

MILITIA AND DEFENCE.

The militia organization of the Provinces (for which see the *Year Book* for 1863, page 101) is now being supplanted by a uniform Dominion system; the new Militia Act, for a careful digest of which see our article on the legislation of last session, having come into force on Oct. 1st.

There is thus little for us to do this year except to state the strength of certain branches of our defensive force at that period.

In the Provinces of *Quebec* and *Ontario* the following volunteer corps existed (Oct. 1st, 1868):—

Ontario.	Quebec.	Total.	Nature of Force.	Nominal Strength.
6	2	8	Field Batteries, - - -	600 men.
13	8	21	Troops of Cavalry - - -	1,050 "
33	11	44	Garrison Artillery - - -	2,420 "
.....	.....	12	Do. do. G. T. R.* - - -	165 "
.....	3	3	Engineers - - -	55 "
.....	.....	1	Do. G. T. R.* - - -	27,720 "
1	.....	1	Naval Co. - - -	
316	147	463	Infantry and Rifles - - -	
.....	.....	23	Do. G. T. R.* - - -	
.....	.....	6	Do. C. S. R.* - - -	
.....	.....	582	Total - - - - -	32,010 men.

*The Grand Trunk Brigade and the Civil Service Rifle Regt. are considered common to both Quebec and Ontario.

Of these, probably 25,000 are well drilled men, ready to take the field at short notice.

The rest of the militia force in these Provinces has hitherto not been worth counting—no muster, still less drill, having been required. The Service Militia nominally consists of 40,545 men in Quebec, and 48,496 in Ontario.

In *Nova Scotia* (1867) there were 8 companies of volunteers—1 artillery, 1 engineers, the rest rifles; 43 officers, 47 sergeants, and 549 rank and file. The militia is to some extent organized, and the parade-states shew that 41,997 of all ranks were present during the year at inspection parades. Only 5,591, however, attended drill, and these only for an average of 31 hours each.

In *New Brunswick* (1867) there were, of volunteers, 7 corps of cavalry, (267 officers and men,) 9 of artillery, (539 officers and men,) 1 of engineers, (56 men,) 22 of infantry, (1,217 officers and men.) Total, 39 corps, with 122 officers, 135 sergeants, and 1,822 rank and file,—in all, 2,079.

Of militia, class A, there were 2,079; class B, 18,779; class C, 17,875; sedentary, 7,193. Total 45,926. Some few of these attended muster parades.

The following armed vessels are maintained by the British and Canadian Governments on the lakes and river St. Lawrence west of Montreal. Those east of Montreal are not fitted with guns, but are available as gunboats, and are employed in light house and coast service:—

Name.	Description.	Horse Power.	No. of Men.	Tons	No. of Guns.	Service on which employed this year.
<i>British Govt.</i>						
Heron.....	{Screw Stea'r. B'raque Rig'd.}	60	40	226	{1 110 Arm'g. 1 40 "}	Lake Ontario Ports, between Kingston and Hamilton.
Cherub.....	do	60	40	226	{1 110 " 1 40 "}	Lake Huron Ports, between Goderich and Windsor.
Britomart.....	do	60	40	226	{1 110 " 1 40 "}	Lake Erie Ports, between Dunville and Windsor.
Minstrel.....	do	60	40	226	{1 110 " 1 40 "}	River St. Lawrence, between Lachine and Cornwall.
<i>Canadian Govt.</i>						
Rescue.....	{Twin Screw Steamer.}	65	55	275	{2 14 Arm'g. 1 10 Brass.}	River St. Lawrence, between Prescott and Kingston.
Prince Alfred.	Screw Stea'r.	75	70	456	{2 14 Arm'g. 1 10 Brass.}	Lake Erie Ports, between Fort Erie and Dunville.

At Quebec the government owns:—

The Lady Head.....	Screw steamer, iron.....	150 horse power.....	168 registered tonnage.
The Napoleon III.....	Screw steamer, iron.....	300 horse power.....	211 registered tonnage.

In *Halifax*, the Dominion owns the "Daring" and the "Druid," two fast steamers, employed in coast service,—not fitted with guns, but available as gunboats.

The cost of the defensive organizations of the Provinces comprising the Dominion was \$624,575 in 1864; \$869,159 in 1865; and \$1,928,016 in 1866. In 1867-8 it was probably about \$1,500,000, the cost of reparations for Fenian raids having been somewhat diminished.