

REPORT

ON THE

STATE OF THE MILITIA

OF THE

DOMINION OF CANADA,

FOR THE YEAR 1869.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND OF
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.



OTTAWA :

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DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE,

OTTAWA, March, 1870.

The undersigned has the honor to forward to your Excellency the accompanying Report relating to the Militia of the Dominion of Canada for 1869, which is respectfully submitted for your Excellency's consideration.

GEO. ET. CARTIER,
Minister of Militia and Defence.

His Excellency
The Governor General, &c., &c., &c.,
Ottawa.

REPORT.

SIR,—Reference to the accompanying map, which is intended to illustrate this report, will show how, for purposes of Militia command and administration, the Dominion of Canada is at present divided into nine Military Districts and twenty-two Brigade Divisions; these again, (though not shown on the map for want of space,) are subdivided into one hundred and eighty-six Regimental Divisions, which are again subdivided into Company Divisions. The points indicated in the map as battalion and company headquarters have only reference to a few corps of the Active Militia, and, on account of its small scale, are somewhat imperfectly laid down, but may serve to represent the system. The Regimental Divisions, at present with very few exceptions, are identical with the electoral divisions in the respective Provinces.

Within the Province of Ontario there are four military districts, numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4, forming eight Brigade and eighty-two Regimental Divisions.

Military District No. One contains two Brigade Divisions.

The first Brigade Division, consisting of the Regimental Divisions of Essex, Kent, Bothwell, Lambton, West Riding of Middlesex, North Riding of Middlesex, East Riding of Middlesex, West Riding of Elgin, East Riding of Elgin, North Riding of Oxford, South Riding of Oxford, and the City of London.

The second Brigade Division consisting of the Regimental Divisions of South Riding of Huron, North Riding of Huron, South Riding of Bruce, North Riding of Bruce, South Riding of Perth, North Riding of Perth, North Riding of Waterloo, South Riding of Waterloo, North Riding of Wellington, Centre Riding of Wellington, and South Riding of Wellington.

Military District Number Two contains the third, fourth and fifth Brigade Divisions.

The Third Brigade Division consists of the Regimental Divisions of North Riding of Norfolk, South Riding of Norfolk, North Riding of Brant, South Riding of Brant, Haldimand, Monck, Welland, Lincoln, Niagara, North Riding of Wentworth, South Riding of Wentworth, Halton, and the city of Hamilton.

The fourth Brigade division consists of the regimental division of Peel, Cardwell, North Riding of Grey, South Riding of Grey, Algoma, North Riding of Simcoe, South Riding of Simcoe, North Riding of York, West Riding of York, East Riding of York, North Riding of Ontario, South Riding of Ontario, and

The fifth Brigade Division consists of the regimental divisions of West Riding of the City of Toronto, and the East Riding of the City of Toronto.

Military District Number Three contains the sixth and seventh Brigade Divisions.

To

The Honorable

The Minister of Militia and Defence,

&c., &c., &c.

The sixth Brigade Division consists of the regimental division of the West Riding of Durham, East Riding of Durham, South Riding of Victoria, North Riding Victoria, West Riding Peterboro', East Riding of Peterboro, West Riding of Northumberland, East Riding Northumberland.

The Seventh Brigade Division consists of the regimental divisions of the West Riding of Hastings, North Riding of Hastings, East Riding of Hastings, Prince Edward, Lennox, Addington, Frontenac, and the City of Kingston.

Number Four Military district, consisting of the eighth Brigade Division, which contains the Regimental Divisions of the South Riding of Leeds, North Riding of Leeds and Grenville, Brockville, South Riding of Grenville, South Riding of Lanark, North Riding of Lanark, South Riding of Renfrew, North Riding of Renfrew, Carleton, the City of Ottawa, Dundas, Russell, Stormont, Cornwall, Prescott and Glengarry.

Within the Province of Quebec there are three Military districts, numbered five, six and seven; eight Brigade, and seventy Regimental Divisions.

Military District Number Five consists of three Brigade Divisions.

The first of which, consists of the Regimental Divisions of Pontiac, Ottawa, Argenteuil, Montreal West, and second Montreal Centre.

The second Brigade Division consists of the Regimental Divisions, Huntingdon, Napierville, second Chateaugay, St. Johns, Iberville, Missisquoi, Brome, and Shefford; and

The third Brigade Division of the Regimental Divisions of Richmond, Drummond, Stanstead, Sherbrooke, and Compton.

Military District Number Six contains three Brigade Divisions, numbered four, five, and six.

The Fourth Brigade Division, consisting of the Regimental Divisions of Montreal East, first Montreal Centre, Vaudreuil, Soulanges, Beauharnois, first Chateaugay, Laprairie, Two Mountains, Terrebonne, Hochelaga, Jacques Cartier, and Laval.

The Fifth Brigade Division consists of the Regimental Divisions of L'Assomption, Montcalm, Joliette, Berthier, Maskinonge, Three Rivers, and St. Maurice.

The Sixth Brigade Division consists of the Regimental Divisions, Nicolet, Arthabaska, Wolfe, Yamaska, Bagot, Richelieu, St. Hyacinthe, Rouville, Vercheres, and Chambly.

Number Seven Military District consists of two Brigade Divisions, numbered seven and eight.

The Seventh Brigade Division consists of Lotbiniere, Megantic, Beauce, Dorchester, Levis, Belle Chase, Montmagny, L'Islet, Kamouraska, Temiscouata, Rimouski, Bonaventure and Gaspé.

The Eighth Brigade Division consists of the Regimental Divisions of Champlain, Portneuf, Quebec East, Quebec Centre, Quebec West, County of Quebec, Montmorency Charlevoix, Chicoutimi and Saguenay.

The Province of New Brunswick forms one Military District (the Eighth) comprising three Brigade and fifteen Regimental Divisions.

The Brigade Divisions are numbered from one to three, and embrace the following Regimental Divisions :

The First Brigade Division contains the Regimental Divisions of Victoria, Carleton, Charlotte, York and Sunbury.

The Second Brigade Division consists of the Regimental Divisions of Queen's, King's, first St. John, second St. John, and Albert.

