

constructed at the expense of the Dominion on the St. John in New Brunswick. The total sum required for the contemplated fortifications would not be several million pounds sterling, but about \$5,000,000; and the money required would be raised by loan on Imperial guarantee, and a sinking fund would be provided of one per cent. The fortifications would not be undertaken all at once, but the work would extend over, probably, five years. He then proceeded to show what amount of expenditure would be required in each year, and what the interest would be. He showed that the greatest amount which would be required in any one year, for militia purposes and fortifications, including interest and sinking fund would not exceed \$1,126,000. This he thought was not too great a sum for the Dominion to provide. Referring to the Sinking Fund, he showed that one per cent invested at five per cent would pay off the capital borrowed to construct fortifications in forty years—and the same at six per cent would clear it off in thirty-eight years. He trusted that these moderate calculations would meet the approval of the House. In a few days he would submit to the House a resolution asking for the first appropriation for fortifications. He then concluded by moving the second reading of the bill. Sir G. E. Cartier explained that if £220,000 stg. is borrowed annually for 5 years at 4 per cent, and 1 per cent sinking fund, the annual charge would be:

1st year,	\$ 53,533
2nd do.	107,066
3rd do.	160,600
4th do.	214,133
5th do.	267,666

and thence forward at the latter an ual rate for about 32 or 28 years according to the Sinking Fund, invested at 5 and 6 per cent. After which the annual payment will diminish for five years in the reverse order in which it is increased during the first five years, so that the entire debt would be extinguished in 42 or 38½ years according to the Sinking Fund invested at 5 or 6 per cent.

Col. GRAY said he intended to confine himself to the provisions of the Bill, without reference to fortifications. In the defence of the country the people must be prepared to bear burdens, similar to those which other countries have to bear. He referred to the population of France, and the cost of the army and navy; also to Great Britain; to the United States, Prussia and Canada, showing the expenditure in those countries, respectively, to be—France \$2.62; Great Britain \$4.28; United States \$4.47 during the war, to \$1.97 at present; Prussia \$1.33 and Canada 25 cents per head for every man, woman and child, showing that Canada has to bear the lightest tax of any of the countries mentioned. He went on to explain the change in the management of the militia from the Lieutenant-Governor, and objected to the 36th clause, which provided that the Commander-in-Chief might appoint any officer of the regular force, whatever his rank, and put him even over the Colonels of the Militia; that the officer in command of Her Majesty's army was not responsible to the people, and should not certainly make such an appointment. He further objected to the clause which gave the same pay to officers and privates when on duty. The allowance of 50 cents a day had better not be accepted by the officers, as it would tend to lower their position. The men in the ranks must be taught to look to their officers. This was the safeguard of the British army, and would prove so to the Militia of Canada if properly arranged.

