

she would require an additional reinforcement of at least 10,000 per month.

As it is the cavalry regiments are all short of horses, and the field batteries are in even a worse condition.

The foreign markets from which the equine supply used to come are shut against us, as Russia, with her 23,000,000 head, has forbidden all exportation, as have also France, Austria and Germany, with from three to four millions each. The United States are credited with having eleven and a half millions of horses, but when we know the way the Americans pick up every likely animal in the Dominion, very little dependence can be placed on them.

Canada ought to be able to furnish a respectable quota to help the mother country, but recent investigations show that though she is credited with over a million, it is pretty hard to find a few hundreds of the proper material.

Canada, Australia, the Cape, and the other smaller colonies, ought from their vast territories to be able to furnish England with abundance of horse-flesh to meet all emergencies. If the much-talked-of Imperial federation were never more than a federation for the provision of army horses, we would be serving the old country well, and continental wars would no longer disturb her *equinimity*.

But Canada, especially, as she is so favorably situated for supplying England with horses, ought to take the initiative in at once becoming a regular remount depot for the English army. Horse breeding should be made a Government matter, and proper steps taken to produce horses of a class that would be fit for anything—general utility horses. As it is, drive round any of our best farming districts and see how many good sound animals, fit to put into the ranks of an English dragoon regiment, or a field battery, you will be able to get. You may consider yourself lucky if you require all the fingers of one hand to count them on.

This might all be changed by proper management. Let government import all the good stallions they can get, and place them in the various districts, allowing only such mares as were up to a certain standard, and sound, to be served, and charging for them only a nominal fee. This would encourage breeding from good sound mares, and would soon produce a gratifying result.

If our agricultural associations, instead of spending their annual grants in paying out premiums for a lot of trash, were to devote one, or if required, two years' money to purchasing a proper sire, it would work wonders in our horse supply.

Cattle ranching is being overdone, but it is not likely that the supply of horses will ever equal the demand so long as war and rumors of war hang over Europe. If Sir John Lister Kaye devoted those vast fertile plains in the North-West to horse breeding, what a magnificent depot he might form for a remount station for the English army, and besides being a patriotic it would surely be a paying project.

Canadians are losing a fine chance in not bidding for the contract for horsing the English army. In the great tracts of fertile lands horses can be raised to the proper age for such a small sum that it must pay. Besides, we ought to have a good supply for ourselves. We do not know how those fishery disputes may end, and we may have to go down and take New York some of these fine days.

### The Pacific Coast Defences.

IN the British Columbia Provincial Legislature the following resolution was carried on the 16th ult., on motion of Col. Baker, seconded by Mr. Prior:—

"Whereas in the present disturbed state of Europe the Imperial British Government might suddenly be plunged into war; and whereas the defences of the coast and ports of British Columbia are not in a state to resist any sudden attack by an enemy. Therefore, be it resolved, that representations be made to the Dominion Government requesting that early steps be taken to carry out its policy, declared in 1883, of stationing in British Columbia a battery of Canadian artillery. Also requesting the Dominion Government to take steps towards developing and placing on a better footing the militia of this province. 1st. By the enrolment of new corps at Nanaimo, Vancouver, the Yale and Kootenay districts, and such other districts as may be deemed advisable. 2nd. By providing better and more suitable drill sheds for exercising corps, and also by providing suitable magazines and buildings for the storage of arms and ammunition."

In speaking to the motion Col. Baker said the disturbed state of Europe showed that war clouds were rising above the horizon and a thunder clap might be expected at any moment. Should an enemy make a landing on their shores their position would be deplorable. Their only defence at present was 80 militia and 30 rifles in Victoria, and 80 militia at Port Moody and New Westminster. But this was not sufficient, notwithstanding that it was commanded by an efficient officer, Col. Holmes. Brick could not be made without straw, and the officers

could not make the force more efficient than the means at their disposal would allow. It was possible to raise a company of 40 at Nanaimo, another corps at Vancouver, while the martial spirit in Kootenay and Yale would undoubtedly lead to the organization of forces in those localities. Such corps could be concentrated at any given point in the event of danger. The House could not realize the horrors that would ensue in the event of the landing of an enemy, and it was the duty of the country to be prepared for the worst.

