

subject, that a means of intercommunication through the whole length of the Dominion—is a necessity which can be deferred without endangering our existence as a nation. Of the many plans proposed as a means of internal communication, and which would at the same time be of great mercantile benefit to the country, and tend to develop the resources of the northwestern section of the Dominion,—that of the Ottawa ship canal is perhaps among the best. As a military work alone it would be of incalculable service to the country in case of invasion. Sectional jealousy, that great bane of Canadian progress, would, we have no doubt, be strongly opposed to this enterprise, but as we merely regard it in the light of a national means of defense, unbiased by any local predelection, we must say that it affords great advantages to the military welfare of the country. To fortify at any point a frontier so broken and extensive as ours, with our comparatively small population, is a work which it must take years to complete; but nature has furnished fully one half the line with natural barriers which, if properly managed, could be rendered impassable. Upon the lakes we should possess an efficient fleet of gun-boats, suitable to the climate and the service which they would be required to perform; in connection with which there should be a school for the education of our youth in naval tactics. The growing shipping and fishing interest of the maritime section of the Dominion demand that we should give our earnest attention to naval matters, so that in the future our country may not be laid defenceless to the seaward. The subject of national defence and internal communication is not a question that should involve party issues, but be considered by the representatives of all sections of the Dominion earnestly and calmly that the best means may be devised to secure our country from the possible inroads of foreign enemies.

### THE GAME OF LACROSSE.

There is nothing so surely denotes the spirit and character of a nation; and the aptitude or unfitness for war, as their national field games. The hardy sports of the ancient Greeks were the schools which fitted them for those martial exploits which won them at one time the foremost rank among the nations, and it was only when those games were neglected that the warlike, adventurous spirit which they were calculated to inspire, left them, and they sank from their former lofty position and became as weak as the most effeminate race they ever conquered in the days of their glory. While manly and athletic games were practiced and encouraged among them they were invincible, for their youth had been trained in all hardy exercises, till, when they were capable of bearing arms, they were more expert in war than the veterans of other nations. It is owing to the

national game of cricket, and the universal love for all kinds of manly exercises and field sports among the English, that centuries ago they became one of the foremost nations in the world, and still retain the proud position. The pluck and endurance called forth by the fine old game of cricket is the true source of the stamina of the British troops, who would rather be annihilated than acknowledge a defeat. Until recently there had been no established national game among the Canadians. It is true they have always displayed a strong partiality for all manly field exercises, but no one in particular had ever become so popular with us so as to entitle it to the appellation of a national game. Cricket has always been a favorite sport among our youth and ever will continue so, and there are many excellent cricket clubs throughout the country, but a game more suited to the Canadian taste, and which is in some respects superior even to cricket, has gradually won its way, till it has become our national game. Lacrosse was originally an Indian game, and was played almost exclusively by the aborigines of Canada, who were passionately fond of it. Exciting matches frequently took place between the numerous tribes that once inhabited this country, and they often resulted in bloodshed, for notwithstanding all the rubbish that has been written about the dignity of the Indian, before the days of civilization in Canada, he has always been a very excitable animal. The variety of play, the agility of speed and endurance requisite in playing the game, and the advantage it possessed of allowing all parties to be engaged at the game, in time attracted the attention of the whites, and a few years ago a party of white men organized a Lacrosse club, and numerous matches took place between them and the aborigines, and almost generally terminating in favor of the latter. But the superior intelligence of the whites, and their "never say die," persevering spirit at length prevailed. They reduced the game to system, and turned the scale of victory in their own favor. It is rarely now that an Indian Lacrosse club defeats a Canadian one. The beauty and simplicity of the game was its own recommendation, and almost imperceptibly within the last few years, it has become universal throughout Canada. The English acknowledge its superiority over their own national game, and have introduced it into the mother country, where it has already become very popular. They have entered on it with that determination to excel by which they have achieved so many victories throughout the world, and we expect soon to hear a challenge to a trial of skill sent from across the Atlantic to some of our champion Lacrosse clubs. It would be well for our players to practice in anticipation of such a match, and show to the world that if the game originated in Canada, Canadians will ever continue its champions.

### MILITARY RULE IN THE SOUTH.

The following, which we take from an esteemed cotemporary, speaks for itself, and we heartily indorse the sentiments expressed. It is something to see that the rabid northern press of the United States is beginning to awaken to a sense of the disastrous policy pursued by the "Rump Congress."

The New York *Express* draws attention to the fact that a large number of Southerners, unable to live under despotic rule of the military Bashaws, are about emigrating to Canada with a view of making this country their future home. The *Express* says:

"We regret to learn that many citizens of the South are sending their families to Canada, and that most of them are led to this change of residence by the ruinous policy of the Jacobins in and out of Congress. In some parts of Alabama and Mississippi, in the large towns and cities, the audacity of the negro has become so great, and the disposition so general among officers of the Freedmen's Bureau, and others in authority, to wink at, sanction, or pass over these outrages, that as a matter of safety, many persons in the South are sending their wives and daughters out of the country. Canada is a favorite resort, because living in less costly there even at gold prices, than in the large cities of the North. The absence of an inflated currency has been of immense advantage to the Canadians, and would be to us."

The Southern immigrants may rely upon it that they will be hospitably received in Canada, where social and political rights such as they have never before enjoyed, will be accorded to them. The "New Dominion" offers a home to the oppressed of all the world!—*Hamilton Spectator*.

### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTICE.—All communications addressed to the Editor of the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW*, must be accompanied by the correct name and address of the writer, to insure attention.

"F. O." MONTREAL.—There is no Peace or War establishment in the British army. The strength of Regiments vary according to station and the nature of the service on which they are employed. Regiments, and each separate Battalion of Regiments, in England, Ireland and Scotland, number 12 companies. A corps in India numbers eight, the remaining four being left at home to form a Depot. In the Colonies and the Mediterranean a Regiment contains ten companies, two being left to form a Depot. The Depots of several Regiments stationed at one place form what is called a Depot Battalion, and is commanded by a Lieut.-Colonel and possesses a staff nearly the same as an ordinary Regiment.

"MILITIAMAN."—The stations of the British Army and Navy are generally classed as Home, Foreign and Colonial. Home stations are those in or about the British Islands. Foreign, the Mediterranean, East and West Indies; and Colonial, any of the Colonies. We may, however, state, that, in official documents, those places all come under the head of "Service Abroad."

"X. Y."—By no means.