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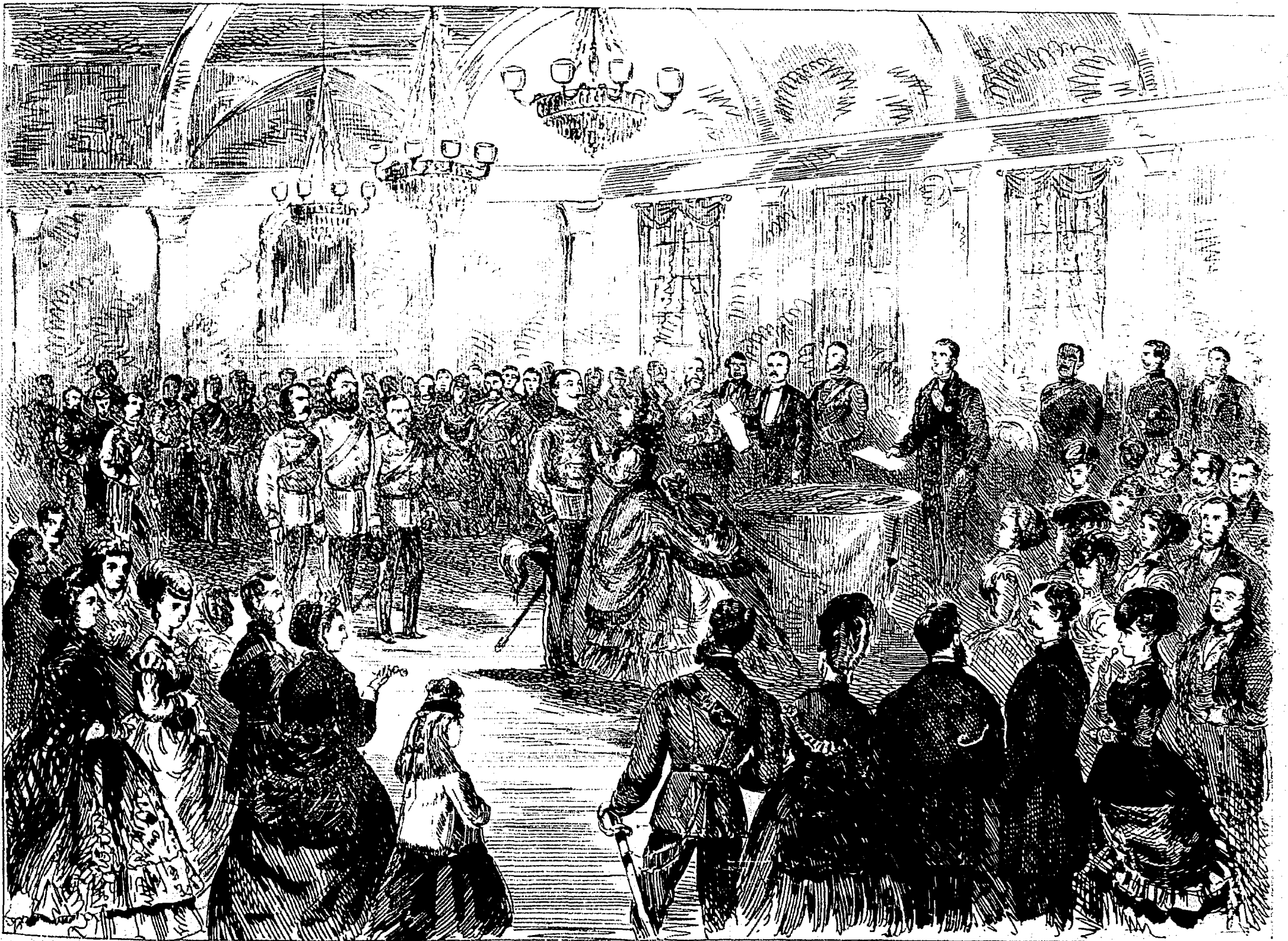
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NATIONAL DEFENCES.

The war now progressing has taught the world several lessons; among the most important we include that of the insufficiency of standing armies, and the utter worthlessness of permanent fortifications as national defences. The standing army question, upon which, in former issues, we have enlarged, has little interest for Canada. No Canadian statesman would be mad enough to propose a standing army for this country for other purposes than those of police duty; or if he did the country certainly would repudiate the scheme. At the present time both France and Prussia have ceased to depend upon their standing armies: they find their chief reliance in what we may call their trained militia. In the war between the Northern and Southern States the same thing was made manifest: a few trained officers headed the raw volunteers, and the war, instead of being one of army against

army, was rather one of populace against populace. It may be said that this was a necessity of the condition of the contestants; but when we find that, on the Prussian side, the Landwehr, and, on the side of France, the two bodies of *Gardes* and the *Francs-Tireurs*, are regarded as the last prop to sustain the honour of their respective countries, the conclusion is rational that standing armies have lost their value. The standing army of France, supposed to have been the most magnificent in the world, melted away before the advance of the Prussian hordes: yet France did not yield; but, on the contrary, girded up her loins for the struggle, as if only after her "regulars" had been all but annihilated did she know that war was upon her. And Prussia owes her plethora of fighting men, not to her standing army, but to the admirable defensive organization of the whole German population. England has confessed her want of faith in the effi-

ciency of the "line" by the warm encouragement of late years extended to the volunteer movement; and Canada has proved on more than one occasion the excellence, especially for defensive purposes, of citizen soldiery. The present terrible war is again exhibiting their merits. Nearly all the armies of France, except that of Marshal Bazaine, and the few thousand regulars penned up here and there in fortified towns, are composed of "raw recruits"—of men who, up to six weeks or two months ago were following the various avocations of civil life. Yet the military education they had previously received rendered them easily moulded into well trained troops, while their courage has more than made up for whatever of military knowledge they lacked. The lesson of the war on this head is thus made plain. Standing armies may safely be reduced, provided the people receive military training; national defence must no longer be dependent



INVESTITURE OF CANADIAN VOLUNTEER OFFICERS WITH THE C. M. G.—FROM A SKETCH BY OUR OWN ARTIST.