

That failing to return should be deemed desertion, and subject the offender to solitary confinement for such term, not exceeding three months, as a court martial may decide.

The foregoing suggestions of penalties are necessary for the times of peace; in the event of war all armed bodies, incorporated for defence of the country, should be brought under the control of the British Mutiny Act, by authority of a clause in our Militia Act.

I now take leave to consider the proposed scheme to call out 50,000 men for instruction for 20 days drill. I presume no less than 2s 6d a day would be paid to each man; this would involve an expenditure of \$250,000 per annum, but the camp equipage, bedding, straw and fuel would increase that sum to a considerable amount. But this large disbursement for pay is very far short of the indirect loss that would be sustained by the Province in its agricultural products, which, added to the amount of pay, I compute at \$1,055,000. See Table No. 5.

I do not submit the foregoing calculations of Table No. 5 as based on data intrinsically correct, but probably they are sufficiently so to show how great the expense such militia drill would entail on the Province.

Contrast this with a system of a Militia Staff that only requires an advance of monies that would be refunded in 41 years, with the great advantage of leaving the rural population, the source of all wealth, to its uninterrupted occupation, as it would require but one parade in the year of the Active Service men to correct the muster rolls of that portion of the Militia for the information of the Adjutant General's Department.

The 80 companies would form the efficient Regimental Staff of 80 Battalions, or say 80,000 men; that in the event of war they would incorporate and drill to a respectable state of efficiency in six weeks; that the 1,560,000 acres granted to the 32 Battalions of Militia Staff for Lower Canada during the first 16 years would, at the termination of 41 years, reimburse the Province for the expenditure necessary to sustain that force, leaving a balance in favor of the Province of \$2,957,090 14. Interest on that sum at six per cent. is \$177,425 40. The annual rent after the 41 years derived from 1,560,000 acres would be \$312,000, and the Ordnance lands, valued at \$2,000,000, at 6 per cent, is \$240,000, making in all an annual income for the Militia of Lower Canada of \$729,125 40, so that the Militia by this system could be rendered self-sustaining to an extent commensurate with our presumed increase of population. See Table No. 4.

It has been objected that the prospect of refunding is too remote to meet with favorable reception. If so let us look ahead and view the result of the present system at the end of 41 years, as per Table No. 4. We will have expended \$16,184,545, and no military security for the money.

I will here add that, in common with other military men, I entertain the opinion that men drilled by a sufficient number of competent instruct-