The Third Brigade Division consists of the Regimental Divisions of Ristigouche, Gloucester, Northumberland, Kent, and Westmorland.

The Province of Nova Scotia forms one Military District, termed Military District Number Nine, containing three Brigade and nineteen Regimental Divisions; the Brigade Divisions are numbered from 1 to 3.

The first of which consists of the Regimental Divisions of the city of Halifax, and Counties of Halifax, Hants, Colchester, Cumberland, Pictou, Antigonish and Guysborough.

The Second Brigade Division consists of the Regimental Divisions of King's, Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Shelbourne, Queen's, and Lunenburg.

The Third Brigade Division consists of the Regimental Divisions of Inverness, Victoria, Richmond and Cape Breton.

The organization under the law is simple and effective, and the whole system works with ease and smoothness; the Minister of Militia and Defence is responsible to Parliament, and the country, for the administration of Militia affairs. The Adjutant General is the Chief Executive Officer, and is charged under the orders of Her Majesty, with the Military Command and Discipline of the Militia, and he is assisted by the Deputy Adjutant General, at Head Quarters. To each Military District there is a Deputy-Adjutant-General, acting under the orders of the Adjutant General, and who have the command of the Militia in their respective districts, and to each Brigade Division there is a Brigade Major; one District Pay-Master is attached to each of the military districts, and seven Store-keepers, who act under the orders of the Director of Stores at Head-Quarters, will suffice to take charge of, and regulate the receipt and issue of the necessary Military Stores required by the whole Militia Force of the Dominion.

At present there are actually eight store-keepers, one of whom can be dispensed with; and five District Quarter-Masters, whose services, under the present system, are quite unnecessary. By dispensing with the services of these gentlemen, no loss of efficiency would result, and a considerable saving to the public would be effected.

As a permanent and adequate staff is the first necessity, and the most important element in an army, and the hinge, as it were, on which it can be turned and applied, I beg to point out that any further reduction of the staff, beyond that already proposed, would not only be at variance with the organization contemplated by the law, but would be attended with the serious evil of impaired efficiency to the force.

To reduce any of the existing staff of brigade-majors, would not only interfere with the proper inspection and supervision of the respective battalions and corps, but without the aid of such staff officers it would be impossible to brigade the force in accordance with military principles, either for the actual defence of the country, or for carrying on its proper instruction by brigades in camp during the annual training.

A brigade-major is an officer belonging to a brigade, and not attached personally to

the officer in command thereof; as soon, therefore, as several battalions are brought together in brigade, the services of a brigade-major are indispensable, otherwise all would be confusion, for he is the staff officer who, under the orders of the brigadier or commander, regulates the duties of the whole brigade, and he is the proper channel and medium of communication with the various corps, he is to a brigade as it were what an adjutant is to a battalion. Moreover, it is of great importance to have, at all times, a brigade-major resident in each brigade division who, necessarily, acquires local knowledge and experience therein.

It would be unreasonable to suppose that any country can be said to be properly prepared for its defence in war, without the existence during peace of—

1st. Perfect unity in the Military administration.

2nd. The maintenance and preparation during peace of a permanent and an adequate staff.

3rd. A supply department capable of instant expansion to meet all the possible wants of an army in the field.

4th. A perfect corps, brigade and divisional organization, both for the active and reserve forces, whereby every corps, battalion and battery may fall at once into their appointed place.

The success that attended Prussia during the war of 1866, from the observance during peace of such a system, and the disasters that attended the early efforts of the Northern States in the neighbouring republic to subdue the South, from a total want of any such system, are fair illustrations of this truth.

The present militia law of the Dominion, provides for the necessary organization, and on its basis a very effective military system can be established, whereby, should the necessity ever arise, the whole military power of the country could, without difficulty, be developed for its defence.

The Militia, which is divided into two great classes of Active and Reserve Militia, according to returns rendered up to 31st December, 1869, amounts to a total of 656,008 men, of which the Active Militia numbers 43,541
the Reserve Militia 612,467

Total 656,008

The numbers of the Reserve Militia are in accordance with the returns furnished by the enrollment in 1868, but as another enrollment must take place, in accordance with the Militia Act, previous to the 1st March, 1871, it is believed that that enrollment will show a very considerable increase to the reserve, for it must be borne in mind that all men in the Dominion, between the ages of 18 and 60, are liable by law to military service in defence of the country.

The following is the return of the Active Militia of the Dominion of Canada, on the 31st of December, 1869, and is divided as follows:—

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Military District, No. 1, quota 5517:—

82 Corps, Cavalry, Artillery, Infantry, and Rifles, Nominal Strength . . . 4936

Military District, No. 2, quota 6089:—

124 Corps, Cavalry, Artillery, Infantry, and Rifles, Nominal Strength . . . 7152

Military District, No. 3, quota 3400:—

76 Corps, Cavalry, Artillery, Infantry, and Rifles, Nominal Strength . . . 4588

Military District, No. 4, quota 3064:—

53 Corps, Artillery, Infantry, and Rifles, Nominal Strength 3154

19 Companies Grand Trunk Railway Brigade to be added 1126

354 Corps. Total organized 20,956

NOTE.—The word "Corps," according to the Militia Act, includes any Field Battery, Brigade, or Battery of Artillery, Troop of Cavalry, or any Company, Battalion, or Regiment.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

Military District, No. 5, quota 3628:—

98 Corps, Cavalry, Artillery, Infantry and Rifles; Nominal Strength . . . 5,824

Military District, No. 6, quota 5719:—

53 Corps of Infantry and Rifles; Nominal Strength 3228

Military District, No. 7, quota 5035:—

84 Corps, Cavalry, Artillery, Infantry and Rifles; Nominal Strength . . . 5012

17 Companies Grand Trunk Railway Brigade to be added 1002

252 Corps. Total organized 15,066

PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

Military District, No. 8, quota 3264.

