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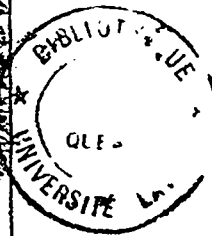
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### Utilization of Colonial Forces in Imperial Defence.

BEFORE THE TORONTO (CANADA) MILITIA INSTITUTE  
ON SATURDAY, 25TH OCTOBER, 1879.)

Lieutenant-Colonel T. C. Scoble, Canadian Engineers.

relations of Great Britain with her colonies are of a complex nature. With those having responsible government she is more by the ties of kindred and affection, and that ferocity which seems to be developed by expatriation, than common interest. In fact, in many cases colonial and Imperial interests are of a most conflicting character. To colonies which are still in a state of tutelage, where the Government is in the hands of Imperial officers, and the revenue and expenses are under their control, the Empire is bound by a common interest. To those colonies which have been planted for military or strategic reasons, the obligation is purely Imperial.

Colonies may therefore be classed as follows:—

**Independent Colonies.**—Canada and Newfoundland, Ceylon, and the Cape Colonies.

**Governed Colonies.**—India, Ceylon, the West Indies, the West Indies, Honduras and Guiana, the Mauritius and Straits Settlements.

**3rd. Military Colonies.**—Malta, Gibraltar, Aden, Hong Kong, Labuan, Cyprus, Fiji, the Bermudas, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Gold Coast, Ascension, Falkland Islands, St. Helena.

Assuming that each section of the British Empire is alike responsible for its share in a scheme of Imperial defence, according to its population and resources, it will be necessary that they shall be grouped geographically, the larger with the lesser, Great Britain forming the central group, from which all the others radiate as follows, viz:—

**Indian possessions,** including Ceylon, the Straits Settlements and Hong Kong.

**African possessions,** including Cape Colony, Natal, the Mauritius, St. Helena, and Ascension Island.

**Australasian possessions,** including Fiji, Labuan.

**American possessions,** including Canada, Newfoundland, the West Indies, Honduras, Guiana, and Bermuda.

The chief colonies in these groups, having responsible governments, should be communicated with, and advised of what was expected of them on the outbreak of a war which threatened the empire collectively. They should be called upon to furnish garrisons to each adjacent coaling station and naval depot, of such strength as might be deemed advisable by a military commission employed in time of peace for such a purpose. The forces so engaged should be drawn from the colonial militia, or, in the case of India, the standing army, and should be placed at the disposal of the Imperial Government.

ment for garrison duty during the continuance of the war. They should also garrison the military posts at present maintained within the limits of each colony, and such other points within the colony as might be deemed necessary by the military commission.

The troops they would be called upon to furnish under this arrangement would be as follows, viz. :—

India, for Aden, Straits, Ceylon, and Hong Kong .....	3,000 to 4,000
Canada, for Halifax and Bermuda .....	3,750 " 5,000
West Indies, Barbadoes, and Jamaica .....	1,500 " 2,000
Cape Colonies, for Mauritius, St. Helena, Ascension, &c. ....	1,500 " 2,000
Australasia, for Fiji and Labuan .....	800 " 1,000

By giving these points a fair share of naval assistance, by furnishing all necessary armaments and munitions of war, and by holding the colony in whose charge they were placed strictly responsible for the retention of the various posts, the Central Government would be left at leisure to administer affairs more nearly at home, and would have at its disposal at least 10,000 regular troops from the relieved garrisons.

But in addition to this measure, the Central and Colonial Governments should unite upon a plan by which each colony should bear its share in the Imperial defence. This could not be arranged by means of a money tax or subsidy as most of the colonies are too much engaged in developing their internal resources to be able to afford such payments, but by means of a contingent of troops proportioned to their population and warlike character. Canada, with its population of 4,000,000 and a fighting strength of nearly 700,000, could, and no doubt would, most cheerfully furnish a contingent, independently of the garrisons before named, of say 10,000 men; Australasia, with an European population of 2,500,000, would doubtless furnish 5,000. The smallness of the European population at the Cape (some 320,000) and its exposed position would prevent their furnishing more than the contingent required for the defence of the colony; as would likewise be the case with the West Indies and the military colonies. But India could spare from her Indian troops man for man with the European soldiers which she retained, and still have the vast armies of the native Princes to draw upon as possible contingents, were the theatre of war to be in Eastern Europe or Asia.

To enter into the details of such a scheme would imply much time and space, and I shall therefore content myself with describing the share that Canada would bear in carrying it out.

Suppose that Great Britain has established in each of her great colonies a Royal Colonial Militia Reserve, the force being enlisted for six years, and being liable for service in the Army in case of war, with the distinction that they should not be drafted into line regiments, but serve together under their own Officers as a colonial contingent. This force should be placed on the same footing as the militia of Great Britain, being clothed, armed, equipped, and paid by the Imperial Government, and subject to being called out for drill for three or four weeks in each year, the men receiving in addition to their pay a bounty of £1 per head per annum. To each regiment would be attached a permanent instructional staff and a sufficient dépôt, the whole being subject to the inspection and supervision of the Officer commanding Her Majesty's troops in the colony.

We will take it for granted that Canada's quota is 10,000 men, who are distributed as follows :—

Ontario (3 regiments, 2 batteries, 1 company Engineers) .....	3,500
Quebec (2 regiments, 2 batteries, 1 company Engineers) .....	2,500
New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island (2 regiments) .....	2,000
Nova Scotia (2 regiments) .....	2,000
	10,000

There could be no difficulty in raising that number, as the 1st Class Militiamen of these four provinces numbered 23,555 in the enumeration of 1873 (see Appendix). Nor could the Canadian Government take exception to the enlistment of such a number, since for the past three years they have drilled 20,000 of the 45,000 men provided for in the Militia Act. Of course, the advantages afforded in the Royal Colonial Reserve would attract to its ranks all the more adventurous and bolder spirits, with whom the possibility of foreign service and a more extended sphere of action than can be found in the active militia would be the inducements to enlist. In this way a corps d'élite would be formed; and by keeping up a standard of physique and character, the Canadian contingent would prove no discredit to its country. And what more substantial and acceptable contribution to the Imperial defence could be made than a division of Canadian soldiers?

