

in general and Canada in particular. We do not suppose that the government measure promised in the speech from the throne will provide for such a thorough plan of military preparation as we have briefly and very imperfectly outlined, but we sincerely wish it did, for all of the additions to our defences enumerated, would be essential to the successful prosecution of a war were one thrust upon us. Meanwhile the members of the militia will take comfort from the reflection that at last the needs of the service have received recognition, and if they wish to see the cause of militia reform succeed altogether they will each and every one impress upon their representatives in parliament, the necessity which exists for the strengthening of the country's defences.

The members of the militia will regret very sincerely that the recent cabinet upheaval at Ottawa resulted in the withdrawal of the Hon. Mr. Dickey, Minister of Militia, the first minister for a long while who went into the question of the welfare of the militia at all seriously. At the moment of writing it is not very clear what disposition is to be made of the militia portfolio. Some authorities think that Mr. Dickey will re-enter the cabinet; others predict that Lieut. Colonel Prior is to be our new minister. Either of these gentlemen would possess the full confidence of the militia and could be depended upon to induce the government to make its promised militia measure as far reaching as possible. Whoever is minister, however, the government is committed to do something for the force; but we would dearly like to see an acknowledged and tried friend of the militia at the head of the department at this particular time.*

It is satisfactory to the force too, to see the interest beginning to be evinced in the militia by leading men of the Liberal party, who have so often been accused by their political opponents with ignoring the force altogether. It will interest many of our readers to learn that in the recent closely fought electoral campaign in the important consti-

tuency of Montreal Centre the Liberals appealed to the electors to reject the government candidate, Sir William Hingston, among other things as a protest against the cheese-paring militia policy of the government. Mr. W. A. Weir, the chief organizer of the Liberal campaign, spoke at a mass meeting held at Point St. Charles, the headquarters of the Grand Trunk R'y, and the chief recruiting ground for the English speaking militia corps of the city. He quoted some of the articles in the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE showing the disgraceful treatment the force has received at the hands of the government in the past, entering especially into one exposure of the scandalous manner in which the spoils system had been followed in filling appointments to the permanent corps. Mr. Weir remarked that the Liberals did not make a special claim to any monopoly of loyalty, but they loved their country and appreciated the Imperial connection too highly to view with composure the continued neglect and discouragement of the militia, a sentiment which was heartily applauded by the Hon. Mr. Laurier, the leader of the Liberal party, who was present. The attacks on the old militia policy of the government proved the most popular parts of the Liberal campaign speeches at Point St. Charles. With the government pledged to an energetic militia policy and the opposition clamouring for more enlightened and liberal treatment of the force, something can surely be looked for from the present session of parliament.

It will interest many of his old friends in Canada to learn that Vice Admiral Sir John Hopkins, formerly in command of the North Atlantic and West Indian Squadron, has succeeded Admiral Sir Algernon Lyons in the Davenport command. His old flagship, H. M. S. Blake, after an extensive refit, at Chatham, has been put in commission again and attached to the channel squadron.

The British service papers continue to devote a good deal of attention to our suggestion that a depot of the old 100th Royal Canadian Regiment, if not a battalion of the present linked regiment, be located in Canada. The *Army and*

Navy Gazette, introducing some quotations from the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE, speaks of that never-to-be-forgotten band of loyal Canadians who united together and formed the 100th or Prince of Wales Royal Canadian Regiment, and goes on to say "We shall hail with unbounded satisfaction the day when the Royal Canadians have a depot in their own country, where the daily increasing territorial interest in them is assuming proportions which cannot be ignored.

The "Broad Arrow" publishes a letter from E. D. Davies now of London in which he says:—

As one of the old 100th Prince of Wales Royal Canadian Regiment I beg to thank you heartily for your kindly reference to the relationship existing between the 1st Battalion Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) and the land of their birth. Though no fault of their own the men who responded to the call for Sir Edmund Walker Head, Governor-General of Canada, to take up arms on behalf of the old country in 1858, and whose services were so graciously accepted by Her Majesty the Queen, are deprived of the honour of their home. To show her approval of their patriotism, H. M. conferred upon the Regiment the title of "Prince of Wales Royal Canadian Regiment" and further sent His Royal Highness to perform his first public act, both as heir apparent and as a soldier, to present a stand of colours to the regiment which bore his name. Much was written in 1858-59 as to the interest taken in the welfare of the old country by her children across the seas, and the words of the Prince on the occasion above referred to, namely, "Strengthen the unity of the various parts of this vast empire under the sway of our common Sovereign," have been re-echoed in the press from time to time, and more frequently of late. Now, sir, why? Simply I suppose that the time has come in our nation's life when the old country and her Colonies should be more closely and firmly bound together not only for commerce but for means of armed defence, or if you like, federation of the empire. There cannot be surer means of attaining so desirable an end than giving encouragement to the youth of our colonies to join the Imperial Army and Navy. Young men of adventurous spirit are to be found everywhere, but none of more pluck and finer physique than those of our own colonies. One who knows says, in *The Canadian Military Gazette* of 15th Sept. last, that several young men have recently crossed the border, and are now serving under the Stars and Stripes both in the Army and Navy. This is not right, and means should be taken at once that enlistment for the British Army and Navy be made easy in our Colonies. When the 100th was raised in 1858, officers joined who fought in the rebellion of 1837-38, and men joined whose grandfathers had fought in the war of 1813-14. The same spirit animates the youth of Canada to-day, and grant the principle that they have the right to serve in the Imperial Army and Navy, details are easy. There is a splendid recruiting ground for us in the ranks of the Militia of Canada. No one knows the worth of these men better than Lord Wolseley. Sir Frederick Middleton is proud to speak of their behaviour at the battle of Batoche and Fish Creek,

* The Hon. Senator Desjardins, of Montreal, has since been sworn in as Minister of Militia.