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VOLUNTEER ORGANISATION IN CANADA.

We transfer, with much pleasure, to our columns the following article from the *Volunteer News* on the Volunteer organisation in Canada, that our Canadian readers may see what our English contemporaries think of the efficiency of our military system, as administered by Colonel Robertson-Ross, the able and efficient Adjutant General of the force:

The report of Colonel P. Robertson-Ross, Adjutant General of Militia in Canada, to the Minister of Militia and Defence, on the measures taken for the assembling of the Volunteers of the Dominion to meet the threatened disturbances of the past spring, is a most important document at the present time, as bearing upon the much agitated question of national defence. We are at this moment surrounded by events bearing upon the subject; and whether we accept those of Canada or those of Prussia, they all seem to point to one conclusion, and that is in favor of an organisation of the entire population capable of bearing arms for their training for the national defence. The experience of the present summer proves the combined readiness and efficiency of the system, whether opposed to hosts of lawless marauders or brought into opposition with the most perfectly disciplined armies of professional soldiers isolated entirely by their training from all civil pursuits.

The report of Colonel Robertson-Ross is dated June 6, only a few days after the ludicrous collapse of the Fenian campaign on the Canadian frontier. It details the measures taken on the alarm being given of an expected raid, and of the amazing celerity with which strong forces of Volunteers were concentrated on the points of danger. Colonel Robertson-Ross was requested by the Government of Canada early in April of the present year to devise measures against the anticipated invasion, and he recommended that certain battalions, along with one or two troops of Volunteer cavalry resident on the frontier districts should be called out for active service, and placed upon frontier duty; and that, in the event of the regular troops being ordered to the front from Montreal, the Volunteers there should be held in readiness to turn out for garrison duty, or what other service might be required. On the 11th April it was considered necessary to increase the force at first decided on. To this call the Volunteers responded with such promptitude and alacrity

that, within forty-eight hours of the receipt of the order, many were assembled at, and all were on the way to, the rendezvous. Including a small number already on the St. Clair frontier, the force thus speedily concentrated amounted to 6000 men, who, under General Lindsay, improved daily in drill and discipline. On the 21st of April it was not considered necessary to retain the whole force in the field, and a number of them were ordered home, and on the 25th of the same month the remainder of them were withdrawn, the gunboats "Rescue" and "Prince Alfred" being kept on the river frontier stations.

The Fenian "scare" was for the moment hushed, and the Adjutant-General had time to undertake another very important piece of defensive organisation, which equally proves the adaptability and pliability of the Volunteer military system as it exists in Canada to meet emergencies. The Government considered it advisable to raise and despatch to the North-west a force to act with a portion of the regular troops in support of law and order there. On the 16th April an Order in Council was signed, authorising the formation and full equipment of two battalions of 375 officers and men each, to be selected from the existing battalions. The enlistment and formation commenced on the 1st of May, and by the beginning of June the whole force, with complete outfit, staff, and organisation, were ready for service, and actually on the way to the distant Province of Manitoba.

This interlude in the events which occurred only seems to have kept the hands of the Adjutant General in gentle use, for there appears to have been neither hitch nor hurry in the arrangements, everything having progressed with easy facility. About the middle of May these dreadful Fenians again began to excite fears, and on the 24th of May their presence was known at several points, and a call was again at once made on the Volunteers to turn out in the districts threatened. This call was as expeditiously responded to as the previous one, and, by the 27th, 13,540 officers and men were at their respective posts ready for any emergency. History has already recorded how, on the 25th May, at Eccle's Hill on the Missisquoi frontier, 40 Volunteers and 37 Home Guards, simply armed farmers, under Lieutenant-Colonel Chamberlin, M. P.—a patriotic printer—drove some 300 and 400 Fenians, provided with a breech-loading field gun, in desperate rout across the Canadian frontier; and how, on the 27th, at Holbrook's on the Huntingdon frontier, the same patriotic bandits, to about the same number as at Eccle's Hill, drawn up in a field

commanding the road, attacked two companies of Volunteers and regulars, and were at the first fire upon the Volunteer skirmishers, who were extended to oppose them, driven helter skelter from the shelter to strong entrenchments in their rear, from which they were again driven in ridiculous rout. The whole proceeding occupied only twenty-five minutes. In these affairs the Fenian loss was heavy for the time they were engaged, being estimated at Eccle's Hill at four or five killed and sixteen to eighteen wounded; while at Huntingdon, the traces of blood in the entrenchments showed that execution had been done, but the number of killed and wounded was not ascertained. The Volunteers were unscathed, save one man who had received a slight flesh wound on the left temple. Thus, in three days, a force of over 13,000 civilian soldiers were collected to meet an invasion, and the invaders driven back in irretrievable rout. By the 3rd of June, or only nine days in all, the Volunteers had destroyed all fear of danger, and returned to their homes. Colonel Robertson-Ross praises in high terms the conduct of the Volunteers, and the unanimity that prevailed among them, whether of French or British descent, and, at the same time, recognises the offer of service received from Canadians residing in the United States. The accoutrements, arms, and ammunition was of excellent description, in most cases, which the Fenians left on the field.

As we have already said, contemporary history has recorded the above events; but we find in the report of the officers engaged in these operations, and given in an appendix, details of rather an astonishing and suggestive character that we are not sure are so well known, and which we think fully justifies the remarks which were made by General Lindsay in his address to the Volunteers, and the exasperated feeling which we know prevails among Canadians towards the United States Government or its officials.

Colonel Chamberlin, in his report, narrates the following, which Deputy Assistant Adjutant General U. Smith designates as "the very singular circumstances preceding the attack."—"General Foster, the U. S. Marshal," says Col. Chamberlin, "waited upon me to offer assurances that his Government and himself personally were doing all that was possible to prevent a raid," &c. Strange to say, however, this United States General acted as the envoy of those marauders it was his duty to see dispersed; for he continued to say "that he was also charged with a message from the person in command of the Fenian force in front, to say those under