56 Corps, Cavalry, Artillery, Infantry and Rifles; Nominal Strength . . . 3327

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Military District, No. 9, quota 4284:—

72 Corps, Artillery, Infantry and Rifles; Nominal Strength 4192

734 Corps.

Recapitulation.

| | |
|---|--------|
| Province of Ontario, 354 Corps, having a nominal strength of | 20,956 |
| Province of Quebec, 252 Corps, having a nominal strength of | 15,066 |
| Province of New Brunswick, 56 Corps, having a nominal strength of | 3,327 |
| Province of Nova Scotia, 72 Corps, having a nominal strength of | 4,192 |
| Total | 43,541 |

| | |
|--|--------|
| Ontario, quota, 18,070, nominal strength | 20,956 |
| Quebec, " 14,382, " " | 15,066 |
| New Brunswick " 3,264, " " | 3,327 |
| Nova Scotia, " 4,284, " " | 4,192 |
| Total | 43,541 |

The force consists of—

| | | |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cavalry] | 1,500 officers and men | |
| 10 Field Batteries | 750 " " | } 42 guns. 441 horses. |
| Garrison Artillery | 3,558 " " | |
| 4 Companies Engineers | 232 " " | |
| Naval Brigade at Halifax | 233 " " | |
| 73 Battalions of Rifles and Infantry | 37,268 " " | |
| Total | 43,541 officers and men. | |

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 uniform.

The acceptance of these Corps would raise the strength of the active militia to a total of 45,040. In addition to this, however, so great has been the desire evinced to volunteer for the defence of the country, and raise additional corps, that it has been found necessary to decline such offers from those localities where the quota is already exceeded, until such time as vacancies for their enrolment may arise in the respective districts, by the expiration of the period of service of existing corps, who may not desire to re-enrol for another period. From these facts it may be safely affirmed that no difficulty will be experienced in keeping up the present strength (at least) of the active force by voluntary enrolment, and, therefore, the necessity of having recourse to the ballot, is not likely to arise.

The Active Militia consists of men who have all voluntarily enrolled to serve for

three years, at the expiration of which period, should they not desire to re-enrol, they are free to claim their discharge when they fall back into the reserve, and are not again liable for military service until all the other men in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd classes of militiamen, (i. e., between the ages of 18 and 45) in the company divisions within which they reside have volunteered or been balloted to serve, and as it is an acknowledged principle that all the men belonging to any country should be held liable to military service for its defence in just proportion, the action of Parliament by the introduction of the present Militia Act has removed those inequalities in the pressure of military service for the defence of the country, which, under the volunteer system formerly existed, and of which the volunteers themselves with justice complained, that the pressure of military service then fell upon the willing few.

It is to be observed that it is a very important privilege which those men enjoy, who thus volunteer to serve for three years in the ranks of the active militia, and as yet appears to be hardly sufficiently understood by them, although it is a point of great importance and individual advantage. For, by the performance of a few days drill annually, for three years, by any young man in the country, he most probably will have fulfilled for the rest of his life, except in the event of war, any military demand that his country could of right claim from him. Moreover, the effect contemplated by the law, of a three years' enrolment by individuals who, after such term of service, return into the reserve, their places being taken by others who either voluntarily enrol, or are drawn for such term of service, will result, after a certain number of years, in the great military advantage of a very large proportion of the men throughout the Dominion having undergone a certain amount of military training.

From the above statement, it is evident that in the event of war, sufficient numbers of men could always be obtained from the large Militia Reserve, to swell the ranks of the active force to any strength likely to be required, for it is a fact that the population of the Dominion comprehends nearly as many men within the fighting ages as the Southern States in the neighbouring Republic ever brought into the field, and the men of Canada both morally and physically, are not only equal to any that the world can produce, but in point of hardihood, manliness of spirit and fitness for military service, are not to be surpassed.

The present condition of the Active Militia is as follows :

CAVALRY.

The Cavalry, though only 1,500 in number,—a small proportion for so extensive a line of frontier—are generally fairly mounted, and composed almost entirely of young farmers, the greater proportion of whom own their own horses, ride well, and are armed with Spencer carbines and swords, and a large per centage have gone through the Cavalry School, which was established at Toronto, during the stay of the 13th Hussars, but since the departure of that corps no longer exists. I would, however, strongly recommend that they be trained to act more as mounted riflemen than as regular cavalry.

In a close and intersected country like Canada, abounding in woods, water, fences and obstacles of all kinds, opportunity for regular cavalry charging in line, sword in

hand, is not likely to be afforded, but the services of mounted infantry or riflemen would be found invaluable, acting as such during operations in the field they would be better suited to take outpost, picket, and escort duty, besides performing the ordinary duties of Light Cavalry in the field; in addition to which they would prove more really formidable in actual conflict by being better enabled to harass and act upon the communications, flanks, and rear of an invading force. Moreover, by means of detached bodies of Mounted Riflemen, under enterprising leaders, great loss might be inflicted to an enemy by a system of counter attacks on his own frontier.

The experience of the last war in the neighbouring Republic, as well as that gained in previous wars in America, proves incontestably the practical advantages of mounted riflemen, instead of regular cavalry, for the kind of warfare usually carried on in America, and for the nature of the country.

It is worthy of note, moreover, that, at this moment, it is proposed to convert the whole of the yeomanry cavalry in England (which is also a close and intersected country) into mounted riflemen.

From personal experience, having in the early period of my military career, served in a corps of mounted riflemen for four years at the Cape of Good Hope, a considerable portion of which, was passed in the field during the Kaffir War, I can bear testimony to the formidable character of a force of this description, to their power of making forced marches, either for the relief, or rapid reinforcement of posts, or in order to prevent or anticipate the occupation of advantageous positions by an enemy, and to the advantage to be derived in action by their co-operation as skirmishers along with men on foot. As an instance of their power of destruction, I may mention that on one occasion, at the Cape of Good Hope (during the action at the Gwanga, in British Kaffraria, in 1846) when a large body of the Kaffirs were attacked, and routed, by one troop of British dragoons and a squadron of the Cape Mounted Riflemen, in a very short time, before the enemy could reach the nearest cover, several hundred of them were destroyed, with hardly any loss to the British, not one of whom were killed by the swords of the Dragoons, but all by the fire of the mounted riflemen. I would, therefore, propose, in order to increase the power and usefulness of this important arm of the service, to introduce more generally among them, the practice of firing from horse-back, and of acting as skirmishers, both mounted and on foot, which in addition to their present drill is all that is needed to effect the desired object.

FIELD BATTERIES.

