

lowed for military expenditure never having exceeded the annual sum of twenty-five cents per head of the population—the lowest proportion of revenue devoted to defensive purposes which can be found in any civilized country.

Clearly then a military system suited to such conditions must be one sufficiently elastic to embrace, in case of need, the whole of the population capable of bearing arms. A small body of men, however well equipped, however highly trained, and however well disciplined, would obviously be of no use for the defence of a country so situated. It must be sufficiently developed to be capable of rapidly and easily extending its organization just as far as the necessity of the case may require, and the material at its disposal permit. It must, as far as its means will allow, keep in working order the nucleus or skeleton of a force which, existing throughout the land, will be continually imparting some knowledge of the art of war, keeping alive the military spirit, and interesting all places and all classes in maintaining its efficiency. Now this is exactly what our present military system *does* accomplish.

Having a regiment in every city and county in the Dominion, besides cavalry and artillery, by the simple expedient of raising the strength of companies to one hundred men, our present organization would give us an effective force of nearly one hundred thousand rank and file, requiring only the same number of staff and regimental officers at present commissioned. By adding a second or reserve battalion to each of these regiments, this force could be doubled without any necessity for enrolling the reserve militia, which could be best used to fill vacancies in the active militia, as required. Having its regimental headquarters in every city or county, and its company headquarters in the country towns and villages, not only are local interests enlisted in support of

the forces, and a local *esprit de corps* created, but, from the number of men passing through the force, and obtaining thereby some knowledge of drill and discipline, a general familiarity with what may be called "soldiering" constantly exists, the military spirit is kept alive, and thus what, in one respect, seems the weakness of the force, supplies an element of strength. It is true that the force thus constituted, and at present existing, is, in many respects, very "unfinished." Both officers and men, especially the latter, have much to learn before they are fit for service, but the foundation is laid, and a great deal has been accomplished, both in the way of organization and instruction. In every corps there are a number of drilled men, who stick to it from pure love of the work, who set an example, and give a pattern to the recruit, who teach him his duties, and are competent for the position of non-commissioned officers, and who are also sufficiently numerous to take up and discharge all duties, if the regiment is called out, while the recruits are being instructed. The result is that, speaking of the force generally, a regiment can be mustered, moved from one place to another, and marched into camp, can pitch its tents, mount its guards and pickets, issue and cook its rations, be amenable to discipline, and make progress in drill and knowledge of all duties, under the instruction of its own officers, in a manner that shows how great is the aptitude of the Canadian youth for the work of a military life—how quickly he learns, how readily he obeys. Now by what other system that can be devised will results so satisfactory be achieved at so small a cost to the country?

The system is also one of natural growth and development, and, in that, we have the best evidence of its being suited to the habits and tastes of the people, as well as to the requirements of the country. Beginning in 1855, with a few scattered companies called