To be continued.

## Cavalry.

### ORDRE DE BATAILLE.

"La réserve sera composée de la cavalerie (trois cents cinquante) les troupes légères (la colonie, volontaires, &c., mille quatre cents) et de sauvages (quatre cents cinquante) le total deux mille deux cents; aux ordres de Monsieur B. Hibert," and we learn with reference to this order of Knox, at page 115, when he says :—"The late Town-Major of Quebec favored me with the following table of regulations which were the result of a council of war held last May, upon the arrival of a squadron from France, with artillery, stores and provisions," so that the reliability of the perfect correctness of this order is sufficiently vouched for.

Then General Townshend, in a letter to His Majesty's Secretary of State, dated Camp before Quebec, 20th September 1759, describes the conclusion of the battle thus : "This the situation of things, as I was told in the action that I commanded: I immediately repaired to the centre, and, finding the pursuit had put part of the troops in disorder, I forced them as soon as possible. Scarcely was this effected, when General de Bougainville, with his corps from Cape Rouge of two thousand men, appeared in our rear. I advanced two pieces of artillery and two battalions towards him, upon which he retreated. You will not, I flatter myself, blame me for not quitting the advantageous ground and risking the fate of so decisive a battle by seeking a fresh enemy, posted perhaps in the very kind of ground he could wish for, viz: woods and swamps."

After the battle the greater portion of the French retreated to Point-aux-Trembles covered by the cavalry, who, however, still continued as active as ever, for on the 23rd October, page 177, we are told : "Our weather changed again the last night, and continued this day without intermission. The French cavalry came this morning into our neighborhood, carried off some prisoners, and a considerable number of cattle belonging to the General Hospital. The Government resolved to make severe reprisals for these outrages, and oblige the enemy to keep at a greater distance from our frontiers. Again next day—a skulking party of the enemy supported by some light cavalry, attempted to force our passage, but the great redoubt on the north side of Charles' river, but soon repulsed by the detachment there, without any loss of horse and rider were killed on the part of the assailants; the latter fell his companions threw him across another stream and carried him off. It is conjectured they had several wounded," and on the 12th Nov. we find some of these ubiquitous Uhlans across the River St. Lawrence, for at page 204 we are told : "As an unfortunate Canadian was taking boat one day ago, at Point Levi, to come over here with a quantity of fresh provisions, he was set upon by ten of the light cavalry, who, not content with plundering him, beat and abused him most inhumanly, by wounding him with their sabres, and

ing his wrists and arms with their knives; at leaving him he said, 'Now go and tell your fine English Governor how we've treated you, and we hope soon to serve him and his valiant troops in the same manner.'

The severe winter which followed, and which proved so try- to the English garrison of Quebec, does not seem to have hurt the Quebec Squadron of Cavalry, for the following spring we find them leading the van of the French army to the attack upon Quebec, and the day before the battle of Sillery or St. Foy, as we call it, we find the following recorded, 27th April, 1760: 'Moderate weather, with a thick and cold misting rain. The troops exchanged several shots with the enemy, but they did not at so great a distance that it availed nothing: the Governor formed the line of battle on an advantageous piece of ground beyond St. Foy, and endeavored to invite them to an action; in which they seemed as if inclined to indulge him, but afterwards retired to the woods behind them, hoping by various stratagems to decoy our troops to follow them. Their cavalry and savages made frequent ostentatious displays by repeated countermarches. Within the skirts of their cover, sometimes in large and at other times in small divisions to appear more numerous, yet they would not advance, though within the distance of our artillery, which galled them immensely, for they were frequently thrown into confusion, and were obliged to drag off many killed and disabled men. At length the Governor, perceiving that they were only trifling and protracting the action, gave orders for the demolition of our post at the church, and after the performance thereof, marched back his forces to the garrison without any other accident in the course of the day, than having two men slightly wounded, the enemy affected to pursue in their march, but our field pieces obliged them to stop aloof, and the flanks of the line were so well covered by our light troops that they could not make the least impression, but that they contented themselves with firing and shouting at a great distance.'

Next day was the great battle of St. Foy, resulting in a decided victory for the French arms, who, however, lost upwards of fifteen hundred men; the English troops suffered to the extent of eleven hundred of all ranks, killed, wounded, and prisoner. Late at night the Governor issued the following orders:

#### ORDERS.

The 23th April has been unfortunate to the British arms, but our affairs are not so desperate as to be irremediable, the General has often experienced the bravery of the troops he now commands, and is very sensible they will endeavor to regain what they have lost; the fleet may be hourly expected, reinforcements are at hand; and shall we lose, in one moment, the fruits of so much blood and treasure? Both officers and men exhorted patiently to undergo the fatigues they must suffer, to expose themselves cheerfully to some dangers, a duty which they owe to their King, their country, and themselves."

The British garrison of Quebec was now besieged, and the French army employed themselves constructing batteries and entrenchments, suffering severely from the constant fire sustained from the town. The 16th May, "a ranging officer with twelve men being advanced last night, close by the River Charles, not far from the General Hospital, surprised a French sloop, who swam that river with his horse, and was returning with despatches for M. de Levis from the lower country, and he was detached for intelligence; by him we learn that there are some straggling ships in the river, and that he saw a vessel enter the gulf, which we suppose to be Lord Colville's. The wind continues easterly."

