

The memorialists in order to provide for the increased expenditure necessary for the support of an efficient force, recommend that an annual tax for militia purposes shall be levied from each man "liable for duty but not actually serving in the militia."

Upon these principles, based on the expressed opinions of statesmen and of practical men who have long made the subject their study, I have no hesitation in expressing my conviction, that in the establishment of the militia alone rests our opportunity for securing a sufficient, efficient, and satisfactory military organization in Canada.

CENTURION.

December 1st.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—In a former letter I suggested the idea of raising troops in England for service in the small army which Canada will be obliged to maintain owing to the withdrawal by the Imperial Government of the last of the regulars, and I gave it as my opinion that we would find it very difficult to get the men here even at three times the pay of the regular soldier. I think the extreme difficulty which has so far been experienced in recruiting A and B Batteries of Artillery will bear out what I have said, and it is to be hoped that the Government will see fit to find some more effective and economical way of raising men.

The Imperial Government while taking away their troops, the material evidence of their protectorate of this country, profess to do so only as a matter of policy and expediency, and in a vague sort of way promises to help us with all the force of the empire should we ever require it. Now, might not our Government, by way of getting a slight pledge of this from a political party whom, as colonists, we cannot help distrusting, ask that the Canadian troops be gazetted and placed in the army list in the same manner as are the Ceylon Rifle Regiment, the Cape Mounted Rifles, the late Royal Canadian Rifles and the Royal Malta Fencible Artillery? This would keep the Canadian army before the eyes of the English public, and in the event of any trouble would necessitate its support by Imperial troops. Not that we can doubt the good faith and sympathy of the English people, but a Government which would evacuate Quebec and propose to surrender Gibraltar would in its timidity do almost anything to purchase peace unless bound by something tangible, which I think the presence of our troops in the Imperial army list would be.

In conclusion, I cannot help noticing with regret the remarks of your correspondent "G.W." (whose letters and Notes and Queries have always been such an interesting feature in the Review, and who has rendered good service to the country) as to the disposition and conduct of H.M. troops who have just left us. I am sure every one who has been brought in contact with them will

admit that their departure will cause a blank in many a social circle, and by none will they be more missed than by the Canadian Militia whose instructors they have been, and whose pride has always been to show that their lessons, taught both in the field and in camp, have found willing and apt pupils and who will ever remember with friendship and admiration the British soldier.

Yours truly,  
VOLUNTEER.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—I see in your issue of the 4th Dec. an article which I cannot allow to pass without notice.

You refer to Capt. Scott's force of 200 men making the journey to Fort Garry from Collingwood in twenty eight days, and you proceed to draw most unfair comparisons with reference to the expedition commanded by Sir Garnet Wolseley. You seem to forget that there is no analogy between the two cases—in one case 200 men went up, in the other nearly 1200, who, anticipating opposition as they did, had to carry with them three months provisions and have a large reserve at Prince Arthur's Landing. The first expedition left Collingwood on the 21st May instead of the 14th as you mention—they were delayed by the U. S. authorities at the Sault St. Marie, so that the last detachment did not leave there until the 21st June, as late as the 18th June a portion of Dawson's road was still untouched and nearly two months delay was occasioned by the trouble of getting all the boats and provisions up to Iak-Shebandowan. Colonel Wolseley's men had to cut out and prepare every portage except the first two, they went by the Winnipeg river, a route 150 miles longer, making 47 portages in all going up, and the men had to pull almost every foot of the 650 miles.

On the other hand Capt. Scott's men took little or no provisions, were not delayed at the Sault, had Dawson's road completed for them, and the boats already at Shebandowan, so that two days took them over what required six or seven weeks for the first expedition. Every portage was cut off and prepared, the route was 150 miles shorter, seven steamers were on the stretches to tug the boats instead of them having to row themselves, and they had only 16 portages instead of 47.

A fairer way to look at it is by taking the return of the 60th and the volunteers they travelled about as lightly as did Capt. Scott's men, came up the Winnipeg river with the current against them all the way, the 60th had no steamers to assist them, the Volunteers only two. They had 52 portages to go over, and with no necessity for speed the Volunteers only took 27 days to Thunder Bay, as to marching from Shebandowan they both did the distance in two days.

Comparisons are odious and it is out of place in referring to the services of another body of men, especially when there is no

fair ground of comparison, and when both services were well and thoroughly performed, I have no desire to detract from the services of Capt. Scott and his men for they suffered great hardships, but I do not like to see the opportunity taken to cast a slur upon that gallant officer Colonel Wolseley without any ground except to please Sir George Cartier, who cannot respect any man that will not allow him to dictate to him, and I can assure you that Capt. Scott's men themselves will be the last to accept praise to them at the expense of Sir Garnet Wolseley, who is highly respected by the whole Volunteer Force and by all the British people of the Dominion.

With regard to the staff the following is said "The promptitude with which this detachment was organized speaks more fully to the value of our Militia system than the most laboured exposition, and it shows what energy, power of concentration and discipline is contained in our Militia Department and Military staff, the whole working machinery of which is confined to our Military chief with three or four subordinates." This is a good joke; why I could name twelve or fifteen Majors and Colonels who were up at Toronto and Collingwood looking after these 200 men, it was the talk of every body about the number of Brigade Majors and Colonels rushing all over the country with half a dozen men, and every body laughed when they heard of a Lieutenant and two Colonels leaving Quebec with six men as was duly chronicled by telegraph in the public press.

Yours &c.

SUBSCRIBER.

We have the full figures of American commerce for the year ending June 30th. 1871. Foreign goods marketed \$402,000,000, customs received thereon \$207,500,000 domestic produce sent abroad \$412,000,000, net outgo of gold and silver \$80,000,000.

A "Lombard" telegram from Amsterdam states that very successful experiments have been made in Nieuwediep with torpedoes. One torpedo, having been under water two years, when ignited by an electric spark destroyed a gunboat entirely. "The Engineer" learns that the Admiralty have given directions for the captains of Her Majesty's ships at Portsmouth and Devonport to make themselves practically acquainted with the working of Harvey's sea torpedoes, facilities being afforded them for this purpose. The Italian Government have ordered a number of these torpedoes, both large and small. Captain Harvey has been requested to hold himself in readiness to proceed to Holland for the purpose of giving instructions in the use of his invention.

Lieut.-General M. S. Korsakoff, Governor General of Eastern Siberia for the past ten years, died recently in St. Petersburg, at the age of forty four years. His family was one of the most noted in Russia, and enjoyed the favor of the Emperor Nicholas to such an extent that the subject of this memoir was envied for the rapidity of his promotion, which was due to the steady interest of the Czar in his behalf. He was a warm friend of America and the Americans, and never omitted an opportunity to show his appreciation of the Great Republic.