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## THE DEFENCE OF CANADA.

At this stage of the history of Canada it will naturally occur to our minds, in what manner such and even more serious troubles than those which have lately taken place, the Dominion can be protected. It seems to us, that though the late rebellion was suppressed within a comparatively short time, the sacrifice of the volunteers in leaving their homes and business to restore order and harmony in the North-West, is so great that it behoves the Government to be prepared to quell any other disturbances that may occur in the future, by other means than by the aid of our gallant volunteers. There can be no doubt that many of our citizen soldiers would fain have remained at home, attending to a more prosaic life than fighting the half-breeds and Indians, and we can scarcely blame them for that wish. In the present state of commercial depression, many could ill afford to leave their business, which requires so much of their attention. As a consequence of this, the question naturally arose. "Could not some other method than calling out the volunteers be devised to preserve peace in the Dominion?"

A great many suggestions were made, and the one that seemed to be most in favour was that a small standing army of say from 3000 to 5000 men would be sufficient to protect us against any ordinary rising. The advantages of possessing such an army would more than repay the extra outlay of the Government. They could be despatched at once to the seat of the troubles, intimidate the intending insurgents, and thus check what might otherwise have proved a very serious rebellion. A great deal of time was lost by our volunteers not being properly equipped for a

campaign, thus allowing the rebels to mature their plans, gather more forces and more especially to induce the Indians to become their allies. It was because one of his generals did not come to his support in time that Napoleon lost the battle of Waterloo. Time is an all important factor in such cases, and certainly of the utmost importance.

The only way in which the Government propose to be in readiness for a similar rising is by slightly increasing the number of Mounted Policemen, which in our opinion is entirely insufficient. Such a corps would certainly be of great service as scouts to a larger body of men, owing to their knowledge of the country, and the rapidity of their movements, but a larger body of men would certainly be needed.

On this subject a great deal more might be said, but our space forbids. We hope however that it will be many years before the Dominion will be required to defend herself by force of arms.

## AN ELEVATED RAILWAY FOR MONTREAL.

We understand that a Company has been formed in Montreal for the purpose of building an elevated railway in that city. Not only is the railway to go through the principal streets of the city, but it is also intended to run it round the mountain and to the surrounding villages. The promoters of the above have a task set before them of no ordinary magnitude. It will likely be some years before it will be an accomplished fact, owing to the difficulties in the way of such an enterprise. Among the difficulties may be mentioned the disgraceful narrowness of the business and other streets, a fact which to strangers seems wonderful in such a large and wealthy city. Montreal possesses many magnificent buildings, the effect of which is almost entirely lost by this cause.

In this and other difficulties are overcome, as no doubt they will through time, the railway, when constructed will be a great boon to the city, and a remarkable contrast to the single track system, existing at present, of the City Passenger Railway.

We wish the promoters every success in their undertaking, and hope soon to congratulate them on their success.