The final review of the winter campaign at Quebec, Knox gives the strength of the two armies as follows, page 328:—"The victorious army, consisting of ten regiments, two companies of the Royal Artillery, and one company of New York Rangers, amounting to about seven thousand three hundred men, marched into Quebec under the command of Lieutenant-General Murray as Governor, and Colonel Ralph

Burton as Lieutenant-Governor." Speaking of the French, he says:—"The enemy's army consisted of five battalions of veteran troops, thirty companies of marines, troupes de colonie, two troops of light cavalry, twelve hundred Acadians and savages, with about twelve thousand Canadians, amounting in the whole to near eighteen thousand men, all in good health, who had not undergone a tenth part of the fatigues our troops had been exposed to."

We think we have given sufficient extracts from this interesting historical journal of the campaign, to show the value of having a small body of trained cavalry with an army, and hope it may have the effect of drawing more attention to this valuable arm in our militia system.

#### Examples of Loyalty.

From an immense number of examples of loyalty we select one as being more directly interesting to Canadians. The gallant defender of Minorca, in 1781, having been no less a person than our own first Governor of Quebec, Lieutenant-General the Honorable James Murray, who was offered a large sum of money by the King of Spain, through the Duke of Crillon, commanding the combined French and Spanish forces, to induce him to betray his trust, which was rejected with indignation in the following letter:—

"Fort St. Philip, October 16th, 1781.

SIR, —When your brave ancestor was desired by his Sovereign to assassinate the Duc de Guise, he returned the answer which you should have done when the King of Spain charged you to assassinate the character of a man whose birth is as illustrious as your own, or that of the Duc de Guise.

I can have no further communication with you but in arms. If you have any humanity you may send clothing to your unfortunate prisoners in my possession, leave it at a distance, as I will admit of no contact for the future but such as is hostile in the most inveterate degree.

"I am, etc.,

"JAMES MURRAY."

"To the Duc de Crillon.

Unfortunately, the brave garrison had to surrender in February, 1782, after displaying great heroism, and suffering from scurvy, a putrid fever, and dysentery, when there was not a sufficient number of men able to bear arms for one relief of the ordinary guards, and not one hundred men free from disease.

Lieutenant-General the Honorable James Murray stated in his despatch: "I flatter myself that all Europe will agree that the brave garrison showed uncommon heroism, and that thirst for glory which has ever distinguished the troops of my royal master. \* \* \* \* Such was the uncommon spirit of the King's soldiers that they concealed their diseases and inability rather than go into the hospital; several men died on guard, after having stood sentry, their fate was not discovered until called upon for the relief, when it came to their turn to mount sentry again. \* \* \* \* Perhaps a more noble, nor a more tragical scene was ever exhibited than that of the march of the garrison of St. Philip through the Spanish and French lines. It consisted of no more than six hundred decrepit soldiers: two hundred seamen, one hundred and twenty Royal Artillery, twenty Corsicans, and twenty-five Greeks, &c. Such was the distressing appearance of our men that many of the Spanish and French soldiers are said to have shed tears."

The Duke of Crillon, in the articles of capitulation, stated: "No troops ever gave greater proofs of heroism than this poor worn-out garrison of St. Philip's Castle, who have defended themselves almost to the last man." Beatson, the historian of these wars, states: "The zeal, bravery and constancy displayed by all the corps composing the garrison of St. Philip, under an accumulation of misfortunes, may have been equalled, but never exceeded."

### Militia Report.

The staff of the Militia is spoken of in complimentary terms as follows. "The present district staff are careful and painstaking officers, some with long military training and service. I have reason to speak in high terms of the zealous attention they apply to perform their duties. They have afforded myself and the Adjutant-General cordial assistance and support during my service in this command." Coming from the general officer commanding, these are no idle words—when he accords praise it has been earned.

He goes on to say:—"In case of war the existing staff would probably, as a general rule, not be removed from their sphere of action" for obvious reasons, and points out the desirability of having brigade camps "in order to practice officers in the operations and manoeuvres of handling large bodies of men." We believe this desirability amounts to an absolute necessity. "In case of war" are words of ominous import to those who have studied the actual working of our present militia system, or who will take the trouble to consider what these words imply. To us they savor of Isandlwana. In case of war who is to head the militia? Who has been instructed with this object? What facilities are afforded under the present system for officers acquiring the most difficult of studies—"the art of war"? Commanding generals must have confidence in themselves, in the Government, and in their men. The men must have confidence in their generals. Drilling 36 hours per annum in a drill shed by gaslight will not create this feeling. Nothing short of the nearest approach to actual service, serving together in camps, marching, practice in taking up positions, etc. can enable officers to qualify in this respect—and this carried out under some one qualified to point out errors of judgment, etc. Officers "can no more be extemporised without practical experience than the driver of a locomotive on a railway." To qualify young men for mercantile occupations, they have to spend years in buying and selling—in becoming acquainted with every little detail. This is necessary where money is invested. Where human life is concerned, it would appear that no such qualification is necessary. Our leaders must be born to command. "In case of war" is an eventuality which should not be shirked on economic grounds. "A Government which neglects its army under any pretext is culpable." The following paragraph is very mildly yet plainly put to those who care to understand. "It is noteworthy what a staff is considered necessary for civil departments, whether of Government, of banks or counting houses. Their duties are conducted in comfortable offices at regular and fixed hours, with no skilful and active enemy in the field to resist or cope with; how much greater is the need for trained and experienced staff officers for an armed force, where want of skill and practical knowledge, with the confidence to be acquired only in years of military study, might cause

#### IRRETRIEVABLE DISASTER AND LOSS OF LIFE."

The economy which persists from year to year in neglecting to properly train either officers or men—in using up the reserves which were accumulated—in hatching disaster for our troops "in case of war"—must be admitted by every honest man to be false, and productive only of national ruin and disgrace.

We quote the following paragraphs in full, but we would urge that 10,000 men properly trained would be better than even the 20,000 men who have passed through the annual trainings of the past few years. When it is understood that commanding officers cannot rely on having the same men for two consecutive trainings—that men are taken to fill up the ranks without signing the service rolls—that in some instances neither officers or men have taken the oath of allegiance to the Sovereign, we feel confident that most of our readers will agree with us that 10,000 good reliable men, properly trained from year to year, would be worth even 40,000 *casuals*.

