

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All Communications regarding the Militia or Volunteer movement, or for the Editorial Department, should be addressed to the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW, Ottawa.

Communications intended for insertion should be written on one side of the paper only.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Correspondents must invariably send us, confidentially, their name and address.

All letters must be Post-paid, or they will not be taken out of the Post Office.

Adjutants and Officers of Corps throughout the Provinces are particularly requested to favor us regularly with weekly information concerning the movements and doings of their respective Corps, including the fixtures for drill, marching out, rifle practice, &c.

We shall feel obliged to such to forward all information of this kind as early as possible, so that may reach us in time for publication.

OUR AGENT.

We beg to notify our numerous friends and subscribers that Mr. J. J. BELL is authorised to act as General Travelling Agent for THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW; to receive subscriptions and transact any other business connected with the paper.



The Volunteer Review,

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,
To guard the Monarch, fence the law."

OTTAWA, MONDAY, APRIL 6, 1868.

ANY-BORE SIMULTANEOUS MATCH.

We take following from the English Volunteer Service Gazette, of the 14th ult:—

To the Editor of the Volunteer Service Gazette.

SIR,—In order that competitors may be enabled as soon as possible to arrange their various engagements for the coming season, will you allow me to state that the three competitions in the Any bore Simultaneous Match will take place in the three weeks of June 1—20. The Rules will be issued in April; meanwhile it may be interesting to know that, besides the squads entering in Australia, we are promised two squads of competitors in Canada on this occasion. The matches will be (1) at 500 and 600 yards, (2) at 900 and 1,000 yards; ten shots at each range. Both matches may be fired on the same day. There will also be a match between Club Squads.—Yours faithfully,

J. MacGREGOR.

Temple, March 11, 1868.

As some of our Volunteers are anxious to participate in these matches, we hope no time will be lost, by the various Rifle Associations, in making the necessary arrangements for competition with their brethren in England, who thus afford them a good opportunity for displaying their skill.

THE NEW MILITIA BILL.

This measure so long and anxiously expected has at length been laid before the House of Commons by the Hon. Mr. CARTIER, who in doing so gave a complete and exhaustive exposition of the proposed measure which was received very favorably by the House. The new Bill while combining cheapness with economy is framed upon the principle to which we have before alluded in these columns, viz: the education of the whole male population for defensive purposes, in preference to creating a distinctive Militia element; or, in other words, arming the nation instead of establishing a standing army. The Hon. Minister of Militia in framing his measure has shown no small amount of discrimination and tact with knowledge of the subject with which he had to deal. There can be no doubt but this question is one of the most momentous and difficult problems which the Government has to solve, but there can be little doubt but the measure proposed is about the best that could be devised under the very peculiar circumstances of our country. The Bill divides the Militia into two great divisions, the Active and Reserve. The former, as we understand it, to consist of the forces actually enrolled or those liable to be called upon to serve between the ages of 18 and 60. The whole male population of the country being divided into four classes, the first between 18 and 30, unmarried and widowers without children. The second those from 30 to 45 years of age of the same class. The third to be composed of those from 18 to 45 married men and widowers with children, and the fourth and last class to consist of all between the ages of 45 and 60.

This division of the population, we think, is about the best that could be made considering the condition of the people socially and otherwise. The first class to be called upon to serve are those whose withdrawal from the usual pursuits of life will be least injurious to the country, as it consists entirely of the floating or unsettled portion of the male inhabitants; and is actually the element, should danger arise, that would be the most likely to swell the ranks of the Volunteers. But perhaps one of the best features of the proposed law is that which provides for the training of Officers for the whole force. The division of the Dominion into nine Districts which are again subdivided into Regimental and Company Divisions, will give a force of not less than 40,000 men for training each year. By some this number may be considered rather small, but when we come to consider that the possibility of a larger force being required is very improbable, and if such should be the case the elasticity of the system admits of an increase to any amount required; besides it would not be judicious to draw any considerable number of the people from active pursuits for even a short period, for, in a country where every one

must labor of necessity in some capacity, it is desirable that as little drain as possible should be made upon their resources.

This Bill which places the whole force of the Dominion on one footing also extends to the Maritime Provinces the benefits of the Military Schools, where they will be established under its provisions. But apart from the mere details of the measure, the Minister of Militia has wisely framed its provisions in reference to our dependence upon the Mother Country, the whole power of which would be exerted in our behalf in the event of war. In this respect the large addition to our forces of 70,000 sea-faring men gives the Dominion the means for the creation of a Naval power which would make a respectable comparison, considering our population, with any nation in the world. But it is not contemplated to interfere with this class unless in the event of hostilities, for they, more than any other portion of the people, would suffer by interruption of their regular pursuits.

The various details necessary for the carrying out of the system has, very properly, we think, been omitted, and left to be arranged by order in Council, from time to time as the exigencies of the service may require. For the nine Military Districts there will be a Staff Officer in command of each with a sufficient staff to carry out efficiently the provisions of the law. The expense attending these appointments will be slight in comparison to the service they will render to the efficient organization of the Militia, and the means they will provide for the mobility of the force.

The exemptions from service are very few, in fact only those who it would be impossible to remove from their ordinary duties, such as Judges; even Quakers under certain circumstances will be required to enrol themselves. There is also a great improvement in the manner of enrollment; the old system under the assessment laws could never be made to work satisfactorily, Captains of Companies will be empowered to make the enrolment for their Company Division, and have the right to make all necessary inquiries for that purpose.

The whole amount of money required to carry out this scheme is estimated at \$900,000. Taking the proposed measure in all its bearings we think it is a vast improvement upon any of a like nature ever submitted to the country, and we think it is every way calculated to meet the requirements of the Dominion for establishing a uniform, complete and comparatively cheap means of defence. We would like to see more liberal allowance to Volunteer officers for, after all, it is mainly upon them that the efficiency of the Force will in a great measure depend. There can be no doubt but that, in assuming the responsibilities of the office of Minister of Militia, Mr. CARTIER had to face difficulties of no ordinary nature, but the energy of his character and the care and labor he brings to every task he undertakes, well qualifies him to deal with the difficulties of his position, and we are glad to see he has so well performed his part, which is indeed what we fully expected and were prepared for.