

conditionally, as they cannot be at present supplied with arms and uniform. Those corps would raise the strength of the active force to a total of 45,010 men.

The composition of the active force is then described, and its advantages to those who have served for three years as a matter of choice, freeing them from all military duty till all those between the ages of 18 and 45 would be drafted—a very unlikely contingency—so that a man serving three years would be practically free for life, and to the present Militia Law is truly ascribed the removal of inequalities in the performance of military service for the defence of the country “and of its securing the very important advantage in a military point of view of a very large proportion of the men throughout the Dominion having undergone a certain amount of military training.”

“From the above statement it is evident that in the event of war sufficient numbers of men could always be obtained from the large militia reserve to swell the ranks of the active force to any strength likely to be required, for it is a fact that the population of the Dominion comprehends nearly as many men within the fighting age as the Southern States of the neighbouring republic ever brought into the field, and the men of Canada, both morally and physically, are not only equal to any that the world can produce, but in point of hardihood, manliness of spirit, and fitness for military service, are not to be surpassed.”

The remainder of this admirable report is filled with a complete analysis of each arm of the active force and descriptions of the inspections held by the Adjutant General on several battalions while engaged in their annual drill; our space forbids larger quotations on these very interesting subjects, but the closing paragraphs of the report are so important, in a political point of view, that we must give them in full:

“On a careful consideration of the present Militia Law, there can be no doubt that it insures a just and equitable pressure of the burden of military services for the defence of the country on the people, and it will compare most favourably with the militia law of any other country, and certainly with the Volunteer system at present prevailing in England which cannot be said to be as efficient in point of organization; under the existing Act, the militia of Canada is capable of being developed, whenever the country requires it, into a large and powerful army with the simplest, fairest, and best means of swelling the ranks of its active force from the very large reserve of enrolled men there is in the country.

“It is said that in Prussia, the War Minister has but to ring his bell and an army of more than 300,000 men, fully equipped and complete in all appliances, and in departments with ample reserves to refill its ranks would be instantly ready at the call, and the military system of that country is justly considered a triumph of organization.

“Although, as yet, the military system of Canada is in its infancy, it may be said, at all events, with equal truth, that, if required for the defence of the country, the Commander in Chief has but to give the order and in a

very few hours more the 40,000 men of the active militia, who are, at least, admirably armed, would stand forth to form the first line of defence, animated with as much courage and determination to defend their Queen and country as ever was exhibited by any nation, and their ranks might be hourly swelled by men from the reserve militia. But to enable the men of Canada to fulfil with success the sacred duty of defence sufficient time for military training ought to be afforded them, the necessary reserve of arms and stores should be at all times available, and an adequate and permanent staff maintained to secure their training in time of peace and their working in time of war. The question of the maintenance and support in a proper state of efficiency of the militia of the Dominion to undertake the defence of the country, depends entirely on the liberality of Parliament.”

An appendix to this able military memoir contains the reports of the Deputy Adjutant Generals and Brigade Majors, with abstracts of Inspection reports, drill states, showing the actual strength each corps mustered during the annual training, and records of rifle matches in connection with the active force, the whole forming a mass of most valuable statistical information which ought to be in the hands of every man who could read in Canada. This report from so distinguished a soldier as Col. P. Robertson-Ross vindicates the clear-sighted and statesman-like measure of Sir G. E. Cartier's Militia Bill as a system of organization adapted to the social condition and strategical necessities of the Dominion; that in all the great requirements of a strictly defensive military system it is as much superior to that of Prussia as the social and political condition of the people of the Dominion is to those of Northern Germany. As the Adjutant General points out, its provisions will eventually permeate society with military training ideas and spirit and tend to render the people confident and self-reliant in the hour of danger.

The military system of Prussia was an accident arising out of the restriction of her standing army at the peace of Tilsit in 1809. Gniessowau the Adjutant to the King of Prussia, suggested short military service and the division of the militia into the landwehr and landsturm, to which the trained soldier returned after his short service in the active force expired. The result was in a few years Prussia could put 150,000 good soldiers into the field, expanding her treaty force of 40,000 men instantaneously. Since that period the system has been carefully elaborated to attain its present perfection.

The Canadian Militia Law is a decided improvement on the Prussian system, reflecting great honor on its author, inasmuch as the system devised is free from taint or suspicion of despotism, and from its own inherent power, will, in the hands of such an able organizer as the Adjutant General has proved himself to be, create out of the people of the Dominion an armed nationality which might well assume the old Scotch motto, *Noli me tangere impune lacessit*.

If the Adjutant General had been a totally unknown individual the Rules and Regulations and this report would be quite sufficient to establish his character as an able energetic, skillful and scientific soldier, with a thorough knowledge of his profession and the very man to fill the position he now occupies.

In a literary point of view the report is above the grade of the Regulations, but that was to be expected from the difference of the subject matter of both, as it is easier to write analysis than formulas, but both should be printed for general distribution and we regret that it is not in our power to give our readers a more extended synopsis of the report.

The *Morning Chronicle* is mistaken as to the object of General Lindsay's visit to Canada. It is not connected with the organization of the Militia in any way. Sir Geo. E. Cartier's Militia Bill has enabled the Adjutant-General to organize the most effective force in the world; and, valuable as General Lindsay's services may be, Canada at present does not need them. It is to be hoped the writer in the *Chronicle* did not read the Adjutant General's report,—if any blame is to be attached to the authorities of the Militia Department it arises from the fact that no measures have been taken to give all the information connected with the organization of the Militia sufficient publicity to render such articles as that of the *Chronicle* unnecessary.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTICE.—All communications addressed to the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW must be accompanied by the correct name and address of the writer.

C. G., Cobourg.—In reply to yours of the 28th ult., *full dress* means that *shakos* should be worn, but the officer in command can issue an order directing forage caps to be worn over full dress tunics. It would apply only to the local parades of the corps and is not in accordance with the Queen's Regulations, or the Rules and Regulations for the Canadian Militia.

J. W., Belleville.—The Rules and Regulations for the Canadian Militia prescribes that under certain conditions Volunteers will be permitted to wear medals or badges won at rifle matches while in uniform. It is to be regretted that measures have not been taken to make those regulations accessible to every man of the force.

REVIEWS.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, is sustaining its early promise. In that of last week the Leggotypes were particularly good, the cartoon on the last page excellent. The artist has furnished as good subjects as ever appeared in *Punch*.

THE *New Dominion Monthly* for April contains some interesting articles, and has a