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The Volunteer Review

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

A Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Military and Naval Forces of the Dominion of Canada

VOL. VIII.

OTTAWA, (CANADA,) TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1874.

No. 1.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

By an extra issue of the *Official Gazette* of Friday last it was announced that the Dominion Parliament had been dissolved. The writs will be dated the 2nd inst., and will be issued forthwith. They are returnable on the 21st day of February, excepting those for Chicoutimi and Gaspe, and for the Provinces of British Columbia and Manitoba which are returnable on the 12th day of March next.

Capt. D'Arcy Boulton, of the Town of Barrie, has been elected to the Ontario Legislature for South Simcoe.

Mr. Evans, proprietor of the *London Hour* is dead.

Advice from Cape Coast Castle, dated Dec. 15th, reports that the Ashantees were driven across the river Prae reentering their own territory in great disorder. They lost a large number of dead and wounded on the bank of the river. Gen. Wolseley was in pursuit with five hundred sailors.

The troop-ships *Himalaya* and *Tamar* had arrived, and everything was ready for an advancement upon Coomassie.

The gold coast was very unhealthy.

The Portuguese Government has issued an order directing that all vessels arriving at ports belonging to Portugal from the west coast of Africa shall be placed in quarantine. This measure will prevent the landing of invalids belonging to the Ashantee expedition.

A special to the *Daily Telegraph* says 30 Ashantees were drowned in the river Prae in their flight before Sir Garnet Wolseley.

It is said the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia in 1876, to commemorate the declaration of Independence, will cost \$10,000,000.

A special to the *Telegraph* from Berlin says there is a panic on the bourse in that city.

The loss by the burning of Lloyd's weekly newspaper on Monday night is estimated at \$100,000.

Intelligence of another marine disaster, attended by lamentable loss of life, has reached this city.

The steamship *Elbe*, from London for Hamburg, was lost at sea. Thirty-two lives were lost.

The *Polynesian* on her last trip brought out 159 bags of mail matter, the largest ever forwarded to Canada.

The cattle plague has broken out in Madeira. Among the cattle intended for the British troops in Ashantee.

The Highland regiment sent from England has arrived at Cape Coast Castle to take part in the Ashantee war.

"Fifty young men of Danbury," says the *News* man, "have pledged themselves not to smoke any more Havana cigars until Spain makes due reparation. They are bound to stand by the government even at the sacrifice of their own state."

Prince Arthur, of England, volunteered to go with the Rifle Brigade to Ashantee, and was very anxious to accompany his comrades in arms. But the usual consideration which prevents a prince of the blood from exposing himself unnecessarily prevailed, and to his great disappointment he remains at home. The officers of the brigade when it was first announced that they would have to go out, were not at all pleased, for this crack regiment is not used to fighting with savages. But after a little while, when they had warmed up they became quite enthusiastic, and there is now, writes a correspondent, quite an African furore among them.

Reliable reports have just reached Santa Fe that the trouble in Lincoln county in that Territory, between Americans and Mexicans is daily growing more serious. Since the 10th at six or seven more persons have been killed. It seems that the friends of the Americans previously killed went to the Lincoln Plaza last Saturday, where a dance was in progress, and trouble arose between the American and Mexicans, which culminated fatally, as above stated. Some reports say that eight men and one woman were shot; other reports give the number as six men and one woman. Intense excitement prevails, and it is feared that more bloodshed will follow.

Advice from Havana to Dec. 20th says:—The home Government relieved Gen. Barriel of the command of the Eastern Department because in a proclamation issued last week he attacked the existing Administration of Spain. He has been ordered to appear at Madrid to answer charges proffered against him in relation to this matter.

Captain-General Jovellar insists that the Government should accept his resignation unless he is granted in full the extraordinary powers enjoyed by his predecessors. The Government has conceded increased powers, but they are restricted by certain conditions.

The *Voz de Cuba* says the only reason Jovellar has not taken effective measures for the tranquilization of the island was because he could not legally do so.

The *Voz* and the *Diario* declare that the Conservatives favor the grant of extraordinary powers; for the only way to save Cuba to Spain is to declare martial law throughout the island, levy forced contributions, and call out the militia to suppress the rebellion. The execution of the reform laws must be postponed to a more fitting opportunity.

The *Voz* alluding to the change in the American Legation at Madrid, says the original appointment of General Sickles was an act of discourtesy, if not hostility, toward Spain, and showed a singular want of consideration for her susceptibilities. Cushing is the antithesis of Sickles, and the change made cannot be regarded otherwise than as a graceful tender of good will on the part of the Government of the United States.

Senor Solor, the Colonial Minister, has made a speech at Matanza, in which he sought to allay the fears in regard to the immediate abolition of slavery. His remarks gave much satisfaction to the owners of slave property.

No tidings have been received of Mr. Ralph Keeler, the missing correspondent.

The United States Attorney for the District of New York, says he intended to libel the *Virginus*, and it was to that end that the testimony driven from the Juniata prisoners was kept secret. He adds, I have no doubt that the vessels would have been forfeited. I have evidence enough to show false registration, notwithstanding M. Paterson's claim to ownership. No further proceedings will be taken in the case of the *Virginus*. It is not likely that the vessel will ever be raised, and it is deemed necessary that the vessel should be produced before she could be libelled.

A new iron steamship company is about to be organized. It proposes constructing forty five first class iron steamships of four thousand tons each, and will form a daily line between the United States and Liverpool.

At General von Manteuffel's suggestion, the German government has decided to establish at Mayence a large manufactory of preserved meat and vegetables for the use of the army.

The colors of the native army in India are to be assimilated to those of the British army, and the devices, etc., of all colors of native regiments are to be registered at the College of Arms.

PRESIDENT MACMAHON.

HIS CIVIL AND MILITARY CAREER

The Paris correspondent of a New York journal gives the following sketch of Marshal MacMahon, President of the French:—

"He was born in 1803, of a family that had emigrated from Ireland in 1686, after sacrificing all their property to the cause of the Stuarts. Settled in Burgundy the MacMahons rebuilt their fortunes, intermarried with the French nobility and became, in course of time, rich and influential land-owners. Maurice de MacMahon's great-grandfather was created Count by Louis XV., and his father, who was the intimate friend of the Count d'Artois, afterwards Charles X., was raised to the French House of Peers, in 1817 by the title of Marquis. This Marquis of MacMahon was in all points a nobleman of the old school. He abhorred Liberals, Protestants and Jews with an equal and pious hate; he talked of the Revolution and its 'rights of man' only with contempt, and the sum and substance of his political opinions were to be always Royalist and Catholic, and nothing more. In these views he educated his son, and he also taught him to be a keen sportsman, for, like his royal friend Charles, who split his time in unequal parts between mass and the hunting field, the Marquis of MacMahon loved nothing so well as to chase wild boars and deers, refreshing himself after his efforts with powerful stoops of that Burgundy vintage which cheers, strengthens and paints the nose red. It is not often that a French boy is brought up amid field sports, for the revolution, by reselling all the lands of the nobility, destroyed the great preserves and deer forests. But the MacMahon estate had, fortunately, escaped the common lot. Young MacMahon learned to ride before most other French boys can read, and to shoot long before he could spell properly. Yet was his education not neglected, for he had a Jesuit tutor, and it luckily happened that this priest had few of the cunning instincts for which the Order of Jesus is notorious, but was a thorough Christian and gentleman. He did not teach his pupil much mathematics or science, for he knew little; but he grounded him fairly in Latin, gave him a smattering of history and English, and sent him to the military school of St. Cyr at the age of seventeen, neither more nor less learned than most of the young noblemen of his time. This was in the year 1826; Charles X. had just ascended the throne, and the Bourbon dynasty seemed so firmly established that all who knew of the warm friendship existing between the Marquis of MacMahon and the King prophesied for the young Count Maurice the most brilliant destinies. It was felt that, whether the boy worked or not, his career lay smooth and prosperous before him; he would be given a commission in the Royal Guard, obtain a court sinecure, be sent as diplomatic attache on some special mission, and in due time succeed his father in the House of Peers and probably be promoted to a dukedom. However, the Count did work, and, to the great surprise of his companions, he passed the final examination of St. Cyr, the seventeenth out of 150, and, being thus classed among the first twenty, was qualified for a staff appointment.

He was then a straight, tall boy of nineteen, with wide blue eyes, light-flaxen hair and a demeanour somewhat solemn and thoughtful. Little given to dissipation, he preferred riding and the manly sports of his boyhood to the gambling, hard drinking and

frivolous gallantries in which most of his brother officers indulged; but, on the other hand, he was a noted and skillful duellist. This was one of the necessities of his position. An officer who went much to court and had personal reasons for being attached to the King could not in those days stand by indifferent whilst the Royal Family were assailed by liberal journalists and by Bonapartist officers of Napoleon's old army. MacMahon made a point of attending the *Cafe Valois* in the street of that name, which was then the headquarters of Royalist officers, and there duels were arranged almost every night as coolly as pigeon matches would be in these our times. It was the custom for the liberal papers to be placed in a heap on the central table. At five o'clock officers dropped in, and at six, when the room was full, the papers would be read aloud, and if one of them contained anything offensive to the King the officers drew lots among them as to who should go and challenge the editor. Important journals were generally provided with a responsible fighting editor, whose sole mission was to accept challenges. He was generally an old half pay officer or sergeant, and now and then it happened that he could not even read, MacMahon fought seven of these gentlemen in the course of five years, and it is on record that he was never once wounded, nor did he ever kill his man. He was singularly expert in the art of pinking his adversary in the fleshy part of the right arm, just above the elbow, inflicting a wound that was not dangerous, but which obliged his adversary to drop his foil like a hot coal, and to keep his arm in a sling for six weeks. This thrust got to be known as "*la botte MacMahon*," and it earned the young officer many encomiums, for which he little cared, being in his heart averse to dueling. It 1829, being then twenty-one, he was promoted to a lieutenancy, and in 1830 he was sent at his own request to take part in the expedition against the Dey of Algiers. This expedition was short and brilliant and Lieutenant MacMahon much distinguished himself in it by his coolness under fire and by his steady zeal. But just after Algiers had fallen the news arrived that the revolution of July had taken place, and that Charles X. had been dethroned and driven into exile. This was a heavy blow to the MacMahons' and if the young Count Maurice had been but a mere carpet soldier his prospects of advancement would then have ended. As it was, the Marquis of MacMahon forfeited his peerage by refusing to swear the oath of allegiance to the new King, Louis Philippe. He advised his son, however, to remain in the army, and Maurice did so. He disliked the new regime and cherished an ardent hope that it would collapse, being well resolved in such an event to lend his sword in restoring him whom he conceived to be the only rightful sovereign of France. But meanwhile he volunteered for active service wherever it was to be found, his object being to keep aloof from the court. In 1832 he accompanied the French army to the siege of Antwerp as aide-de-camp to General Achard, and obtained his captaincy. In the following year he set off for Algiers again, and battled unceasingly against the Arabs till 1837, when he was wounded at the siege of Constantine and decorated with the Legion of Honour. By that time his reputation for quiet, unobtrusive bravery was well established that an offer was made him of a post at court with the rank of King's aide-de-camp; but declined it, and, after three years' more tough and wearisome campaign-

