

ing. The States of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island refused their quota of militia. "Still," as Colonel Pennington Macpherson recently wrote, "that war went on, and it was not the fault of the democracy of the United States that the bones of their peaceable but courageous neighbors, the Canadians, were not mixed with the ashes of their habitations."

What has occurred once is likely to occur again. History repeats itself, and will continue to do so until the millenium, in spite of peace societies, and pretty after-dinner speeches at international gatherings. As the popular officer already quoted says, "The population of the United States is not homogeneous. Among the citizens of the Republic are representatives of every nation in Europe, and many of them from the lowest and most revolutionary classes [of those nations; and the fact that the American politicians find it to their advantage to occasionally 'twist the lion's tail,' indicates that amongst the electorate there are a large number of people who would rejoice over the humiliation of Great Britain, and that the politicians bid for their votes by pandering to their wishes." No colony of the empire stands so much in need of efficient military defences as Canada, because none has so dangerous a neighbor.

While Canada, by reason of her situation in close proximity to the United States is thus in constant danger from invasion, Canadians would have no reason to dread the ultimate result were the military defences of the country once put upon an efficient basis, and properly maintained. We possess the interior lines of communication along the most important sections of the frontier; our frontier population is more considerable than the border country of the United States, and our existing military strength is much better distributed from a strategical point of view. The Royal Navy insures our seacoast from molestation, and in the event of war would easily blockade the whole coast line of the United States, not only paralysing the trade of the country, but putting the great seaport cities under contribution, and demanding the attention of all the troops that the seacoast states would

be able to put into the field. Canada at the start, too, would have the great advantage of the only water communication with the great lakes and Lake Champlain. With proper precautions now this communication can be maintained and it would have to be if a war were to be brought to the most satisfactory conclusion. The command of the lakes would paralyse the forces of the lake states and be a complete protection for Ontario. Our militia is a national, homogeneous body, drilled and disciplined, so far as it goes, on the lines of the most modern and most advanced military force in the world; the main defensive force of the United States consists of the state national guards, and organized on antiquated lines and drilled in discredited systems of tactics.

With these great advantages to start with Canada could well hold her own, and with the assistance of the British army even carry the war across the lines to boot; were the militia put upon a thoroughly efficient footing, and frontier defences strengthened to meet the exigencies of modern warfare. First as to the militia. Two hundred thousand of Lee-Metford rifles should be procured, fifty thousand served out to the enrolled corps, and the rest stored at Halifax, Quebec, Kingston and Victoria. As many valise equipments and khakkee service uniforms should be similarly distributed, also boots. The nine pounders of our field artillery should be replaced with modern pieces, and two extra guns for each battery, with extra waggons, etc., provided. The fortifications at St. John, Quebec, Isle-aux-Noix, St. Johns, Kingston and Toronto should be remodelled, and reconstructed, and armed with the most modern ordnance procurable. We believe that it only requires a request to the War Office from Ottawa to secure the detailing of a commission of expert engineers and strategists to decide just what defences are required for the protection of Montreal, the most important place in Canada from a strategical point, the St. Lawrence canals, Hamilton and Winnipeg. At the least a triennial enrollment of the reserve should be inaugurated, and an earnest effort made to place the reserve on something like a sensible footing. There

has been no enrollment since away back in the seventies, and if there is a list of reserve officers nobody knows where it is or whose names appear upon it. Corps of submarine miners and of naval reserve militia should be established at lake, river and sea coast points, and schools established to instruct the men in the special work of those particular branches of the service. In addition to rifles the department should procure a number of machine guns for issue to a certain proportion of the infantry and cavalry regiments in each district, and a certain proportion of officers and non commissioned officers should be required to take a course of instruction in the handling of these powerful weapons, at the schools of artillery.

Every one who has given the matter the least consideration must agree as to the great importance of organizing corps of naval militia at our inland ports. Canada must hold command on the lakes, and to make sure of it we must make sure of having men ready at the outbreak of hostilities to transform the vessels of our lake merchant marine into light cruisers and capable of doing effective duty as seaman gunners. Lake seamanship, as Britain learned to her cost in the war of 1812, is a special branch of the art, and our hardy lake sailors, especially if a little familiar with naval discipline, gunnery, signalling, etc., would be of invaluable aid to the ships of the Royal Navy operating on the lakes. If naval schools were opened at lake ports during the winter, while the lake shipping is in winter quarters and the crews idle, there should be no trouble in inducing many of our sailors to take a course of instruction to fit them to do their duty in defending their country, in case of need.

Of course all of this would cost money; but what are a few million dollars after all to national safety, and Imperial welfare? In time of peace prepare for war, is an old adage but it holds good now, surely, just as much as it did the day it was first uttered, particularly, when we have brought so forcibly to our notices the unquenchable hostility of the dominant American democracy, to the British Empire