

ment are not proceeding in a very economical manner, as the rates of pay and allowances for the non-commissioned officers and men will indicate. At the rates sanctioned the Artillery Corps about to be raised will cost nearly *three times* as much as the troops of H. M. Service, and will I am afraid not be nearly so efficient, for the better class in the Militia, who earn from \$1 to \$4 per day in civil life, will not enlist at 50 cents per diem, no matter how fond they may be of the service, and so an inferior lot of men will have to be taken.

Now, why not raise the men from the rural population in England, in the same manner as the late Honourable East India Company whose troops have won renown for British Arms on many a hard fought field in the East? The regiments could be raised in depots in England, at the same rates of pay as in the Royal service, and officered by Canadians, who might by arrangement with the Home Government be educated in the Military Colleges in England. By offering as an inducement a grant of land in any part of the Dominion, on the expiration of a short term of service, say five years, we would secure a military colonization by the best agricultural class to be had, and have an efficient army at one third of the cost which raising the men here would entail.

Our Government certainly deserve credit for the manner they are striving to educate the people to a spirit of self reliance, and if they continue the wise policy they have adopted, the names of their leaders will in the future be deeply engraved in the memories and history of a great and prosperous nation.

Yours truly,

A VOLUNTEER.

28th October, 1871.

THE NEW BATTERIES OF GARRISON ARTILLERY.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR:—I quite agree with you in your editorial of yesterday's issue; "Whatever may be done by the Imperial Officers it is evident that it is our duty to develop field artillery as largely as possible, as on it we must depend for defensive purposes." Allow me to call the attention of your readers to this remark of yours, for truly on *field artillery* and not on garrison artillery, must we "depend for defensive purposes," in that branch of the military organization of this vast country. Why, may I ask, are we to start our standing army (for to a small standing army must we eventually come, of the truth of which no one in his senses can doubt, and no one in his senses will object) with garrison artillery? Why start with a branch of the service which can be so little needed in this country? How many forts have we in this Dominion (leaving Halifax out) which could be held for one day? One and one only, the fortifications at Quebec.

And is it for Quebec's sake alone that we are to spend \$75,000 annually on what is of no use to the rest of the country? Fort Henry at Kingston could not be held for even half a day and why start a corps of garrison artillery to defend it? No Sir, what this country wants is first-class field artillery, such as the Prussians had in the late war. What we want "in order to provide for the care and protection of the forts, magazines, armament and warlike stores recently or about to be handed over to the Dominion Government," (see General Order 24, No. 1), is a couple of battalions (or say one of 500) of 250 men or 300 each, commanded by one Lieut. Colonel with one Major, three Captains and their two subalterns per company. This would give all the "care and protection" which most of the *forts*, in this country would require in peace for the. *For* they left them in war the better for the country as she would have more men in the field, and the better for themselves as they would not then become prisoners of war or blown up. To each of these battalions attach one battery or half battery of field artillery, which would form a school of gunnery in the eastern and western portions of the Dominion. The battalions of infantry should become the Military Schools of the Dominion wherein applicants for certificates would be able to obtain them, and wherein they would learn the *practical* as well as *theoretical* working of the "interior economy of a corps" of which most of our Volunteer officers are so woefully ignorant. These battalions could send out detachments to the various forts, or cities which have outlying forts, such as Toronto, Isle aux Noix, etc., where military schools might be opened for the benefit of the country around. But to these garrison batteries. Do the authorities mean to tell the people of this country that they can teach our artillery officers in 12 months what it takes the talented youth of England three years to learn? Do they mean to tell us that they can do more in twelve months than the whole staff at Woolwich can teach a talented youth in less than two and a-half years, aye, and talented youths they must be in some degree to pass the Board of Examiners? Do they mean to say that they can teach in one year what it requires years of experience to acquire? No Sir, they dare not be so absurd. A smattering of various details may be learnt by those who avail themselves of the garrison artillery, but it will be learnt to be forgotten, just as the Military School cadets learnt and forgot the "interior economy of a corps" and of which (those three years passed thro') I will assert there are not a dozen in the whole Province of Ontario who could pass a Board of Examiners for promotion from Ensign to the rank of Lieutenant. The little taught in the Schools is only by way of theory. It is a case of cram for the \$50, as I heard it expressed one day some time since.

No, Sir, field artillery is what this country

wants, and the very best at that, supported by good infantry such as the Prussians had at Gravelotte, Spichenen, etc.

Yours sincerely,

BELIEVER IN FIELD ARTILLERY.
Kingston, Oct. 24th.

ECONOMY IN REGARD TO THE MILITIA.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR:—A great deal of talking is always done at or about election time, and very often at other times, about economy in the finances of the Dominion and Provincial Governments and a thought has occurred to my mind that a great sum of money might be annually saved by the Dominion Government if they could manage to do away gradually, or at once at the next enrolment of Volunteers, with some of the superabundance of Captains in the infantry corps. If they could reduce the commissioned ranks by placing the strength of a company at 100 men instead of but half that number, an immense sum of money would be yearly saved. For if you do away with one captain you can also do away with at least one subaltern, and so save the yearly pay of these two officers. I know I am advocating a very bold move, but, nevertheless, I cannot conceive why every 55 non-commissioned officers and men require a captain and two subalterns to look after them. I know it would be harder for captains to raise their quota and that they would have longer distances to go to get their men together: but if a good sound system was established in each company whereby the subalterns and non-commissioned officers should each take their parts in such duty, the captain would merely have to warn them and they would warn the men of their different sections. The trouble of supervision of clothing, arms and accoutrements by the Captain would need be no greater because if he kept a proper account of the issues he may have made he can tell by mere reference to his clothing book where each separate piece of clothing ought to be, and the same with his arms and accoutrements when not in the army. Of course, the subalterns and non-commissioned officers would each have a half company and section respectively, under his immediate charge and would be responsible to the captain that they were forthcoming when called for. Captains in this case ought to have the power, with the sanction of the commanding officer, of calling a parade of their companies together once each half year for an inspection of the clothing. As to whether one officer can command on parade or in action, so large a body of men, it is useless to speak, as we know that he is quite capable of so doing.

If you think this subject of any value to the force you will oblige me by giving it a place in your columns.

Yours sincerely,

OLD SOLDIER.