With regard to the Field Batteries of Artillery, (ten in number) they are in a perfectly serviceable and effective condition, and this satisfactory result reflects great credit, not only on the officers in command of these Batteries, but on the individual officers and men composing them.

The guns, 42 in number, and 441 horses, (with the exception of the 6 pounder Armstrong battery at Halifax, which is not horsed) consist of muzzle loading, smooth bored 9 pounders, and twenty-four pounder howitzers, in the proportion of 3 nine pounder guns,

and one 24 pounder howitzer to each battery, these are a good description of gun for field batteries, from the former, the projectiles fired are solid shot, shrapnell shell, and case and from the latter, common and shrapnell shell case-shot, and carcasses. The use and management of these guns, are perfectly well understood by the men, who are not hampered by useless trappings. On all occasions, whenever called on, these batteries are fairly horsed, and the harness and tackle, are nearly new; these batteries are kept always supplied with the usual amount of service ammunition, and they are in a fit condition at any moment to take the field. I may add, in connection with this arm, that Canada possesses great resources, for the formation of field batteries of Artillery. The young men of the country are well accustomed to work with teams, and waggons, and being very intelligent, and handy at such work, are easily trained for the duties of field artillerymen, and there is, throughout the country, a large supply of hardy and useful draught horses.

At various reviews, which [were held last summer, these batteries worked well in brigade, taking up positions in good style, and firing with ease and rapidity; and they only require, in addition to the periodical practice instruction in firing shot and shell, to be trained at the annual drills in Brigade, in co-operation with Cavalry and Infantry, to acquire and maintain an adequate and reasonable degree of efficiency.

The power and value of Field Artillery, is so well known, and the moral effect produced by it, during operations in the field so great, that the maintenance of these Batteries in a state of efficiency at all times, is a matter of the greatest importance.

GARRISON ARTILLERY.

The Garrison Artillery numbers at present 3,558 officers and men, and is organised into 7 brigades, and 19 independent batteries; the larger portion of the latter being attached to the rural battalions of their different localities for administrative purposes.

The Head Quarters of five of these Brigades are at Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec, St. John, N.B., and Halifax, N.S., and the remaining two form a portion of the Grand Trunk Brigade, which has a distinct organisation, and is intended for the defence and security of that important line of railway.

For the practice and instruction of the men in Gun Drill, these Artillery Brigades have the use of heavy guns of position at their respective Head Quarters, and as soon as additional guns of position can be obtained, it is proposed to distribute them to those independent batteries not already furnished with this necessary means of instruction.

The Garrison Artillery are clothed with the same description of uniform as the Royal Artillery; for small arms they are in possession of the long breech-loading Snider-Enfield Rifle, and they have all been drilled as Infantry.

For the purpose of instructing the officers of the Militia in Artillery Science, there is at present but one school of Gunnery, formed by the Royal Artillery at Toronto, which has been largely attended, and has proved of great service; but, inasmuch as it is indispensable for the defence of the Dominion that a sufficient number of trained Artillery

officers should be forthcoming when required, I would beg to recommend that Schools of Gunnery for the instruction of the Militia Artillery officers and cadets be formed wherever a portion of the Royal Artillery may be quartered for a certain period, at least, in each year.

ENGINEERS.

There are four companies of Engineers, numbering 232 officers and men. Three companies are stationed at Montreal (one of which belongs to the Grand Trunk Railway Brigade), and the remaining company is at St. John, N. B., the men composing these corps are almost exclusively engineers and mechanics.

NAVAL BRIGADE.

There is a small Naval Brigade, of four companies, numbering 233 officers and men at Halifax clothed in naval uniform, having eight 18 pounder guns, with stores for naval guns complete. They are also armed with Snider Rifles and cutlasses. This brigade is composed exclusively of seafaring men and would be available for naval service on an emergency.

INFANTRY.

1. The Infantry consists of seventy-three battalions of Riflemen and Infantry, numbering 37,268 officers and men. They are all armed with Snider breech-loading rifles. The accoutrements in possession are not of the latest or best description, though quite serviceable; and I would recommend that, whenever the same can be effected, accoutrements of a more modern description, and better suited for carrying a larger supply of ammunition be substituted.

2. There are few of these battalions without some officers or men who have previously served in the regular army, and many of them, at some time, actively in the field. The presence of these men in the ranks is of the utmost importance, and tends to impart a feeling of military strength and steadiness throughout the whole; for there are a very large number of men who have previously served as soldiers settled in the Dominion. The rural Battalions are almost entirely composed of the agricultural population—the bone and sinew of the land who have a stake in the country and in very many instances, are the proprietors and sons of proprietors of the land; and it is impossible to see a hardier race, or finer material for soldiers. In many instances their *physique* is most remarkable, and they all appear imbued with a spirit of the greatest loyalty and devotion to their Queen and country, and the same spirit and aptitude for military service is exhibited by the City Battalions, who are composed mainly of intelligent and educated artisans and mechanics; considering, moreover, the short period of time allowed for the annual drill, the degree of advancement at which they have arrived is most creditable, and they are all now quite ready to go into brigade.

3. With regard to the drill and efficiency of these battalions, from the result of my own inspection, last summer, of as many Corps as my other duties would admit of, as well as from the Annual Reports of the Deputy-Adjutant's General, I am enabled to report that it is, in most cases, as satisfactory as could possibly be expected, and there are very few of them who are not sufficiently acquainted with Battalion drill to fit them for all practical purposes to take their place alongside of the regular army in the defence of the country.

In the event of war, which is not carried on by the desultory efforts of Battalions, but by the combined action of the three Arms of the Service, (Artillery, Cavalry, and Infantry,) in Brigades and Divisions, to fit the Force for the proper defence of the country I would strongly recommend that in future, the annual drill and training of the rural Battalions be performed in each district at such places as it may be found most convenient to form Brigade Camps, whereat a portion of Cavalry and Artillery may co-operate, and thus afford an opportunity to both officers and men to gain such practical military instruction in Field duties and the application of the three arms in combined movements, as in the event of active service, would prove of the utmost importance.