Mr. Masson spoke at some length in favor

of the Bill. He was favorably disappointed in it, and hoped it would give general satisfaction. The idea had gone abroad that the Hon. Minister of Militia had the same ideas as in 1862, and that we were to have a standing army. He was glad this had turned out to be incorrect, and that, instead of having a general conscription, the conscription was to be limited to 40,000 men. He was glad, also, that in England the ideas had changed with regard to the force we ought to maintain. A few years ago the Imperial Government insisted that the late Province of Canada should have an embodied force of 50,000 men. Now they were not exacting, for he must presume that the Hon. Minister of Militia, before presenting the Bill, had satisfied himself of the assent of the Imperial Government to its principal provisions. He approved the provisions of the Bill with reference to the filling up of the ranks of the active service companies. He believed it would be assumed that the volunteer principle would not be sufficient to fill those companies, and the principle of conscription being admitted, he thought the provisions of the Bill were the best that could be adopted for carrying it out. If the Sedentary Militia, comprising all the unmarried men over 18, were required to drill, six, eight or ten times a year, then the young men of the country, as they would be required to give militia service in any case, would be more ready to volunteer. But under the present system, as to the Sedentary Militia, a sufficient number of volunteers could not be expected. Quoting from a French military authority, Mr. Masson proceeded to say that there were four essentials to a good military organization, viz. good finances, good stores, special corps well drilled and organized, and good modes of recruiting. As to the third point, he remarked that special corps, those of artillery, &c., could not be made effective, by 8 or even 16 days' drill in a year. On the fourth point, he said he would have the whole 40,000 taken from the unmarried men; if, in case of need, a large number were required, he would take them from the same class; if still more were wanted then, he would take them from the married men up to the age of 45. From these two classes 250,000 men might be put into the field. He would also require the Service Militia, that is the men from 18 to 45 to be called out for drill once a year, as formerly, that they might know their officers.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT wished, before discussing the Bill, briefly to examine the position in which we now found ourselves with respect to the defence of the country, what the outlay had been under the existing system, and what had been the results. He found that in the six and a half years, from 1861 to the middle of the present year, that our militia expenditure was \$6,056,000, and the net result of the expenditure had been over 20,000 Volunteers, to obtain whom we had expended the gross of \$300 per head. The working of the existing system he considered to be an exemplification of the system of being "penny wise and pound foolish." Judging by the events of 1866, they did not yield the results which should be looked for from an efficient militia system. Our credit in England had never recovered from the shock it received from the unqualified rejection of the Militia Bill of 1862. The indirect losses we had thus sustained had been very serious. When we first took up the question the people of England were willing to have aided us in a liberal manner, if we had only showed our own willingness to bear our own share of the burden to a moderate extent. The despatch for which the honorable member for Cornwall took so much

credit, and in which he had the pleasure of snubbing the statesmen of England, had very materially altered that feeling, and had placed us in the position of having to pay 7 or 8 per cent, for any money we required to raise in England. As regarded this Bill, he did not mean to say that there were not many valuable features in it. But on one point he did take issue with the honorable Minister of Militia. He did not believe he could give men any respectable measure of efficiency by the amount of training he proposed to give them. He could urge on the hon. Minister of Militia to make some practical experiments to ascertain what amount of training was necessary to make reasonably efficient soldiers, or failing this, that we should issue a commission to military men to inquire into and make report on the subject. For his part, he had no faith in its being possible to make an efficient force unless the men composing it were drilled for several months continuously. He would not insist on six months, but he thought there should be three months drill at least. An experienced commission in England had reported that men could not be kept in a reasonable state of efficiency at not less than a months' drill per annum.

Mr. BOWELL complimented the Minister of Militia on the research and trouble he must have been at to frame his present measure, and thought its short coming arose from his trying to combine the double system of Volunteering and prescription. The member for St. John's had quoted a great many figures to show that a man need not drill but once during his life; this he could not agree with. The member for Terrebonne said that the Volunteer system had only succeeded in the cities. This was not the case all through the country. In Western Canada the county Battalions were as well filled and has as good men as any of the city ones. He also disapproved of that clause which provided for the drilling of the Volunteers and drafted men side by side, and thought it would, eventually, destroy the Volunteer force. In regard to the Military Schools he considered they had done a great deal of good, and was glad to see them continued, but at the same time, he thought the expenses of the Volunteer Officers who took the trouble to prepare themselves to pass the Board of Examination, should be paid. He could not say what proportion of the Military School Cadets could be obtained for service if now called on, but he was sure the deficit among them would be as great as among the Volunteer Officers. He could not approve of the large staff which the proposed Bill contemplated—it was a staff large enough to manage half a million of men, instead of forty thousand. He believed that the Minister of Militia had done his best to reduce the number of men on the staff, but he had not gone far enough. A great deal of unnecessary routine was now kept up which produced no good result, but caused most vexatious delay in many cases to the volunteer.

**AN OLD SOLDIER BURNED TO DEATH:**—The London Prototype records the sad and melancholy end of John Joel, late sergeant in the Royal Canadian Rifles. On Sunday evening last he was left lying on a lounge smoking, and it is supposed that he fell asleep. His clothes caught fire from the cinders of the pipe, and he was soon in a burning state. He gave the alarm as speedily as possible, and assistance was soon at hand, but the unfortunate man's injuries were so severe that he died after enduring the most intense suffering. He had served 21 years in Her Majesty's service.