

The efforts of the Peace Society have been singularly futile in effecting any portion of the objects for which it was established. Since the Peace Congress of 1848 at Frankfurt, Europe has been convulsed with contests, internicine and international, even JOHN BURNER'S mission to his dearly loved friend the late CZAR NICHOLAS was not only a failure but an egregious mistake, although the same individual's influence in the GLADSTONE Ministry led to the disgraceful abrogation of the securities which were placed on ambition and is preparing the way for a repetition of worse scenes than those his mistaken efforts were directed to arrest.

So far from wars having ceased through the meddling of those philosophers it would appear as if they had actually played a prominent part in forcing contests which might otherwise never be undertaken. It is notorious that the late CZAR NICHOLAS would never have risked the consequences of the Crimean contest if he had not been persuaded by BURNER and his associates that they represented the people of Great Britain and that they would not fight; be this as it may, a quarter of a century of effort on the part of the Peace Society is illustrated by the Revolutionary contests of 1848-49—the Crimean War—the Indian mutiny—the Austro-Italian contest of 1859—the Schleswig-Holstein war—the civil war in the United States—the Austro-Prussian contest—the Abyssinian war—and the Franco-Prussian war—leaving at present in active operation—the following contests, any one of which may lead to consequences involving a general outbreak, viz.—The Internicine contest in Spain—the civil war in Cuba—the Russian and Khivan contest—the Indian troubles in the United States—the Dutch and Acheen war—the Ashantee contest on the West Coast of Africa in which England is engaged. The late President of the United States is credited with the saying "that it was a bad time to swap houses while fording a river," with such elements of disorganization abroad it is a bad time for a prudent nation to disarm, and from the known activity of European governments in organizing their armies and their fleets it is evident that little faith is placed on the maintenance of peace.

Those amiable dreamers who meditate on the beauties of universal brotherhood would be horrified to think that they indirectly had anything to do with such a fearful catalogue of evils as detailed in the foregoing enumeration, since their idea took a practical shape of a society organized for putting a stop to violence and bloodshed; it is a singular fact nevertheless, that such is the case, and it can be clearly shown that their intervention has in more than one instance been singularly injurious and disastrous.

The last Gazette contained the announcement that there were to be no camps of instruction during the current year, but that the annual drill was to be put in at the Corps

Headquarters. With the fact before the country that the temper of the House of Commons indicated hardly satisfaction with the reduction of \$650,000 off the estimates for military service, and that ministers might have gone much further with their approval, such a conclusion is inevitable; but we very much question whether in this particular the House fairly reflected the opinions or wishes of the country; it is quite certain, however, that its interests were not consulted.

In ordinary civil life society is kept together by well devised safe guards prominent amongst which is a force armed or unarmed as the case may be, known as local or municipal police. No sane man will presume to meddle with the organization or standing of such a force, much less to talk of its abolition on the pretense that the general honesty of mankind has improved so much that it is useless providing safe guards against dishonesty or violence.

What is true of municipalities and individuals is equally true of nationalities and the great mass of their peoples, and it is as necessary to guard individual wealth from national cupidity as it is to provide against the known danger, from the burglar, or foot pad of social life, the result therefore of crippling the development of a military system is to leave the State practically defenceless, and to paralyze the force capable of protecting its interests.

A pretty general idea appears to prevail that the era of wars is passed or is about to pass away for ever, judging by the preparations making in other countries such a conclusion must be ranked amongst the fallacies of popular thoughts and ideas. Parliament appears to be in the state of the English House of Commons previous to some startling event, which has the effect of a fearful outlay of public money and a disastrous loss through the consequent and ensuing panic.

We believe that every one of the great commercial crashes which have shaken public as well as private credit, had at bottom the idea of insecurity from political aggression as the motive power that precipitated each disastrous crisis, and that insecurity was founded not on the fact of immoderate outlay for military purposes, but because that outlay was not sufficient, had not produced a force capable of inspiring "the man upon change" with the idea of security; and we are quite certain that the efforts of the Canadian House of Commons in this direction will be the cause of a corresponding crisis.

The soldier is the security first and last for the success of the trader, failing that, wealth only belongs to an individual or State as long as they can hold it, and that time can be measured by the exigencies of a better prepared State. The reply of Solon to the Lydian King, whose name has become the synonym for acquisition, that "He who

possessed more iron would be master of the Gold," is as true now as it was 3,000 years ago.

We need not point out the necessity which exists for keeping our troops in an efficient state, the very conditions which compel us to keep up a military force at all fully illustrate that requisite of their organization. As a part of the British Empire we are bound to be able to render the Mother country efficient military assistance, and as a numerically weaker people than our neighbors we are obliged in self defence to maintain a force capable of protecting our independence of action and national autonomy. With the example of France before us any act tending to paralyze our military development is not an act of wisdom.

The peculiar value of the camps of instruction were that they taught men how to act together, and an outline of what the life as well as duties of a soldier should be, such knowledge will not be acquired at Headquarters drill, and the action so far delays the development. The Volunteer principle was gradually leavening the country with good soldiers, with men that could work together under discipline. There were some drawbacks; too much of the cost of supporting the measure was thrown upon the officers, and the pay of rank and file was and is not what it should be; so that, instead of reducing the allowance true political economy would have pointed in the other direction, especially as it is quite clear the country would be receiving full value for its outlay, and its prosperity warranted the advance.

For the present nothing can be done beyond submitting to circumstances, and endeavouring to do all that is possible with the means at hand, but it is a grievous mistake for the sake of a paltry sum of 17 cents *per capita* on the population of the Dominion, to cripple a force that by its prestige alone added many thousand times more to the general prosperity of the people.

This is a subject, however, on which public opinion is sure to be brought to bear and make itself felt, so that it is quite possible the next session may find the House of Commons quite willing to recognize the claims of the Volunteers, and to call to remembrance that the system is the cheapest, the most effective, and interferes less with the industries of the people than any other.

The courtesy of Lieutenant Colonel FARROW, 38th Batt., has supplied us with files of the Nelson Examiner (New Zealand) of 12th April last, containing very interesting news from that colony, and the presentation of prizes to the amount of £587 sterling to the successful competitors at a rifle match on 15th March last.

It appears to have been a very gorgeous affair indeed, the prizes being distributed by the Hon. Colonel RICHMOND, C.B., assisted by Mrs. RICHMOND. The following extract