ing, he exchanged his place on the staff for the rank of major in a line regiment, and in 1842 exchanged again into the Foreign Legion, with a lieutenant colonel's epaulet. Thrown very much by the chances of camp life into the society of the Orleans princes, MacMahon grew to like them, and in 1845 he so far relaxed his hostility to Louis Philippe as to return to France as Colonel of the Forty-first foot and to wear the oath of fealty which was then required of all officers in command of regiments. Matters had much changed since MacMahon had last been quartered on French soil. In 1845 Louis Philippe looked as securely seated on his throne as Charles X did in 1825, and the gallant Marquis (for his father had recently died) was given to understand that if he would only show himself at court he might hope in the course of a few years to take his seat in the House of Life Peers which had succeeded the old hereditary Chamber. But MacMahon's loyalty did not go the length of seeking political honours. He accepted military promotion because rewards of this sort required no formal surrender of his private opinions; the oath he had sworn pledging him simply not to bear arms against the King. He was still a legitimist, however, and when Louis Philippe fell, in 1848, he was sincerely pleased, though he sympathized with the Orleans princes, and wrote to the Duke of Aumale a frank and manly letter of condolence. The new Republic at once promoted MacMahon to Major-General's rank. He was too efficient and honorable an officer to be passed over, and the Republican Government had hoped to win him over to their side; but in this way they were mistaken. MacMahon promised to obey the established Government of his country, whatever it should be; but his dislike for "Republicanism" was too deep-rooted to be plucked out by honors, however flattering, and until the *coup d'etat* of 1851 he lived in the daily hope that Henri V. would enter France, be acclaimed by the National Assembly and resume the reins of power which had fallen from his grandfather's hands in 1830. The restoration of the Second Empire seemed to him to cut down all such hopes forever, and accordingly the Marquis of MacMahon gave in his sincere allegiance to Napoleon III., and was recompensed with the grade of lieutenant general. Comparatively young at this date, being only 42, rich, well born and much liked by his brother officers, the Marquis of MacMahon was just such a soldier as the Emperor liked to have about him. He well knew that MacMahon served the Empire rather from necessity than from love; rather because he deemed it the only form of government possible than because the name of Napoleon had any great attractions for him; but the Emperor did not dislike legitimists. A splendid marriage with General MacMahon made in 1853 with the daughter of the loyalist Duke de Castries further won him the good opinions of the Emperor, and the Empress Eugenie laid herself out to be especially gracious to the young Marchioness whenever the occasion offered itself. As for MacMahon himself, the Empress liked him from the first, and one day said aloud at court, "He has the eyes of an honest man, and will never betray a trust."

But the war with Russia was hurrying on apace, and before his honeymoon year was over General MacMahon was sent to the Crimea. In command of a division at the battles of Alma and Inkermann he behaved with his usual cool intrepidity, and when Marshal Canrobert was recalled from before

Sebastopol, owing to a few rash blunders he had committed, MacMahon was appointed next in command to General Bosquet, who superseded Canrobert; and to him fell the onerous duty of leading the assault against the formidable Malakoff fort, which was the principal key to the Russian position. For such work MacMahon was admirably fitted. Not imaginative enough for strategist, he was perfectly at home whenever it became a question of carrying some fixed position by sheer dint of bravery and patience. When Sebastopol fell, and peace was declared, General MacMahon was appointed a Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, one received the Grand Cross of the Bath from Queen Victoria. In 1856 he was further raised to the Imperial Senate, a distinction which carried with it a salary of \$6000 a year. Two years after this MacMahon distinguished himself by an act of political honesty which well nigh wrecked all his future prospects, and which the Emperor never wholly forgave. After the attempt of Orsini on Napoleon's life in 1858 a Draconian bill was introduced in the Senate providing for the arbitrary arrest and transportation without judgment of suspected persons. MacMahon conceived this bill to be iniquitous, and he voted against it, though he was the only Senator who did so. The patriotic courage to do so being held by the Emperor, was seriously displeased, and he answered nobly, "I am sorry, that, for the Emperor," and this reply being reported at the Tuilleries, Napoleon frowned from that day on MacMahon, and for the next twelve months never spoke to him at court. In 1859, however, the Italian war broke out, and the clever movement by which General MacMahon saved the French army at Magenta obliged the Emperor to give him a conspicuous reward. There is no doubt that if MacMahon had not taken it upon himself to come without orders to the rescue of the Imperial Guards, whom Napoleon had imprudently jeopardized by pitting them against a hostile force three times superior to them, the French army would have sustained a crushing defeat and probably the Empire itself would have collapsed. MacMahon was created field Marshal and Duke of Magenta; but it was well said at the time that it was not the Emperor who bestowed these distinctions; they were conferred on the conquering General by the unanimous clamour of the French Army.

It is no secret that after the Italian war Napoleon began to look upon MacMahon with mistrust. The Marshal was too popular and too independent to please a sovereign who expected all his servants to be absolutely submissive. Besides, the Emperor had a weakness, which was to consider himself an able General, like his uncle, and MacMahon's ascendancy over the army was a matter of constant irritation and jealousy to him. He refused even to appoint MacMahon War Minister, or to give him a command of troops in or near Paris; and in 1864 he sent him in virtual exile to Algiers as Governor-General. There MacMahon remained till the outbreak of the Prussian war, in 1870, governing the troublesome colony strictly and yet kindly; and there he might have ended his days if the Empire had survived. However, the Empire started in 1870 on its road to ruin, and MacMahon was among the most active though unfortunate of its latter-day defenders. Of his defeat at Woerth, Monfriedy, Beaumont, Döppz, Bazelles, and, lastly, at Sedan, it is needless to speak. MacMahon was everywhere overmatched, and the evidence

elicited at the Bazaine trial proves that the measures he himself took for the safety of his army were always overridden by the Emperor. No Frenchman lays on MacMahon's shoulders the responsibility of his defeats. He is called "*L'heroique vaincu*;" for it is known that he went into battle as a victim, and that he did his best against insuperable odds. MacMahon's defeat of the Commune put the crown to his prestige with the army, and he is now reaping the fruits of a career which has been stainless from the first. He is justly regarded as a man who loves his country with a devoted affection, and has served her through sunshine and sorrow, nobly, heartily, and disinterestedly.

The Vienna *Vedette* has an article on the mitrailleuse, which has lately been introduced into the Austrian army, and of which it takes on the whole a most encouraging view, though it did not quite meet its expectations in the Franco-Prussian war. But this was not owing, the *Vedette* thinks, to any defects of construction, but to the fact that it was a strange weapon in inexperienced hands. The difficulty of finding the range up to two thousand yards by the bursting of the projectiles, and if not more than two out of six mitrailleuses are effective in their fire, even this, the *Vedette* remarks, will be sufficient to render the movements of a column impossible, even at two thousand yards; for mitrailleuse can fire, with ease, 1000 or 200 shots in a short time, and nearly all of them effective; no small advantage in the field where so small a percentage of the bullets do any execution. The field piece could, moreover, reply to the enemy's heavy fire, and if necessary shell them out from houses or other covers.

Our own Gatling is so superior to the French imitation, that far better service could be obtained from it under the conditions which favor the use of the machine gun. In comparison with the French gun it proved marked superiority, according to the testimony of the British board, in destructive effect, command of range, strength and simplicity of mechanism, facility of repair, and the demoralizing effect of its continuity of fire, while it required fewer men to handle it. Of the Gatlings which the English are now about to put to the test on the Gold Coast, *Broad Arrow* says:

The artillery supplied to Sir Garnet Wolseley must, to many of our readers, be a subject of considerable interest. The country in which he is going to operate consists, for the most part, according to all accounts, of thick jungle, with narrow paths for roads. Horse or bullock draught is unknown, and locomotion depends upon manual labor. It would have been manifestly absurd, therefore, to send out 9-pounder or 16-pounder field-guns, which could not move up country without some species of four-footed traction; and in all similar cases, in mountainous countries or in those inaccessible to ordinary artillery carriages, it has always been found necessary to employ very light guns and equipment, which are usually transported either on the backs of mules or on specially constructed carriages designed for man-draught. The artillery which Sir Garnet Wolseley will take into the field is of this nature. He will first have one or two batteries of 7-pounder rifled guns, four guns per battery. He will also have a battery of

little smooth-bore howitzers, a few Gatling guns, and some 9 pound Hale rockets. This will comprise his artillery. His infantry will be armed with breech loading Sniders, and his irregular or auxiliary forces with muzzle-loading Enfield rifles or smoothbore muskets. The Gatling guns which accompany the expedition are those known as the 0.45 inch. They will be mounted on carriages somewhat similar to the guns, and we presume are mainly intended for the defence of stockaded positions and for use in the open. When well served, the machine gun is terribly effective at distances of from 400 and 600 yards.