Although future battles will probably be fought at the usual distances hitherto observed, the requirements of modern warfare, resulting from the use of rifles of long range and precision, do not involve the same character of drill, rigidity of movement, and closeness of formation, as was formerly necessary; but what is indispensable now, especially in Canada, is the practice of a judicious and intelligent system of skirmishing drill, suited to the character of the country, and in the taking up of positions, either for attack or defence, in connection with the other arms. From the extent of range, precision, and rapidity of fire, which can be developed by the arms now in use, it is evident that in all future wars, great bodies of men and armies must be more than ever posted more or less, with a view to obtaining cover, and if time will admit entrenched, and thus have to occupy longer stretches of ground, in order to obtain shelter from the effects of improved rifle fire, as well as Mitraille and shell; it therefore follows that the main objects to aim at are the careful instruction of the men in a skilful use of the rifle, and to the officers a knowledge how to direct most judiciously the efforts of their men, and to select the most advantageous positions, remembering that the essence and spirit of all warfare is to endeavour to apply the greatest injury to an enemy with the least loss to one's self.

On the 6th of August, I proceeded to Montreal for the purpose of inspecting a portion of the Grand Trunk Brigade at that station, and which I found in excellent order. Taking advantage of this occasion to afford an opportunity to such men of other corps in Montreal as could find it convenient, and desired to take part in a field day, I invited the attendance of such men as could be present without interfering with their business avocations, and the following numbers, officers and men, of the respective corps named readily responded to the invitation:—

| Corps. | Officers. | N. C. O. | Rank and File. | Total. | Horses. |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------------|--------|---------|
| Cavalry | 3 | 3 | 22 | 28 | 28 |
| Field Battery | 3 | 4 | 53 | 60 | 52 |
| Montreal Garrison Artillery | 12 | 10 | 234 | 256 | 4 |
| Montreal Provisional Battalion | 17 | 18 | 164 | 199 | 2 |
| G. T. Bde. Garrison Artillery | 9 | 13 | 321 | 343 | 3 |
| „ Rifles | 15 | 19 | 225 | 259 | 2 |
| Total | 59 | 67 | 1019 | 1145 | 91 |

By this means a small brigade composed of a portion of the three arms was formed, and the opportunity of practical field movements obtained, and the whole force including artillery was provided with blank ammunition.

After the usual inspection the brigade marched past in open column of companies, headed by the Troop of Cavalry and the Field Battery, and again in contiguous columns at quarter distance, after which a change of front was effected, the brigade deployed, skirmishers were thrown out, and the whole advanced under cover of the fire of the Artillery—subsequently retiring, the guns taking up other positions to cover the retreat, fresh skirmishers and supports from the reserve were extended, relieving those first employed.

Several charges were made in good style, and the manœuvres, considering the very few opportunities that have of late been afforded to the Montreal Force for Brigade Drill, were very creditably performed. The manner, in particular, in which the Field Battery took up its various positions, fired and manœuvred, was most praiseworthy, and both its commander, Lieut.-Colonel Stevenson, and those under him proved themselves to be not only well acquainted with, but very proficient in the performance of their duties. It cannot be doubted but that the performance of a few such practical field days periodically, in order to afford instruction to officers and men, whenever they can conveniently attend, would prove of great advantage to the Force in Montreal, and although always desirable it is by no means necessary for the purposes of instruction and illustration that such brigade parades should be very numerous attended.

On the 13th September last, I inspected the 10th (“Royals”) Battalion at Toronto. This Corps consisting of 10 companies, 27 officers, and 543 non-commissioned officers and men, is a city battalion, and is under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel A. Brunel, who is an able, zealous, and most intelligent officer. I found that the arms of this battalion were in a good and serviceable condition, as were also the clothing and accoutrements. This battalion drilled under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Brunel, under a new system of drill introduced, as an experiment, by that officer, and they shewed much quickness and intelligence, and performed many Battalion movements in excellent style; but in as far as the introduction of a different system of field exercise from that observed by the regular army and the Militia of the Dominion, might prove very inconvenient, and is at variance with the Militia Act and orders contained in Her Majesty’s Regulations, I have not felt justified in sanctioning the permanent use of the system of drill alluded to, by the Corps under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Brunel.

As the inspection of this Corps took place in the Drill Shed at Toronto, a sufficient opportunity was not afforded to me of testing its efficiency in Light Infantry movements, but, for all practical purposes, it is efficient in Battalion Drill.

I beg to add that Lieutenant-Colonel Brunel is an officer of great merit, who has exerted himself, with much success, to bring his Battalion to its present state of efficiency, and, in common with many other officers of the Militia throughout the Dominion, he is at heart a true soldier.

On the 14th September, I proceeded to Goderich, 140 miles west of Toronto, on the shores of Lake Huron, and the following day inspected the 33rd (or Huron) Battalion, which is under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel A. M. Ross, and consists of 9 companies, 29 officers, and 404 non-commissioned officers and men.

I found this fine rural Battalion encamped for the performance of its annual drill on a well chosen spot, on the banks of the Maitland river, where the ground afforded every facility for field movements. The camp was clean and the tents pitched with regularity, and a large number of spectators, the friends of those in the 33rd, were assembled to witness the inspection.

The appearance of the Battalion on parade was very good and soldier-like, and it would be difficult to see a finer body of men assembled under arms. One or two of the companies, composed almost entirely of farmers (owners of land), and their sons, showed splendid *physique*. The Battalion performed various battalion movements with much steadiness, and maintained, throughout, great silence in the ranks, and subsequently extended the whole of their Companies in skirmishing order, in excellent style.

I found the arms, clothing, and accoutrements, in fair order and condition.

One of the Companies of this Battalion forms a Company of Garrison Artillery, and as there are now two heavy guns of position, at Goderich, the opportunity of practising gun drill will be afforded them.

This Battalion may be considered as perfectly fit for field service, and I attribute its state of efficiency to the fact of its being not only composed of a fine, intelligent body of officers and men, but also to its possessing a most efficient Commanding Officer and Adjutant, the latter officer having served formerly in the regular army, and seen much service in the field.

