

bodily a charge affecting both Staff and Commanding Officers—does not appear to have existed at the annual drill for 1868. Reference to the Militia Report shows us the following averages, men only, without regard to fractions, in twelve of the battalions enumerated by "L. C." These are taken from Col. Taylor's tabulated return for 1868, and I have not gone into a larger number of those mentioned by "L. C." on account of space:

22nd .....	10)175
Average .....	47
23rd .....	5)216
Average .....	43
24th .....	8)378
Average .....	47
25th .....	2)98
Average .....	49
26th .....	7)313
Average .....	44
27th .....	8)376
Average .....	47
28th .....	0)310
Average .....	56
29th .....	5)232
Average .....	46
30th .....	0)197
Average .....	55
31st .....	0)271
Average .....	45
32nd .....	6)290
Average .....	48
33rd .....	7)335
Average .....	47

Referring further to Col. Jarvis' Report (not, by the way, a fair one, according to what he said on the ground at his inspections) we find the 16th, 40th, 45th, 46th, 47th, and 57th, to average, seriatim, 42, 43, 51, 51, 54, 40; which figures, if they demonstrate anything, shew that the military spirit is on the whole more healthy in the western than in the midland districts.

This much said, there remains but little set forth by "L. C." which does not tell home to the convictions of every officer of experience.

In appreciation of English opinion of our Militia matters we entirely agree. Nor could "L. C." have hit upon a happier illustration of his point than his anecdote of Mr. Cardwell.

I will give you another instance of the delusive form which our grandiloquent Militia statements assume when read at home, without, of course, the key of local knowledge. I was written to in 1859, by an old friend who had been captain of my Company in the Victoria (Australia) Volunteer Artillery, and who was then a Musketry Instructor of Volunteers in England. Captivated by the splendor (on paper) of the Canadian Militia he wished to ascertain if there was any opening for him here. Of course I recommended him to stay where he was already well off.

This was at the time when the old "Sedentary" looked very fine on paper, and, as "L. C." observes, it would trouble any

one to discover in what respect, except in the cost of registration, the present "Reserve" is better than the old "Sedentary."

I will not now stay to discuss whether Sir George Cartier's Act meets either the motto "To preserve peace, prepare for war," or the Hon. Baronet's own proposition, laid down in his speech introducing the bill, "No nation on earth could pretend to be a nation until it attained the military element or the power of defence," further than to say that the "power of defence" is but indifferently attained by the power of calling out, at the eleventh hour of danger, an undisciplined mob (zealous and well behaved, I grant, but still, in a military sense, a mob) to supplement a nucleus of 40,000 Volunteers, drilled for a week in the year.

One thing, however, strikes one very forcibly. We have heard a great deal of the power and the stubborn determination to use it, which enabled Sir George to override all objections to details of the present Act, during its passage.

It is impossible not to regret that these qualities were not directed to the establishment of such inducements to Volunteers as would render the service popular.

As it is the Volunteer receives \$1.00 a day for setting aside labor or business worth to him from \$1.50 upwards, and to give him that two days' drill are thrown into one, which is objectionable. He gives his personal service to an apathetic country (for the country must be judged by the results of its legislative deliberations) and pays the same taxes as the man who laughs at the idea of serving. Neither does he accomplish that sacrifice on equal terms throughout. In some favored Districts he gets his rations paid for, in others not; and in the former case it amounts to an unjust imposition on liberal sections.

He enjoys no compensatory advantage but the trifling one of exemption from juries, and no privilege but that of being sneered at by every lout who is disposed to chuckle over his own immunity.

Now the Canadian Volunteer is not so enamoured of soldiering as to volunteer to serve year after year on such conditions, and there is nothing in them to attract successors, beyond the comparatively few who love military service for its own sake.

But it is but waste of space to sum up the items which constitute the utterly false position in which the Volunteer—officer and man alike—is placed under the present system, when this has been so exhaustively done by "L. C." in the last paragraph but one of his letter in the VOLUNTEER REVIEW of the 8th inst. This paragraph deserves to be got by heart by every officer and man in the service. I will pass on to the drafting question.

It has been sought to be implied that the draft was only intended to be resorted to in the extreme case of war. How does this theory agree with the following extract from

Sir George's introductory speech in bringing forward the Bill for its first reading.

"The Bill permitted the organization of Volunteers as under the existing laws. A certain time would be allowed within which Volunteers might enroll themselves, and then, if the number was not sufficient, the Bill proposed for the filling up of service companies, so that the number of trained men throughout the Dominion should not be less than 40,000, while at the same time the officers of the Reserve Militia, or such proportion of them as the Governor General might fix, should be obtained to train along with the service company men. If any regimental division did not furnish its full quota of active service men by means of Volunteering, then the necessary number of service men should be drawn by ballot from the regimental division."

Nothing can be plainer than the intent here so distinctly specified, and I particularly regret that it has been sought to set it entirely aside, because I believe that a Volunteer Force will not eventually be found to stand—that it is not good for the Force of the Dominion, in time of peace, should be a purely Volunteer force—and that despite any little unwillingness here or there, a draft to fill up Battalions within their counties, would be submitted to without serious objection or evil effect. No doubt the moment when compulsory service might most advantageously have been urged on the country has been allowed to slip, the moment when, I will venture to say, even a direct Militia tax might have been safely imposed—but Canadians are still a law abiding people, and even those who take advantage of the present state of things, are not blind to its injustice. We are especially fond of flaunting our adherence to British institutions. Does it never occur to us that the draft for the British Militia is as absolute as it is quietly submitted to, that it has usually had to undergo a month's drill and that great public grievances are not quietly submitted to by the people of England. I do not go the length of advocating the same amount of drill here, but I fail to see any reason why what there is should not be compulsory. Those who say the people will not be drafted simply say that we are as self-willed and incapable of submitting to restraint as the people of the United States, which, I take it, is not complimentary.

There are other points also against a purely Volunteer Force. Say what its advocates will the obligations of the Volunteers are not sufficiently stringent for the efficiency of the Force. The theory is all very well, but the practice necessarily falls short of it. What does all this insisting on the personal popularity of officers mean, disguise it as you will, but that Volunteers must be honoured, patted, treated, coaxed, reasoned with, and persuaded, in order to keep up a company? I know there are exceptions