Five of the locks and barrels are constantly performing some of the operations of loading and firing, while the other five are extracting the empty cases, and it is evident that so long as cartridges are dropped into the hopper, and the handle is in motion, the firing will continue. In this manner a perfect rain of bullets may issue from the ten muzzles. The gun is also fitted with an arrangement by which a traversing motion may be given to the barrels while the firing continues. It is obvious that it would be absurd constantly to fire a Gatling gun in one direction. A few men immediately in front would be perforated, while those on the flanks would escape. But the traversing arrangement enables us to "waterpot" the enemy with a leaden rain. Altogether, we cannot wish the Ashantees worse luck than to get in the way of a Gatling well served.

THE MAUSER RIFLE, AND THE QUESTION AS TO WHICH IS THE BEST RIFLE.

Some time ago we gave our readers an account of some experiments which had been carried out in Prussia to test the capabilities of the Mauser rifle as to accuracy and the number of shots it could fire in a given time. The results, as compared with those which have been obtained with the Henry-Martini at Wimbledon and elsewhere, were decidedly in favour of the latter arm.

An article which has appeared in the Russian military periodical, *L'Orajeik Sbornik*, or "Review of Long-range Fire arms," under the title, "Actual State of the Manufacture of Fire-arms in England, Belgium, Prussia, and Austria," contains some interesting remarks on the subject which forms the heading to this article. It is from the pen of an officer of high rank, who has been superintending some searching experiments with regard to the question of long-range small arms. We take the following from it:—

"The Prussians, whilst acknowledging that the needle-gun has had its day, hesitated to give large orders for the Mauser rifle. In this they have shown circumspection; and this indecision proves that they have not perfect faith in those results which by other Powers are considered as decisive results from which it appears that each believes that the problem has been solved to his own advantage. It is actually stated that attention is at present being paid to improving the Mauser system, that the imperfections of this arm are being remedied. In what do these alterations consist? It would be difficult to point out, as they are being carried out with the greatest secrecy. The result of all this is that we cannot say what will be the pattern actually adopted, and if it will present any feature quite peculiar to it, distinguishing it completely from those which other Powers have adopted into their service.

"In our opinion the Mauser system comprises the two systems, Chassepot and Borden No. 2. The time actually required for loading is nearly the same as that for the needle-gun, an advantage to which the Prussians attach great importance, because it will consequently be unnecessary to teach the men a new loading drill. Moreover, the whole of the mechanism in the Mauser system can be taken to pieces without any tools being required; a great advantage, and one which until now has alone been peculiar to the Prussian needle-gun. We have not seen the new cartridge; but, as far as we can judge from what has been told us, it is very similar to our Borden cartridge; but it has been really said that it is the Bavarian Werder cartridge which has been adopted.

"Nowadays, when those persons who are interested in the weapons with which troops are armed, meet together they are pretty sure to ask, 'Which do you consider to be the best rifle?'

"It appears to me that all discussions on this subject are now evident proof that no determination has as yet been arrived at as to which is the best pattern. How is it there is no longer a question as to whether a large or small bore is preferable for a weapon which fires rapidly, apparently because this question has been argued out to such an extent that no doubt can any longer be entertained with regard to it.

"In the same way the problem which consisted in deciding whether the barrels should be of steel or of iron has been solved; ten years ago it was a point which gave rise to much controversy.

"As for us, after numbers of experiments carried with arms made on different patterns, firing, metal cartridges adopted by the various powers are equally good, if the cartridges are good, and equally bad when the cartridges are bad.

"This conclusion might appear strange to many people, and yet there is nothing in it which is not perfectly natural. In fact, every one ought to know that where the rifle is of that pattern with which metal cartridges are to be used, paper cartridges cannot possibly be fired from it. We may ask why? Because this pattern is not constructed in such a manner as to hermetically close the breech by means of the mechanism, the paper cartridge likewise cannot be expected to do it, from whence it results that if the cartridges split, that is to say when they are bad, we may say that none of the patterns which have been adopted would stand continuous firing.

"According to our views, there is no reason to go into the question as to this or that part of the breech apparatus getting out of order, in order to determine upon the value of such and such a pattern. We are perfectly convinced that it is possible by splitting the cartridge up and inserting it in a particular manner to make everyone of the different patterns adopted in the service unserviceable. We have not the slightest doubt in this respect. We believe that to obviate this inconvenience attention must be paid more to the manufacture of the cartridge than to the construction of the rifle.

"This was the answer which I always made when the question as to the best pattern of rifle was mooted, and the majority were of my opinion. In a certain small-arm manufactory, however, I encountered a strong opposition; I was told that the pattern shown to me was one which it would be impossible to injure or render unserviceable,

and I was pressed to put it to the test. To decline this invitation would have been to acknowledge that my allegations had no foundation, consequently it was necessary to put them to proof.

"I was asked to explain the detail of my method of proceeding. I requested that a cut should be made in the edge of one cartridge, and one along the socket of a second one. I inserted the first one and fired, then the second one; no particular result ensued.

"It would have been most mortifying to have succumbed. I said to myself, 'Are my assertions to be looked upon as nonsense? in which case these strangers will have good cause for laughing at me.' It would not do to hesitate, so I took a file, made an incision in a cartridge, and fired. A slight flash escaped from the breech. The inventor who was present during this experiment, on observing this explosion (the others not having observed it), convinced that everything was right, suggested that I should open the breech mechanism. I tried to do so, but it would not open; in my turn, I begged the assistants to try to open it; they succeeded, but only by the united strength of two persons. The interior was covered with a thick bed of scales. I was told that the difficulty which had been experienced in opening the breech block was due to this fouling, and not to any injury sustained by the breech mechanism. To settle this question, I requested that the mechanism might be cleaned. On taking it out, it was evident that the difficulty above mentioned was not due to the fouling, but to the fact that the pivot on which the breech-closing apparatus turns was greatly bent; most probably the mechanism would have been blown out had a second shot been fired. With regard to that, I was told that the injury to the pivot was of no consequence, and that the rifle could be fired without it. To prove this, two shots were fired by hand; but each time when I asked the man who fired if he would be willing to fire again, but with a notched cartridge, he distinctly declined.

"Thus you see, I said to those present, 'when the cartridge is not split (in other words, when you are perfectly certain that the cartridge is good) you can fire with a weapon from which one of its most essential points are missing, whereas with a split cartridge—i. e., a bad cartridge—it is dangerous to fire, even with a rifle the pattern of which apparently presents every guarantee of solidity. The persons present agreed with me, and begged me to show them how the cartridge ought to be cut and placed in the barrel in order to injure the mechanism; which I did.'

"This experiment extemporised, so to say, and which had such a complete success, has confirmed me more than ever in this idea, viz., that it is quite useless to endeavour to obtain a method of closing the breech which cannot be rendered unserviceable with cartridges which are liable to split, that for the moment attention should be exclusively directed to the soundness of the cartridge, that this problem once solved, the best breech-closing system will be the one that is cheapest, and can be easiest taken to pieces and put together again. To worry oneself with the view to obtain a system which permits one shot more or less to be fired a minute, is simply to pursue an object of quite secondary importance."

* It is a pity the author did not consider it advisable to give his readers full explanation of this infallible plan.

The above contains such important facts, and such good and practical advice, that but little needs to be added. We are, fortunately, able to make metal cartridges which will compare favourably with those of any other nation in Europe. We may, however, deduce the following facts:—That one of the first essentials for an effective rifle is a cartridge, the case of which is guaranteed to be perfectly gastight, as without that every nature of barrel, system of rifling, or plan for closing the breech will alike fail, the moment the ammunition is faulty. It is very evident that in the event of such a case, the blame must be laid upon the maker of the cartridges, and not upon the inventor, or the gunsmith. On the other hand supposing the cartridge to be perfect, we cannot give the first place to that rifle—never mind what the mechanism may be—from the breech and barrel of which excellent results are obtained with this cartridge, looking at them solely from a firing point of view, such as accuracy and range. It is necessary to be certain the extractor throws out the old cartridge without any hitch, that the striker does not remain imbedded in the base of the cartridge, that the cartridge is not too heavy, when we come to consider the total weight of ammunition which the man must carry. Also whether the weapon can be easily taken to pieces and put together again, whether rust, dust, rain, &c., may not prevent the mechanism from working with rapidity.

With regard to the Mauser rifle itself, the Swiss military journal has lately given an account, accompanied by explanatory drawings, without the aid of which it would be difficult to explain the technical details of this weapon. Three movements alone are required to load the rifle. In the first, the movable breech-block is worked from right to left, and pushed back into the breech aperture, so as to throw out the old cartridge and at the same time to cock the striker; in the second, a cartridge is put into the chamber; in the third motion, the moveable breech-block is advanced, so as to close the rear chamber of the breech, whilst shoving the cartridge into its place, the lever of the breech-block is then pushed back into its socket. The cartridge used with it is a metal central-fire one. Owing to the large number of Chassepot rifles which the Prussians have in their possession, they are anxious that the Mauser bullet should fit the Chassepot.

A few days since, says the *Victoria War-der*, a large buck which had been chased by a hound, ran into the farm of Mr. John Atwill, 6th concession Emily. His wife, who happened to be engaged outside, struck the animal on the head with a club, when the deer made a rush at her, tearing her dress, and evidently would have severely injured her but for the timely assistance of two dogs which held the animal down while Mrs. Atwill tied his legs with her apron, and with the assistance of her son succeeded in despatching it.

Pigeon River is the boundary between Ontario and Minnesota. A road is nearly completed, thirty feet wide from Pigeon River to Fort William. The snow is two feet deep, but with a mild winter so far. The mail goes on snow shoes from Pigeon River to Fort William and Silver Islet. The mail from Duluth to Pigeon River and thence to Isle Royale, is carried in a row boat. Lake Superior is clear of ice, but the bay and rivers are frozen over.

DOMINION OF CANADA.



MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

HEAD QUARTERS,

Ottawa, 2nd January, 1874.

GENERAL ORDERS (1).

No. 1.

ACTIVE MILITIA.

"A" and "B" Batteries, Schools of Gunnery, Kingston and Quebec.

Adverting to Nos. 3, 4 and 8 of General Orders (24) 20th October 1871, the strength of each School of Gunnery, is hereby authorized, to be increased, for admission to the "Short Course" of Instruction to last three months to the extent of ten officers and ten non-commissioned officers.

