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IN the event of war with the Transvaal, which at the moment of writing seems inevitable, Canadians will have an opportunity to prove their attachment to the Empire in a practical way. The Militia Department has decided, in case of hostilities, to call for volunteers for an eight-company battalion, composed of 29 officers and 981 men, a squadron of cavalry composed of 6 officers and 154 non-commissioned officers and men, and 161 horses, and a battery of field artillery composed of 5 officers, 166 non-commissioned officers and men, 131 horses and 6 guns. We venture to predict that a great many more than the necessary number of officers and men will offer their services, but as there will doubtless be a rigid medical examination, and as the force will be made up from all parts of Canada, by allotting a certain number of officers and men to each military district, in proportion to the number of militia therein, the difficulty of over-supply can be solved. LIFE learns, on unimpeachable authority, that the command of the infantry battalion will be offered to an experienced officer of the British army—probably Col. Ivor Herbert, formerly General Officer Commanding the Canadian militia. The organization of the forces enumerated will afford young Canada a splendid opportunity to work off some of the surplus military enthusiasm that has been accumulating so long, with no vent save the annual camps of instruction and an occasional church parade. Doubtless the Montreal district, in the event of a call being issued, will send its full share of men to the front to do battle for the interests of what is to-day, more than ever before, a united Empire. French-Canadians, no doubt, will be as ready as their English-speaking fellow-citizens to enlist for service, and will thus display that military spirit which is one of the characteristics of their race—but a characteristic, as General Hutton has pointed out, that has become dormant in this country through inattention on the part of those in authority and the lack of a cause to stir it into life.

RAILWAY earnings afford an infallible index of national prosperity. That the net profits of the Canadian Pacific Railway should have increased in the first eight months of this year by \$1,225,000 over the corresponding period of 1898, is good proof, if proof were required, that Canadians are buying and selling more goods and spending more money for railway fares than ever before. The statement is also prima facie evidence that this great corporation continues to be managed with the care and efficiency that have made it successful even in times of depression.

APARTMENT houses, mansions, flats, tenements, or whatever buildings that contain a number of private establishments under a common roof and with a common entrance

may be termed, have generally been considered good safe investments. There are two large ones in Montreal, owned by Mr. Fisher, which are well managed, and yield him a good revenue. Mr. Gault is erecting another, embodying the latest improvements, and he seldom touches anything that is not a dividend payer. In Toronto, plans have just been completed for the first of such buildings, to be situated on St. George street, one of the fashionable streets of the city, and to be owned by a private capitalist. In the West End of London, where living in apartments is much in vogue, these mansions are owned chiefly by limited liability companies, which pay from 7 to 20 per cent. to the shareholders, who also benefit from a steady advance in the stock owing to the increasing value of land.

THE football season opened in earnest on Saturday last, with a practice match between the Britannia's senior team and Westmount. Although the former won by 18 to 0, their playing was disappointing to the critical eye, and they should have run up a bigger score than they did. They are strong on the line, but behind the line are not all that could be desired. However, hard practice this week has doubtless strengthened the weak places, and in the first big game of the season with the Montreals, to-morrow, the Britannias may show to better advantage. The junior game between Montreal and Point St. Charles was a poor performance from the spectator's point of view, owing to the weakness of the latter team, which contains some good material but is poorly drilled.

MR. JAMES SUTHERLAND'S elevation to the cabinet, as a Minister without portfolio, recalls the story that the shrewd and popular whip was slated for a department when the Laurier administration was first organized, but that he stepped aside in favor of Mr. Paterson, now Minister of Customs. Mr. Sutherland not only sacrificed himself at that time in the interests of Mr. Paterson, but when the latter, who had been defeated in the general elections, went into North Grey to find a seat, the whip went with him and directed his campaign, working night and day in one of the fiercest bye-elections that ever took place in the Dominion. Whether the system be right or wrong, this kind of party loyalty as a rule gets its reward in the long run. Ontario is to be congratulated on the strengthening of her representation in the Cabinet, but what about the Quebec members who regarded themselves as the legitimate successors of the late Mr. Geoffrion?

MR. EDGAR FAWCETT, the American author, in a letter from London refers to the recently announced engagement of Miss Aimee Lawrence, a well-known young girl of New York society, to a grandson of the Duke of Argyll and a nephew of the Marquis of Lorne, and says that it makes one think of certain peculiar developments which might have occurred, but did not, from the marriage of the Princess Louise. Her wedding took place nearly 29 years ago, and no children have sprung from it. That the union would be one without issue, nobody supposed. That the old Duke of Argyll would live on to his present age of almost 80, was held improbable. Both events, however, have happened. But provided children had been born to Lord Lorne, their positions (all except that of an eldest son) would have proved rather drolly anomalous. An eldest son would probably have received the courtesy title of Earl Campbell, but all other children, though belonging to the Royal family, would have had to content themselves with plain "Mr." and "Miss." They could not take the titles accorded to children of a marquis, for their father would be (as he now is) a simple commoner before the law, and hence his offspring would have been the same. It is all very well to say that the Queen "might have done something for them," but it is hard to see what she could have done for them, without creating a most invidious precedent.