

Per:broke has made a wise move in organizing a Home Guard. As things are developing in this war, the "Home Guard" idea ceases to be a joke. It should never be forgotten that at the outbreak of war, thousands of German and Austrian "reservists" were summoned to the colors from every province in Canada and every state in the American Union. Most of them never got there. The British command of the sea prevented them from securing passage across the Atlantic. So they piled up against the Atlantic seaboard as against a great dam; and many of them are still idle and desperate in the sea-coast cities of the United States.

No one imagines that the American Government will permit any open organization of this disappointed host for the invasion of Canada. But secret organization is quite within the range of possibility; and a sudden raid might be accomplished on the Canadian border, which could make considerable progress if there were absolutely no armed force ready to meet it. Such a raid could subsequently be swollen to dangerous proportions by individual recruits who had crossed the border as American travellers; and, in the absence of our volunteers who would be fighting our battles in Europe, there is no certainty that a movement of this kind might not do great damage.

The obvious answer is a Home Guard in every town, city and village. If we had a number of men semi-drilled and effectively armed, accustomed to assembling at a signal, we should have something to mass against such an advance until the volunteer regiments remaining in the country could be brought to the point of attack. These Home Guards would form sentinel-corps all over the land. It would be impossible for such a raid to penetrate the Dominion at any point without instantly coming in contact with this military "nervous system," which would hold it in check and send in an alarm at the same moment.

This is a time, then, when the formation of Home Guards is a patriotic movement. We should like to see it spread throughout the Dominion.