Admission to "Short Courses" will be made from time to time, as may be found desirable, up to the number authorized for each School of Gunnery, without the commencement of a "Short Course" or nominations for admission being necessarily announced in General Orders.

Officers and non commissioned officers in excess of the strength fixed by Nos. 3 and 4 of the above referred to General Orders will receive only the pay and allowances fixed by No. 9 of those Orders.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

34th "Ontario" Battalion of Infantry

To be Lieutenant Colonel:

Major and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel William Warren, Jun., M.S., vice James Wallace, absent without leave.

47th "Frontenac" Battalion of Infantry.

No. 7 Company, Harrowsmith.

The services of Captain Elijah Joyner as an officer in the Active Militia of the Dominion are hereby dispensed with.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

"B" Battery School of Gunnery, Quebec. Short Course.

The following are hereby authorized to join the School of Gunnery, Quebec, on probation, for a three months course of Instruction:—

Captain and Brevet Major John Slous and three non-commissioned officers of the Gaspé Battery of Garrison Artillery.

2nd Lieutenant John B. Lindsay, No. 4 Battery, Quebec Brigade Garrison Artillery.

Long Course.

2nd Lieutenant Charles Edmond Duchesnay, of the Beauce Field Battery of Artillery having completed his "Short Course" of Instruction is hereby authorized for the "Long Course."

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

New Brunswick Brigade of Garrison Artillery.

No. 1 Battery, St. John.

To be 1st Lieutenant, provisionally:

Private Charles William Drury, vice John E. Bell left limits.

To be 2nd Lieutenant, provisionally:

Matthew Wallace, gentleman, vice Armstrong, transferred to No. 10 Battery.

No. 2.

CERTIFICATES.

CONFIRMATION OF RANK.

The following non commissioned officers and gunners have received certificates from the Commandant of the School of Gunnery Quebec.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

SECOND CLASS CERTIFICATES.

Regimental Divisions.	Names.
Beauce.	—Quarter Master, Sergt. Charles Lavoie, Beauce Field Battery.
do	—Corporal Joseph Blais, Beauce Field Battery.
do	—Gunner Paul Lennaud, Beauce Field Battery.
City of Quebec.	—Acting Bombadier James Adair, Quebec Garrison Artillery.
do do	—Sergeant Amable Robert Quebec Garrison Artillery.
do do	—Acting Bombadier Henry Wilkinson, Quebec Garrison Artillery.
do do	—Bombadier Robert Tute, Quebec Garrison Artillery.
do do	—Corporal Edward Maxwell, Quebec Garrison Artillery.
do do	—Bombadier Charles Armstrong, Quebec Garrison Artillery.
do do	—Gunner Charles Sinclair, Quebec Garrison Artillery.
do do	—Gunner Thomas Burton, Quebec Garrison Artillery.

City of Quebec. —Gunner F. Parks, Quebec Garrison Artillery.

do do —Acting Bombadier, Chas. Royent, Quebec Field Battery.

By Command of his Excellency the Governor General.

WALKER POWELL, Lieut. Col. Acting Adj. General of Militia, Canada.

A Correspondent writing from Trieste, in touching incidentally upon the Austrian-Hungarian north pole expedition under the supervision of Messrs. Woiprecht and Peyer, says that these bold seamen are now entirely cut off from all communication, the last news received from them being dated August 16, 1873, when the expedition met Captain Wilezeks at Capo Nassau, near Nova Zembla. Woiprecht and Peyer hoped to reach Cape Tscheljuskin in September, and then at a point from thence to take up their first winter quarters. The unsuccessful results of the American and Swedish expeditions have given rise to many fears for the one but hope must not be abandoned until 1875 the time set for its return.

The Russian war department is taking active measures to instruct the officers of the Russian Army in the German language. The directors of the Nikolajew Academy of the General Staff have received orders to accept no candidates and to allow no students to graduate before they have become masters of the German language.

It is proposed that the British Government should telegraph to Bombay to order as many elephants as can be transported, to be sent at once, via the Suez Canal, to Cape Coast Castle, for the service of the expedition against the Ashantees. They could be there in five weeks from the despatch of the order.

King Albert of Saxony will retain, after his accession to the throne, the rank and office of Field Marshal in the German Army and Commanding General of the First German Army Division.

The Dutch government has received intelligence that 9,000 troops belonging to the expedition which lately left Batavia for Acheen have effected a landing on the coast of that country without opposition.

Freiherr von Manteuffel, General of Cavalry and Adjutant General of the King of Prussia, has been relieved from his present commission and made a General Field Marshal.

A courier from Hudson Bay has arrived, with news that the Hudson Bay Company's ship, *Lady Head*, is frozen up in James Bay with £60,000 worth of furs on board.

The Dutch troops have encountered and heavily defeated the Acheenese near Keiaton. The battle is considered decisive the enemy being routed in all directions with heavy loss in killed and wounded. The loss of the former was moderate. The health of the Dutch troops is good.



The Volunteer Review

AND

MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,
To guard the Monarch, hence the Law."

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, JAN. 6, 1874.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be *pre-paid*. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and at the corner the words "Printer's copy" written and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage.

The current number is the Eighth Volume of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW. The period covered has been remarkable in developing the soldierly instincts and aptitudes of the people of Canada, the great social prosperity which has blessed the land, and the political progress which has created in the Dominion of Canada a new power on this continent, established on the principles of British Constitutionalism, thereby adding to the resources of the Empire and strengthening the ties that binds British North America to the Mother Country. But great as has been the national progress achieved, socially and politically, as an institution which has interwoven itself with the habits of the people, the Military Organization of Canada has obtained, and is destined to hold, a marked pre-eminence, combining the principle of voluntary service with the duty due the State—the militia of Canada presents the most complete and perfect organization that can be adapted to the needs of a few people.

It is true that during the past years there has been an abatement of the enthusiasm which distinguished the early days of the Organization, but this is partly due to the conviction that no immediate need requires the services of the force and partly to the curtailment of the expenditure necessary to equip the camps of instruction—to those causes alone are to be traced an apparent apathy which the first note of danger would awaken into terrible and earnest activity.

The most noticeable events connected with the force during the present year are—the death of the Hon. Sir G. E. CARTIER, Bart., the First Minister of Militia and Defence for the Dominion, author of the *Militia Law*, and one of the greatest Statesmen this country has ever seen; the resignation of the Adjutant General,

Colonel P. ROBERTSON-ROSS, and the abrogation of the camps of exercise. The year on the whole has been rather discouraging, but the events connected with a great organization are not to be measured by the occurrences of any particular period, but by the general results extending over a series of years, and the Volunteer Organization is marked by steady and substantial progress. It has more able and better trained officers than at any previous period of its history; and a knowledge of rudimentary tactics including familiarity with the use of the soldier's weapon—the rifle—has been disseminated amongst a greater number of the people—and there is every prospect that the current year will be marked by greater activity and progress.

Throughout the whole period the VOLUNTEER REVIEW has endeavoured to keep before the force the most useful, practical, and scientific military knowledge, to establish a proper *esprit de corps*, to support due subordination, and to afford the officers and men of the force the opportunity of placing before the public their opinions and ideas as to the working of the *militia law*. This duty to the country has been discharged without any other object beyond the advantage the force should derive therefrom, and under no ordinary discouragement we have to thank our readers for the patronage accorded, and to assure them that no exertion shall be spared in the future to make the VOLUNTEER REVIEW worthy the Military Organization of the Dominion of Canada.

The last number of the Seventh Volume of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW contained the gazette of Lieutenant Colonel W. H. JACKSON, as Deputy Adjutant General of Military District No. 4, a laudable act of justice to an accomplished soldier and thorough gentleman; as well as an earnest that the higher staff employments of the Canadian Army will be conferred on gentlemen who, like Colonel JACKSON, have qualified themselves by passing through every grade in the service with honour for the position.

It is sound policy to advance those officers who have served with credit from the first inception of the volunteer force to the highest commands which time or casualties may open to their ambition, as it will give them a definite object to aim at and strive for as well as incite a degree of emulation and desire to qualify for the commands to which they may aspire. Without asserting the right of Canadian officers to the exclusion of the scientific talent of the regular service, we have no hesitation in asserting that the time has arrived for throwing open to them the entire commands in their own military force, especially as its existence and maintenance depends in a great measure on the individual influence and efforts of the officers.

Our military organization is peculiar, partaking largely of adaptation to the social

condition of the people, and having the civil the predominant element, it is quite safe to predict that it is the only organization fitted to the condition of the country. Such a system demands local aid and knowledge for its development, and the problem connected with it should be worked out by those trained under its provisions, the higher scientific knowledge necessary for a complete system of military organization must be a growth of time; its substitute for the present should be experience, and to those officers of the force who have by long and faithful service in its superior commands acquired that experience its present development should be confided. For some time the Adjutant General's office has been vacant, the duties thereof have been discharged by the Deputy Adjutant General at Head Quarters, and the Force has not deteriorated in his hands; if any officer in the Canadian Army has acquired experience by long service assuredly Lieutenant Colonel WALTER POWELL is that officer, for over eleven years he has filled his present appointment, during five of which he has been virtually Adjutant General of the army, and we are of opinion that a confirmation of rank in his case would be alike popular with the Volunteer Force, and amongst the people of Canada as a well-merited and earned distinction to an officer and gentleman who deserves well of the country.

The defence of a country must depend on its navy, army, and fortifications, and if the two latter combined can be made equal to any naval force which could be brought against them, the problem of defence would be solved as far as the defenders were concerned. Hitherto in most countries no definite attempt has been made to successfully defend their frontier or coastlines from risk of invasion, and as a consequence the belligerents on both sides have been more or less liable to surprise and insult, because the *Art of War* as practised in modern warfare was inapplicable to coast defence.

