



THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE MILITARY AND NAVAL FORCES OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

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THE CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS' MARCH TO THE FRONT, IN MARCH, 1866.

From many an inland hamlet fair,
By many a purling stream,
Thro' many a bare and leafless wood,
The flashing bayonets gleam;
The cold steel glistens bright, my boys!
The frozen roads along,
And the red coats thro' the Pine trees dark
March on with jest and song.
With jest, and song and laughter, boys!
Tho' the hearts are stern beneath,
As the ruffian Fenian hordes will find,
If they touch the Maple Wreath!
With jest, and song, &c.

The lofty Maple's graceful plume
Best decks the peaceful field,
But it crowns a heart like the heart of oak,
Or the blades Canadians wield.
The Beaver loves his peaceful works,
But his teeth are strong and sharp
To guard his home from the bandit crew
Of the Wolf-stag and the Harp.
Then onwards! to the Front, my boys!
For there's not a man that fears
The Brigand's steel or a warrior's grave,
Gemmed with his country's tears.
Then onwards, &c.

We arm us not for conquest, boys!
We seek not prey, nor spoil,
But from fierce and lawless hands to guard
The homes of virtuous toil.
They rise not, thro' our pleasant land,
In the pride of pomp and state,
But we'll keep them, with the help of God,
Safe, pure, inviolate!
Then onward to the Front, my boys!
With bold and cheerful hearts,
And the steady mein, and the bearing high
That a righteous cause imparts.

Ay! Forward! on a thousand roads,
Let the measured tramp be heard!
With loving thoughts of those they prize,
Ten thousand hearts are stirred.
The fervent prayer of the matrons dear,
And the maidens bright we love,
Goes with us on our onward march,
And a blessing from above.
Then onward to the Front, my boys!
Where are Colors proudly fly,
For homes, and wives, and children dear,
To conquer—or to die!

G. W.

NOTES ON THE DEFENCE OF CANADA.

No. II.

In a recent article, the system of defence best adapted to the geographical configuration of these Provinces was sketched out, and it is now intended to show how it can be effected without materially interfering with the pursuits of the people.

The most vulnerable portion of British North America is generally held to be that part of Canada known as the "Western Peninsula," although it is in reality the most difficult to assail or hold without the consent of the inhabitants; and the only reason for the prevalent idea is its comparative richness and generally campaign character. It affords good military positions, and as long as naval supremacy on the lakes is maintained, would be unassailable. But in a country without a standing army, or the means of maintaining one, it is necessary to be prepared for all contingencies; therefore it is desirable that all points of strength should be known, and their capabilities rendered easily available at the shortest possible notice.

The first line of defence, then, would extend along our western frontier from Port Dalhousie, at head of Lake Ontario, to Walpole Island, at head of Lake St. Clair. The second from Hamilton to Sarnia by way of London, or from head of Lake Ontario to Lake Huron. The first covers all the navigable communications on the frontier—the second the internal and parallel railway lines. Both are secondary strategical lines, which are connected with the principal base at Quebec by communications on their right and left flanks in both cases by water—through the Ottawa River, the lakes, and St. Lawrence. This first line passes through the counties of Lincoln, Welland, Haldimand, Norfolk, Elgin, Kent and Essex.

In accordance with the plan proposed in the papers on "Military Organization," published in this journal, the number of men between the ages of 15 and 60 years available in these counties would be as follows:

Lincoln.....	7,793
Welland.....	7,168
Haldimand.....	6,542
Norfolk.....	8,490
Elgin.....	8,927

Kent.....	8,455
Essex.....	6,900

Total.....54,275

from which deduct 25 per cent as unavailable, and an active force of 40,606 men can be furnished by these seven counties, of which 25,250 men will be required to maintain the thirteen posts of which this line consists, leaving a reserve of 15,356 men. If those counties had been thus organized, the disgrace of Ridgeway would not have to be chronicled as matter of history.

The second and principal line would require 45,000 men to maintain its defensive points. It runs through the counties of Wentworth, Halton, Oxford, Middlesex and Lambton. The population of these counties available for military service would be as follows:

Perth.....	10,427
Wentworth.....	9,965
Halton.....	6,349
Oxford.....	12,548
Middlesex.....	17,000
Lambton.....	7,412
City of Hamilton.....	5,660
City of London.....	3,267

Total.....72,778

Deducting 25 per cent as unavailable, leaves 54,546 men effective for service, or 9,546 if the whole should be called out.

The third line extends from Toronto to Collingwood, including the post at Goderich at the west, and Penetanguishine at the east. It traverses the counties of York, Simcoe, Waterloo, Bruce, Huron and Peel. It requires 47,000 men to maintain four posts, and the population of those counties available for this service would be as follows:

Peel.....	9,186
York.....	16,958
Simcoe.....	13,729
Waterloo.....	10,461
Bruce.....	7,704
Huron.....	14,087
City of Toronto.....	12,800

Deducting 25 per cent, we have a total of 63,694 effective men on this line, which would give a reserve of 16,194 men after all the posts were fully manned. All the force that could be furnished by the Western Peninsula for defence would be—

First Line....	25,250—Reserve....	15,356
Second Line..	45,000—“.....	9,546
Third Line....	47,500—“.....	16,194

Total.....117,750 41,096
making a grand total of 158,846 effective men.

Next in order are the lines of communication on the right and left flanks of this sys-