

proportions, that States with four times its population need not be ashamed of. Much of this success is due to the martial spirit of the people, and to the able and accomplished soldier who has brought it under discipline and give it proper direction; while the country cannot be too grateful to the statesman whose unerring judgment enabled him to crystalize the principle and provide for it the constitutional power, without which it could have no cohesion. The transaction narrated at the commencement of this article shows what gradual and sure steps had been taken towards the final development.

THE Adjutant General's "Report on the State of the Militia" is calculated to awaken serious reflections, not on the score of its efficiency, as far as the 45,000 Volunteers comprising the active portion thereof are concerned, but with respect to the actual position of the Dominion in connection with its defensive capabilities. There can be no doubt that our present active force bears the same proportion to our actual necessities as the 5000 Volunteers embodied at the period of the *Trent* difficulty did to those of the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and we all remember the hurry with which our militia organization was at that period precipitated. We had then a large regular force in garrison at Quebec, Montreal, Kingston, and Toronto—now it may be said there is not a regular soldier in either of those Provinces, and it is absolutely a matter of necessity that a thorough organization of our reserve force be undertaken as speedily as possible. The Adjutant General recommends the enforcement of the ballot to bring out those the present system enables to shirk all military service, and to return those men who have served their full period of three years to the Reserve force, not to be again called out except in case of invasion. For the present emergency an active force of at least 80,000 men is the very least this country should maintain. The political economists of the House of Commons will at once raise the patent cry of over expenditure, but the snarlings of such men are not to be put in competition with the interests and safety of Canada.

The Quebec *Morning Chronicle* is exercised in mind about the expense of the changes recommended in the Adjutant General's Report; but it is evident that the representative journal of the ancient capital has not bestowed much study or thought on our actual position with respect to this question of defence. Last summer we had a respectable regular force which did us good service during the Fenian raid. Now there is not a regular soldier in those Provinces most exposed to such a visitation. Not that we are incapable in any way on that account, but in case of actual hostilities, we want more than one *line* in the field. In fact when the Adjutant General commenced to organize the Canadian Army, it was well understood

that in future we would do our own fighting, that we were both willing and capable of defending those Provinces against any force likely to assail them, but at the same time it was necessary that we should have a force to hold the garrisons and fortresses of the Dominion, and at the time the regular troops performed that duty. Now, if we would take from the 45,000 men of the active force even only skeleton garrisons we should not have more than 20,000 men for actual service, a force ludicrously small for the frontier we have to cover. It is quite evident then that every one of the Adjutant General's recommendations should be at once carried out, and supplemented by making the Reserve force, or as large a proportion of it as possible, effective for garrison duty, and the Active force raised to the number before specified. In order to provide an efficient garrison force it might be necessary to embody the *Regular Militia* provided for in the Militia Act of 1868, and compel a certain amount of drill which could be arranged to take place after working hours, say from seven to half past eight p.m. for three nights per week till the companies had acquired sufficient knowledge of company drill to entitle them to dismissal from those parades. Battalion movements might be acquired on the Queen's birthday or other convenient holidays, and the country for the present at least need be put to no expense for clothing or other requirements. The use of the rifle might be taught at a later period, and a very great addition might be made to our available force by this means. It would tend to fill up the Volunteer ranks as the movement would be the enforcement of the ballot in full. The *Morning Chronicle* had better think over this—if the ancient capital wanted a garrison where is it to be found?—echo answers, where?

THE Adjutant General's "Report on the State of the Militia" directs attention to our naval defences on the lakes; at present those are ludicrously inadequate to the work they have to perform, and it is to be hoped the present season will not be allowed to pass without a very respectable addition being made thereto. A number of *experimental* vessels have at various times been constructed at the English dockyards, many of them admirably adapted for service on our lakes and rivers, it would probably be wise to try whether some of them could be obtained for that purpose. And it might be possible to get them at a less figure than they could be built for. What would be required is that class of armoured gunboats drawing probably eight feet of water, one hundred and forty feet in length, with twin propellers, and carrying one heavy gun. There has been quite recently a number of those vessels built by contract and otherwise; they are hardly applicable at home for any service, but would be the very thing required for our lakes and rivers. There

can be doubt but our military preparations have had a most beneficial effect on our affairs generally, and has materially assisted in promoting our present prosperity, for a powerful military force, whose objects cannot be aggressive warfare, and whose strength consists in its not interfering with the industrial resources of the country produces a feeling of security and confidence in the stability of its institutions, which is a direct guarantee of commercial success. People will invest capital when they are convinced that it is secure from all contingencies except those necessarily accruing from risks in the ordinary way of trade, and the spectacle of a whole people ready to spring to arms at a moment's notice in self-defence, puts any doubt on the subject of security out of the question. To prevent in future the necessity for repelling Fenian invasions on our soil an efficient river police is a necessity which should at once be recognized, and the want supplied. This addition to our defensive force would heighten and confirm the confidence this country already commands, would add materially to its resources, and be the very best investment of the public funds ever made. We hope to see before the season closes an efficient squadron on each of the lakes, and the naval force of the Dominion in a position to cooperate with its army.

It always gives us sincere pleasure to chronicle any instance of good feeling existing between the officers and men of the Volunteer force, as it is a sure sign of kindly disposition and great merit on the part of the former, as well as an evidence of strict discipline and esteem on the part of the latter. The recipient of the following well merited testimonial is a Volunteer officer of nine or ten years standing, a gallant soldier and worthy gentleman in every relation of life. He raised No. 4 Company, as an independent company of Volunteers before the present organization made it a part of the 42nd Battalion, and now fills the chair of Reeve of the Township of Fitzroy. The soldiers of Captain Allan Fraser's Company presented that gentleman with the following address, accompanied by a valuable gold watch and chain, the former bearing the following inscription: "Presented to Captain Allan Fraser, of Fitzroy, as a testimonial for his services as senior Captain, No. 4 Company, 42nd Battalion, Carleton, by a few friends. March, 1871." The address was as follows:

*Captain Fraser, Fitzroy:*

DEAR SIR,—There are times and seasons when all of us are more or less indebted to the kind offices of our friends, and these in turn beget a warm feeling of reciprocation.

It is therefore from a genuine feeling of reciprocation that I feel myself highly privileged in being called upon in the name of the subscribers, to present you with the accompanying gold watch and chain, as a small token of their personal respect and high esteem for you as a private friend, as a pub-