As long as all military operations depended on a regular or standing army; and a coast line offered an extent of some thousands of miles to an invader's choice, it was evident the cost of constant preparation was altogether too great for any nation, when in addition to this it was a question of time measured by weeks or months that would enable an army to concentrate for invasion or defence, the problem was further complicated, but as railways and application of steam power to vessels of war and transport have enabled a rapid concentration to be effected, it has become a grave question of national policy for the consideration of all countries having a maritime frontier as to how it is to be defended in case of war. England, with the most powerful navy in the world, is not free from anxiety and danger on this subject, as it is possible the

vigilance of her fleets may be evaded or such complication of events arise as would lay her shores open to hostile descent; in this case it becomes a problem of no ordinary difficulty to decide on the best means of preventing a calamity which would inflict fearful loss on her political standing, social disorganization, and commercial ruin on her people, in fact she could better afford to incur liabilities equalling her famous national debt many times, than that a foreign foe should land a division on the most barren and worthless portion of the shores of Great Britain and Ireland, for ever so brief a period; and this rule not only applies to Great Britain but to any other country that has wealth or national prestige to lose. The disastrous effects of successful invasion have been fully recognized in England and has given birth to numerous projects for prevention; but that proposed by Major MONCRIFF in his able lecture of 8th May, 1873, before the Earl of DUNDEE and the officers of the Auxiliary forces, is not only the most practical, but at the same time the most feasible, advantageous, and least costly of any yet devised.

The system is based on the axiom laid down at the commencement of this paper, The navy is the first line of defence, the army manning the fortifications the second; the army alone the third. It is clear that with the system of fortification hitherto followed, the advantage would be altogether on the side of the attack by a naval force; batteries are stationary, ships are not; therefore the former furnish good marks for the latter while they can hardly be hit in any case. In the event of a disembarkation of troops heavy ships would engage the batteries and prevent interference with the transports. Troops once landed could take the batteries in reverse if not previously silenced, so that it would seem as if the whole system of fortification so carefully worked out by the great military engineers of the world bids fair to become obsolete, and this as much from the impossibility of making its batteries invulnerable as of extending the lateral range of the artillery they carry, for to arm them *en barbette* would be little better than exposing the men serving the guns to wholesale massacre.

It follows then that some system must be devised to neutralize the advantage that steam power, armour and heavy guns give to vessels of war, and Major MONCRIFF has the honor of being the first to develop it; as the inventor of a gun carriage which our readers know provides the necessary mechanism for bringing the gun under the parapet to be loaded by the force of its own recoil. The task of inventing a system of fortification suitable to the altered condition of the gun in battery was rendered easy by the simplicity and ease with which his machinery could be manipulated; a gun always under cover that merely popped up to deliver its fire and before the smoke had cleared

away was three or four feet below the parapet again—suggested—first that the embrasure and parapet, the great features of the old system were unnecessary; secondly, that by restricting the lateral range they were obstructions; thirdly, that an elevated mound to cover a gun was mischievous, as it drew the enemy's fire at a conspicuous object; and fourthly, that forts and bastions were mere shell traps in those days of rifled ordnance and long range. Following out those ideas the gallant major proposes that batteries in future shall be sunk in the ground instead of elevated over it—that there shall be no parapet or mound to mark the site—that they shall not be on the crest of a hill, but some distance down its side leaving a bank behind, in other words *under bank*—that the only command will be of the natural glacis and beach—that the gun will have an almost all round fire, and that the only construction necessary beside the trench will be a circular pit or pits. If a line is to be defended with a recess covered and protected by traverses to act as an expense magazine, in order to connect one or more of those *one gun* batteries as they may be called it is only necessary to continue the trench or covered way, merely making it wide enough at bottom to be enabled to pass guns along it, or lay, if necessary, a line of rails. Approaches from the rear should also be constructed, and the whole might be made as a permanent work at little expense and no inconvenience to landed proprietors, as planting trees for the purpose of cover would be one of its most essential features. Such a series of earthworks might, as the lecture points out, be constructed, as good practice by volunteers or the local militia, and they should be trained on the ground they would be called on to hold. The main features of the system however is to be seen in the fact that these works would be armed with carriage guns, 32 or 64 pndrs., mounted on the Moncriff system that in case the enemy forced a landing they could be withdrawn, and always kept in store near the lines when not wanted. One of the greatest recommendations of this system is its simplicity. It would be easy to construct any amount of those lines during autumn manœuvres or summer drill, they could be held by the local forces till reinforcements would arrive, and it would be both a doubtful as well as hazardous attempt to land troops at all where they existed, inasmuch as only transports and light vessels could be engaged—that the carriage guns with round shot and shell could inflict notable mischief on vessels of that description and boats—that even if the troops succeeded in landing the beach would be so swept by Shrapnel that formation would be impossible, and to take a battery with an all round fire in reverse would be impossible—and to pound that battery presenting no tangible mark to shot or shell equally so. It is quite certain the opportunity that Major Mon-

CRIFF's system will cause as great a revolution in fortification and fort building as the heavy guns have caused in ship building. Could we not utilize the knowledge given us by this very important lecture in our own case; we have many exposed positions on our own coasts and why not employ our volunteers in preparing now at leisure a series of defences which would be worth the national existence of our people? Whether during the reign of commercial monopolies that consideration is worth the notice of a people who always value *business principles*, or no, is a question for the country; but the example of France should be a strong incentive to wisdom.

The following tribute to the excellence of our military organization is copied from the United States Army and Navy Journal of 20th Dec. last. Our contemporary is mistaken in ascribing the report on which he so ably comments, to the Acting Minister of Militia and Defence; it was composed by the late Adjutant General, and deserves all the praise accorded thereto:—

“THE CANADIAN MILITIA.”—From the annual report on the state of the militia of the Dominion of Canada for the year 1872. We learn that the militia force of our Canadian neighbors consisted last year of 30,144 men actually present with their corps at their muster parades. In addition to these, 339 men, officers, non commissioned officers, and candidates for commissions, attended the infantry schools for instruction. This army is organized by corps, companies, battalions, and batteries into tactical brigades of three arms, the brigades being distributed according to territorial divisions, and the whole active force forming a nucleus upon which rests the reserve, which latter we are told represents “practically almost the entire manhood of the Dominion.” We are not surprised that the report regards with pride this exhibit and organization. They are certainly creditable to Canada, and may well invite the attention of our military men and legislators. Camps of instruction, so necessary to the training or actual work of a militia force, were held of due importance. During the year eighteen camps of exercise for sixteen days training, and three small regimental artillery camps for eight days—the former drawing an attendance of 24,144 and the latter of 171—were successfully conducted. The infantry are all armed with the Snider breech-loader, using the same ammunition as the English regular troops—an important matter; the cavalry, in addition to their sabres, are provided with cavalry Sauter carbines of the regulation pattern; and the artillery batteries are being armed with the same description of field guns as those recently issued to the English horse artillery. The consequence is that the regular and militia forces will be able to operate harmoniously together, and as one army. The active militia force is now organized, so far as circumstances will admit, after the manner of an army; the annual training of corps is no longer limited to merely regimental exercises, but the various corps of the different arms trained besides to military combination for mutual support, in tactical brigades; and the whole force performs annually a prescribed course of rifle instruction and target practice. The manner of assembling the militia in

case of emergency has received great attention, and the report boasts that a signal flashed by telegraph would at any moment call to arms and concentrate in a few hours the whole or any part of the available force, in tactical brigades of the three arms, at any point within the limits of the brigade divisions. We freely admit the great advantage of this organization, and extend full praise to our neighbors for having perfected it. The increased general efficiency of the force is attributed to the practice of concentrating the various corps in brigade camps of exercise for annual drill, when officers and men are withdrawn from civil avocations and enabled to give entire attention to military duty. No confidence is placed in the system formerly prevailing of allowing corps to perform their annual drill independently at local headquarters at any time of the year and in any manner they pleased. The assembling annually of the territorial brigade divisions, that they may work together under their own proper staff officers, in their respective positions, is held to be of prime importance in preparing a military force for the performance of the duties that actual hostilities would impose. The amount of money asked for to maintain the militia organization in its present system is \$1,500,000. Great and increased attention has been given to rifle instruction and target practice, and high praise is extended to the Dominion Rifle Association for its assistance in that direction.

The report, as a whole, is very full, scientific in arrangement, clear and sensible in its suggestions, and exhibits on the part of its author, the acting Minister of Militia and Defence, an accurate knowledge of the duties entrusted to him, and a high appreciation of their importance. It may well be studied by those interested in our National Guard, for it has much to offer for our instruction. Canada has good reason to be proud of its militia organization.

We are kindly permitted by the author, Lieutenant Colonel FLETCHER, Scots Fusilier Guards, Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor General, to republish a pamphlet entitled "Memorandum on the Militia System of Canada," being the result of close observation and study of our system from an outside point of view, in which its real and apparent weakness and defects, as well as its commendable features, are ably pointed out and the proper remedies discussed with temper, forethought, and judgment.

In placing this pamphlet before our readers, we are actuated by a desire to have every prominent feature of our organization submitted to intelligent discussion, and the gallant Colonel has the merit of giving the key note to a complete analysis of all its merits and defects. The brochure itself speaks to the talent and ability of the writer.

At the Review of the Governor General's Foot Guards by His Excellency on last Queen's birthday, our readers will remember the very encouraging address with which they were favored, and the announcement that Her Excellency the Countess Dufferin intended to present the regiment with colors; we are able to announce that they have arrived from England and will be presented by the gracious donor on next Queen's birthday.

APPOINTED.—Mr. R.A. Sisson, of Blackville, reading clerk of the State Senat, has been appointed by United States Circuit Judge Bond, United commissioner. Mr. Sisson is, we believe, the only commissioner between Charleston and Augusta, and his experience has fitted him for the position.

We are indebted to the Publisher of the *Montreal Gazette* for a copy of the *Farmers' Almanac* for 1874.

REVIEWS.

THE *ALDINE* for January has been received. The illustrations are rich, and the literature of a high order. The letter press printing is well executed. Take it all in all it is a very superior member. The following are the illustrations and contents:—"O fair as hope was the New Year's morn"; Moore's Lake, Utah; The Irish School Master; Springville Canon; Colburn's Butte, in Kannarro Canon; Wild Flowers; View Near Fairfield, Conn; Christ Blessing the Children; The Descent from the Cross; Burying the Pet Bird; A Familiar Air:—A Winter Rosebud; The Siamese New Year's Day; The Aesthetic among Brutes; Song; The Irish School-Master; Utah Scenery; The Snow Flake; Cinderella; Fairfield, Connecticut; Holly-Hocks; Snowing on Pilatus; Dore's Bible Pictures; Sir Edwin Landseer, R. A.; A Familiar Air; Thorwaldsen's Bas-Reliefs—Day and Night; Sorl-Days; A Ghostly Lodging; Music; Art; Literature.

