

The Victoria Warder

FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 1889.

A union of hearts and a union of heads
A union none can sever;
And the flag, Martin Utopia, forever!

Gems of Thought.

Noble deeds are held in honor, but the wide
Hearts of patients to unravel time—the worth
of common deeds.

If that hath time and looks for better time,
Ye know not what shall be of the morrow,
Good news may be told at any time, but ill
In the morning.

As cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good
news from a far country.

Out of debt out of danger,
Over no man anything but to love one
another.

CANADA WANTS A NEW MINISTER
OF MILITIA.

Formerly, Sir John Macdonald was

Minister of Militia. Then the battalions

were well equipped and thoroughly drill-

ed. That system was continued until

Mr. McLeans came into power. The

policy of the reform party was to break

up the Active Militia and establish a

standing army of four or five thousand

men to supply officers for which the Royal

Military College was instituted. The

policy was faithfully initiated, and during

1879-80, the Canadian Active Militia

were reduced to the verge of dissolution.

Nothing but the energy and self-sacrifice

of the officers and men held the force in

feet.

From 1879 onward an approach to the

policy of Sir John Macdonald was effect-

ed; but for several years, a fixed deter-

mination seems to possess the present

Minister of Militia, to gradually disband

the Active Militia except in cities. Mean-

while, the permanent forces are gradually

increasing until, to-day, Canada has

a full standing army.

To such policy strong opposition will

be manifested by all true lovers of

constitutional responsible government.

The present Minister of Militia seems

equally developing his plans on similar

lines. The difficulty, not in knowledge

but in regard of obtaining a military

certificate has been gradually increased.

The schools of military instruction, in-

stead of being on an active-service basis

are a compound of military procedure

and form. How to hold a knife

and fork, or to march an aéle battle

according to superior importance to

knowing how to parade a general, draw up

a fighting line, or defend a position. The

fact that a "provisional" officer should sit

at the same table as a private is allowed

to quadruple the expense and difficulty.

But every officer, reserving always the military

service should be; and no man in his offi-

cer or private, should be treated on other

than a basis of knowledge. Instead of,

as now, having sergeant's, lieutenants',

captains' and field-officers' certificates to

prove respectively of those ranks, any

man, be he private or lieutenant-colonel

provincially, should pass through all

duties from private up as far as he chose

to go. Now a young man wishes to pre-

pare for a commission in a company. He

goes to the military school, lives with the

private, learns none of an officer's duties

and yet, say we, cannot capture a certi-

ficate entitling him to command & com-

pany. On the other hand, his brother

chooses to be a "provisional" lieutenant

colonel. He lives with the officers, learns

practically none of the private's duties,

yet may and can capture a certificate entitling

him to command a battalion, though he could not fold an acre of

paper, tie a belt, or take apart a rifle lock.

Canada wants a democratic system of

military schools.

Further, the present schools are very

expensive. Large numbers of men are

kept at great cost, partly as a standing

army, but, nominally, for the instruction

of candidates for certificates. Were one

half of the private of each permanent

force to be disbanded, and young men

from the active militia allowed in as

cadets, put through an educational

course in military matters, each and all,

whether officer or private, while on duty

wearing similar uniform, the country

would save thousands of dollars, while the

active militia would possess scores of well-

trained officers, non-commissioned officers

and men. There is nothing to prevent

any one hundred and fifty or two hundred

men being educated every three months

up to the standard, to command & com-

pany. It matters not whether or not a

cadet possesses the qualification to

command a battalion; indeed the more

trained and educated men in the ranks

the better.

Another fault with the present system

is that certain districts such as East Dur-

ham have one active militia to every

5% of the population, while in Victoria

there is but one to every 20%. The aim

should be to give each county one active

militia to every one hundred, or

one hundred and twenty of the population.

In time of war one in every seven is

nearly the draft. Surely, Canada can

readily afford to drill one in every ten

each year. Omitting the Indians, and

other such as inferior unreliable

would place Canada with an active militia evenly distributed over the country of about thirty-six, to forty thousand men. The money being spent among the people would not be lost to the country; citizens would be taught to be law abiding and loyal; young men would feel themselves upholders, executors of the law, and hence unlikely to be breakers thereof; and, possibly, greatest gain of all, the system of depending on formal paid functionaries to enforce law and order, as well as to fight the nation's battles, would not prevail; but a citizen, in this as in electoral matters, would feel himself part and parcel of the nation, and hence responsible for its good order and government.

The present minister of militia should either give the duties of his department proper attention; or, if the management and dissatisfaction are the result of the former, then should Sir John Macdonald resign his resignation. Sir A. P. G. Green will please bear in mind that the members are weaker for the people, and not the people for Ministers.

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