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The Volunteer Review,

AND

MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,
To guard the Monarch, fence the Law."

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 1876.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be pre-paid. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and at the corner the words "Printer's Copy" written and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage. No communication, however, will be inserted unless the writer's name is given, not necessarily for publication, but that we may know from whom it is sent.

We have for the past nine years endeavored to furnish the Volunteer Force of Canada with a paper worthy of their support, but, we regret to say, have not met with that Anglo-Saxon encouragement which we confidently expected when we undertook the publication of a paper wholly devoted to their interests. We now appeal to their chivalry and ask each of our subscribers to procure another, or to a person sending us the names of four or five new subscribers and the money will be entitled to receive one copy for the year *sec.* A little exertion on the part of our friends would materially assist us, besides extending the usefulness of the paper among the Force—keeping them thoroughly posted in all the changes and improvements in the art of war so essential for a military man to know. Our ambition is to improve the *Volunteer Review* in every respect, so as to make it second to none. Will our friends help us to do it? Premiums will be given to those getting up the largest lists. The *Review* being the only military paper published in Canada, it ought to be liberally supported by the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of each Battalion.

The present issue of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW contains an able and valuable paper from the pen of the Adjutant General (Colonel WALKER POWELL) on the "Lakes, Rivers, Canals, and Telegraph communications of Canada," it is that species of statistical knowledge which is particularly valuable in a commercial, as well as a military point of view, and is compiled in such a manner as to be equally available for either purposes. It now only remains to arrange

the statistics of the "Railway communications," to lay before the world a clear view of the capabilities of this country for trade or defensive purposes.

From the information afforded a soldier moderately well acquainted with the topography of the country could construct a strategical system of defence by which the whole available force of the locality threatened could be concentrated without expense and effectively, and by compelling an assailant to fight through lines that could not be turned, give a sparse population the advantage of what would be at least equivalent to numerical equality.

It is in this connection we have advocated the organization of the Engineer and Staff corps from the civil element now available—the Staff College will require a good deal of time to develop its full value—the students when leaving it, no matter how well grounded in theory, will have no practical knowledge, and it would certainly be a piece of common prudence to make such preparations beforehand (especially when it will cost the State nothing) as will ensure by proper organization the establishment of the machinery necessary to convert the student into a practical man.

We have already pointed out the manner in which this organization should be created, and the Adjutant General deserves the thanks of the people of Canada for the very valuable information given, as well as the opportunity afforded for urging this question on the attention of our authorities.

THE following list of the actions of the war of 1812-15 taken from a blue book lately laid before the House of Commons.

Of the 13,000 regular troops a reinforcement of 10,000 arrived in 1814, the only service they performed ended in the failure at Plattsburg on the 11th September of that year—the remainder of actions, fifty six in number, were fought by about 3,000 regular troops and the Canadian Militia—who have a record of service unequalled in military annals—the reward came rather late when most of the distinguished actors were in their graves, but it showed proper feeling at all events, and a desire to prove to the rising generation that this country is not unmindful of those who rendered her service.

The history of the Canadian Militia has yet to be written, whoever is fortunate enough to perform that service to the country will leave on record a most instructive lesson on military strategy and tactics perfectly unique.

Colonel W. F. COFFIN, of Ottawa, published the first volume of what promised to be the best history of this contest some years ago under the title of "1812, a chronicle of the war"—but met with so little encouragement that the second has not appeared. Under the enlightened administration of the present Minister of Militia, it would not be too much to hope aid should be afforded

the gallant and talented author to complete the publication of such a useful and interesting public record.

In the *Canadian Monthly Magazine* for March there is a poem on the Death of Sir ISAAC BROOK of which the gallant Colonel is the author, the perusal thereof cannot fail to stir the heart of every true Canadian, and the patriotic impulses thus aroused are of incalculable value to a country which must depend for its national freedom on the firm hearts and strong arms of her stalwart sons—without the aid of a class specially trained to arms.

Colonel COFFIN's poem will be found in another page.

A blue book, containing the names of all the veterans who participated in the distribution of the \$50,000 voted by Parliament last year to surviving militiamen of 1812-15, has been issued. The applicants numbered 3,824, of whom 2,500 have been paid at the rate of \$20 per head, on satisfactory proof being afforded of their identity. In Upper Canada the population able to bear arms in 1812-15 did not exceed 10,000. The numbers embodied were 550 cavalry, 350 artillery, 55 artificers, and 4,500 infantry; total, 5,455. In Lower Canada, the force consisted of embodied militia, 5,012; voltigeurs, 567; chasseurs, 530; Col. Deschambeault's militia, 500; total, 6,617. In Lower Canada for a few months there were outside other battalions numbering 3,638 men. There were about 12,606 out for short periods varying from a few days to two months, making a total of 23,525 militiamen of Lower Canada out for some period more or less during the war. The regular troops serving in Canada during the war numbered about 13,000, comprising one battalion of the 1st Foot, 8th King's Own, 10th Royal Veterans, one battalion 13th, 40th, 41st, 49th, 89th, 100th, 103rd, 104th New Brunswick regiments, besides the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, the Meurons, the Fencibles, the Glengarry regiments, 19th Light Dragoons; about 800 royal marines and seamen, and 500 artillery and engineers. The whole period of the war embraced 42 months, out of which 29 were engaged in military operations, namely: 1811—War threatening; preparations made on both sides. 1812, June 1st—Attack upon Isle aux Noix. June 18th—United States declare war. 1814, Sept. 17—Last battle fought. Dec. 24—Treaty of peace signed in Europe. The following were the operations, so far as fighting is concerned, the name of the successful party being given in each case:

1812, June 1—Attack upon Isle aux Noix; won by the English.

July 1—Raid on Plattsburg; won by the English.

July 3—Naval engagement near Amherstburg; won by the English.

July 17—Capture of Fort Mackinac; won by the English.

July 29—Engagement near Amherstburg; won by the English.

August 7—Double attack on Amherstburg; won by the English.

August 9—Stores captured near Detroit; won by the English.

August 18—Taking of Detroit by the English.

September 9—Raid on Gananoque; won by the Americans.

October 4—Attack on Ogdensburg; won by the Americans.

October 9—Brigs Detroit and Caledonia