We have to thank the publishers of the *Aldine* for the two Chromos, entitled "The East" and "The West." One is a view in the White Mountains, New Hampshire; the other gives The Cliffs of Green River Wyoming Territory. The differences in the nature of the scenes themselves is a pleasing contrast, and affords a good display of the artist's scope and coloring. The chromos are each worked from thirty distinct plates, and are in size (12 x 16) and appearance exact fac-similes of the originals.

One of those Chromos are worth more than the years subscription. (\$5.00).

The *Invalide Russe*, of Dec. 3, announces that the Turcoman tribe of Tekinzens lately crossed the Amoo Daria and plundered two caravans, taking a sick Russian soldier prisoner. Three hundred Cossacks were consequently despatched on Sept. 24, from Fort Petro Alexandrowich, and on the 26th after a forced march of 200 versts, they overtook the Tekinzens and completely annihilated them, only eight of the tribe succeeding in recrossing the Amoo Daria.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* says: "As a 'sign of the times,' it may be mentioned that the Chinese are beginning to find the maintaining of war vessels rather expensive, so their last addition, built at their arsenal at Foo chow, is to be sold to a native trading company. The Chinese are not the only people in the world who will sooner or later discover that without a well-supplied exchequer it will be impossible to keep up a powerful navy."

OFFICERS' LONG COURSE.—GUNNERY SCHOOL QUEBEC.

November 1873.

FORTIFICATION.

1. Define the terms, salient, and re-entering angle, dead angle, enfilade, defilade.
2. Draw a section through a face of Number 2 Fort at Point Levis, from memory; put in the dimensions, and give the names of the various slopes of the profile. What are the advantages of the Chemin de Ronde, and what was the object of closing the gorge with a bastioned trace?
3. Would the complete investment of Quebec be difficult? What alterations and additions are required in the works and armaments, bearing in mind the report of Col. Jervois, R.E.?
4. Give your ideas on the advantages and disadvantages of the Moncrieff system of fortification; compare it with the old system of Vauban, and the modern granite structures with their iron shields.
5. Draw a trace and profile of a pair of Moncrieff gunpits on the summit of a gently rising ground. They are to form part of a system of detached forts; and will require a magazine as well as a proportion of bomb proof cover for a small garrison. Substitute as far as practicable forest timber for mason, taking into consideration the destructive effects of a Canadian climate, and the cheapest materials at hand. You will also provide for the drainage, and the accommodation of a few caretakers in time of peace.

MILITARY SURVEYING.

1. Plot the following bearing and distances (10 scale 100 yards to an inch?)

From.	To.	Bearing.	Distance in yards.
A	B	260°	199
C	B	35°	160
D	C	170°	60
D	E	265°	40
F	E	180°	50
F	G	190°	50
H	G	100°	30
H	I	240°	70

2. State briefly the general principles of making a military sketch and the principal points to be noted in a reconnaissance report?
3. Submit your copy of the sketch made by the officers at Beauport Camp last summer?
4. Describe Lieut. Col. Drayson's method of range finding?

TACTICS.

1. Define the following terms for infantry, cavalry and artillery formations: A rank, a file, fours, section, sub division, division of artillery and what relation it bears to the battery, compared with that of the squadron and company to the larger units of other arms.
2. For parade purposes what is the extent of front of a squadron, a battery in line at full intervals, a company of 40 files; what intervals should be left between battalions in line of contiguous columns, squadrons, artillery, and other troops, and how is the dressing of artillery regulated with reference to infantry?
3. State the most important points for consideration by a battery commander in the choice of a position, and the principles which govern the action of divisional, as well as of reserve or corps artillery in masses, giving instances of the latter from the Franco Prussian war.

4. Arrange the following corps of Military Districts, Nos. 5, 6, and 7, into a small corps d'armée according to the principles laid down by Sir G. Wolseley, supposing each battalion mustered 800 men in 10 companies, each troop 80 sabres, and each battery 6 guns. If you consider it necessary, increase Cavalry, Artillery, Engineers to the proportions required in a fair open country with good roads.

Cavalry No. 5 District	...	9 Troops.
" " 7 " "	....	3 " "
Artillery " 5 " "	....	2 Batteries.
" " 7 " "	....	2 " "
Engin'rs " 5 " "	....	2 companies.
Infantry " 5 " "	....	12 Battalions.
" " 6 " "	....	9 " "
" " 7 " "	....	13 " "

Transport and commissariat to be furnished by Civil contract.

5. Show by a diagram your disposition for an advance of the above corps d'armée in fighting order of march towards the frontier, by two parallel roads, sufficiently close together.

6. Suppose the advanced cavalry feeling the enemy falls gradually back on the advanced guard, which seizing a good position with open ground in front, holds its own until the main body comes up, and the enemy draws off for the night. Shew with the aid of a sketch your arrangement of the corps d'armée and the covering pickets, (supports and reserves not thrown out). State the strength of the pickets for a front of 1600 yards for each division: double sentries with an average beat of 50 yards are required?

7. At daybreak the force must be drawn up for battle, with the aid of a sketch show the general outline you would adopt, the sort of ground you would prefer. You are facing south perpendicular to your communications, those of the enemy running south west; in what direction would you expect the real attack; how, when and where would you prepare to use your corps artillery and endeavour to develop a counter attack; with what special object? With a second sketch detail the information for attack of one of your divisions on a front of 2000 yards, skirmishers, supports, flank, battalion, brigade and division reserves, according to the plan proposed by Captain Himo. Supposing in the case no strong features of ground break the general idea.

Give your reasons for everything.

I. B. STRANGE Lieut.-Col.
Commandant S. G., Quebec.

TORPEDO BOAT—A plan for a new torpedo boat, for naval warfare, has been presented to the Bureau of Construction and Repairs on the Navy Department, by a Commodore in the service. The Commodore's plan is to make a frame of a series of cross sections of oak and wrought iron ribs around a longitudinal frame, secured by wrought iron bolts and double pins, which, secured in a slot at the edge of an iron rib, passes through an intervening one of wood into the adjoining iron rib, where it is secured by a screw nut, and then these are secured the boat resembles a huge barrel, with staves joined hoopwise outside this frame or foundation. The projector proposes to place a series of heavy iron plates, or rather bars, running fore and aft. The general appearance of the vessel is like a brig with the ends cut off, and slightly flattened. As yet the projector has proposed no plan for attaching, or manipulating the torpedo.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

Sir,—I have the honor herewith to enclose the first score made by W. Chambers Esq., of this place, with the Martini-Henry rifle, which was won by Sergeant Thom of the Winnipeg Field Battery. I send you the score, as I thought that it might be of some use to you and of some interest both to those who donated the rifle, and those of the volunteers of the older provinces who take an interest in the doings of our young and yet small province. And I think that you will agree with me in thinking that it is very good shooting considering the time of year (16th Dec.) the state of the range (six inches of snow) and there being a wind across the range from right to left. The two gentlemen present at the time of shooting were Alex. McMillen, Banker, and George D. Northgrave, watchmaker, so the report given is perfectly reliable.

Hoping that you will be able to find space in your paper for the "score" and a few of the facts.

I remain your obedient servant.		G.
400 yards	.....	39 possible 40
500 "	.....	18 " 20
600 "	.....	32 " 40
		89 " 100

We will be glad to hear from our friend "G" as often as he can make it convenient. All matters relating to rifle shooting, or other subjects calculated to increase an interest in the Force our columns are open to.—Ed. Vol. Rev.

LOSS OF THE LOCH EARN.—On Saturday evening (Dec. 6th) the crew of the *Loch Earn*, which had come in collision with the *Ville de Haere*, were landed at Plymouth. It appears from the statements of the chief officers and entries in the official log book, that after the collision the *Loch Earn*, though taking in little or no water, was unable to sail. She remained in mid-ocean for two or three days when a heavy gale came on, and the sea smashed in the bulk-heads and the sides of the compartments. The gale did not abate, water flowed in rapidly, and six days after the collision, by which time the ship *British Queen*, Captain Masters, had come up, the ship was abandoned. She could at the best have floated not more than a few hours after that. The *British Queen* was bound from Philadelphia for Antwerp. The *Loch Earn* appears to have acted on the unquestionable rule of the sea—that a steamer is bound to give way to a sailing ship.

Mr. Buckingham, formerly of the Stratford Beacon, has been selected by Hon. Mr. Mackenzie as his private secretary—a position he will fill with rare ability.

A disease somewhat similar to the epizootic, has broken out among the horses in Toronto. The Great Western Railway Company is the principal sufferers yet.

CANNIBALISM IN FEEJEE.

(From the Sacramento Union.)

Austrian papers state that their latest news from Feejee was to the effect that the rebellious tribes of mountaineers at Feejee had not yet been suppressed by King Cakobau's troops. On the Bay coast there have been some sharp fights. In one of these, which occurred on the 19th of July, near Na Cuta, a mountain town, two white planters, Phillip Jack, of the Ba river, and Gresham, of Raki Raki, were killed by the rebels, and four other settlers were wounded. The *Feejee Times*, in an account of this fight, says there were several natives killed and wounded on the Government side, and a great number also of the Kal Colos (the mountaineers). The forces had to make their attack up a steep hill. Awaiting them, the Kal Colos lay safely ensconced until the troops approached, when a front and flank fire was opened on them by the mountaineers; and then the opposing forces met in a hand-to-hand encounter, in which bayonets, axes, and clubs did deadly work. The struggle was too hot to last long, however, and the Kal Colos threw away their weapons and everything they had and ran for their lives. Two or three whites, with a number of natives, followed them up toward Na Cuta, shot several in their chase and three in the town, which the Kal Colos set fire to before the Government party reached it.

