



471

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MILITARY ORGANIZATION.

No. I.

The progress of scientific knowledge, and its application to the mechanical arts, appears to have a tendency towards increasing the number of men requisite for that vast machine called an Army. Not that the loss of life in actual fight is greater than when smaller numbers were engaged, but the effects produced are far more decisive, and a single campaign is sufficient to effect more changes than the warfare of years. Of this fact recent experience in Italy and Germany furnish sufficient illustration—in two short campaigns a more thorough revolution was forced on Europe than twenty years of warfare could accomplish half a century ago.

The precedents thus afforded point out two axioms:

First—To make an army effective, it must comprise the great mass of the healthy male population of the country to which it belongs.

Second—Its organization must of necessity absorb the minimum of time and cost.

Soldiers are non-producers, and they must live on the surplus earnings of the remainder of the population. Hence the application of the second axiom involves a proposition peculiarly interesting to the people of these Provinces, and that is: "Having no surplus population whom it would be necessary or advisable to employ as soldiers, and being obliged to meet the question of self-defence as one of economy alone, in what manner should an organization of the population be effected without bearing too heavily on the industry of the people?"

The problem admits of only one solution, and that will be, a militia law of universal application, from which there shall be no exemptions, except physical disability or the payment of a capitation tax according to property.

Measures of this description look despotic, but in reality they are the surest and most efficacious means of preserving freedom and independence.

Within the last decade, political and public opinions have undergone great changes in Europe and America—events of vast importance are brought to issue with a start-

ling promptitude very different from the slow and methodical manner of the age of plenipotentiaries and protocols—and little time indeed elapses between the assumed cause of offence and the blow.

The proximity of these Provinces to a powerful and thoroughly unscrupulous neighbor—the effect produced on our financial affairs by the slightest threatening movement—our peculiar relations to the great and glorious British Empire, and the source of uneasiness and expense we are to her people, all combine to force us into the measure that common sense and true patriotism points out.

These Provinces require, therefore, a thorough military organization for the purpose of defence; because if the whole population were prepared to rise in arms at a moment's notice, no intrigue at Washington could affect Canadian securities on the London Stock Exchange, or deter the English capitalist from embarking in speculations tending to develop Provincial resources and increase Provincial wealth; because such a measure would give effect to that spontaneous loyalty to British institutions which fills the great heart of the Canadian people, and for which they are so eminently distinguished.

Happily it does not require a great amount of expense or machinery to make such an organization effective; but there are a few general principles which it will be absolutely necessary to keep steadily in view.

Foremost amongst these is the local character which such organization must assume, and for very obvious reasons, viz: the impossibility of taking the people away from their occupations for any cause short of actual invasion.

As this principle governs all the others, it follows, then, that the organization must comprise all men between the ages of sixteen and sixty, with the exceptions before alluded to, and that they should be organized on the basis of County regiments and numbered as such, without reference to territorial divisions.

The County regiments should be divided into battalions of 650 men and officers—each battalion to consist of ten companies of 60 men—and the officers of such companies to be, in all cases, residents of the localities where each company has been raised.

It should be made imperative in the different municipalities within which the companies were raised, to provide suitable drill sheds, armories, and the necessary attendance and guards thereon—and they should be accountable for the safe keeping of the arms and clothing of the men.

The plan proposed would put nearly 500,000 men under arms; its costs would be

probably \$30,000,000; its advantages are, that it would preclude the possibility of sudden invasion—it would not take a man from his ordinary business, except in case of necessity—and it would enable the greatest possible number of men to be concentrated in the shortest possible time and at the least possible cost on any threatened point.

It is, no doubt, that the equipment of such a force would bear heavily on the resources of the country, but it is a tax that would be cheerfully borne in anticipation of future security.

Any economist who will grumble at the expense had better calculate the cost of the Fenian raids this year and say how little short in actual money outlay, and in the suspension of business, and the depreciation of stock in the English market—it falls of interest on the above sum at 7 per cent.

The reluctance felt by most people to enter on the duties of a soldier's life, and by others, at what they consider the unnecessary expense, has heretofore greatly retarded the progress of any measure which might be taken towards a thorough military organization.

But recent events and the secretly disguised intentions of our neighbors to absorb us on the first fitting occasion have thoroughly revolutionized the minds of most of those opposed to what they considered measures of doubtful utility, and as an evidence of this the alacrity with which now companies of Volunteers have come forward from the rural districts where they have been organized, under great disadvantages, should be sufficiently decisive.

This, then, is a fitting time to direct public attention to such measures as are best adapted to secure the great object of thorough "Military Organization."

DISCOVERY OF CHAMPLAIN'S TOMB.—We have received the pamphlet written by Mr. Stanislas Drapeau on the brochure of Rev. Messrs. Laverdiere and Casgrain relative to the above discovery. Without entering into the discussion between the above gentlemen on this matter we may state that Mr. Drapeau stoutly contends for the credit of having given the rev. gentlemen information which led to the discovery in question, while he criticises sharply their statements in denial of his claim to a portion of the honor of the achievement. From a hasty glance at the "observations" of Mr. Drapeau, we should judge that there is something to be said in favor of his pretensions.

— If you have great talents, industry will strengthen them; if moderate abilities, industry will supply the deficiency.