

Those people who preach most about liberty and liberal institutions, are without exception almost the first to over ride both, while it suits their own interests, and this is a game played before now by the *Globe* and its correspondents; but we can thank the constitutional regime of Canada that *Jedburgh law* does not prevail and that everything must be done in order, even though the *Globe* should exhaust its whole font of black letter type in denunciation.

When the correspondent of the *Globe* brings his witnesses into court with clean hands, and with no damaged reputations to whitewash at the expense of honest men, we will be prepared to accord him due consideration, and to quietly point out the insolence and impertinence he is guilty of, in taking on himself the role of advocate general of the Canadian army without a shadow of authority.

"Oh for the touch of a vanished hand,
And the sound of a voice that is still."

The Canadian Army is tolerably well represented in the Canadian House of Commons, the most distinguished of its members as a legislator is Major ALEX. MACKENZIE, of the 27th Battalion, M.P. for Lambton; as an authority on constitutional usage and political economy, he stands probably higher than any other member of the House; he is, moreover, the leader of the Opposition. At the close of the last session Major MACKENZIE is reported to have asserted that the Militia Department was disorganized and mismanaged, and that the Force consisted simply of a staff of officers at head quarters, and that it was absurd to look on it as an auxiliary for purposes of war, while for times of peace it was entirely too large. He referred to our military school system which was denounced as absolutely useless as they only taught marching, while in the United States "West Point taught not only military movements but principles of engineering, and their men were superior to those of the Mother country. He spoke of the success which had attended the United States system, especially during the war, and said that instead of calling out half organized battalions for camp drill, it would be better to establish more schools, such as at Sandhurst, Stony Hill and West Point. He did not doubt that the Minister of Militia desired to have the department administered properly, but no one would venture to say that such was the case."

In the eloquent speech delivered by the Honorable gentleman on the occasion, he appears to have lost sight totally of the main facts and circumstances on which the late Sir GEORGE E. CARTIER, Bart., founded the Canadian military system; and those were that it was to be purely a defensive force, and to be maintained at a minimum of cost, while the United States maintained a regular army for the purposes of aggression and was compelled at the same time to

provide a staff of officers capable of supplying the wear and tear of warfare, and which during the cessations thereof were employed in the highly useful national work of surveying rivers, railways, coasts, new territories, and superintending works of defence; the difference being that the United States was obliged to find work for its engineers while in Canada they were only employed when required.

With as full a knowledge of the difference between the services as the Hon. M.P. for Lambton, may have we entirely demur to the statement that the United States service has produced as great men as generals, artilleryists, engineers, or officers, generally as the British service, and we challenge the proofs. The inapplicability of such a system as that organized at West Point or Sandhurst is apparent when we consider that either of those establishments would cost as much, if not more, per annum than the whole cost of the Canadian Army, and the recommendation for the change was made in the face of the fact that \$650,000 was curtailed off the pittance allowed for making that force effective this year, and in the session which may be said to have closed with the very remarkable speech from Major MACKENZIE.

Any soldier can tell the gallant Major of the 27th Battalion that the very first thing necessary to learn is to acquire the *art of marching*, and the Canadian Schools were not intended to teach the higher scientific branches of the Art of War, but to train soldiers to fight on their own soil for their farms, homes and clars, and we are of opinion that they have performed that duty tolerably well, considering the period over which they have existed, at any rate it is a feature of our military system which has been copied with approval in Great Britain, and when the army of the United States has written its name in as bold characters on the pages of military history as the force that has done us the honour to adopt a large portion of our system, we will be prepared to consider that they have produced officers at West Point equal to those of the Mother country but not before.

We cannot from our limited space follow the gallant major into these intricacies of the science of political economy, but we are convinced that his propositions would leave Canada without a military force of any kind, and give it at greater cost a lot of scientific pedagogues whose efforts in its defence would be as futile as those of the successful candidates of a competitive examination in the celestial empire.

Holmes, however, done the State service in one respect, and that is, in opening the whole question as to its relations with respect to its military force, and in this aspect political economy as understood in his speech, does not mean economy in expenditure or anything like it. The late Sir GEORGE E. CARTIER, as before stated, devised the

organization with the view of making all classes bear the burthen of military service, and for this purpose while making liability compulsory and a duty, he recognized the value of the sentiment of patriotism and the quality of military aptitude, therefore, he made actual service voluntary and hence the existence of the 43,000 men of the Canadian Army of which the gallant major is so brilliant an unit, and which exists, anything to the contrary in his parliamentary speech, notwithstanding, and is no mere paper force as he very well knows.

Now the direct result of the action fore shadowed by this speech, if carried out to its logical conclusion, would be to deprive the country at once of the Volunteer Force, the great grievance of which is the parsimony of the country, of which the House of Commons is the exponent, in refusing to bear their proper share of expenditure, throwing it all on the officers and men of the Volunteer Force.

The resort of the country must then, be the ballot, and this at once opens the question as to the rate of pay for which a man will consent to be shot at for his neighbors' protection as well as provision for his wife and family in case of his death.

The Volunteer Force cost the country in 1872 \$1,650,000 all told; for this a force of 43,000 men of all arms, including those staff officers about which the gallant major's mind is so exercised, was maintained at the rate of not quite \$40 per *capita* per annum. This year with the concurrence of Major MACKENZIE and his brother officers in the Commons it was reduced to less than \$23 per *capita*, the allowance for the rank and file in a country where any man with two hands and full bodily vigor can earn one dollar and a half per diem, is half a dollar, or 1-third his value in the labor market. If the man is drafted the query suggests itself whether he will not take into account his market value, and a trifling percentage of increase for risks, as well as assurance that his family will be provided for by the *stay at home's* in case he should fall, so that we may fairly set down the solution of the problem raised by the political economists, with regard to the Canadian soldier, that the latter will have in future to be paid for his service at the rate of \$2 per diem on service, and provision guaranteed by Parliament for his family at the rate of pay of his rank.

The question of labor and capital has been studied by those people, and this is the result! We hope the gallant Major will introduce a bill next session amending the militia law in this respect, and we promise him more enduring popularity than he will ever acquire on a committee on public accounts, eminent as his services have been in that direction.

The questions raised during the late sessions of Parliament, decidedly confirm the views that we have always held, "the best and most efficient military organization this,