Three natives of the Government force had been shot a day or two before and taken to this town to be cooked and eaten. Their heads were found stuck upon sticks, and their bones placed on the side of the path, in sight of every passerby. There were hundreds of bones in the town which had been cocked long before. The notorious Rokoqera and his uncle, who, it is said, murdered Macintosh and Spiers, have at last been killed and eaten. One of the Na Lotu tribe (friendly) came across one of these two, wounded in the leg, and took sweet revenge for the Na Lotu man who had been driven out of his home some years past, by this man and his tribe. Na Lotu spat on his hand and said: "You burnt my town, did you?" and then made a blow at his head with a battleaxe, and purposely missed his mark. He again spat on his hand, "You killed my people, did you?"

He kept on tantalizing his victim for some time until he saw more men coming up, when, for fear of having the pleasure taken out of his hands, he chopped off the poor wretch's head, then his arms and legs, and cut his body into convenient pieces for carrying away. He took the head to the creek, washed it, and brought it to the camp that the rest of them might be satisfied as to its identity. Rokoqera was also cut up into pieces and brought in. One of the missionaries would have them buried, but at night the pieces were dug up and taken, with several other bodies, to a respectable distance from the whites and cooked, the bukola lali (cannibal drum) being beaten all the time, inviting those who might feel inclined to come to the feast. It is very evident that the Kal Colos have got such a lesson that they never dreamt of. They are already commencing to quarrel among themselves; those who had nothing to do with the murders of the Burns family are accusing those who did the deed of bringing all this trouble upon them by murdering the white men.

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

[JANUARY 6, 1874

How slow, how slow, how slow... The Club, made the highest score of seven bull's eyes, the highest that could possibly have been made, and tied for the first place.

used was the ordinary military rickety... Thursday the "gyro" pigeon was shot at in the shooting field. At half past one o'clock the shooting was adjourned, and the gentlemen were entertained to luncheon in a spacious apartment on the premises.

Majority for the Ulster Rifle Association, 18. The Claudeboy Gauntlet was competed for by the highest scorers in the match for the All-Ireland Challenge Shield. Ten shots each at 1,100 yards:—

Table listing names and scores for the Claudeboy Gauntlet match. Includes names like R. S. Joyce, Wm. Rigby, and scores such as 23, 28, 27.

Competition B.—The Braddell Series of Extra prizes, presented by Messrs Joseph Braddell & Son, for Snider or Enfield rifles (3 to 5 groove), only 200 yards. Off-shoulder standing. Seven shots, no sighting, competitors may enter any number of times during the two days, but cannot win more than one prize.

Table listing names and scores for Competition B. Includes names like John Clews, Sergt. Francis, and scores such as 26, 26, 24.

Competition C.—Fifteen Pounds.—200 yds. Snider or Enfield. 1st, £5; 2nd, £3; 3rd, £2; 4th, 5th, 6th, £1 each; 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 10s. each. Seven shots, standing, entrance, 5s. Open to all comers, 3 or 5 groove Enfield or Snider.

Table listing names and scores for Competition C. Includes names like Sergt. McLure, Sergt. Francis, and scores such as 24, 23, 23.

Competition D.—£9. 500 yards. Snider or Enfield (3 or 5 groove). Seven prizes—£3, £2, three of £1, and two of 10s. Seven shots; any position; entrance 5s. Open to all comers. Rifles as in C.

The following part of the meeting of the All-Ireland Rifle Association... We are glad to find that in evidence of the fact that the British Empire is well to the front in the arms of the present day.

THE ULSTER RIFLE ASSOCIATION. On Wednesday, 1st January, October 3rd and 4th, the seventh annual prize meeting of this Association was held in the beautiful grounds of the Earl of Dufferin, Governor-General of Canada, and President of the Association. There was a pretty large attendance of the public, and the competitors included representatives from the Dublin Rifle Club and the Clyde-side Long Range Club, in addition to a large number of the members of the Association.

Promoted by Mr. A. B. Leech, for the special purpose of encouraging practice at long ranges by men who aspire to the honor of representing Ireland in their next International Match at Wimbledon for the Echo Shield. Ranges—1000 and 1,100 yards. Twenty shots and two sighting shots at each range. Position—any. Rifle—any under 10lbs. No telescope-sighting or hair-triggers.

Open only to Irish Rifle Clubs; each club to select four members to represent it as a team in this match. Each club to pay £5, and each competitor to pay, in addition, £1 as an entrance fee. The purse so created to be divided amongst the members of the winning team, less 25 per cent, towards the necessary fund for badges, &c. The shield to be retained by the club of the winning team, and to be exhibited in its county town, with the name of the club engraved on it, and to be returned one month before the next competition. Rules in other respects same as those regulating the International Small-bore Match at Wimbledon. The following was the total aggregate scores made, and from which the competitors for the Claudeboy Gauntlet were selected:—

Table titled 'ULSTER RIFLE ASSOCIATION' and 'DOWN SHOOTING CLUB' listing names and scores. Includes names like R. S. Joyce, John McKenna, and scores such as 135, 136, 124.

1	J. Wilson, jun.	24
2	Captain Gilmour	23
3	Lieut. Smyth	23
4	John Clews	23
5	John M'Kenna, jun.	22
6	J. Rigby	22
7	Lieut. M'Intyre	22

Competition E.—£15. 800 yards. Any rifle. Nine prizes. 1st, the Bandreth prize (presented by H. D. Bandreth, Esq.) £5; £3, £2, four of £1, and two of 10s. Seven shots; any position; entrance, 7s 6d. Open to all comers.

Henry Fulton	27
T. R. Walkington	27
J. Boomer	26
Lieut. Smyth	26
J. Rigby	25
J. M'Kenna, jun.	25
Captain Mura	24
Captain Gilmour	23
J. S. Lee	23

Competition F.—£15 Seven shots at 1000 yards, position any, any rifle. 1st prize, presented by John Rigby, Esq., £5; 2nd a piece of plate presented, by W. Smyth, Esq., Glasgow; £3 3s, £2, four of £1, and two of 10s. Open to all comers, entrance, 7s 6d.

Lieut. M'Intyre	22
John Clews	21
R. S. Joyce	20
J. S. Lee	20
William Rigby	18
Captain Gilmour	17
Mr. Boomer	15
Henry Fulton	14
J. M'Kenna	14

Competition G.—The Ingram Prize, £5 5s, with £10 added by the Association. Seven shots at 200 yards, any rifle. 1st, the Ingram prize, a Snider rifle of the highest finish, value, £5 5s; 2nd, £3; £2, four of £1, and two of 10s. Open to all-comers.

John Clews	25
Lieut. M'Intyre	24
John M'Kenna, jun.	23
R. S. Joyce	23
W. M. Kiturick	22
W. H. Braddell	22
J. Taggart	22
T. M'Henry	22
William Rigby	22

The Belmont Cup—Presented by Thomas McClare, Esq., M.P. for Belfast. Open only to members of the U.R.A. Ranges—800, 900, 1000, and 1,100 yards. Five shots at each range. Any rifle—any position. Entrance, 2s 6d. First prize, the Belmont Cup to be held for one year by winner; must be won three times before becoming the property of any individual; 2nd and 3rd prizes, two thirds and one third, respectively, of entrance money, less 10 per cent. towards expenses of Association. N.B.—Ties in this competition must be shot off—one shot each at longest range till decided.

Total.		
1	John Clews (Cup)	60
2	H. Fulton	58
3	J. Wilson, jun.	57
4	J. M'Kenna, jun.	54
5	John Rigby	54

The ex Empress Eugenie was deeply affected at the verdict and sentence in the case of Marshal Bazaine. Her agitation was so great that she was compelled to postpone the visit she was about to make to Queen Victoria.

MEMORANDUM ON THE MILITIA SYSTEM OF CANADA.

At times when changes in the Military Organization of the country seem to be impending, and when the management of the Militia has passed into new hands, it may not be considered out of place if I offer a few observations on a subject in which I take a deep professional interest. The question at issue is not one of mere detail; it involves principles of which a due consideration is absolutely necessary if any important changes be made in the present system of militia, or if any broad scheme be proposed of national defence.

Now in all matters involving large military expenditure there is one problem presenting itself under different aspects, which simple in its formula, is yet extremely difficult of solution. The problem may be stated in these terms:—Given the number of men required, and the efficiency to which they are to attain, what amount of money will be annually necessary? Or as it is stated in Canada—Given the amount of money voted, and the number of men required, what is to be the standard of efficiency? Or again—Given the amount of money and the required efficiency how many men can be raised? This problem comprises the whole principal of the organization of a military force under ordinary conditions, when the national spirit is not excited by imminent danger, or not roused by enthusiastic feeling.

If these propositions be accepted, as containing at least the germs of truth, it may be well—before enunciating any new ideas—to see how they have been worked out during the last few years, and what are the present results of the military organization in Canada.

Now it appears that when it became probable that the onus of providing for the national defence would, by the withdrawal of the Imperial forces, be thrown upon the Dominion, a Commission was issued in the year 1862 to report on a system of militia suitable for the requirements of the country. On this commission, Sir John MacDonal, Sir George Cartier, and other well-known statesmen—assisted by Colonel, now General Lysons—served, and the result was a report, of which the substance was as follows:—It was considered that the number of the active force should be fifty thousand, and that even this force (a very large increase on any number previously organized) would be insufficient in the event of invasion without the assistance of a strong body of regular troops, and a powerful fleet of gun-boats on the lakes. It was recommended that the country should be divided into Military districts, which should comprise Regimental Divisions; that a permanent head quarter, district, and regimental staff should be maintained, and that the usual period of training should be for twenty eight days.