A commander of forces in presence of an enemy is bound to have the services of a trained and skilful body of staff officers of arms, in the interest of the army entrusted to his guidance.

To drill and discipline in peace time an army of all commensate with the need of Canada, is obliged to undertake a serious work is evidently out of the question; consequently all that can be attempted is to maintain a small force which would, on the threat of hostilities, serve as a foundation of one much larger. With this object in view, it would follow that it might be preferable, with given sum of money, to increase efficiency, even at the expense of some small reduction in numbers. Canada has an excellent organization, but, perhaps, rather widely spread for the parliamentary appropriation; it might be preferable to maintain the number only that can be sufficiently disciplined to serve for being adequately increased in time of war. There should be a careful supervised organization of the reserves of 650,000 men, and the should be supplies of arms and ammunition, at a proportion of at least than 300 rounds per rifle, maintained for 100,000 men. A delicate amount of time to improve discipline and drill is still, however, a prominent defect; a more extended period is a great want and an important reform; but while this extension is not possible for 43,000 men on the sum now voted by Parliament for drill a training, would it not be prudent to reduce somewhat the number still further, so as to afford the 20,000, which might for a time present the active militia of Canada, a reasonable period and arms for being more serviceably moulded. It would at the same time be unfair to overlook the large amount of voluntary exertion on behalf of national defence, by which Canadians are honorably distinguished; and this spontaneous energy will doubtless extend in the future, when revenues increase, to urge the Legislature to extend more liberally towards their national defence, and keep up the martial spirit, and strengthen the military position of the Dominion.

Meanwhile, until that good time arrives, we are absorbing a stock of rifles, equipment and clothing, and this is a very serious and important matter.

In the annual report of 1876 a warning was given at page 43, and in last year's, at pages 9 and 10, that such difficulties were approaching, and so far as relates to clothing, this is now fulfilled. The yearly supply does not meet the yearly wants, and so the service is absorbed. With a force of 43,000 men we should require about 6,000 suits yearly, the result to be expected is plain. I do wish to see the reduction I have alluded to in the active militia carried out beyond the affiliated corps specified before; but if present active force is to be maintained creditably, a larger annual vote for clothing at all events is an apparent necessity. An attention to the stock of rifles and cartridges is equally so, and I trust attention may be given to these items. It should be noticed that a large quantity of cartridges is annually purchased by various rifle associations, and that the amount paid for it, being credited to the Receiver-General, is therefore lost to the Militia Department.

The following remarks appear in the report with reference to the reports of the Deputy Adjutant-Generals of the Militia Districts:—

The reports of the several military districts will be found to contain detailed information in the Appendix No. 1. Lieut.-Colonel Taylor gives a justly favorable account of the troops in District No. 1, and comments upon their general efficiency, being well supplied with arms, accoutrements and uniform, and their steady attention to drill. The voluntary guard furnished during the Vice Regal progress in September, referred to in terms complimentary to the corps that participated. The exposed position of the County of Essex, on the extreme frontier of western Ontario is also referred to. It is important an efficient battalion should be at that point to cover Windsor. The subject was under consideration of the Government some months ago, but I have received orders with reference to it.

Lieut.-Colonel Durie reports likewise, in general favorable terms of the corps in Military District No. 2, and refers to the ception of the Governor-General and Her Royal Highness Princess Louise in Toronto, and the review of the troops on Garrison Common on that occasion. The remarks of Lieut.-Colonel Murray, commanding 3rd Battalion, annexed to this report are pertinent to the question of instructing officers and sergeants. He says, in all cases when companies are commanded by intelligent and energetic officers who understand their duties, everything goes well, when the reverse is the case, the company is severely badly drilled, and not interested in the performance of their several duties.

Lieut.-Colonel Van Straubonze reports very fully on the several corps inspected in No. 3 Military District, and with a generally favorable tendency. He specially refers to the 48th Regiment under Lieut.-Colonel Williams, M. P., and expresses his belief that it is not a finer rural battalion in the Dominion. He remarks the impropriety I have before alluded to, in the want of sufficient care on the part of officers when enrolling their men to ascertain that they don't belong to any other corps—he has discovered several men this year drilling twice, and in order to put a stop to it, far as possible, he suggests as I have already done in other words that a certificate be added to the acquaintance roll—"that of man whose name appears on this roll is a bona fide member of this company, having signed the service roll for three years' engagement, and taken the oath of allegiance." I had also recommended that each roll should be called over in presence of the inspecting officer, and that the captain should likewise give verbal assurance upon honor that all conditions had been complied with. By these means more care will be taken by officers, and a stop put to taking men at the last moment to the ranks for inspection. It is only by mere chance that an inspecting officer can discover these irregularities, as men have been known to drill twice in the same year under assumed names.

Lieut.-Colonel Jackson, Military District No. 4, gives a full account of the corps trained this year, and very naturally states brigade camps of exercise. He considers the difficulty of procuring qualified officers is on the increase from want of established system of instructional schools. He remarks on a variety of uniforms used in his district, some in the same of wearing patrol jackets of different material and shape, with dresses of different patterns, and sword belts and swords of different

make and quality. This is very improper, and now that dress uniforms have been supplied to officers, no excuse can exist for non-compliance with them.

Lieut.-Colonel Fletcher, C.M.G., refers at considerable length to Military District No. 5, and especially to the excellent spirit discernible throughout the district in favor of the active militia, and the truly loyal and willing disposition that prevails throughout the force. In allusion to the garrison brigade of artillery he remarks there are vacancies for two field officers. I am of opinion that majors in artillery brigades are superfluous, as captains of series would work their guns, and one field officer to command a brigade is sufficient. He gives a notice to the Queen's Birthday review in presence of His Excellency the Governor General, Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise, and to the presence of the American battalion from Brooklyn. It is a coincidence that the double echelon of quarter columns, designed to show a formation to resist the impetuous attack by a barbarian multitude unsupported by cannon was adopted with complete success a few months later, only upon a larger scale on spandun and, by Lieut.-General Lord Chelmsford at the battle of Ind.

