

## THE MILITIA.

The organization of the Militia of Canada is based upon the principle recognized in the Swiss and Prussian systems—that every man owes it to his country to serve in its defence against its enemies. But here it is not carried, as in those countries, to its logical issue, *i. e.*, the training of every man to the use of arms. Although all men between 18 and 60 are enrolled, and the enrolment of 1863 showed a total of over 650,000, yet only about 40,000 men are at any time in the ranks, uniformed and undergoing drill, and these are not necessarily of the ages—as in the countries above referred to—which are most apt for training or for actual military service. Nor is the training long enough (as in Prussia) to make them effective soldiers. The system of volunteering in the Dominion, which allows men of any age to be drilled and borne on the effective strength of battalions, without any sufficient medical examination, does not give us an armed and drilled nation (as in the States we have named) on the one hand, nor that perfection of discipline and drill and complete efficiency which has been attained by regular armies in Britain and elsewhere. Yet under our law, so long as volunteers of any sort fill the ranks and outnumber the quota of the several Provinces (as is now the case) the draft cannot be put in requisition to secure the military instruction of the youth of the country. Thus is the weakness of the force, found in the system of enrolment; its strength is found in its popularity in almost all parts of the Dominion, the enrolment of all the men for whom pay can be procured from Parliament, and these in very large proportions, of the ages and character fitted for actual warfare—and the offer of many more. For particulars as to the Militia law, &c., the reader is referred to the *Year Book* for 1869, pp. 65 & 66, and for 1870, p. 176 *et seq.* In 1869, the Adjutant General reports the active force to consist of:

	Quota.	Nominal strength.
Ontario.....	18,870	20,956
Quebec.....	14,382	15,066
New Brunswick.....	3,264	3,327
Nova Scotia.....	4,284	4,192
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>43,541</b>

The force consists of—

	Officers and Men.
Cavalry.....	1,700
10 Field Batteries. (42 guns and 441 horses).....	750
Garri on Artillery.....	3,558
4 Companies Engineers.....	232
Naval Brigade at Halifax.....	233
73 Battalions of Rifles and Infantry.....	37,268
	<b>43,541</b>

And he adds:—"But, in addition to the above strength, there are now 25 corps who have enrolled and tendered their services within the Provinces of Quebec and Nova Scotia, and they have been notified that their services will be accepted conditionally, but that the Government is at present unable to supply them with the necessary arms and uniforms. The acceptance of these Corps would raise the strength of the Active Militia to a total of 45,040.

As a proof how far these can be depended on, it may be added that during the year 1870, the Fenians, organized in the United States, threatened attack upon several parts of Canada. They entered the country at two points in the Province of Quebec, and were met in both cases by Volunteers in sufficient force to defeat them. The order to turn out the necessary corps to meet the brigades at the threatened points, was issued on the 24th May, and on the 27th, 13,540 officers and men were reported at their several posts. On the 25th one column of invasion was met and repulsed at Eccles Hill by Volunteers and armed inhabitants.

Two battalions have been organized, one from the Volunteers of Ontario, and the other from those of Quebec, for service in the North West. They formed part of the expeditionary force under command of Colonel Wolseley, sent to reassert the authority of the crown in the Red River settlement—now the Province of Manitoba, to garrison its forts and preserve order—the enlistment being for one or two years, at the option of the Government. The former battalion was placed under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Jarvis, formerly of H. M. 82d Regiment, and more recently serving on the Militia Staff as D. A. G. for the 3rd District, the other under that of Lieut.-Colonel Casault, who first served in the French army during the Crimean war, subsequently in H. M. 100th Canadian (Prince of Wales) Regiment, and later as D. A. G. of the 7th District.

For their services against the Fenians on the Missisquoi Frontier, Lieut.-Colonel W. Osborne Smith, D. A. G., commanding the 5th District, and Lieut.-Colonel Chamberlin, commanding the 6th Battalion, received decorations from Her Majesty, as Companions of the Order of St. Michael and St. George; Lieut.-Colonel Fletcher, Brigade-Major, and Lieut.-Col. McEachren, of the 50th "Huntingdon Borderers," received the same for their services on the Huntingdon Frontier.\*

\* As these sheets are going through the press, it is rumoured on what is considered good authority, that Lieut.-General the Hon. James Lindsay, in chief command in Canada during the raid and the Red River expedition, and Colonel Wolseley, in immediate command of the latter, are to receive the knighthood (K. C. M. G.) of the order, while Colonel Fielden, of H. M. 60th Royal Rifle Regiment, Colonel McNell, V. C., A. D. C. to the Governor-General, serving as a volunteer on Colonel Wolseley's staff, Lieut.-Colonel Irwin of the Control Department, Lieut.-Colonel Jarvis and Lieut.-Col. Casault are to receive decoration as C. M. G., for their services in that expedition.