Had this report been acted upon, a force respectable both in regard to numbers and efficiency would have been created; but unfortunately, owing to the expenditure necessary to carry out the plan, it was not pleasing to the House of Assembly; consequently the Government which had embodied it in a bill was defeated, and was obliged to resign. In 1863 a Militia Bill was passed, considerably modified in regard to its provisions from that which would have been requisite had the report of the Commission been approved; and this Act continued in force until the Confederation of the Dominion, when in

1868 the present Militia Bill received the Royal Assent

The basis of the system is the enrolment of the whole of the male population between the ages of eighteen and sixty, not exempted or disqualified by law, and being British subjects by birth or naturalization. This force—numbering in the four Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, 691,008—is divided into four classes. The first comprises the unmarried, and widowers without children, between the ages of eighteen and thirty; the second, the same description of persons under forty-five years of age; the third class includes those between eighteen and forty five who are married, or who are widowers with children; and the fourth class comprises the whole of the enrolled population between forty-five and sixty. From the total number thus enrolled, the Active Militia—which, as the law now stands, is limited to 43,000 men—is raised by voluntary enlistment, and engaged for three years. Power is given to fill up the ranks by means of the ballot; but this power is in abeyance, and has not been resorted to even when the members of the Active Militia have fallen short of those demanded. The command of the whole force is vested in the Queen, and through Her, in Her representative, the Governor General, who is advised on all questions relating to the Militia by the Minister of Militia and Defence—a Minister similar, as regards his functions, to the Secretary of State for War. The actual discipline is under the Adjutant-General, who must be a field officer in the regular army, and has the rank of Colonel in the Militia. Each district, of which there are eleven, viz.:—Four in Ontario, three in Quebec, one in New Brunswick, one in Nova Scotia, one in Manitoba, and one in British Columbia, is under the command of Deputy Adjutant-Generals, who have the rank of Lieut.-Colonels, and who are assisted by Brigade Majors. The period of drill during peace time for the Active Militia is to be not more than sixteen days and not less than eight. The force assembled in 1872, and who performed their regular period of sixteen days' drill, was 30,144, including officers. Of these, 25,724 were infantry, 1,666 cavalry, 951—with 40 guns—field artillery, and 1,697 garrison artillery. The estimates for that year amounted to \$1,549,400; of which \$550,000 was appropriated to the pay and allowances of the troops during their annual training, including the expense attendant on encamping a portion of the force. In the present year the estimates were reduced, and the camps in which the Militia have for the past few seasons been exercised, were not formed. The minimum amount of money to be applied to national defence was fixed at one million dollars (\$1,000,000); shortly before several Provinces were united by Confederation, and it appears probable that unless the House of Commons had thus been tied down to the expenditure of a specified sum, the estimates would have been still further reduced.

Taking the year 1872 as a sample of the last few years, we find that rather over a million and a half of dollars was voted, and that about 30,150 men were provided as the force of the active militia. On these data the following questions arise:—To what efficiency did this force attain? And given the amount of money, would it be better to diminish the numbers and increase the efficiency, or to keep the force as it is? For to lower the average standard of efficiency without altogether doing away with even the appearance of military training, would be almost impossible. To reply to the first

question is difficult, as the results in the several Provinces of the Dominion were not identical. There were great differences between the regiments, some comparing very favourably with the best of the militia of England, others inferior, in the matter of training to the very worst. It would be of little avail to criticize sharply where the difficulties to be contended with are so great, and where those who have overcome them deserve much praise. The most noticeable point was the apparent ignorance, in some instances, of the existence of faults which would attract the attention of all who are conversant with military affairs; thereby forcing the conclusion that unless some pattern should exist to which the regiments might conform, officers and men would be unaware of their shortcomings; and gradually, but surely, the efficiency of the whole force would yearly deteriorate. The second question involves so many considerations that its solution cannot be given in any dogmatic form, but may receive an answer from the teachings of history, and from the example of other nations. To revert to first principles.—For what is a Military Force required? First, to defend the country against external foes; Secondly, to act as a last resource in maintaining the power of the law; Thirdly, but far in the background, to be a symbol of the state which pertains to all nations aspiring to rank as such among their peers.

Now the first and most important requisite of a military force depends so entirely on the position of the country to which it belongs in regard to its neighbors, that it is impossible to consider it abstractedly, and consequently the case as regards Canada must present itself *per se* in respect to the question at issue. This great and growing Dominion stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, bounded on its southern frontier by the United States, and extending northwards into the forests and deserts of the Arctic regions, comprises a population of not more than 4,000,000 of which by far the greater portion reside between the south eastern shores of Lake Huron and the Atlantic. Putting aside therefore the Province of British Columbia, which if war were to break out must rely for its defence on other help than could be furnished from Canada; and the newly settled Province of Manitoba, which, bordering on a country almost as thinly populated as itself, has at present more to fear from Indians, or the lawless hunters and traders of the west, than from a regular enemy, what may be called Canada proper and the Maritime Provinces remain to be dealt with. These present a frontier, contiguous to the United States of about one thousand (1,000) miles, whilst along the coast many harbours, for the most part closed during the winter months furnish shelter for shipping and points of defence in case of war. The only enemy that appears likely seriously to threaten Canada is her powerful and now friendly neighbors the United States of America. There, in contradistinction to the condition of Europe, the military force is reduced very low, the total number of regular troops being about 30,000, scattered for the most part on the Indian frontier; whilst since the great civil war, the Militia and Volunteers which constituted on either side the vast majority of the army have received but little training. In fact the aspect of affairs appears so peaceful that some may be tempted to question the necessity on the part of Canada of keeping up any military force, and to ask why the money so applied should not rather be employed in developing the resources of the country. No reply except a reference

to history can be given to those who broach such opinions. There, however, the lessons have been so often repeated that they may be considered as conclusive. Periods of peace have never continued for any length of time, and clear as the political horizon now is, there are still clouds no larger perhaps than a man's hand which may be seen by those who are not dazzled by its brilliancy. On the other hand, the smallness of the force at the disposal of the United States, permits her neighbour to dispense with all but a skeleton of an army, sufficient to be a nucleus of a larger force in the event of war, and adapted for the minor but still necessary purposes already indicated. What description of force is best suited for these requirements is the question at issue.

As long as a garrison of Imperial troops remained in Canada (for the present small force at Halifax is far too feeble even to man its forts, and therefore cannot be counted for the defence of the country generally) the Active Militia formed the second line, whilst the main body of enrolled men was available as a reserve. The regular troops furnished also a standard to which the militia were bound as far as possible to conform, and the several stations where they were quartered served as schools at which its officers and non-commissioned officers might acquire the rudiments of instruction and become imbued with a proper military spirit. With the departure of the Imperial troops these advantages have disappeared, and although it may truly be said that a great and growing nation such as Canada now is, will feel its responsibilities and act up to them, and will even by relying on its own strength increase in vigor when the artificial supports are withdrawn, yet the difficulties engendered by the absence of all professional soldiers must be faced, and the want they supplied be met, by some well digested plan. There is a feeling in the Dominion that the present militia system admirable in its conception, and good in many of its details yet scarcely fulfils the expectation entertained when it was first framed, and that the time has come for a modification of some of its features. To suggest any alternations without first stating the grounds for so doing, would be presumptuous, and it is only by appealing to the teaching of recent events on both sides of the Atlantic, that any opinions that may be urged would merit consideration.

The first instance that occurs is that of the United States when the great war of 1861 broke out, and when the nation divided into two hostile camps strove to put forth its whole strength either for aggression or defence. Previous to that event but a very small regular force had been maintained; but the several States had organized a system of militia, some States excelling others in military ardour and consequently in the number and efficiency of their troops. War commenced, large armies were organized, the small regular force furnished officers as far as it was able to do so; but on both sides during the first campaign, the troops were little better than armed mobs. The result was that the war was greatly prolonged, and much useless slaughter of men and expenditure of money were the result. It is almost certain that if either side had possessed but a small body of well disciplined troops to leaven the larger masses, the battle of Bull's Run would have resulted in the capture of Washington or Richmond, according to the weight thrown into the scale by the regular troops. It was only gradually that the billigerents fully recognized the fact that

the military profession meant more than the mere wearing of uniform. The regular officers were, at the commencement of the war, looked upon with jealousy and their opinions regarded as the results of professional pedantry. Gradually, however, public feeling on this point changed, and it is a remarkable fact that with scarcely an exception no officers acquired any wide renown on either side excepting those who had been educated in the United States regular army. This example is cited as showing that principles recognized in Europe have been proved by practice as applicable to the condition of society on this side of the Atlantic.

To take more recent instances, the teaching of the last wars in Europe appears to point to two great results. One is that modern armies will in future be of vast size and beyond the possibility of being maintained at full efficiency during times of peace, consequently the greater portion of the force will partake of the character of Militia. The second is, that those short service men, and when the reserves are called out, those soldiers who have returned to civil life, require highly educated officers and thorough trained non-commissioned officers to lead them in time of active service. This is the system approved of in the most highly organized of European armies, where the short service regular troops, and the landwehr are officered by men who have received considerable professional instruction.*

Now, to advocate for Canada any plan approaching to that which prevails in Germany would be manifestly absurd; as, happily, the political condition of the two nations, in regard to the necessity for military preparation, is as different as it well can be: whilst an attempt to enforce compulsory service in Canada would, even if it were approved by the people through their representative, tend to injure the prosperity of the country by the check it would cause to emigration. The instance is merely quoted to show the opinion held in the most military nation in Europe of the necessity of training for those who aspire to lead troops, whether as officers or in the lower grades.

The inference to be drawn from the instances quoted would appear to be—That a small force, well trained, and officered by men who have learned their profession, has become a necessity for Canada; this force being intended to serve as a training school, and as a standard of comparison for the real army of the country—i.e., the Active and the Reserve Militia. An argument may be raised against this scheme, on the ground that the Imperial forces, although removed from the country, would, in the event of war, supply skilled officers to train the militia; and that consequently the expense which the small force here proposed would necessitate, might be an unnecessary burden on the resources of the country. To this it may be replied,—That a war that would involve Canada in serious hostilities, would be also one which would tax to their utmost the resources of Great Britain, both in officers and men. Her own reserve forces would require a supply of trained officers, and it would be difficult to provide sufficient young and energetic officers and non-commissioned officers for her increased needs. The most that Canada could expect, irrespective of any troops that might be sent to her aid, would be a staff; and, as a matter of course, a supply of the material of war.

*NOTE.—In a recent report on the Swiss Militia, where its many shortcomings are pointed out, it is recognized as a fact by all who advocate reform, that a civic force requires a thoroughly trained staff to guide it, more, rather than less, than a professional army.

(To be continued.)