

is no such arrangement, nor any provision for such an equitable system of service. Some counties give a regiment, some don't give a man. Two or three townships in another county furnish the regiment, the majority of the townships in the same county not giving a solitary volunteer. One place provides men and money for the defence of the country, the other does nothing of the kind; yet the township that supplies from seventy to a hundred men pays just as much taxes as the township that gives neither a man or a dollar; *both are equally patriotic* in the eye of the law.

Here, then, is one of the inherent defects of our militia. The quota not being regularly apportioned, the service is not equalized, (a standing ground of complaint) and what adds to the mischief is, that there is no system, planned or perfected, *for obtaining men for the active militia at all, alias for the Volunteers.*

Up until 1863 the volunteer militia corps were all Independent companies, with the exception of Six Battalions in Upper, and nine in Lower Canada. In 1866 Colonel Macdougall organized the isolated companies into Battalions, giving to each a county designation and permanent head-quarters. The difficulty of obtaining men, even in his day was frequently brought to his notice, and the draft of the Militia Bill which he prepared, recommended either the Ballot, a Bounty, or rotation of service. Which of these alternatives the country will now take up will very soon have to be determined on, for every man knows that the Volunteer Militia exists now by its own choice, and that it needs but little more indifference and neglect to dissolve it altogether.

Turn now to the material of the Active or Volunteer Militia. In cities and towns it is made up, as a rule, of mechanics, working men and clerks. In the rural districts, it is composed of the farmers' sons and their day laborers, of boatmen and mill hands. The ordinary wages of all these workers is from a dollar and a half to two dollars and a half a day; but, when they are called out for annual drill, their pay is fifty cents a day and their rations, worth about 18 cents more, a total of less than one half their daily wages. [The wages are, if anything, understated; common laborers on railroads now are paid 12s. a day, while farm hands are offered \$10 and \$15 a month, by the year, and board.] But surely the Government makes some concession or grants some privilege to men who make such sacrifices, says the reader. Far from it. There is nothing provided for the men, even when they are on duty, but a forage cap, that helps the sun to peel the skin off their faces, a pair of serge trousers and a uniform coat. Everything in the shape of underclothing—boots, socks and all the necessary articles for personal cleanliness—have to be provided by the man himself at his own expense. The consequence is, that as there is no uniformity in what the men do procure, not one man out of every twenty has a pair of boots fit to march in, and I saw last year, in one short march from Clifton to Niagara, nearly half a company going barefoot, and the men of two Regiments scattered, limping and straggling along the road for the whole thirteen miles.

We will next look at the organization of the Militia, and begin with the company unit.