

force is a purely defensive one, only intended for the defence of our own borders. There is nothing in the Militia Act to point to such a conclusion, and, as already shewn, the whole constitution of the force is of an Imperial character. From a military point of view, even for purposes of defence, to confine our operations strictly to our own territory would be absurd, for often the best means of defending your own country may be to make an attack upon that of your opponent. Would the Imperial Government undertake the defence of this country if our own troops were to be strictly held within the borders of Canada, and not available for any service beyond them?

The fact is, that the whole situation has been so completely changed by political necessity, that what might have seemed a reasonable proposition before Confederation can no longer be maintained, and therefore the necessity for a reconsideration of our position and of our responsibilities, before a crisis arrives which may compel a decision at a moment when there will be no time for the consideration of fine points of constitutional doctrine, is an absolute and pressing necessity.

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A somewhat novel case recently came before the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court. The right of the fair sex to wear long skirts, and thereby become most useful scavengers, has never been denied, however much such an occupation may horrify onlookers. The right, however, to use them in travelling and thereby contributing to an accident, was denied in the case of *Smith v. Kingston City R.W. Co.*, when a lady thus attired came to grief on descending from the platform of a street car. The conductor gave the lady plenty of time to alight, but not sufficient time to disentangle her train, which caught on the platform, and resulted in her being dragged some distance thereby. The Appellate Division, with due gallantry, (whether they were married men or not does not appear), held, that a woman was entitled not only to wear long skirts, but to a sufficient allowance of time to enable her to step off the car herself as well as to clear her skirts, laying down the rule that it was the duty of a conductor to see that a woman descending from a car was free from any attachment connecting her with the vehicle before starting again.