

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 CASH 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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No Volunteer officer can be well posted concerning the condition, movements, and prospects of the Force unless he receives the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

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

Is published EVERY MONDAY MORNING, at OTTAWA, Dominion of Canada, by DAWSON KERR Proprietor, to whom all Business Correspondence should be addressed.

TERMS—TWO DOLLARS per annum, strictly in advance.

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 it 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 29, 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.

WHILE a fierce contest is raging in Europe which may at any time envelop the civilised world in the flames of war it behoves the people of Canada to look well to their own state of preparation, that such a contingency may not take this country by surprise. As has been repeatedly stated by the VOLUNTEER REVIEW and proved by the presence of actual hostilities, the country possesses one of the best, if not the best, Militia system in the world, and as the first stage in the organisation of the active force created thereby has been successfully achieved it becomes the duty of the people to see that their representatives aid and assist its future development.

One of the distinguishing features of the Militia law is the elasticity of its provisions, and the facility with which it can be adapted to all conditions for the organisation and government of a great military force, as well as the freedom with which the Commander-in-Chief is invested with respect to its working. While, in England, the House of Commons, by subjecting the Commander-in-Chief

to the control of the Secretary or Minister of War, virtually places the whole patronage and discipline of the army in the hands of a civilian, whose political influence will be employed to cover his departmental errors and delinquencies, and to save him from the consequences which should follow the people of Canada, wise in their day and generation, place that power in the hands of Her Majesty's Representative, who will do nothing without the advice of the Privy Council, while the discipline of the force is confided to the Adjutant General. The administration therefore of the affairs of our Canadian army has been and will be entirely free from that official complexity known in slang phrase as "red tapeism," with which every movement of the British army is unnecessarily hampered.

With that army the principle of centralization had been carried to the verge of absurdity, so that the "Horse Guards" meant anything or everything to the soldier, and was the actual embodiment of an absolute and mysterious power, with which his future life was often disastrously bound up.

In Canada the opposite or decentralization, principle has been laid down as the basis of the system on which the army of the Dominion is to be administered. Every military district has the control of its own affairs—the Deputy Adjutant General being supreme in all questions, with due subordination to headquarters, and the appeal outside the jurisdiction on military matters is simply the last resort. This country owes the valuable Militia law to Sir G. E. Cartier, Bart., and the organisation of the force with the regulations by which it is governed to Colonel P. Robertson-Ross, the Adjutant General. In order that the latter valuable officer may be enabled to perfect the important work on which he has been so successfully engaged it will be necessary to call into existence the various departments which should be attached to a military force and without which its existence is impossible or valueless. There must be a Medical Department, with its staff medical stores, instruments, ambulances, stretchers, and other appliances, and as those matters cannot be improvised they should be provided at once. A Quarter Master General's Department, with deputies in each military district, and a complete corps of Engineers. An Ordnance Corps, apart from the artillerymen, whose knowledge and manipulative skill is necessary in handling arsenal stores, and whose knowledge must be the result of practice. An ordinary Land Transport Corps would complete the organisation of the Canadian army.

There would also be a necessity for increasing the strength of the cavalry arm of the service; but as the Adjutant General, in his admirable report, has suggested "Mounted Riflemen," it is a mere question of detail which slight inducement would render effective and bring out a number of