

naval force, therefore, started from Canada at the first declaration of hostilities might, by giving up their communications to the rear, push on to the Atlantic coast as Sherman did, and seize an important seaport, there to co-operate with the British fleet which could support them, and form a fresh base for further operations, while an expedition from India might land a force of British troops and a Sikh contingent on the Pacific seaboard.

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*Part II.—MILITIA OF CANADA, ACTIVE AND RESERVE.*

*The Militia Act.*

That the Militia Law of Canada is so thorough in its provisions, and that the keystone of the arch of all military systems, *i.e.*, universal liability to military service, is not absent as in those of all other Anglo-Saxon communities, is due to the traditions inherited from the old French *régime*, which were readily followed by the descendants of the "United Empire Loyalists," who found themselves for ever face to face with their more numerous and wealthy kinsmen from whom they had torn themselves, often at the sacrifice of material wealth for the sake of adherence to those principles and that "Dream of a United Empire" which has not yet been realised, though a century has passed away. The very history of those heroic men has been forgotten, the initials of their distinctive title, U.E.L., brings no very clear picture to the minds of the majority of Englishmen to-day who, let us hope before it is yet too late, may realise the true meaning of a United Empire.

The theoretically perfect Militia Law of Canada, though it may be an example of military legislation to us at home, yet, like every other law, its practical result depends upon its administration. Instead of quoting the verbiage inseparable from legal documents, I think I cannot do better than give you the condensed *résumé* taken from the Militia Act by Captain J. C. R. Colomb, R.M.A., in his able paper on the Naval and Military Resources of the Colonies, making some explanations of its practical workings:—

*Classes of Militia.*

"The militia consists of all male inhabitants between the ages of 18 and 60. It is divided into four classes.

"1st Class. Men from 18 to 30 years, who are unmarried or widowers without children.

"2nd Class. Men from 30 to 45, who are married or widowers with children.

"3rd Class. Men from 45 to 60.

"The above is the order in which the male population is called upon to serve.