A commander cannot be restricted by fixed rules in the presence of an enemy, general principles must guide him to dispose forces to the best advantage, according to the nature of the and the character and power of the enemy in his front. Lieut.-Colonel Harwood, Military District No. 6, gives a very account of the generally satisfactory state of the corps under his command. The 8th Hyacintho Battalion is now full by the issue of a new company, and having the Arthabaskaville Independent Company attached to it. This corps is now the 8th Infantry Battalion.

Lieut.-Colonel Duchesnay, Military District No. 7, drilled 2,000 during the training, and reports well of them. He refers to Quebec labor riot in August last, and affords generous testimony to the conduct of the troops called out and several days kept their arms, by which a serious riot was averted. The magistrates of the city and Justice of the Peace presented them with an address, acknowledging the valuable aid they had afforded the civil power. Lieut.-Colonel Mansell, Military District No. 8, has as usual invited a report distinguished by many thoughtful and practical suggestions. It embraces a variety of questions of military importance to the Dominion, and I can only invite a careful perusal of its matter, which it would be unfair to refer to by a mere allusion. The reception of His Excellency the Governor General H. R. H. the Princess in the Province of New Brunswick, and prominent share taken in the ceremonies by the militia are noted. The measures adopted by Lieut.-Colonel Mansell on that occasion, and the quiet and orderly behavior of the troops were much appreciated, as afterwards duly recorded in General Orders.

Lieut.-Colonel Laurie, Military District No. 9, reports the training of 100 men at annual drill. He very properly calls attention to the necessity for a separate district armorer. By the present slow pace it will be nearly five years before the arms have been gone through, and this requires prompt attention and remedy. He refers also to the necessity for infantry schools for instruction of privates and sergeants—a want so generally felt and so frequently stated in previous reports.

Lieut.-Colonel Huxley, of Hullifax, has this year been honored by the title of "Princess Louise," having had the distinguished good fortune to furnish the guard of honor on the landing of His Excellency and Her Royal Highness in the Royal Naval Dockyard at Halifax, on their first stepping on shore in British North America.

Lieut.-Colonel Osborne Smith, C.M.G., Military District No. 10, points out the necessity of increased forces, in consideration of the influx of foreign labor, in view of the large works now in progress. This is a very reasonable suggestion, as experience has shown that this may, at any time, be a very disturbing element. His progress in organizing mounted and infantry companies in the North-West Territories has been already fully dwelt upon in the report. He states that the action of the Government in extending the militia law to the territories and Keewatin has been thoroughly appreciated and valued by the settlers as far as their yet comparatively small numbers would admit. He looks upon the North-West as spreading with the newly formed settlements as calculated to be an important agent in civilizing that vast territory, and as being a powerful link in the chain of Dominion defences between the two great oceans.

Lieut.-Colonel John Hamilton Gray, C.M.G., Military District No. 12, of Edward Island, gives a fair account of the militia. He refers to the approval of the Governor-General of their conduct and assistance during the visit of His Excellency and Her Royal Highness last summer. He also refers to the totally defenceless state of Charlottetown, with 10,000 inhabitants entirely at the mercy of an armed privateer which could in a very few hours levy contributions and exact plunder to a ruinous extent. He suggests the necessity for some action being taken to allay the groundless apprehensions of the inhabitants.

He concludes the district staff reports, with the exception of the report from British Columbia, not yet come to hand, owing to the distance of Vancouver Island, but that forms the subject of special remarks further on in this report.

He reports from the commandants of the Royal Military College and the gunnery schools of A. and B. Batteries, have not yet received me, but they will be in the appendix, and are sure to do attentive perusal.

Artillery is referred to in detail from the various districts. The arm continues to derive great advantage from the gunnery schools. Some of the garrison batteries in the west, formerly designated as light batteries, having no guns. Three new batteries have been authorized to be raised in the City of Quebec and Lévis, where they are so much needed to man the works of stress and forts. They have the means of instruction at hand.

13 field batteries are in good working order. Fifteen are equipped with iron rifled nine pounder guns, one with 24 pounder guns, and the remainder with bronze smooth bore. They are efficient and generally commanded by able officers. The garrison maintains its usual serviceable reputation. The garrison's body guard at the Toronto review, under the command of Lieut. Colonel G. T. Denton, and the Squadron, under Lieut.-Colonel Boulton, who as senior

officer commanded the brigade; and the Squadron 2nd Regiment under Major Elliott, showed to great advantage, while the Montreal Troop under Major Toes, and the Ottawa Troop under Captain Stewart, elicited approbation at the Montreal review. The Ottawa Troop has had the honour of being styled "The Princess Louise" Dragoon Guards, and the efficient squadron at Quebec, under Lieut.-Colonel Forsyth, has been granted the distinctive title of "The Queen's Own Canadian Hussars." The saddlery, arms and equipments of the cavalry in general in each military district are reported complete and in good serviceable condition.

When the brigade schools of instruction are instituted at Quebec and Kingston, the cavalry of the Dominion will have the advantage of trained drill instructors, besides acquiring a knowledge of equitation and horse management, which are necessary for steadiness, and to prevent confusion in the ranks in rapid evolutions.

*To be continued.*

## Fatal Explosion of a Shell.

A COLONEL AND SERGEANT KILLED.

