

tion was possible, and those were that the plan reflected great credit on the strategical ability of the Commander in Chief His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, but that it was not carried out so as to give any high opinion of the strategical knowledge of the officers engaged, and was a failure as far as grand Tactics and Logistics were concerned. In an article reprinted from the *Saturday Review* in the present issue, we find that even the engineering, as far as the topographical knowledge of the country was concerned, was seriously at fault, in fact, that this vitally essential element in the science of modern warfare, as France has found to her cost, had been totally neglected, which is the more surprising as good Ordnance maps of England ought to have been easily procurable with a scale of six inches to the mile amply sufficient for all practical details; but the staff appears to have been as ignorant as inefficient. The failure of the notorious humbug called Control will surprise nobody and the suggestion that its name should be changed is only one of the least of the many reforms it needs. We cannot, however, agree with the idea put forth about changing the name of the Volunteers: it does not convey the same idea to a person who has seen the system worked out intelligently and to those who have only known it as it has been modified by official mismanagement in England. To us it means a body of troops who voluntarily take upon themselves the perils of the soldier's life and should not be allowed to do so at their own loss, while others, more selfish, profit by their spirit and patriotism. We think English army reformers have altogether mistaken the mode of dealing with this question, the subject, under their manipulation requires, instead of trying to leaven the mass of the population with military spirit and training by offering inducements to the settled population to employ their leisure hours in acquiring the rudiments of military knowledge without interfering with their industrial pursuits, they take the men for their army from amongst that population, make them serve until they become thoroughly drilled machines, useless for any other purpose, and then send them back on an overcrowded labor market to put in another period in the reserves.

It is just the reverse of this process which would be valuable; increase the Volunteers, fill the ranks of the army by voluntary service therefrom, and, if Cardwell can be induced to give up promotion on the Darwinian system, take the officers from the corresponding ranks in the Volunteer corps, there would always, under this system, be a home and foreign army equal to all Britain's necessities—under the present she has neither. The ideas about militia uniforms are excellent; we want distinguishing regimental marks in Canada which can be effected by assigning to each regiment different colored flings, as suggested by our

gallant correspondent "G.W." some time ago. But it is, after all, in the matter of military engineering that the Canadian army is deficient; and here let it be distinctly understood, that the need is not now for a highly scientific corps such as the Royal Engineers by long standing and unlimited command of large sums of money have become; that will do well enough for future developments, but we want now a good corps of topographical engineers who would be the staff (apart from the Deputy Adjutant General and Brigade Major) of each Military District, in fact, we want a Quarter Master General and Department before our force is at all complete.

On the 24th October last there was a grand display of siege operations at Chatham in which the science and ability of the Royal Engineer Corps had ample opportunity of signalizing its value to the country; the following extract from the *Volunteer News* of the 1st inst. will give some idea of the value and utility of this arm of the service. Referring to the operations, which were highly satisfactory, it says:—

"From all the accounts, the experiment was a most successful one, and one that cannot fail to have afforded much instruction and matter for study to those engaged in, or who witnessed and took intelligent note of, the operations. In everything, even to assault of the walls by escalade, the operations of a siege were regularly gone through. These warlike experiments will doubtless cost the nation money, and if war has ceased from the earth, it may be money thrown away; but if war has not ceased upon the earth, money so expended is only invested and not wasted. The art of war hitherto, at least in our own times, seems to have been acquired at haphazard. Soldiers were taught the goose step, to form company sections, to mass themselves into battalion columns, to wheel, deploy, and change front in the barrack yard; the officers were told to study military history and to evolve therefrom theories of strategy and tactics; but it was left to the time when some impudent enemy called them to the field to learn by bloody and disastrous experience the practice of their profession. It was as if an engineer were to learn his trade in school by studying the theory of mechanics, the nature of steam and the strength and properties of iron, and then turned adrift on the world as a model engineer, and when a steam engine was wanted, to lay before him the rough materials, and tell him to proceed with its construction without the practical instruction that alone can make him a workman. If war was so learned till recently, it has not always been so. We find in a periodical work now on our library table, and published 132 years ago, that camps of instruction were formed in that year in the vicinity of London. The motto of the camp was "*Pax in bello*," and the enterprise was, as in our own day, made the butt of much opposition—was sneered and scoffed at, and had to bear the brunt of cutting sarcasm by the wits and politicians of the age. Is the art of fighting one that should only be learned when the enemy offers us violence? Assuredly not! The very scientific preparedness to resist aggression keeps the aggressor at arm's length. Wars of former times seldom expended themselves in a single campaign; but since the days of the Crimea we

have seen great results accomplished in a few weeks and even days, and the effect of these short episodes in contemporary history has been the various changes which have taken place in the map of Europe since our school-boy days. Science has done as much in economising time in warfare as it has done by its inventions in the arts of peace. If we will retain peace within our borders, and dispel all fear of warfare from without, we must possess the knowledge and the art of exercising the forces which nature places within the reach of friend as well as foe. The operations of the military Engineer hitherto may, to a certain extent, have been studied in mathematical problems, but chemistry and telegraphy have now become quite as potent in the art of war as mechanics, and the diversities of offensive and defensive appliances are now such that no single operator can be expected to command a knowledge and a mastery of the whole; consequently military engineering has become complicated in proportion to the diversified scientific field from which its resources are drawn. Therefore the great and supreme utility of experiments such as those of last week. The success of these operations are consequently calculated to give unmitigated satisfaction to the country that should the skill and potency of military Engineering ever be called into active exertion, it may be depended upon for the highest development of its attributes.

The letter of "A Volunteer" which appears in our issue to day discloses a state of matters which we had hoped ere this would have ceased to exist, but as our present organization is hardly three years old it is not to be wondered at if abuses prevail in odd nooks and corners. The remedy for this state of affairs is simple enough; the duty of the District Staff Officer is to find out such cases of incompetency and take immediate measures to have it remedied. The commander of a battalion is as liable to removal as any private in the ranks, but it is a matter of surprise to us how such a case as our correspondent points out could occur. The General Orders and Regulations provide that every officer should be duly qualified and if the offending individual had passed a regular examination it is hard to imagine he could be so grossly ignorant, although it is possible such a case might happen, or can it be that the individual could not master the new drill. In whatever light the subject may be viewed it is wholly and indefinitely wrong, and "A Volunteer," instead of leaving the service, should bring the matter under the notice of the Brigade Major or the Deputy Adjutant-General. The process of organization described is laughable, but we must dissent from our correspondent's view that it was by any means common. It was no craving after a doubtful honor that animated Canadian gentlemen when they obeyed the call of their country in her hour of need.

The good people of Manitoba need not be much afraid of Fenians while they can make such musters as those contained in the following list which we take from the *Manitoba Liberal*.