

able to make the best use of their weapons, that day would have proved far more disastrous to the rascally invader. To me it appears little short of murder to bring men unacquainted with the art of good shooting into the field where they have to face an enemy possessing this terrible advantage. Pluck and daring will avail nothing against the skilled use of the deadly repeater or the equally effective breech-loader. Men who have not acquired this skill can, when brought in presence of a foe that has, do little more than die manfully at their posts. In conclusion, permit me to enumerate some of the advantages which would be derived from the general adoption and development of the scheme which has been proposed.

1. The country would possess many thousands of the most approved rifles, which could be called into requisition in case of any sudden emergency.

2. These rifles would be in the hands of men competent to use them effectively,

3. These men, when drafted or when entering the Volunteer service, would only have to learn the drill to be rendered efficient soldiers, so that in case of any sudden call to arms, the country could, (with the regular troops maintained in the Provinces, together with our trained volunteers as a centre or nucleus of perfect organization,) by a few days drilling put in the field a vast, and most terribly effective army, for all purposes of defence.

4. The general rifle practice which would prevail throughout the country, with the avowed object of defending the country in case of necessity, would create a martial spirit which, if such necessity should ever unfortunately arise, would prove of the greatest advantage.

5. This general arming of the people

would create a sense of security which we do not now feel.

6. This general and spontaneous arming of the people for the purpose of defending their rights and privileges, would show to Great Britain that we value our birthright, and would consequently strengthen the bonds which unite us to her. Moreover, it would increase our credit abroad by showing to the foreign capitalist that Canada presented a field for secure and safe investments.

7. It would completely eradicate that egregious idea still entertained by many Americans that there is in these Provinces a large minority, if not a majority, who are favorable to annexation. It would show the American people should the desire of conquest, ever prompt them to invade us, that they would meet with the most determined, terrible, and effective resistance by the whole bulk of the inhabitants. Moreover, a war made upon us under these circumstances by them, with that object would be reprobated by the whole civilized world, for no greater national crime can be committed than the invasion of a prosperous and united people who only desire to enjoy their political privileges and civil rights in peace.

8. It would create a great national pastime that would go far to blend in harmonious unity the diverse and in some respects antagonistic elements of which the society of these Provinces is composed.

9. And finally it would still further strengthen that love of country which so generally prevails among us, and would inspire the rising generation with a stronger sense of patriotism by educating them in the idea that the land in which they live is worth fighting for, and if need be dying for.

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