

pursuit of trade and speculation, at the risk of a possible but unappreciated calamity.

Progress certainly has been made, but it has been slow and feeble, and is far from realising the glowing predictions with which the friends of Canada hailed her advent as a new Military Power. We find fault, not with the numerical strength of the enrolled forces, but with the disjointed and unsupported state in which they present themselves. Indeed, it may be admitted that the total enrolled force of seven hundred thousand men, out of a population of four millions, forms a proportion which could not be well exceeded. This formidable array exists, however, almost entirely on paper, the present law permitting only forty-three thousand men to enlist for the Active Militia.

It must in justice be borne in mind that in a young and expanding country like Canada, it would be most unwise to insist on universal military service of a rigorous and extended nature. Such a policy would check the flow of immigration, and seriously interfere with those industries on which, in the present stage of her history, she so much depends for her vitality and development. While, therefore, military training should be made to fall as lightly as possible on the community, and be rendered as little irksome to individuals as may be consistent with their duty to the State, it is incumbent on Canada to make the most of her resources, and to bind together, by a well arranged plan, the scattered elements of defence. That this has not been done is only too evident from the last published "Report on the state of the Militia."

The men of the Active Militia are enlisted for three years, and receive an annual training varying in duration from eight to sixteen days. Recently the period of training has been limited to twelve days, but the sum voted for the purpose has not been sufficient to maintain, even for so short a time, the forty-three thousand authorised by law; consequently we find that at the training of 1874-75, only thirty thousand officers and men were present. The strange fact thus becomes manifest, that Canada, with more than two thousand miles of frontier to protect, relies on an "active" army of thirty thousand men who can count but a few days' service. Were the Canadian army composed of thirty thousand well disciplined and fairly experienced troops, with reserves of six hundred and seventy thousand men who could take their places as effective soldiers, after a short