On the 17th of the same month I inspected a portion of the London Brigade, at London, consisting of one Troop of Cavalry, under the command of Captain Dempster, numbering 3 officers, 38 men, and 41 horses. The London Field Battery, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Shanly, numbering 2 officers, 56 non-commissioned officers, gunners and drivers, and 50 horses, with three 9 pounder guns, and one 24 pounder howitzer, and the 7th Battalion (Light Infantry) of Active Militia, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Lewis, which consists of 27 officers, and 363 non-commissioned officers and men, some of whom, however, were prevented from attending the review.

Captain Dempster’s Troop were well mounted, and their arms, saddlery, and accoutrements clean, and in good order.

Lieut.-Colonel Shanly’s Battery was in an excellent and efficient condition, and reflected much credit on that officer.

The 7th Battalion, who are uniformed in scarlet, presented a smart and soldier-like appearance, their arms and accoutrements being in good order; and they were sufficiently well instructed in Battalion drill for all practical purposes.

I took advantage of the opportunity to put the Brigade through a series of combined movements—the whole being provided with blank ammunition—and the intelligent manner in which they executed the various manoeuvres when directed, and the object of the movements explained, supporting each other by the proper application of the respective arms where the ground suited, both in advancing and retiring, and in changing position, clearly shewed that all that is required to fit them for field service, in this respect, is the periodical performance of a rational and intelligent system of drill in brigade.

On the following day I inspected the 22nd Oxford Rifles, at Woodstock, under the command of Lieut-Colonel Richardson, consisting of 31 officers, and 380 non-commissioned officers and men—the average strength of the companies being 3 officers and 47 men. The Corps were encamped for the Annual Training a short distance from the town of Woodstock. The Camp was clean, and the tents regularly pitched. This is a Rifle Corps, and a very fine one, uniformed in Green; they performed the usual Battalion movements very creditably, and afterwards skirmished equally well, and shewed much intelligence in availing themselves of cover, and the advantages of the ground.

Their arms and accoutrements were in good and serviceable condition.

On the 18th September, I inspected the 38th Battalion at Brantford, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Patton, consisting of 23 officers and 291 men; also, four companies of the 3rd Battalion Grand Trunk Brigade, under the command of Major Larmour, and some Cavalry, many of whom had marched about 18 miles the day previous to take part in the Review. I found the 38th Battalion was uniformed—one half of the companies in scarlet, and the remainder in green—which greatly marred the appearance of an otherwise very fine looking Corps, and I would here suggest the propriety of introducing a similarity of uniform therein. The appearance of both the 38th and the four Companies of the 3rd Battalion Grand Trunk Brigade, under the command of Major Larmour, as well as the Cavalry, was most satisfactory, and their arms and equipments were in fair order. The men being supplied with blank ammunition, a regular field-day was gone through, for the performance of which great facility exists in the open nature of the ground at Brantford, which, I would here remark, is one of the best places for the performance of brigade drill and field movements in the whole Province of Ontario. On this occasion both Cavalry and Infantry skirmished, advancing and retiring, and made occasional charges in very good style, and took the greatest interest in learning their duty.

On the 19th, I proceeded to Clifton, Niagara, and there made arrangements for calling out and placing on duty, two companies of the 44th Battalion to act as a guard of honor, during the stay of H. R. H. Prince Arthur, who was then daily expected to visit Niagara, and inspected a portion of the men detailed. This guard duly performed their duty in a satisfactory manner, and elicited the thanks and approbation of H. R. H.

On the 20th of September, I inspected in the morning, at St. Catharines, a small Company of Garrison Artillery, consisting of 3 officers and 22 men. This small battery is furnished with one 6 pounder gun and one 12 pounder howitzer. They were put through the gun drill very creditably by Lieutenant Holmes, the young and intelligent officer in command, firing fifteen rounds of ammunition, and seemed well acquainted with their duty as gunners.

In the afternoon of the same day I proceeded to Hamilton, and there inspected first, the Field Battery, under the command of Captain G. B. Smith, and consisting of 4 officers, and 75 non-commissioned officers and men, with three nine-pounder guns, and one 24 pounder howitzer. This Field Battery is in a very effective and satisfactory condition, and both officers and men seemed well acquainted with their duty. I afterwards inspected the 13th Battalion, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Skinner, numbering 24 officers and 388 men. The inspection in the drill shed at Hamilton in the evening was attended by a large number of spectators. Lieutenant-Colonel Skinner is one of the most zealous officers in the Active Militia; he has devoted much time and money for the good of the service, and has succeeded in bringing his Battalion to a very high state of efficiency.

The appearance of this Battalion on parade bore a striking resemblance to a regiment of the regular army, their arms, accoutrements, and clothing, being in an excellent and most praiseworthy condition. They went through the manual and platoon exercise, under the command of Major H. E. Irving perfectly, and afterwards were exercised in battalion drill by Lieutenant-Colonel Skinner, in a most satisfactory manner. This is a City Battalion, and the greatest unanimity and harmony appears to exist throughout.

On the 21st September I inspected at Brampton that fine rural Corps, the 36th, or Peel Battalion, who were encamped for their annual drill, and were under the command of Major Gracy. Although this Corps had only been [assembled two or three days previously, and had hardly shaken down into their places, they also passed well through a close and minute inspection, and were subsequently exercised in battalion and Light Infantry drill.

On the 22nd September I proceeded to Newmarket, which lies about 30 miles to the north of Toronto, and there inspected the 12th Battalion, under the command of Lieut-Colonel Jarvis, consisting of 20 officers and 293 men. The 12th were under canvas, and at the inspection presented a very fine appearance. The limited space of ground at their disposal for drill purposes did not admit of any extended field movements, but a sufficient number of both battalion and light infantry manoeuvres were executed to satisfy me that this Corps is as efficient in respect to drill as any of the other Corps I previously inspected.

On the 24th September, I inspected the 34th Battalion, under command of Lieut-Colonel Fairbanks, consisting of 22 officers, and 254 non-commissioned officers and men, who were encamped about four miles from Oshawa. This Corps is, with the exception of one company (which is uniformed in green), clothed in scarlet, and I would here suggest the propriety of a similarity of uniform being hereafter observed in this Corps, as well as in the 38th. The 34th presented a very similar appearance to the other rural battalions,

being composed of equally fine looking and intelligent men. Their arms and accoutrements were in a serviceable state, and they drilled well, both as light infantry and in battalion.