During the practice of the 1st Lanark Artillery at Irvine, Scotland, the detachment told off to man the gun had placed it in position, and subsequently doubled to the rear, in readiness for the words "prepare for action," the sergeant-instructor meanwhile preparing the shell. A number of shells were laid out for use, and Sergeant Kirker, kneeling on his right knee, began to fix the fuse, making use of the mallet. The other officers not in the detachment were standing promiscuously about, when suddenly what is described as a loud rumbling sound was heard, which completely stunned the whole party. When the smoke had sufficiently cleared away to make surrounding objects discernible, the most conspicuous figure observed was that of Major Mathieson, who, unlike the others who were struck, was not knocked down, but had apparently received severe injuries as his motions indicated excruciating pain about the abdomen. He was about to fall, when Mr. A. Parker contractor to the Association, caught him in his arms and carried him into the store-room. Col. Kidston ran to the assistance of Colonel Watson, who was lying on the ground stunned; and an eye-witness states that he saw Sergeant Kirker's foot blown into the air in the direction of the Armstrong gun.

On a search having been made the foot was found at the place indicated. His boot was blown in another direction, and struck an onlooker standing without the battery. His stockings and part of his trousers were also stripped from his leg. Shortly before the sergeant's death, he, feeling his end approaching, expressed a desire to make a communication to the officers. A messenger was despatched to the hotel, and on their arrival Kirker made a declaration to the effect that he alone was responsible for the bursting of the shell, that no one was to blame but himself and stated how the accident occurred.

From the first Colonel Watson showed that he was fully aware of the serious nature of his injuries. When Colonel Kidston ran to his assistance, he declared he was done for, and some time afterward exclaimed—"I die for the good old First Lanark; but I wish it had been in action." The Colonel, although stretched in a helpless condition, seemed to think of everybody but himself. He was continually crying to the medical men, "Look after so and so," and was among the last to be carried off the field. Sergeant Kirker also displayed great heroism. The doctor bandaged his leg with a lanyard, and then Kirker desired him to attend to the others saying, "I will do now; attend to some of these poor gentlemen."

Kirker was an old soldier, in receipt of a pension earned after twenty years service in the Crimean and Indian Mutiny campaigns. He leaves a widow and three of a family, the eldest, about eighteen years, having lately joined the army. When Kirker's watch was taken from his pocket a piece of the shell was indented on the back of it, and it was stopped at 3.40 p. m. This circumstance is believed to have saved him from instantaneous death by preventing the piece of shell from piercing his heart. Before his death Kirker stated to his nurse and a witness the curious circumstance that on the previous night he dreamed that a serious accident would happen at the battery. On his niece asking him why he went after such a dream, he replied, "Duty; duty."



## The War Power of Canada.

*New York Herald.*

The Inspector of Artillery of the Dominion has recently made a comprehensive report on the military strength and resources of Canada, which is deemed of sufficient importance for republication by our own Ordnance Department. This report makes a pretty formidable showing for the Dominion, which would be by no means a contemptible enemy when supported by the military and naval power of Great Britain. An officer of the United States army stationed at Columbus barracks, who has been studying this document, writes a long letter to the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, somewhat in the spirit of a scare, setting forth our helplessness in the early stages of a sudden war.

We do not share his apprehensions, but it is well enough to recognize the fact that the Dominion has six hundred thousand enrolled militia, that forty-three thousand three hundred and sixty-five of these are armed, organized and drilled; that she is very strong in garrison and field artillery, and has great abundance of cavalry horses; that her militia is so organized that fourteen thousand new men come in every year for three years' drill, and that the same number pass out every year to increase the list of enrolled militia who have received instruction and training and would be immediately available in a sudden emergency. This is a greater force than could be put at once into the field by our States which border on the Dominion. Our regular army is so small and the bulk of it is at such a distance in the Western Territories that it would be of little use in a contest with Canada. Troops could be sent over from Great Britain more rapidly than our regular army could be recruited. There is a popular notion that in case of war we could make a complete conquest of Canada in a single month; but it might not prove so easy a task.

In one respect this exposition of the military strength of Canada is of great importance. The completion of the enlarged Welland Canal next year will give ready access to the upper lakes for British gun boats and ships of war, which could shell and destroy our wealthy but defenceless cities on the lakes. This is a real danger and it is the duty of our government to provide against it. At the outbreak of a war the first thing we should attempt would be to seize the Welland Canal. But Canada could pour forth troops faster for its defence than we could land them for its capture. It is indispensable that we adopt efficient measures for preventing the appearance of a British fleet on the upper lakes, which are inaccessible to our navy. There is a treaty by which the United States and Great Britain stipulate to maintain only one small war vessel each, with a single gun, on Lake Ontario, and two such vessels each on the upper lakes. But this treaty would be abrogated by a declaration of war. Great Britain could send armed steamers through the Welland Canal in four or five days from Quebec, and we should have no naval force on the lakes until we could build it. Meanwhile our populous and flourishing lake cities would lie at the mercy of long range British guns.

It is for military engineers to judge what is most suitable to be done; but one of the first things that suggests itself is the construction of strong and heavily armed forts on the New-York bank of the St. Lawrence, which would completely command the river and with the aid of torpedoes would make it impossible for any British ship to pass up into Lake Ontario. Indeed this seems one of the most indispensable measures for national defence.

In reproducing the above article from the *New York Herald* of the 24th ult., with all sincerity we exclaim with Burns.

"O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us,  
To see oursel's as ithers see us!  
It wad frae monie a blunder free us,  
An' foolish notion."

It is well perhaps that others should have a better opinion of us than we can have of ourselves; it puts us in the position however of the man who kept a watch dog that had lost all its teeth—dependent on his bark. The General Commanding the Militia reports only 20,000 drilled this year out of the 43,000 men of our armed force. We confess we would like to see a numerical strength in Garrison Artillery realized by the general introduction of the rifled guns as the Inspector of Artillery recommends. Popular notions are sometimes correct, and deserving of attention. Unfortunately it is not necessary to visit our so called fortified cities with their antiquated works and armament to see our helplessness in many points. Should not our torpedo defence and the adaptation of our antiquated works to modern requirements be looked to? The Nova Scotia Field Battery with its 6 pr. *two horse* mountain guns must, we fear, be eliminated from our so called Field Artillery strength. What about New Brunswick and the route taken in 1861 by the men sent from Halifax to Montreal, with only one Field Battery of smooth bore bronze guns to defend its miles of frontier, and another similar battery to defend the whole line of Intercolonial Railway.

