

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

VOLUME IV.

1870.

ON account of the liberal patronage extended to the REVIEW since its establishment we have determined to add fresh features of interest to the forthcoming Volume so as to make it every way worthy of the support of the Volunteers of the Dominion.

On account of the great increase of our circulation we have been compelled to adopt the CASI IN ADVANCE principle. Therefore, from and after the 1st of January next the names of all subscribers who do not renew their subscription will be removed from the list. The reason for this will be obvious to our friends, as it will be readily understood that a paper having so extended a circulation must be paid for in advance, it being impossible to employ agents to visit all the points to which it is mailed.

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CLUBS of Five and upwards will be supplied at \$1.50 per annum for each copy.

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We number amongst our Correspondents and Contributors some of the ablest writers on military subjects in America.

Full and reliable reports of RIFLE MATCHES, INSPECTIONS, and other matters connected with the Force appear regularly in our Columns. Also original historical reviews of America, and especially Canadian wars.

AGENTS.

Liberal terms will be offered to Adjutants, Instructors, and others who act as agents for us in their several corps. The only authorized agents for the REVIEW at present are

LT.-COL. R. LOVELACE, for the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

MR. ROGER HUNTER, for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

REMITTANCES should be addressed to DAWSON KERR, Proprietor VOLUNTEER REVIEW, Ottawa.

DAWSON KERR.....PROPRIETOR.

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

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TO CORRESPONDENTS:

All Communications regarding the Militia or Volunteer movement, or for the Editorial Department, should be addressed to the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW, Ottawa.

Communications intended for insertion should be written on one side of the paper only.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Correspondents must invariably send us confidentially, their name and address.

All letters must be Post-paid, or they will not be taken out of the Post Office.

Adjutants and Officers of Corps throughout the Provinces are particularly requested to favor us regularly with weekly information concerning the movements and doings of their respective Corps, including the fixtures for drill, marching out, rifle practice &c.

We shall feel obliged to such to forward all information of this kind as early as possible, so that may reach us in time for publication.

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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, MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 1870.

Our Subscribers in Ontario will be called upon by our Agent, LIEUT.-COL. LOVELACE, (Agent for the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec,) during the present month, and we will feel obliged by their promptly meeting the demands made on them for subscriptions due this office on account of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

THERE is a Nemesis that attends the footsteps of slanderers and false witnesses, continually leading them into positions where their mendacity and dishonesty is sure of exposure. "Murder will out," and so must malice and falsehood. Our readers will remember in the issue of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW of the 21st May last, an answer to a libel on the Militia Department which appeared in the *Broad Arrow*, purporting to be written by a person styling himself "Canadian Militia Officer." This creature appears again under the same nom de plume, and, if possible, outdoes his former effort in falsehood. That there may be no doubt about the matter, we give our readers a reprint of his production from the *Broad Arrow* of July 9th, only regretting that we have had to spoil the number of that valuable paper for the purpose: "THE MILITIA OF CANADA, ITS ORGANIZATION AND PRESENT CONDITION.

"Sir,—There is an article among the news items of the *Broad Arrow* for April last, taken from the *Canadian Volunteer Review*,

upon which I beg leave to make a remark. The *Review* says first, "that Sir George E. Cartier's Militia Bill has enabled the Adjutant General to organize the most effective militia bill in the world, and next, that General Lindsay's services, valuable as they may be, are not required in Canada."

A more deliberate and sycophantic falsehood than the first assertion never appeared in print, and as for the second, there was not an officer or man in the service but looked upon General Lindsay's reported mission (the reorganization of the Militia) as a perfect godsend, and they were correspondingly down in the mouth when they understood that the General had nothing to do with the local force.

Now for the standing and influence of the *Review*. The paper from which the above laudatory extract of Sir George and his Bill is taken, as long as it was edited by Mr. Ryan (late of the 100th) it was a pretty independent little sheet, and stood up manfully and well for the efficiency, proper organization, and rights of the Militia; but since the paper has passed under the control of the present editor, it is looked upon here as simply a puffing horn for Mons. Cartier's Militia department, and no more representing the wishes and feelings of the Volunteer Militia (the only force there is) than the London *Times* does, we hope, represent the sentiment of Britain upon the present colonial policy of the Cabinet.

The Militia of Canada, Sir, at least what is left of it, is exactly in the condition it was (only worse) before Col MacDougall, the late Adjutant General, left the country; the present Adjutant General, Col. Robertson Ross, having made no change whatever, one way or the other, directly or indirectly, nor having the power to do so.

That he endeavored to procure some modification of the act this session of Parliament I have reason to believe, but he utterly failed when he came to press the alteration. He was told by Sir George, the omnipotent, when informed that the men were leaving and refusing to enroll under the new Act. "Let dem go, Colonel, let dem all go, I can get dem in plenty." Apropos. On the 18th ult. two battalions of volunteers, 350 men each, were ordered to be organized for service at Red River, one from Upper, and one from Lower, Canada. The Ontario, or Western Battalion, was all filled up by the 10th of May; the Quebec Battalion is not full at this moment (May 25th), and more than half the men in it are from Ontario, or are the disbanded soldiers of the Royal Canadian Rifles. Now mark, although the men sent from the various battalions (7 men each) were all picked, nearly one half failed to pass the doctor; yet they were nearly the choice men of their respective regiments and part of the best Militia in the world!

The fact of the matter is, Mr. Editor, the best men have nearly all left the service, and a large number of the best officers. The city battalions are mainly filled with young fellows not more than half grown, half of whom would be in hospital or their grave with less than a month's active service, and without ever firing a shot; the rural battalions, the mainstay of the force, are most of them only skeletons. The men left because they were disgusted, the officers because they were disheartened; the men saw that 300 or 400 took upon themselves the burden that ought to be equally borne by the 3,000 or 4,000 men of their respective regimental districts, with no corresponding advantage in any shape, but at a positive and actual loss, besides being laughed and sneered at by those who had as much right to serve, but who took very good care never to do any such thing. The officers left because