

cers. The Bill is so essentially an elastic and permissive one, that it can be stretched to cover all the real requirements of the service. With the complaints and grievances which culminate into a personal abuse of the minister of Militia and our energetic Adjutant General, I have no sympathy. nor would I for one moment imagine that any change would give these peevish sufferers more than temporary relief. Their grievances as a general thing proceeds more from personal and political reasons, than a fair consideration of the requirements of the force.

What I should like to see—and what I hope to see; taking the improvement of the force during the last ten years as my criterion, is a triennial force of 40,000 men, retiring into the reserve; having gone through a course of training that they could never forget,—taking with them as cherished remembrances of their soldier days their uniforms, to be donned once a year for the next three years subsequent to their service in the Active Militia—their arms being stored, and equipments preserved for the purpose—with their organization of field, staff, and Company officers complete—forming an available First Class Reserve in case of need.

Establishments under the patronage and control of Government, for the manufacture of arms, ammunition, and clothing required for the annual maintenance of the Force. The importance of these matters cannot be over estimated, apart from the fact that the money which now goes to England for these things, would be turned over in our own country, we should have a base of supplies to fall back upon in case of war, that could not be cut off by the rigors of winter, or a blockading squadron. I cannot divest myself of the idea that before this country attains the position to which in my belief she is destined, she must like all other great nations pass through the fiery ordeal of war. For this eventuality we should prepare, though the realisation of my prophecy may never occur. I should propose no Government manufactories. Private enterprise could be found, as in England, where the manufacture of the Naval Rifle, (the best and simplest breech-loader of the age, and of Canadian invention,) ammunition of the best quality, and not the condemned rubbish gleaned from damp Imperial magazines—and serviceable clothing made from Canadian cloth, all of which could be supplied if not cheaper, certainly as cheaply, as at the present; with the advantages caused by an immediate supply of the best and newest manufacture. The delays caused by the want of uniforms in store have been severely felt in our late Brigade Camps—the unserviceableness and dangerous state of our ammunition, at our rifle matches,—and though we are satisfied with our good Sniders, yet the age is a progressive one. Beyond these immediate arguments lies the substantial one that we should have a basis of supply within ourselves in case of war. The "Battle of Dorking" presented no such dreary picture to the imagination, as that which would arise when our brave Volunteers should have exhausted the few rounds of ammunition per man which at present constitutes our sole dependence in case of war. That gone, surrender would be inevitable, and lives would thus have been risked and lost in a hopeless struggle. But I must not adopt the "alarmist" strain—that "bugaboo" to Canadian readers—or any good effect that my remonstrances might prove will be lost. At the same time I cannot reprobate too much the course of "letting well enough alone" which is adopted by leading journals, and which would allow

Canada to drift in blind security on to those rocks, of whose presence we are occasionally reminded by "breakers ahead," trusting to energy at the pumps, the good seamanship of her rulers, and the devotion of her crew to carry her safely into port: when by timely preparation, a good look out, and the right man at the helm, we might have avoided all such dangers, and not started a plank, or caused a leak, in the noble ship which is destined to bear our proud fortunes to the land of the future.

CENTURION.

July, 29th, 1871.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR,—The Red River Force has been the object of so much deliberate slander, and of such cold disregard, that I notice with additional pain an implied slur, doubtless not intentional, conveyed in a portion of Mr. Dawson's report which appears in your issue of 24th instant.

Noting the remarkable evidences of ability and energy in organization and constructiveness, which characterized the aspect of the nearer portages on the Lakes at the return of the expedition, and the contrast so afforded to their state on the outward route, I am far from desiring either to deprecate Mr. Dawson's talents and perseverance, or bearing in mind the attention and facilities afforded by his staff to the Return Force, to view his statements with disfavor.

It is natural that Mr. Dawson should, by all reasonable means, seek to impress upon the public the advantages of his route, I myself have always thought, since we passed along it on our outward journey, both that it would justify his foresight, and that the means which he is now adopting are precisely those which would render it a practicable and comparatively easy line of transit.

But, in the endeavour to effect this object, Mr. Dawson has run into the error of depicting the outward passage of the Expedition very much in the light of a pleasant and easy excursion; and, to heighten the effect, institutes a contrast with Colonel Crofton's journey in 1846. This contrast, tho' perhaps correct as to the actual relative difficulties of the two routes, involves, according to information afforded on many hands—by guides, voyageurs, and Hudson's Bay Officers—to members of the late Force, an unfair comparison.

If we were rightly informed, the troops which went by York Factory were so amply supplied with assistance that they had little to do but to walk across the portages. I cannot, of course affirm that the facts were such as the expressions we have heard used convey the impression of; but at all events I trust ere long to convey to the public some idea of the real nature of the agreeable kind of picnic hinted at by Mr. Dawson.

Perhaps some of the legislators who visit mineral regions in comfortable Steamers well supplied with champagne and cigars, would like to extend their next trip a couple of hundred miles or so in our boats on pork, tea, tobacco and biscuit.

Of course there was nothing in the way of hardships which should cause a true soldier to growl; but if Mr. Dawson, or any one else, imagines that I will allow the Public to be deluded with the idea that we slept on beds of roses, they will be very much mistaken—at least so long as your columns or those of any respectable newspaper are open to truth.

There are several dicta of Mr. Dawson's which, when the fitting time arrives, I shall be called upon to set in their true light, notably those contained in the two penultimate paragraphs of the last column of p. 476 of your issue above-mentioned. "The smoothest sailing conceivable"—was it? By Jove, Sir, the delicate picture so daintily limned by Mr. Dawson in azure and couleur-de-rose, reminds me of a rather pretty sentimental song I heard very dreamily and bewitchingly sung by a lady many years ago. It began—

"Sleeping I dreamed, love, dreamed love of thee,  
O'er the blue waves, love, floating were we."

And so on, all very nice and pleasant.

Belied by partisan scribblers—superciliously ignored by military writers on the subject—forgotten by the general public, and coldly regarded by the authorities, it surely needed Mr. Dawson's additional depreciation, to lead to a determination that so much of that public as may yet care to know shall be made aware that the duty undertaken by their own citizen-soldiery was one of severe and unremitting labor, and that if the performance of duty is (as is usually said) its own reward, the allurements of Manitoba were certainly not such as to disturb the serene contemplation of the beauty of that philosophic and highly virtuous axiom.

I am, Dear Sir, &c.

G. W.

RIFLE MATCHES.

AT OTTAWA.

The return match between the Civil Service men of the Eastern and Western Departmental Buildings, came off at the Rideau Rifle Range on the evening of Wednesday, the 2nd inst., and resulted in another victory for the Western Block men of 17 points. The following is the score:

WEST BLOCK.				
	200yds	400yds	600yds	Tl.
Capt White	3343	3314	3030	42
Ens. Walsh	4143	3134	4034	52
L. Corpl. Patrick	3200	3201	2343	31
Pte. Fletcher	3233	3233	3023	36
Pte. Throop	3233	3343	3222	42
Total	.....203			
EAST BLOCK.				
	200yds	400yds	600yds	Tl.
Col. Sgt. Blackmore	3334	2352	3032	35
Pte. Langton	0242	4313	0022	35
Pte. Anderson	2232	3223	3020	35
Pte. DeBoucherville	2223	3444	0212	42
Pte. Baxter	4313	2211	00143	42
Total	.....186			
Majority for Western Block	.....17			
Majority last Match	.....5			
Total majority	.....22			

The steam power employed in the United States does the labor of 140,000,000 men, while that of Great Britain is equivalent to 490,000,000.