

his lines for the purpose of subsisting his troops.

The whole of this grave and fatal error arose from the absence of a properly organized engineering corps. In modern warfare the movements are too rapid to admit of the old practice of reconnoitering positions and making field maps therefrom—that work must be done before the field is taken, and reconnaissance is now nothing better than *feeling for the whereabouts* of your enemy.

It is notorious that with the exception of some military maps of parts of the Eastern and Western frontiers Canada does not possess anything like a topographical plan on which the slightest movement could be founded. The surveys of its townships are incorrect, at best only a series of straight lines, defining neither river courses, roads, defiles, or any other information; being in fact merely a design showing the assumed number of lots in each, and not always correctly that.

It is evident then that some remedy must be devised for this state of affairs, and as present means can be applied an effort should be made to supply the requisite information. We have already discussed this question, pointed out what means were within reach, and recommended that they should be utilized. It was simply to organize an Engineer Corps in every Military District of the civil engineers and Provincial land surveyors therein. The cost of the measure will be merely that of the parchment on which their commissions would be engrossed, and the printing of the gazette announcing the organization. Those gentlemen should be required to furnish plans of their several localities, with all the possible topographical information in their power, especially relating to roads, swamps, rivers, streams, woods, and heights,—this plan to be endorsed by the Deputy Adjutant General and the Brigade Major (both of whom must be supposed to be measureably acquainted with the country) before being paid for, and within a very short period at a trifling expense reliable data would be accumulated at headquarters, by which the defensive capabilities of any district could be at once pointed out and the necessary precautions taken if endangered. This knowledge could also be rendered available by having the summer drill turned into an actual eight days' campaign, in which the operations would extend over a different portion of the district till the whole of its strategical positions would become thoroughly known to the local force. Some years will elapse before a costly and elaborate system of defensive works will be required in Canada, therefore the exertions of the local engineer corps should be confined to the development of the natural defensive capabilities of each district, and the knowledge of military engineering need not extend further than its practical application to field manoeuvres and the movements of material for an army.

There is at present on the Statute book an act incorporating the "Association of Provincial Land Surveyors and the Institute of Civil Engineers"—an amendment or two would adapt it to the required purpose: 1st, Registration and service in the District Engineer Corps should be made compulsory—with the alternative of serving in the artillery if fitted therefor. 2nd. All future students to be compelled to pass an examination in military engineering before being allowed to practice. By this simple means the country would have a very efficient corps as guides, intelligence officers, and general staff, thoroughly acquainted with all the peculiarities of their locality, and as all our military operations are purely defensive, this description of force would be found by far the best adapted for the discharge of their peculiar duties. The lesson of the campaign should not be thrown away. It is our duty to profit by it, and that can only be done by thorough organization.

The tendency of all so-called reform in England has been to place a dangerous amount of political power in the hands of the half-pauper population of the larger towns, and London in particular bids fair to make an attempt to imitate the scenes enacted in Paris. It would appear as if this latter result was that which the Whig-Radicals desired to achieve, and that is the end as well as object of all their endeavors, because they fancied that this power once placed in the hands of the working-class could be wielded at pleasure by the leaders. As if to illustrate this view of Radical politics we have a speech delivered by the Honorable Auberon Herbert, brother of the Earl of Carnarvon, and one of the Radical members for Nottingham, to his constituents. It will be remembered that this brilliant youth was one of the trio who promised to go, but didn't, into the lobby of the British House of Commons on the occasion of the vote on the dowry of the Princess Louise, in defending the vote in the affirmative given on that occasion, said "*The lands of the Crown are really the property of the nation*"—thus conveying to his dupes, intentionally or otherwise, that those lands, the property of Crown from time immemorial, really belonged to the whole mass of the people, illustrating the doctrine of the French communist "that all property is robbery." English Republicanism is the offspring and natural result of the preponderance acquired by the commercial class in the Legislature—with the contracted ideas of men trained to a specialty they were prone to use the means most ready at their hands, and out of their mill slaves manufacture suffrages sufficient to overshadow the other classes whose interests are of more consequence than theirs.

If we had the Hon. Mr. Herbert amongst our agricultural community as the apostle of those enlightened ideas on political and social economy which prevail in certain districts in merrie England, he would be very

apt to go back a sadder if not a wiser man—our people are very law-abiding, but they would be very likely to treat idiots with contempt, and charlatans to a "*ride on a rail*," any one telling them that the lands they have won from the forest under patent from the Crown was the property of the nation; in other words, of every illo scoundrel who could assert his claim to it by force, would be very likely to get his head broken for his trouble; but it seems the Hon. Auberon had a further dose of *flap-doodle* for his intelligent constituents—looking at and judging of their capacity by that of their representative they certainly must be a queer lot—and the following trash admirably fits them:—

"If we are to look forward we had better ask what is our present position. Our present position is this, as I understand it, and it seems to me a great misfortune, that our present system does not allow us to have a voice and a choice as to who is to step into the first place at the head of this nation. (Hear, hear.) We live in the days in which we have learned to accept nothing unless we can reconcile it to sober reason and to clear intelligence, and I for one will take this opportunity of stating that I think it a great misfortune that there should exist in this country no guarantee whatsoever that we shall not have an extravagant, idle and a corrupt Court (cheers!) we possess no guarantee that a person who is not utterly unfit shall not be placed in the first place we have to give. Against violence, or against unreason, or against disorder, there is only one barrier, and that is the intelligence and right feeling of the people themselves. (Cheers.) To that I will trust; on that I will put my reliance; and when that fails us God help us all, for there is nothing left. (Cheers.) I shall now venture very shortly to point out to you some of the advantages that would result from a change in our constitutional system. I think that if the change should take the form of a commonwealth or a republic we should gain a much greater impulse with real evils that exist among us. I think we should get a great increase of force and energy to deal with that poverty and that crime, and that want which are a great burden to this nation; and I say that for this reason, because I think that men's minds would be carried in a simpler and more straightforward direction. What I notice now is this—that much of the force which exists in this nation is wasted. We are all broken up into parties. There is a party which wants to establish and maintain the Church. (A voice—"Down with it," and uproar.) And there is a party which wants to remove the House of Lords (cheers) and there is a party which wants to preserve it."

This diluted treason, for it is nothing else, is simply the ravings of a mild lunatic; his friends should not allow him to go at large, and he ought to be pressed to set the example of equality he preaches; in which case his friends should furnish him with a *donkey* and costermonger's cart and give him a fair start in life, he could earn an honest penny which he is not likely to do in politics; at all events the similarity between his own position and that of the quadruped who is probably labelled by the comparison would not be so apparent.

Towards the close of the last century scions of the French nobility were busily engaged