## Dominion Artillery Association. PRIZE ESSAY.

**SUBJECT.**—Taking into consideration the peculiarities of climate, physical features, means available, etc., of Canada, what is the most suitable form for a battery armed with 64 pr. guns on Standing Carriages, on a water front, to oppose wooden ships similarly armed; and the best means to facilitate and encourage the construction of such works by the Militia Engineers and Artillery themselves at important points: plan, etc., to be the *bona fide* work of the writer.

**CONDITIONS.**—To be competed for by any officer or non-commissioned officer of the Canadian Militia Artillery or Engineers or by officers of any branch of the Militia service who have obtained certificates from the present Schools of Gunnery officers or others who have served in the Royal, or Royal Marine Artillery to be excluded from competition. In all cases the competitor must be a member of the Dominion Artillery Association, by personal subscription, paid on or before 30th June, 1879. The Essay to be distinguished by a name not that of the corps to which the writer belongs.

The essays to be sent to Lieut.-Col. Strange, R. A., President of Council, Dominion Artillery Association, Quebec, before the last day of August, 1879.

The Judges to be Officers of the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers—Lt.-Col. Strange, R. A., and Lieut.-Col. Irwin, Inspectors of Artillery, and Lieut.-Col. Hewett, R. E., Commandant Royal Military College, Kingston.

Essays may be in English or French, subject matter will be considered of more importance than style. Quotations and extracts from works bearing on the subject, may be freely made use of; but the name of the authors so quoted, must be given in foot or marginal notes.

The best essay to be printed at the expense of the Dominion Artillery Association, and distributed to members.

T. B. STRANGE, LT.-COL., I. of A.

President of Council

Kingston, 12th March, 1879.

## The Victoria Cross.

We cannot, in Canada, boast that "every village has its hero," though "every fireside may have its story," and that noble distinction of valor, the Victoria Cross, was only instituted by the Queen on the 29th January, 1856, few Canadians have had the opportunity to deserve it, for comparatively few have entered the British army and seen service. Let us hope now that no less than four cadets annually from our





the Battery, and one end of the room was decorated with the clubs, dumb-bells, gloves, fells, &c., showing that the amusements are spiced with a little exercise.

Shortly after 9 o'clock the party, numbering about one hundred, sat down, and after grace by Bat. Clerk Way, did full justice to one of Mr. Wilson's best spreads, which was culogized by all.

- After thoroughly enjoying the spread, the Chairman, Major Graham, the commander of the Battery, commenced the programme of the evening by proposing the toast of "The Queen," after which the following programme was carried out: - Song—"Beautiful Boy" R W Longuett, Toast—"Governor General of Canada." Mr. Smith, Scotch Song— Mr. Smith, Toast—"The Army and Navy." R. Blackmore, Song—"Grandpa's Time-piece," R. Blackmore, Toast—"The D.A.G. and Militia Staff." Responded to by Major Guy.

The Militia stores Department, who, in his remarks, complimented the Field Battery on their prestige as the first corps in the province, and received in terms of praise to the efficiency of the volunteers generally.

- Toast—"Our Brother Volunteers," responded to by Capt. McInnis and Corporal Sterling, of the 63rd H. V. B.R., and Lieut. Brockley, H. G. A. Toast—"The Mayor and Corporation," to which Alderman Story responded in a happy manner, and related several interesting reminiscences of the Militia in the "olden time." Toast—"The Press" Responded to by the Recorder representative, and Mr. Sterling for the Herald.

Mr. Holt was then called upon, and gave a pleasing rendition from "Knights of St. John," and the grave scene from "Hamlet." The amusement was continued till the " wee sima' hours," when the party dispersed, well pleased, and after enjoying themselves thoroughly, as remarked by the chairman, with nothing but "black ammunition" (i.e., lemonade and ginger ale) - Halifax Recorder.

8th ROYAL RIFLES, QUEBEC.—This fine corps is now performing its annual drill. The officers have every reason to be proud of their men. Some of the companies have carried out their target practice at Beauport Flats. Nos 5 and 6 Companies did not make as high a score as was expected, owing to the velocity of the wind, which interfered very much with the practice of the young hands.

WELLINGTON & ONTARIO FIELD BATTERIES, QUELPHI.—These batteries have been formed into a provisional brigade to be designated the "1st Provisional Brigade of field artillery." Capt. & Bt. Major A. H. Macdonald, G.S., has been appointed Major commanding. The Wellington Battery, under command of Captain Wm. Nicoll, G.S., will be known as No. 1 Battery, and the Ontario, under command of Captain McCrae, as No. 2.

QUEBEC FIELD BATTERY.—The report on the efficiency of this Battery was accidentally omitted in the annual report for 1878, by Lt. Colonel Strang, Inspector of Artillery. It is reported that the battery is in a very satisfactory state of efficiency, and the result of the inspection will be published in the next annual report - G. O., 12 March, 1880.

The G. G. Foot Guards.

This Regiment furnished a guard of honor consisting of one captain, two lieutenants, four sergeants, and fifty rank and file with Queen's color and band, on Saturday, 6th March, on the opening of the Academy of Arts at Ottawa, by His Excellency the Governor-General. Lieut.-General Sir E. S. Smyth, K. C. M. G., and Aide-de-Camp, together with a number of Senators and Members of Parliament with their wives and daughters were also present.

The regiment has received from Lieut.-Colonel Freemantle, commanding the Coldstream Guards, London, England, as a souvenir in commemoration of their uniforms being similar, an historical record of the Coldstreams from their formation in 1665 to the present, giving the name and date of the battles they were in, who commanded them and who commanded the enemy, also the loss at each engagement. They were actively engaged in the American revolution, and several were taken prisoners at Yorktown. The record is beautifully framed with a neat inscription at the bottom showing by whom it was presented, and is hung up in the orderly room of the Guards at the new drill hall.