Mr. Prior referred to the difficulty experienced in keeping together a force of even 80 men, in consequence of the lowness of the pay and the constant changes of residence of those who connect themselves with the force.

Mr. Bole said that besides being a member of the House, he had the honor of holding a position in the militia and it appeared to him that the matter was one of no ordinary importance. Their position has become much more important by the completion of the great transcontinental highway. Their increased importance gave them increased responsibility, and with these this question was not altogether devoid of its unpleasant aspects. The time did not appear to be very far distant when the British lion and the Russian bear will close in deadly conflict; and it appeared, in view of that unhappy possibility, that the shores of British Columbia might be made an objective point of an attacking force. Canada does not keep up a standing army, though there are some permanent corps enlisted which can successfully contend with the best armies of the same kind that Great Britain herself can produce. Quality, however, is not everything; we must have quantity, also. It must surely strike the most casual observer that, for the province of British Columbia, the 270 men allowed by law, are entirely inadequate for any particular defence whatsoever. With respect to the material, better cannot be got anywhere; but those few men are not furnished with proper equipments. At this moment, on the Fraser river, the artillery have smooth-bores of the date of 1859, and, in Victoria, the gun carriages are mostly of the ancient pattern, and not in a fit state for service. These things should be remedied. It is said, he continued, that we as a people are slow to change old modes—so slow that it is still thought one Britisher is able to whip any ten men in the world. We must change our ways. We find that in Victoria the number of men, the number and character of the guns, are entirely inadequate to form a protection against the descent of a hostile fleet upon our coast. It may be well to say in a newspaper that ships never run away—and I hope I shall never see the British flag run before another—but a ship retiring after a fight and one pursuing another after a victory are two different things, and we must expect, in these days of big guns, that a victorious ironclad would be mauled by her opponent, and in that case, we must have places where our ships can retire and repair. Ships of war must retire protected by guns of a character that will make it imperative for the enemy to keep at a safe distance until they can be put in proper order. The defence of Victoria and Esquimalt are prime factors in the defence of British Columbia, while the interests of the mainland and the island are identical and as long as the duty of every member in his place should be to forward the interests of British Columbia in general, and each individual district in particular. We have Esquimalt and Victoria virtually entirely unprotected; because the armament in British Columbia is not able to contend with anything more than an unarmoured cruiser, and a first class ironclad might come and knock Victoria into "smithereens" and then knock the mainland in detail. Not only Victoria and Esquimalt, but our coal supply is at the mercy of an enemy. This moment, a gun boat, one of the obsolete class which was found of little use in the Crimean war, might go to Nanaimo and successfully take possession of the coal mines there, or else destroy them. The terminus at New Westminster would be at the mercy of the enemy; because, although two twenty-four smooth bores might do a considerable amount of damage among a band of hostile Indians, they are not of sufficient calibre to warrant our defending the river against a hostile fleet armed with modern guns. Burrard Inlet would be in the same position, and we all know the Canadian Pacific Railway is of great strategical importance. Halifax and Quebec are strongly fortified because they are the eastern termini of the Canadian Pacific Railway and could only be captured after a long siege, and that would give time to move to their rescue. With respect to the drill shed, there is only one in Victoria and one in New Westminster, and they are totally inadequate to train a large body of men, in fact neither of them is worth anything for any other purpose than squad drill. It would be very easy to train a force sufficiently large to protect the coast line of British Columbia from any attack that can possibly take place. Such force could be placed in an advantageous position, because any attacking force to come to our coast must be brought on ship-board, therefore a much smaller force would answer than where an enemy advances by land. The possibility of a rupture with our American cousins is not considered, for the day, he thought, would never come when the "Stars and Stripes" will be found