On the following day I inspected the 46th Battalion, then encamped near Port Hope, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Williams, consisting of 18 officers and 302 men, and although this Corps had been only one or two days in the Camp, I found everything in good order. Their camp was well pitched in a good and healthy position on the banks of Lake Ontario. On parade, the men of this Battalion (some of whom are of very large stature), stood well under arms, and presented a very soldier-like appearance. Although so short a time in camp, their arms, belts, and accoutrements were very clean and in excellent order, and they afterwards, being provided with blank ammunition, went through the manœuvres of a field-day, skirmishing and firing in proper style, and when it is considered that they had been assembled together for so short a time, the condition they were in reflects great credit on themselves and their commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel Williams.

On the afternoon of the same day I proceeded to inspect the 40th Battalion, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Smith and consisting of 19 officers and 328 men, and a squadron of cavalry under the command of Lieut.-Colonel D'Arcy Boulton, (consisting of the Cobourg and Port Hope troops), who were then encamped close to the town of Cobourg. The appearance in line of the 40th, and the soldier-like manner in which the squadron of Cavalry came on the ground, headed by a mounted band, all well mounted and equipped, and took up their ground, forming a second line in rear of the infantry, was very good; but a sudden and violent storm of wind and rain, necessitating the return of all to camp, prevented my having the opportunity of testing the efficiency of these Corps in drill or field movements.

Detailed information on the state of the above Corps, as well as of the others inspected throughout the Dominion, prior to January, 1870, will be found in the Reports of the Deputy Adjutants General, and in the Scheduled Inspection Returns, which are herewith appended.

I much regretted that my duties at Head Quarters prevented my personally inspecting other Corps, but I hope to be enabled, in the coming season, to inspect as many as possible throughout the various Military Districts. On reference to these reports from the Deputy Adjutants General of Districts, it will be seen that the system of training the rural battalions in camps is most advantageous, and has proved a great success, and they forcibly call attention to the desirability of extending the training to the full period of sixteen days drill allowed by law, and to the formation of Brigade Camps.

In Military District No. 3, the command of which, during the absence of Lieutenant Colonel Jarvis, devolved upon Deputy Assistant Adjutant General MacPherson, the training appears to have been carried out very successfully under the orders of that officer. Several brigade field days having been well performed, and on the 28th September, a field day and sham fight, in which the 40th and 46th Battalions, with the Northumberland and Durham squadron of Cavalry took part, was executed in good style, affording excellent practice to all engaged.

In the month of August, some apprehensions being entertained by the Government of a Fenian invasion, I received instructions to make arrangements for the speedy concentration of the various Corps, at their respective Head Quarters, and this was duly performed, so that at any time, whenever the necessity arises, the whole of the Active Militia, from Nova Scotia in the East to the shores of Lake Huron in the West, can be concentrated by battalions and corps for the defence of the country in a very few hours, and held in readiness at their respective Head Quarters. Full information on this point was forwarded to the Lieutenant-General commanding Her Majesty's troops, and a large supply of Snider ammunition placed in various Militia Magazines throughout the country.

On the 9th of October, in consequence of intelligence received by Government of a probable attempt at Fenian invasion, simultaneous with which movement the Armouries and Drill Sheds throughout the Dominion were to be fired by Fenian conspirators in Canada, acting in concert with those in the neighbouring Republic; it was deemed advisable, in order to preserve and secure from injury the arms belonging to the Militia, to distribute the same to the men individually. The arms, however, have been since ordered to be restored to their respective Armouries, with the exception of those belonging to Corps residing on the immediate frontier, which it is desirable should, at all times, remain in the hands of the men of such Corps.

About the same time I was directed to make arrangements to relieve the detachment of regular troops at Fort Wellington, Prescott, which was duly carried out on the departure of the regular troops on the 20th of October, by a small detachment of the Active Militia, consisting of one subaltern, one sergeant, and 24 rank and file, taken from the Ottawa Garrison Artillery, who remained on duty (the individual men being relieved monthly) until the 15th of January, when this detachment was withdrawn (it being considered advisable to dismantle the Fort) and the guns, shot, shell, and all other military stores brought to Ottawa.

Taking into consideration that unless it is intended to garrison this Fort permanently (from its exposed position, and the ease with which any party of Fenian conspirators, or other evil-disposed persons, could suddenly cross over and seize the same) it is more likely to prove a source of weakness than of strength to the country, the propriety of destroying it altogether would seem apparent; moreover, the Fort itself is a mere shell-trap, and, in a military point of view, of little or no use to the Dominion.

On the afternoon of the 18th October last, I received instructions to man, arm, and dispatch the gun-boat *Prince Alfred* (then lying at Goderich, Lake Huron), for the defence of the Sarnia and Detroit frontier, with as little delay as possible; as the readiest means therefore of arming this vessel (there being no ship guns at the moment available) two 9 pounder guns, complete with service ammunition, with one officer and 20 men as gunners, belonging to the Toronto Field Battery, were ordered by telegram to proceed from Toronto to Goderich the following morning, and one officer and 30 men of the Goderich Artillery Company were likewise detailed for duty on board, the whole being under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel A. M. Ross, of the 33rd "Huron" Battalion, and a medical officer was attached;

10,000 rounds of small-arm ammunition, and a supply of blankets, were forwarded from London; a master and crew to navigate the vessel were engaged, and arrangements effected for the payment and victualling of all on board. On proceeding to coal the vessel, she was found to leak badly, being somewhat out of repair, but owing to the energy of the crew, and men of the Active Militia detailed for the service, the vessel was duly caulked, coaled, and victualled, the men and guns all embarked, and she was reported ready for sea on the 21st, within three days from receiving the order, and she sailed early the following morning, to cruise upon the St. Clair frontier. In addition to this, another gun-boat, *The Rescue*, lying at Kingston, was prepared for service and got ready, to be armed and manned, for the defence of the Country.

