

be able to avail itself of the services of the strong and healthy portion of the male adult population at short notice, if the dangers of invasion by an already organized army are to be provided against.

"We have the opinions of the best military authorities, that no body of troops which England could send, would be able to make Canada safe without the efficient aid of the Canadian people. Not only is it impossible to send sufficient troops, but if there were four times the numbers which we are now maintaining in British North America, they could not secure the whole of the frontier. The main dependence of such a country must be upon its own people. The irregular forces which can be formed from the population, know the passes of the woods, are well acquainted with the country, its roads, its rivers, its defiles; and for defensive warfare [for aggression they will never be wanted] would be far more available than regular soldiers.

"It is not, therefore, the unwillingness, or the inability of Her Majesty's Government to furnish sufficient troops, but the uselessness of such troops without an adequate militia force, that I wish to impress upon you.

"In your despatch of the 17th May last, you informed me that there were then 14,760 Volunteers enrolled, besides others who had been more or less drilled. It is, far, indeed, from my intention to discredit either the zeal or the efficiency of these Volunteers who have, I hope, greatly increased in number since the date of your despatch; but they constitute a force which cannot suffice for Canada in the event of war. They might form an admirable small contingent, but what would be required would be a large army. They might form a force stronger than is necessary in time of peace to secure internal tranquility, but would be inadequate to repel external attack in time of war. Past experience shows that no reasonable amount of encouragement can raise the number of volunteers to the required extent.

"It appears to me that the smallest number of men partially drilled, which it would be essential to provide within a given time, is 50,000. The remainder of the Militia would of course be liable to be called upon in an emergency. Perhaps the best course would be to drill every year one or more companies of each Battalion of the Sedentary Militia. In this manner the training of a large number of men might be effected, and all companies so drilled should once at least in two years, if not in each year, be exercised in Battalion drill, so as to keep up their training.

"I put forward these suggestions for the consideration of the Canadian Government and Parliament, but Her Majesty's Government have no desire to dictate as to details, or to interfere with the internal Government of the Colony. Their only object is to assist and guide its action in the matter of the Militia as to make that force efficient, at the least possible cost to the Province and to the mother country.

"The Canadian Government will doubtless be fully alive to the important fact that a well organized system of Militia will contribute much towards sustaining the high position with reference to pecuniary credit, which, in spite of its large debt, and its deficient revenue for the past few years, the Colony has hitherto held in the money markets of Europe. A country, which, however unjustly, is suspected of inability or indisposition to provide for its own defence, does not in the present circumstances of America, offer a tempting field for investment in public funds, or the outlay of private capital. Men question the stable condition of affairs in a land which is not competent to protect itself.