

serts is equivalent to the cost of arms and accoutrements of the best description for six militiamen. History tells us that 400 deserted on the retreat of the army from Plattsburgh, which at £20 stg. each, would have armed 2,400 militiamen with rifles. And I have no reason to doubt the number above mentioned to be correct, as some officers of that division told me that the men went off in sections; and if so, my estimate of the loss is below the mark, for when men desert towards the enemy on a retreat, their arms and accoutrements are either carried with them, or thrown away and lost to the nation that furnished them.

Look at the contrast between the flank companyman and one in the battalion. The flanker enters at 16; he escapes his 10 days' road work, jury and constable duty, and at 21 is entitled to 100 acres of land, and perhaps a medal and bar on his breast. The battalion man has done nearly as much public duty, the same time passed over, and not entitled to any land. For a farmer who has three or four sons this would be a great object. Say three became flankers and did their duty faithfully, they could draw land together, and the youngest inherit the homestead as is usual in this country. Let it be only known thoroughly in Britain and it would be a great inducement to men with rising families to come to Canada. This system would give us a regular defence at all times and in all places for time to come, ready to meet invasion of the American forces, or private speculators in the shape of sympathisers; and any check from the Militia to intruders will have a far more salutary effect to stop these feelers, preludes to a Texan game, that have an idea that we wish to dissolve the union with Britain, and that we are infatuated with republicanism—than if effected by British troops. A thousand men shot by the regulars in 1838 would not have the effect that the shooting of three of them had by the Militia. This showed them in more than plain English the mistake they labored under, that "we wished to be delivered from the bondage of the British yoke."

A number of young men of sober and steady habits could be sent out from Hythe, also from the Canadian Rifles and 60th Regiment, who have been instructed in company drill and target practice, with the rank of Sergeant, to drill and instruct the flank companies, accompanied by a private well instructed in the bugle which he must bring with him, he could also assist in squad drill as well as teach them the necessary sounds on that instrument. It could be so arranged that they could drill several companies, the three days' drill, leaving time enough between for their removing from one company to another. Their travelling expenses would be the largest item; but it would be carrying out the project on the most scientific principle. To obtain a desirable object we should make use of the best

means, and spare no reasonable expense to accomplish methodically the safety of the country; and I will forfeit all my experience in the regular service as well as my knowledge of the Canadian Militia if they will not find the young men in Canada apt scholars with fire-arms, of which I could give incontrovertible proof (100th Regt. to wit); suffice it to remark, that young men brought up in a country, where wild animals are an annoyance, learn the use of fire-arms in early life, quite different to many of the recruits entering the British army, who all their lives were subject to Game Laws, and required a license to carry a gun. The only license in Canada to carry a gun is the purchase money. And I am happy to be enabled to add that the youths sent home from this country to finish their studies for professions, have been found to be no way behind their trans-Atlantic competitors, in the various branches of learning; and I am proud to say, that some of them that entered the regular service are now adorned with the Victoria Cross for their distinguished gallantry. Here then is intellect and valor, with metal of such calibre, what is to prevent our raising a respectable Provincial force sufficient to repel all intruders?

Hitherto I have said nothing about the clothing in the rural districts. The wool is either spun at home or sent to the factory to be made into cloth and to be dyed various colors. The flankers could get a sufficient quantity dyed green for a short frock coat, trowsers and cap, made perfectly plain (though with uniformity) without facings, which for service in the field would be a better rifle uniform than can be found in the regular army; the less contrast the less attractive, and the less attractive the less killed and wounded. The coat costs no more than an ordinary one which they wear every day on their farms, and would look quite as well as some of our wealthiest M.P.'s who walked the streets of the City of Toronto, and sat in the House of Assembly in whole suits of home manufacture, and perhaps look a little better than the Emperor Napoleon in his old drab coat worn by him at some of his most splendid victories; or, the Duke of Wellington when reconnoitering in an old round hat and a private soldier's great coat. The dress could be worn upon any occasion, and if we have peace, it would only be the worse of 20 days' wear in the service of the country, when their military apprenticeship would be ended, and the flanker entitled to 100 acres of land. He would be required to find it himself. Ten to twelve dollars would be the outside of the expense. In the event of his being called out, of course he would get his day's pay and an allowance for the use of his clothing, with great coat and blanket. I am decidedly of opinion that grass green is the best color for the uniform of the rifleman, without any shining substance, such as breast plate, whistle, chain and steel scabbard.