

furnish a much larger body of troops than their present contingents.

Taking Ottawa as an example with 22,000 inhabitants, it ought to have at least 3,000 men under arms; it furnishes about 200 and all the cities in like proportions. Now, as a large portion of the capital of the country and by no means a small portion of its entire wealth is concentrated in those centres, such a force for its protection is contemptible.

What is really required is, that every man in those cities and towns capable of bearing arms should, as one of the conditions of urban residence be liable to serve, and required to drill, not as a matter of individual choice, but of necessity.

On occasion of any emergency we have a whole lot of Home Guards and other organizations got up on the spur of the moment and worthless for all purpose beyond that of showing that a military spirit exists.

It seems to be very easy to make those institutions permanent by compelling all residents able to serve to bear arms, but not to leave the city or town except in case of invasion, and that their period of training be limited to the usual civic holdings.

In a very few years a most respectable military force thoroughly available for defensive purposes might be organized and fully repay the community any trouble or expense by its value as a protective force, better than any system of police in existence, and always easily available for the preservation of the peace.

A well trained soldier will always make a good and orderly citizen, and in the case under consideration the advantages to be desired in this connection would be incalculable.

In the event of war the forces in each city would be quite efficient for its defence and would leave the hands of the officers conducting operations for the defence of Canada free, as far as all care for their safety was concerned; a very important item indeed in the success or otherwise of a campaign as it would virtually secure the whole line of communications as well as cover the base of supplies.

A measure of this importance cannot be long delayed, its advantage press on the mind with double force when it is considered how utterly defenceless our cities are, and what an immense loss the country might suffer by the safety of any one being endangered.

With a surplus revenue and every desire to maintain peaceful relations with our neighbours, their persistent aggressive policy tends to make the danger of collision imminent at no distant day, and, therefore, it would be good policy on our part to provide for the defence of our Lacustrine frontier such gunboats as the important interests centering there demands.

Our governing canals are those on the St. Lawrence, they will admit vessels of 180

feet long, 35 feet beam, drawing nine feet water, and this should be the size of our gun boats.

Looking at the matter in a profitable point of view, the value of this armament would be tenfold; in the first place, it would enhance the value of the property guarded; and secondly, the vessels themselves could be used for the transmission of mails between the various ports on the shores of the Great Lakes and over the North Western Provinces.

It is unnecessary to point out to an eminently practical people the advantages accruing from such an arrangement.

Two gun boats on Lake Ontario, two on Lake Erie, two on Lake St. Clair, two on Lake Huron, and two on Lake Superior, would give us material and moral power profitable in every point of view.

The character of this fleet as an armed force should be governed by two considerations, viz., great speed and heavy armament. Iron armoured screw propellers carrying one or two heavy guns easily worked by a small crew would be best adapted to answer the conditions demanded, while the fact that Canada desired no National complications, would lend effect to the moral power, this state of preparedness could not fail to produce.

The attention of our readers is directed to our poetical selection this week, it is entitled "The three letters," and is the production of a gallant young officer of the Canadian army, whose patriotism is only equalled by his talent and ability.

With officers like the writer of those beautiful lines to lead our troops, gentlemen of intellect and cultivation, the Canadian people have little to fear in the event of any complications which may arise.

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTICE.—All communications addressed to the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW must be accompanied by the correct name and address of the writer.

Our gallant correspondent Capt. Wilkinson will find the decision of the magistrate in the case referred to in his letter to be strictly correct, and the proper rendering of the spirit as well as the letter of the statute.

The eighth section of the Militia Act is imperative that six months notice must be given by any man enrolled or re-enrolled before he can leave the service.

The seventh section clearly lays down the same conditions, for it says in reference to the Re-enrollment of the force when it came into operations that "within three months after the day on which this Act shall come into force, all such corps shall be mustered by their captains or commanding officers, the provisions of this Act shall be explained to them, and such of the men as have not previously given notice of their desire to be discharged shall take the oath hereinafter prescribed, and be enrolled as

Volunteer Militia, and each man shall sign a muster roll: and thereafter such men of any volunteer corps, or in any regimental division, as complete three years continuous service in such corps, or complete three years including any previous continuous service in the same corps immediately before such muster or had served three years continuously in such corps immediately before such muster, and are discharged after giving the required notice, shall not be liable &c., &c." So that the intention does not admit of any doubt because the clause last quoted shows that the three years service does not terminate without the required notice the limit of which is fixed by the eighth section.

As the Militia law is founded on the well known social political axiom "that every man owes military service to the country without detriment to his personal interests," it leaves the individual the option of terminating that service by complying with a sample form, and the state can require no more from him except in case of invasion. The ninth section limits the period of service in time of peace, but the act in no way contemplate the possibility of the men of the active or other force, withdrawing from service without giving the commanding officers a chance to fill up their ranks.

In all its provisions the Militia Act in letter and intention is perfectly clear and simple, its object being to create an armed nationality, without encroaching on the time or industrial pursuits of the people, and recognising the difficulty of creating an efficient force by compulsion, it appealed to the military spirit of the people, and the Canadian Army is the result.

It is a pity that such disagreeable incidents as that mentioned in the gallant Captain's letter should occur, possibly the individual was not worth much, but the law was fairly administered in his case.

REVIEWS.

The *Canadian Magazine* for January has been received, it contains Hannah; Lavender; Sketches of Canadian wild birds; January musings; The civil list; A few incentives to the pursuit of knowledge; The sun and worlds around him; The willow and its uses; Royalists and Loyalists, &c.

The *St. John Telegraph*, which is usually well informed on public matters states that Mr. Thomas Potts, who was in Ottawa some day since, has accepted the office of Immigration Agent for New Brunswick. Our contemporary adds that the appointment will, no doubt, require Mr. Potts to proceed to Europe to discharge the duties of his position.

REMITTANCES Received on Subscription to THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW up to Saturday, the 10th inst:—

HOLLIN, Ont.—Capt. Thomas Thompson, \$2.00.
KINGSTON, Ont.—Capt. A. McKenzie, \$3; Lieut. A. Ramage, \$2.00.
QUEBEC, Que.—Lieut. H. Miller, \$2.00.