

sential in these days), and of that most important, perhaps, of all military instruction, viz., the proper use of the rifle." It is there fore recommended that the period be extended to sixteen days annual training. The target practice inaugurated by the General Order of 26th August, 1870, is thoroughly detailed, and its results which are highly satisfactory given.

Our incipient navy is next discussed; it consists of two steam vessels. The *Prince Alfred* and *Rescue*. "Those vessels are considered more in the light of police gunboats than anything else; for in the treaty of agreement between the Imperial and Dominion Governments there is a distinct understanding that in the event of a foreign war the naval defence is to be undertaken by the Mother Country."

The *Prince Alfred* mounts four guns; two 12-pounder Armstrong's, one 32 pounder, and one 12-pound howitzer. The *Rescue* carries two guns; this vessel is stationed at Kingston, and is not effective as the *Prince Alfred*. The latter, however, is confined to the upper lakes by her size, and the agent recommends the building of a gunboat or two of sufficient size to pass all the canals, mounting four guns, with a speed of from twelve to fourteen miles per hour; the cost is estimated at \$26,000 per vessel—a very moderate sum for the object to be attained.

It is pointed out that the Niagara frontier is without any system of river defence; the propriety of attending to this matter is evident, and it shows that the crews of those gunboats can be engaged for a year cheaper than for the eight months we are now in the habit of employing them. The deductions from this are evident, the organization of a naval brigade, and by rotation of service, such as recommended for the garrison artillery, the training of a body of seamen and marine artillerymen at a small outlay.

The concluding remarks bear on the necessity of the organization of the reserve force, and, to a certain extent, the compulsory, or its alternative, voluntarily service and training of all first class men, the gradual permeating of every township and parish in the Dominion with the militia system, and in order to do this the following changes are necessary:—An extension of period for annual drill; the payment of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men during drill at the rates laid down in the Regulations and Orders for the Active Militia, with free rations to all." And in order to perfect our defensive system "the placing of our gunboats on a better system," with such additions as may be necessary.

It is recommended to gradually increase the reserve stores, to commence the manufacture of ammunition in Canada, the establishment thereof of a laboratory at Kingston; and the report concludes with a graceful tribute to the staff officers of the Militia Department.

The whole is written in the simple, terse, and forcible style of a man thoroughly acquainted with the practical effects of his recommendations, up to every species of work detailed therein, and capable, as he has proved himself, of carrying it all out to the most minute details. It is, without doubt, one of the ablest documents on military organization of the present day, and it shows what very trifling changes are required in our Militia Act to fit it to circumstances so changed as our own have been since it became the law of the land.

The reports of the Deputy Adjutant General at headquarters (Lieut. Col. Powell), and Lieut.-Col. Wiley, Director of Stores, will be received with the interest they demand. The latter will decidedly set at rest the vexed question as to whom the honor of the organization of the expedition to the North West belongs, and will show that the writer of the "Narrative" in *Blackwood* has copied the great Munchausen without being quite as amusing.

In concluding this review it is our duty to state that the accomplished soldier who now commands the Canadian Militia has earned the lasting gratitude of the people of this country for the efficiency of the organization of its military force, and the economy with which the affairs of his department have been administered, combining with great practical experience sound scientific knowledge, unceasing and untiring activity, a thorough appreciation of the social condition of the country, as well as a clear preception of its political position. Colonel Robertson-Ross has devoted his energies to the furtherance of the best interests of Canada, and in developing that wise and statesmanlike measure which has culminated in making her a source of strength to the empire instead of weakness.

In a few days the Bouchette claim will come before the House of Commons for consideration, and for the honor as well as justice of the country we hope there will be no further shirking on the plea of irresponsibility of the plain duty the Dominion of Canada owes to the heirs of the late Colonel Bouchette. It will no doubt be very easy for some of the political economists to oppose the payment of the debt due that distinguished officer on the grounds that it was incurred by the House of Assembly of the Province of Quebec, and that the present constitutional Regime cannot be held accountable legally for obligations incurred by that body. The answer is simply this—the debt, although incurred by the Assembly of the Lower Province, was incurred for the direct benefit of all Canada, that the present constitutional organization is the legitimate successor of the aforesaid Assembly, even to its debts and assets, and therefore it should at once see that this obligation was discharged, not only as a matter in which the honor and honesty of the people of Can-

ada was concerned, but also as a mere matter of business between two contracting parties. An article from the *Quebec Morning Chronicle* of the 17th instant, which appears in another page, puts this transaction in its proper and forcible light. It will be no argument now to deny payment because the discreditable intrigues of a mere Provincial Assembly, where public honor and faith were measured by private interests or personal hate, by which one of the greatest of Canadian public men was deprived of the just reward of his labor, and sent in sorrow to his grave, his children cheated out of their just inheritance,—every phase of the transaction which has cried for over half a century for justice compels us, by every principle of national honor and gratitude, to see that justice is done by no unsparing hand. That is simply our duty, and we hope the House of Commons will look to it that it be fairly and generously discharged.

THE events of the war of 1812-15 has furnished many a gallant episode which well deserves to be remembered; it has also supplied quite as many ludicrous examples and escapades, and amongst others a story alleged to have been told by the late General Scott, of the United States service, to Mr. Thurlow Weed, exhibiting that redoubtable hero in such a ludicrous light, that only for its unconceivable length and utter improbability we should be tempted to give it whole. A gentleman signing himself "1812," writes to the editor of the *Montreal Gazette*, contradicting the whole story, and proving it to be one of General Scott's rhodomontades, for which, and a want of veracity, he was quite as distinguished as for any feat of arms. The letter to the *Gazette* embodying the chief points of interest, will be found on another page.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

PARIS in open insurrection in the hands of the cowardly, cruel and disorderly mob known as the National Guards, is not a spectacle reassuring to the friends of unhappy France. Democratic newspapers affected to be rejoiced at the delivery of that unlucky country, from the onervating influences of what, in the plenitude of their wisdom, they were pleased to style *Imperialism*. The friends of law and order, of truth and justice, would prefer to see the French people under the most grinding despotism, where life and property are respected, instead of under the hellish curse of blood-thirsty socialism, and the oppressive rule of the *Rouges*. Military rule, till a dynasty has attained sufficient stability to enable the central power to be generous and impart a portion of its functions to the people, appears to be the only means for the reorganization of France. Louis Napoleon could not have succeeded in establishing a constitutional regime, if the Prussian war had not been precipitated, he would have been oblig-