OBITUARY.

The death, from consumption, on the 23rd ult., of Capt. C. A. Laro, late of "B" Battery, Royal Gunners School, was a source of deep regret to his relations, brother officers, and his numerous friends, to whom he had endeared himself by a generous and genial nature, combined with talents of no mean order—musician, artist, scholar, soldier, the last would have been in all human probability, a successful career had his fate fallen upon stirring times in European, Asiatic or African battle-fields. He served with credit as an officer in the first Fenian raid, 1868, and subsequently, in 1870, commanded the depot company of Quebec Rifles on service in the North West, acted as Brigade-Major at La Prairie Camp, 1871, after which he joined the Gunnery School at Quebec, obtaining a first class certificate. He was appointed to the permanent staff of "B" Battery in July, 1874, from which he resigned in October, 1878.

The Palliser Gun Experiments.

Yesterday, on the works of Messrs. Eastons and Anderson, Erith Marshes, and in the presence of a large and distinguished company, Sir William Palliser, assisted by Captain Edward Palliser, made some important experiments with a view of ascertaining the ultimate strength of a gun lined with a coiled barrel, 7 1/2 in bore and barely 3 in. thick. In point of fact the experiment was intended to contrast the action of coiled wrought-iron tubes in guns, under exceptionally heavy charges, with the steel-lined guns of the Woolwich pattern—the Thunderer 33-ton gun and the 38-ton gun lately burst at Woolwich being examples of the weapon against which Sir W. Palliser contrasts his system. There were present the attaches of the Russian, German, Austrian and American Embassies, Lord Wharncliffe, Lord C. Beresford, M.P., General Gordon, C.B., General Philipotts, Admiral Boyd, Admiral Hamilton, General Turner, C.B., R.A., Colonel Matland, R.A. Colonel Owen, R.A., Mr. John Palliser, C. M. G., and Major Down.

The gun with which it was proposed to make the experiment was a weapon which has a history. It was a 10-inch cast-iron gun of 84cwt. which served in the Crimea, and received a bruise on its side from a Russian shell and grape shot indentations at the muzzle. It was proved at Woolwich in 1859, served on the Euxine from 1861, and was employed throughout the siege of Sebastopol. It turned to Woolwich in 1866, it was sold to Sir William Palliser in 1866, and by him converted into a 7-inch rifled gun of 85-cwt., and being variously used to try experiments with the steel lining the steel lining having burst, Sir William Palliser has given it gun three tubes of coiled wrought-iron—the first, that carrying the rifling, being three-quarters of an inch, the second the same, as the third of an inch and a half—the whole encased in the cast-iron shell of the old gun. The gun was in a cell on the marshes, where her muzzle pointed into a mound of earth built round with board. Provision had been made for the recoil by placing an incline behind the gun, up which her carriage would slide, and so utilize her weight for easing her down to the firing point, a spring buffer being placed at the top of the incline to receive what unexpended force might remain when the recoil had carried the weapon so far. The gun is one-eighth of the weight of the 38-ton gun, it was proposed to commence the trials with the proportional double charge which burst the 38-ton gun at Woolwich. The gun was loaded with a rear charge of 13lb. 12oz. of pebble powder and a 8 1/2 lb "Palliser" shot, and a front charge on that of 10lb. 10oz. powder and a 7 1/2 lb. shot—the whole double charge taking up about a third of the barrel's length. The charge was fired with friction tube, and the only result was to send the timber whizzing. The bore was tested but there was no perceptible giving of the metal. The second round consisted of 16lb. of powder and 100 lb. shot for the rear charge, with 11 lb. of powder and an 8 1/2 lb. shot for the front charge. There was more disturbance of the mound, but no great change in the bore of the gun, though the charge was much greater in proportion to that which burst the 38-ton gun. The third round consisted of 18lb. of powder in the rear charge, and a 100lb. shot, with 12lb. of powder and an 8 1/2 lb. shot for the front charge. The result of this was to throw the breech of the gun up on to the roof of the cell; but still the metal had sustained no fracture. The charges of powder for the next round were increased to 20lb. for the rear charge and 18lb. for the front, the projectiles being again 100lb. and 8 1/2 lb. Sand-bags were placed behind at the top of the incline to take the unspent recoil, and the gun was again uninjured, with but little change in the bore. In the fifth round the charge of powder was increased to 22lb. and 14lb., and the charges together occupied rather more than half the tube. When the gun was fired the concussion was so great that the built-up boardings around were blown out, as when the gun was viewed in its dark cell by the light of a candle, was apparently uninjured. The bore could not be tested from the fact that the cell was blocked up by the fallen timbers. There were no pressure-gauges placed inside the gun—a fact which was regretted by some of the Government Experiment Committee present, the absence of the gauges preventing accurate estimates being obtained as to the actual pressure of the charge, but the fact respecting the bearing qualities of wrought iron was plainly demonstrated.—London Times, March 4, 1880

The Duilio.

One of the 100-ton guns in the aft turret of the Duilio burst yesterday. The inner sheet tube broke completely across. The wrought-iron coiled tubes separated from each other, but were damaged. The breech struck and damaged the back part of the turret, ripping up the backing and opening but not sending it flying. Two officers and seven men were wounded, but nobody was killed. The gun divided into only two pieces. No fragments were broken off. Two of the men inside the turret were scarcely injured. The roof of the turret was torn by a movement of the back plate to which it was fixed. The practice would have been continued but for the probable effect upon the wounded. The Minister of Marine was asked by telegraph whether the practice might continue to-day, and replied in the affirmative. The gun had fired rounds before the accident occurred. The gun has been fired with much heavier charges than those for which it was designed. The Italian officials express undiminished confidence in the system, and are giving public proof of it by continuing the firing. It commenced at 3 o'clock, and two rounds, with battering charges were fired from the fore turret with perfect ease and safety. The machinery of the other turret is in order, but the committee decided not to fire from it.—The London Times.

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