

of these arms of the service might involve a slight expense; but the expense would not be so large as is the loss incurred in the maintenance of corps which, owing to no fault of their own, remain uninstructed."

THE new government organ, *The Empire*, takes the *Mail* to task for its criticisms, and says: "It is discouraging to all who hold the welfare of our citizen soldiers at heart to find that there are men in the country mean enough to set going the idea that our militia is not being properly attended to, and to industriously and maliciously propagate what might be a natural feeling of discontent in the ranks of the volunteers if they really believed that they were not being fairly treated by the authorities." Further on the *Mail's* misleading figures concerning the expenditure are thus dealt with: "The increase in expenditure of from \$550,000 in 1876 to \$1,178,000 in 1886 wears a different face when we remember that of the latter sum a reasonable amount must be assigned to the natural increase in the service and certain expenditures entailed by the rebellion, such as purchases of military stores, ammunition, etc. The expenses in connection with the Military College, batteries, etc., have naturally grown as the efficiency of these departments of the service had to be maintained, and their equipment made equal to requirements if they were to fulfil the purposes for which they were instituted. But the expenditure of \$1,178,000 is really no increase over past years in general. It is exceedingly moderate, for the expenditure in 1872 \$1,645,282; in 1873, \$1,396,031; in 1874, \$1,186,545; in 1875, \$1,147,170!

LORD DUFFERIN has acknowledged by an autograph letter the simple civility of Captain Brown Wallis, of this city, in sending a marked copy of a local paper containing an account of His Excellency's presentation of new colours to the Hundredth Regiment. The interest taken by Capt. Wallis in the matter arises from the fact that he was one of the original officers of the Hundredth. Lord Dufferin's letter was as follows:—

VICEROY'S CAMP, India, 20th Nov. '87.

My Dear Mr. Wallis:

I am very grateful to you for your kind and considerate thought in sending me the JOURNAL with the particulars relative to the 100th Regiment. It was a great pleasure to Lady Dufferin and to me that it should have fallen to her lot to present a regiment so intimately connected with Canada with its new colours, and I am indebted to your kindness that the words with which she handed them to the battalion should have become known on your side of the water. You may be quite certain that, as long as we live, neither Lady Dufferin nor I will ever forget the affectionate kindness which we have received at the hands of the Canadian people, and that anything that revives the pleasant reminiscences of our stay amongst them is always a delight to me. With renewed thanks, yours sincerely,

DUFFERIN.

### "Vestigia Nulla Retrorsum."

ATTENTION has of late been called to the expenditures for militia purposes, and a somewhat incredulous public has been warned of an alleged but mythical necessity for curtailing the expenses of government in this department. Now, every country worth protecting has in some way made provision for a militia or military system, and for the organization and maintenance of corps drawn from the ranks of its able-bodied population. Canada could not afford nor did she desire to make herself the exception. But success cannot be achieved in any such organization unless much time, attention and money have been employed to ensure it. It is an important step to resolve to have an efficient force at command, but to have that force equipped and properly trained for service cannot be brought about by the mere resolution. Officers and non-commissioned officers, for instance, cannot obtain efficiency at a moment's notice, even although they possess superior educational attainments in civil subjects. They must, in order to command wisely, and enforce the necessary discipline, possess military qualifications of the technical nature appertaining to their several appointments. Can-

ada has found, as other countries have discovered, that troops cannot be conveniently transported, nor corps be adequately maintained, unless suitable provision has been made in advance for these purposes. The resources of the Dominion in men and money are not large in comparison with those of countries more favourably situated, but in striving to make our coat from the materials available the Department of Militia seems to be solving difficult questions in wisely practical ways. We now happily possess a military college, several schools of military instruction, and an active militia, of which three bodies each does its part in disseminating military knowledge. The first gives a complete military education to young men before the time when they should enter upon the duties of a military or civil career. The second affords practical instruction to the officers, non-commissioned officers and men now in the active force. The third provides training schools on a larger scale in each district, by means of camps of instruction in the rural parts, and by battalions in the cities. It is true the existing appropriations for the service are limited, and the days of paid drill not enough for the purposes of actual service, but owing to the patriotic spirit evinced by officers and men alike in the maintenance of law and order in the Dominion, a spirit of self-help capable of sustaining violent shocks from without has also been inculcated. The efforts made in these directions by Canada, if similarly carried out in other colonies, would without causing any considerable drain upon the time and resources of their population produce an aggregation of strength and service which would prove of great value. The active militia has in the past been found necessary to ensure successful government and to protect public interests, and it will likely prove equally necessary in the future for the same purposes. Parliament cannot therefore impair the usefulness of a force it has heretofore aided in maintaining, without interfering with the harmonious working of necessary institutions. It is impolitic to retrograde; and with the constant development going on over a wide extent of territory, the natural desire is for progress. The development and growth that Canada has experienced since its various provinces were confederated, will doubtless continue in a greater ratio as its population increases in number and its great natural resources are more fully developed. With this increase its system of defence and protection must keep pace. If an individual desires to establish himself in any line of business he strives to make himself master of all its details. If when he engages in it he finds it more than he can personally attend to, he seeks for skilled assistance. If he wishes to protect himself against loss by fire, he insures. What is needful in these respects for the individual, is equally needful for the community, and for its various administrative departments. The militia force, and the law and regulations under which it is governed, are the result of actual requirements and of the patriotic desires of the population. The officers and men have served well and faithfully—not on the principle of pay for work performed—because the pay had been very limited in amount; but from motives which rendered pay a secondary consideration. It must be remembered that only a small proportion of the money heretofore voted for militia purposes actually goes to the men, the remainder is needed for the permanent corps and schools and other indispensable items, without which the force cannot be maintained nor can provision be made in advance for possible emergencies. The annual expenditure for militia purposes aggregates about 25 cents per capita of the population. It is a home service, and the money required for its maintenance is expended in the country, the population of which it has enabled to maintain national self respect. It should also be a source of pride to Canada to know that in thus protecting herself she has been assisting in this way, as well as by means of her railways and other public works, in strengthening the defensive powers of the empire, of which on account of her geographical position she must ever form a most important part.