and fishermen, their familiarity with the use of tools, especially the axe and the spade, and their general intelligence, orderly conduct, and good temper, render them second to no raw material in the world for soldiers.

In the course of the next three or four years Imperial Troops, except those retained at Halifax, were withdrawn from Canada, and although this measure attracted but little notice, the impression was left that the Dominion must henceforth rely on her own resources. The growing importance of the Confederation compelled advances in organization. It was enacted that the command of the Canadian Militia should be held by an Imperial general officer; and in 1876, the Royal Military College was established at Kingston. This admirable institution for the highest military education, had turned out by the end of 1884, ninety-eight graduates, of whom thirty-four had accepted commissions in the British army, mostly in the Artillery and Engineers. The course is four years. The remainder are, on passing, gazetted as Lieutenants in the Militia of Canada, and are now permeating the Service in increasing proportions, some of them becoming officers of the other Schools of Instruction afterwards established.

These latter are also the nuclei of a small permanent force. They consist of A, B, and C Batteries of the Regiment of Canadian Artillery, quartered respectively at Quebec (city), Kingston, and Victoria (British Columbia).

A, B, and C Schools of Instruction for Infantry, stationed respectively at Fredericton (New Brunswick), St. John's (Quebec Province), and Toronto. Another is to be established at London (Ontario).

The Cavalry School at Quebec and a Mounted Infantry School at Winnipeg.

Military Schools under regular regiments then quartered at Quebec, Montreal, Kingston, Toronto and London, had been established as early as 1864, and for six or seven years did good service in imparting military knowledge to a large number of officers; but the course of the more recent permanent institutions is longer and more thorough, and their influence is every year more perceptible in permeating the Militia with officers of superior attainments.

The Volunteer Militia Force of Canada now consists (besides the above "Permanent Corps") of seven "Provisional Regiments," two squadrons, and four independent Troops of Cavalry; one Brigade and sixteen