

triumphs abroad. The Volunteers at the Divisional Camps and the facility with which a force can be concentrated, attest alike the military spirit of the people and the ably considered as well as admirable measures devised to foster and direct it into the proper channel. Judging from the fruit it has already borne, the *Militia Bill* must be justly regarded as one of the highest efforts of statesmanship, and a measure destined to exercise a marked influence on the present and future of Canada. The exigencies of modern civilization demands that all the males fit to carry arms in a State should be trained to their use, and there can be little doubt that the smartness, neatness, cleanliness, and physical training which are marked characteristics of the soldier, will have a most beneficial effect on the intellectual, moral, and physical appearance of the youth of all classes and trades. The great mass of the young men engaged in agriculture contract from the nature of their employment a lounging and shambling gait by which it can easily be known whether the individual devotes most of his time to ploughing, mowing, cuoping, or teaming, and this peculiarity brings along with it physical consequences of a deteriorating character which are invariably transmitted to the next generation. The full developments of these evils are to be found in our neighbours across the line of 45°, and if the occupation of the spare hours of our people (the requirements of our military service amounts to very little more), only checked that evil the country would be well repaid for its outlay of time and money—but it will do much more. The habits of a soldier—economy, personal cleanliness and order which he is taught, conducting to the discharge of his ordinary duties with the alacrity of a business man and a knowledge of his obligations as a good and intelligent citizen. It gives the individual units of the population a self-confidence which is felt throughout the whole social fabric, and strengthens the hands of the body politic. Moreover, a military organization while bestowing those benefits on the people, is calculated to secure national stability, a matter of chief importance to our commercial and financial interests, because people will freely invest money when they know it will be repaid with good interest, and be perfectly safe because the whole population are soldiers to defend it. The importance of the above to a country where nearly made capital will hasten the development of its resources by centuries is incalculable; its immediate effect being to enable the settler of to-day to enjoy the comforts of a civilization which this country could not boast of half a century ago.

To the fact that an efficient military system had been devised and put in operation is due the difference between the price of Canadian stocks on the English market to day and what they stood at in 1865, and to this dif-

ference is also due our great as well as unexampled prosperity, which this country will enjoy unaffected by panics, commercial or financial, as long as it is able to turn out 20,000 men at forty-eight hours' notice to defend its interests. Seeing then that this great prosperity is the immediate consequence of the *Militia law*, and having proved by experience the value as well as the necessities of the force organized under it, the duty of the people of Canada plainly points to the advisability of encouraging by every means the military organization called into existence by its provisions, which have been so wisely shaped as to admit of indefinite extension to meet all exigencies. In order to make the service attractive as well as useful to our young men, measures should be devised for sending to Wimbledon every year a full company of Volunteers, viz.: Fifty five non-commissioned officers and men with a captain, lieutenant, and ensign; the men to be drawn in equal proportions from each of the five Provinces, representing artillery, cavalry, infantry, and engineers, so drafted that neither officers or men should be allowed to form a part of the force during any subsequent visit to the one made as a regular turn of duty. This company should make the trip as first-class passengers, have the full pay of their respective ranks during the time engaged in the service without deduction, all expenses to be liberally paid, the cost would not exceed \$25,000 per annum, and the value to Canadians could not be estimated. In order to select the officers and men for this service, the Dominion Rifle Association should be located at Ottawa, confined wholly to Volunteers, no fancy matches allowed, and the military rifle the only weapon permitted. The fare of a certain number of Volunteers from the Provinces should be paid to each annual competition, and the highest aggregate scores should be selected for the Wimbledon force. The same rules should be applied to the Dominion competition. Parties selected should not be sent a second time till the whole force in each district was afforded a chance of competing either at Ottawa or Wimbledon. The funds for all this should be supplied by the Local Municipalities and by the Dominion Government, and the country would reap the benefits of increased efficiency in the force by the stimulants applied to excite emulation, and the inducement—the prospect of a trip to England, would offer to our young men to enrol themselves. A reorganization of the local Rifle Associations is a necessity of the case. They should be under the control of the Local Municipalities as far as the company prizes are concerned, and their management confided to the officer in charge of the local battalion. There can be little doubt but a measure of this kind carefully elaborated would have a most beneficial effect on the force and interests of the country, by showing the people of England

the style of soldiers Canada was capable of producing. Our present contingent contains too many officers. The rank and file should be made known to the people of England in their capacity as soldiers. It is very little use to train a few crack shots for exhibition. What will tell with marked effect is the manner in which the mass of the troops handle and use their weapons; and it is this proficiency the proposed scheme is designed to promote.

Our talented correspondent "G. W." has taken exceptions to a portion of Mr. Dawson's report, because it has not done justice to the Volunteer contingent of the Red River Expedition. There can be no doubt that the gallant 1st and 2nd Battalions have been completely overlooked, and very unjustly treated by the selfishness which confined all honorable mention of services and rewards to the regular troops engaged therein, whose numbers amounted to little more than half those of the Volunteers. Nor are our own military authorities free from blame in this particular; those Battalions done good service when needed, and an official recognition thereof would not have been out of place; nor would it be more than the field officers deserved if a brevet was issued on the occasion of disbanding the troops, and their services referred to in General Orders. We thoroughly sympathise with G. W. in this matter, and are of opinion that it is a far more serious cause of complaint than all the other fancied evils which have exercised the fertile imaginations of our Army Reformers since the Divisional Camps were established. Because the officers and men of a force that would do credit to any country have been allowed to retire to civil life without one word of recognition for the most valuable services which could be rendered to any country. Such a course is not calculated to make the service popular or serve the interests of Canada.

The following extract from the *Volunteer News* of 26th July will be read with interest, exhibiting as it does the good feeling of our British brethren to our people. The gentleman referred to is Mr. Charles McGee of the firm of McGee and Russell of this city, and the people of Canada owe him thanks for his exertions on behalf of their representatives at the Wimbledon meeting. He is perfectly correct in saying that the whole Dominion of Canada will be represented next year:—

"On Tuesday, a parting meeting with the Canadian team who attended the camp at Wimbledon took place at the Cannon street Hotel, London, for the purpose of presenting a cup and badges to Col. Skinner and his brother Volunteers. About 150 sat down to luncheon—Mr. Samuel Morley, M. P., occupying the chair. The chairman in presenting the medal to Col. Skinner, expressed a hope that before they left England some arrangement would be made with