

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

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TO CORRESPONDENTS:

All Communications regarding the Militia or
Volunteer movement, or for the Editorial Depart-
ment, 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 com-
munications. 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 in-
formation of this kind as early as possible, so that
it may reach us in time for publication.

OUR AGENT.

We beg to notify our numerous friends and sub-
scribers 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, JUNE 22, 1868.

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW has been since its
first appearance mainly devoted to the task
of disseminating a knowledge of the princi-
ples of military science in the highest ac-
ception of the term. It has dealt with the
question of naval and military strategy,
principally in connection with events which
have taken place on this Continent, and its
conductors propose to extend its scope of
action to criticisms on the art of war, as
practised in other countries. As it is the
only periodical in Canada free from party
bias, its advocacy of measures other than
such as are connected with military affairs,
will be undertaken in the interests of the
country, always holding in view the fact
that while it is necessary we should become an
armed nation, it is neither the interests nor object
of the Canadian people to become a nation of
mere soldiers. Therefore, while it is every
man's duty to acquire as thorough a know-
ledge of military science in theory and
practice as his leisure will permit, it is also
his duty and interest to acquire a knowledge
of political science in relation to its appli-
cations to the development of the interests
of his country. The VOLUNTEER REVIEW

therefore, in fulfilment of its mission will
lay before its readers essays on the material
interests of the Dominion, and the most
proper and obvious means for developing the
same, keeping steadily to the fact that while
they are soldiers they have not ceased to be
citizens.

To every true hearted and loyal man
the question must have frequently arisen as
to what would be the best method of ad-
vancing the interests of the British Empire
on this Continent, and that without rivalry
or ill feeling towards the neighboring States
—offshoots from the great parent stock to
which we belong, and still in many respects
as much British Colonies as when the Red
Cross of St. George overshadowed their land.
The recent union of the British Provinces
by giving homogeneity to those Colonies which
preserved their allegiance, renders the ques-
tion one of immediate and imperative im-
portance, because politically there can be
neither retrogression procrastination nor in-
decision, and once having assumed the
duty of consolidating British power on this
Continent, it must be pursued without
hesitation to its political sequence. In order
then to develop the resources of British
America it will be necessary to connect
her whole possessions to the Pacific in
and under one Local administration, using
the term local as subjective to the Im-
perial in its limited sense; but more than
half the area thus covered is yet almost
without inhabitants. It will follow then
that the first movement towards the ad-
vancement of British interests will be those
measures which will tend to fill the waste
places of the Dominion with immigrants.
To perform this duty in a satisfactory man-
ner it will be necessary to construct lines of
railway of immense length, and open the
natural internal navigation of the country
by artificial means. The Dominion con-
sists of a narrow strip of territory, extend-
ing from Halifax in Nova Scotia, to Fort
William, at the head of Lake Superior. Its
average settled width would not exceed sixty
miles, but natural and artificial navigation
extends along its whole length, and its
principal line of railway is, for over five
hundred miles literally, a "Frontier" line.
From Fort William to head of Rainy Lake, a
distance of 385 miles, demands a railway
should be constructed, a trifling outlay
comparatively would open from thence
about 1,500 miles of navigable water, and
500 miles of railway would touch the naviga-
ble waters which flow into Puget Sound on
the Pacific.

It is very evident that if immigration to
the fertile plains of the Red River, and the
eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains is to
be effected by British enterprise, and in the
interest of the Empire, the programme
sketched out is that which must be followed
as a matter of necessity, because, it is the
only one which will afford the desideratum
of cheapness, shortness and capacity for

sanitary arrangements are actual indispen-
sables for the Immigrant—and the Union of
the Eastern American Provinces would be a
grave political mistake if the territory be-
tween these extensive Western limits and
the Pacific should pass into the hands of a
foreign power. But while the Dominion
Government are taking measures for carry-
ing out their "manifest destiny" in that
direction, the fact must not be ignored, the
first steps towards the mere mechanical parts
thereof must be taken in those Eastern
Provinces.

To shorten the distance between Quebec
and Fort William, to fill up the unoccupied
territory north of the St. Lawrence, to ob-
tain direct access to the emporiums of the
grain trade of the Western States, to extend
commercial relations, create a valuable
coasting trade with the Maritime Provinces,
develop the manufacturing and industrial
resources of the Dominion, and lastly to
render the military defence of Canada pro-
perly effective, it will be necessary to con-
struct the artificial channels which connect
the Ottawa River with Lake Huron.

This great work is the primary step in
the whole process, and must be undertaken
with as little delay as the circumstances of
the country will allow, especially because
the people of the United States are unable
from Geographical and Physical causes to
find sufficient outlets through their own
country for the produce of the Western
States. With starvation prices ruling in
England it is neither complimentary to the
spirit of enterprise, humanity or judgment
of the age to find corn selling in those States
for 10 cents per bushel, and to know that it
has been burned as fuel, being cheaper
than hardwood.

Here in the capital of the Dominion with-
in 840 miles of the chief emporium of that
trade, 500 miles of which are open lake
navigation, corn has to perform a voyage of
over 1,400 miles to reach the consumer, and
sells at 90 cents to \$1.00 per bushel.

To the readers of the the VOLUNTEER RE-
VIEW, merchants, manufacturers and farmers
one fact in political economy must be per-
fectly plain, and that is *cheap food means
abundant capital*, and a corresponding reduc-
tion in prices in every other item to the
consumer, while it develops the prices and
resources, and adds to the profits of the
producer.

The wonderful resources of the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland is well
illustrated by the value of the food produc-
ed and imported for the use of the people,
while it affords matter for serious reflection,
as to whether the capabilities of Canada
have been developed to anything like their
proper extent in this particular. The fol-
lowing authoritative statement will be of
great interest to the readers of the VOLUN-
TEER REVIEW:

"Some interesting information in regard