The *Prince Alfred* remained cruising on her station until the 23rd of November, when, as the ice was beginning to form, in order to secure her obtaining safe winter quarters, she returned to Goderich on that day. The nine-pounder guns belonging to the Toronto Field Battery with which this vessel was at first equipped under the pressing emergency, although efficient at a pinch, were subsequently replaced by 4 Naval Guns obtained on loan from the Imperial Government, when the detachment of the Toronto Field Battery returned home, being replaced by other men from the Goderich Artillery Company. The value of a gun-boat like the *Prince Alfred* on the lake and river frontier, as a measure of police precaution against Fenians, is very great, and of far more use and importance than calling out a large number of the Militia, whereby often unnecessary excitement and alarm is created, and the welfare of the country interfered with.

On the 12th of November, I proceeded to inspect the *Prince Alfred*, reaching Sarnia on the night of the 13th, and embarking on the following morning, soon after daylight sailed for Windsor and Amherstburg, coasting along the whole St. Clair frontier, from Lake Huron to the entrance of Lake Erie.

The new armament having been received, I found her now suitably armed with two 12-pounder Armstrong guns, one 24, and one 12-pounder Howitzer, complete with naval carriages, ammunition, and small stores; the force on board, exclusive of the sailing crew, amounted to 3 officers and 50 non-commissioned officers and men—one half of whom were gunners, belonging to the Goderich Garrison Artillery Company, which is attached to the 33rd "Huron" Battalion, the whole being under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel A. M. Ross, of that battalion, who has, himself, passed through the Gunnery School, obtaining a first-class certificate, and is a very efficient officer.

I minutely inspected everything on board; the men were in excellent spirits, and good condition, and perfectly satisfied with their pay, and messing, and treatment, and there were no complaints of any description. Lieutenant-Colonel A. M. Ross performed his duties ably and judiciously, and the greatest harmony and good feeling appeared to exist on board.

The *Prince Alfred* is a good strong useful steamer, and can acquire a speed of 14 knots an hour, and as soon as the necessary alterations and repairs, which have been sanctioned and are now being carried out in her, have been effected, she will form a suitable and effective gun-boat for police service on the St. Clair frontier; and, doubtless,

will act as a preventive measure against Fenian attempts at invasion. Previous to the *Prince Alfred* going into winter quarters, she rendered good and humane service by rescuing two vessels who were in distress, which but for her assistance would have been shipwrecked.

On the 17th of November I proceeded to Kingston and there inspected the gun-boat *Rescue*, which was lying in the dockyard, the Master of which, and Crew, were all on board, but she was not armed. I found the vessel very clean and in good order, and all ready to receive her armament, but the season being then too far advanced, she was not placed on duty.

On the 14th January, I received orders to proceed to Montreal, to examine and report on the capabilities of the large building in that city, known as the "Military School," and which had recently been purchased from the corporation of Montreal by the Militia Department. I found, after a careful examination, that when certain alterations have been effected, the building in question is amply sufficient to fulfill all the purposes for which it is destined. Underneath its roof it contains an admirable drill hall, 304 feet in length and 125 feet in breadth, wherein all the active militia force of Montreal might be assembled under arms when required, and there is plenty of space for a battalion to drill. There is also, in this building, room for the armouries of all the corps of active militia in Montreal, including the field battery and troop of cavalry, likewise accommodation for the military school, the staff officers offices and storage room for the military stores. By the acquisition of this building great advantage will result from the concentration, under one roof, of all the arms, stores and militia departments in Montreal, and any immediate expense will be compensated by the saving ultimately effected in the rent at present paid for very inferior and inadequate accommodation.

MILITARY SCHOOLS.

Military Schools for the practical training of Officers, were originally established in the year 1864, after the apprehension of troubles arising out of the Trent affair. These schools were formed in connection with Regiments of the Regular Army, the two first opened, were at Toronto and Quebec, in March, 1864, and to encourage candidates to apply for admission to these schools, gratuities of \$50 were granted, with both first and second class certificates (the gratuity for a first-class has since been discontinued); the call was responded to from all parts, and candidates became so numerous, that in the year 1865, four more schools were established, two in March, at Montreal and Kingston, and two in Ontario, at Hamilton and London, during the months of April and May respectively; these two schools last-named, failing to draw a sufficient numerous attendance of cadets, were both closed by the end of the year. The schools that have continued in operation since their first establishment, are those of Toronto and Kingston, in the Province of Ontario; and of Montreal and Quebec, in the Province of Quebec. The number of cadets

who have been granted certificates by the several commandants (officers of the regular army), who have had charge of these schools, now exceeds 5,000, of whom 24 per cent. have taken first class certificates. The whole of these cadets are distributed throughout the two Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, and so continuous have been the applications from these provinces, that the number of cadets in Quebec, only exceeds that of those from Ontario by eighty-eight. Quebec has the advantage of first class certificates, as during the period that gratuities were given for first class certificates, two were taken in Quebec for every one in Ontario.

The relative strength of cadets of the two provinces on the 30th November last, was as follows:—

| | First Class. | Second Class. | Total Cadets. |
|---------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Quebec | 713 | 1862 | 2575 |
| Ontario | 470 | 2017 | 2487 |
| Total | 1183 | 3879 | 5062 |

The result is, throughout the entire Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, no town, and but few villages of importance, are to be found, where the Military School Cadet is unknown. A considerable number of these cadets have joined the active militia, but far the greater part of them are at large, and will prove of great service to the commanding officers of the reserve militia battalions, should their services ever be called for. With this result obtained, there can be no cause to complain of the establishment of these schools, or of the system of instruction, which has hitherto obtained in them.

In addition to the schools above mentioned, when the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia became part of the Dominion confederation, similar schools of military instruction in connection with the regular army were established at St. John, N. B., and Halifax, N. S., on the 20th January and 1st February, 1869, respectively. Sufficient time has not yet been afforded to judge accurately of the effect of these schools in those provinces, but in Nova Scotia the attendance during the year has been moderately fair, eight first, and eighty second class certificates having been granted by the commandant; at St. John, N.B. sixty cadets have been granted certificates, three of whom received first class certificates, with very high recommendations from Colonel Hawley, 4th battalion, 60th Rifles, the commandant. At the first opening of this school the attendance promised well, and from the 1st of February to the 24th June, three first, and fifty-six second class certificates had been taken. The departure of the 60th, however, seems to have dealt the death blow to this school, and, although it was immediately taken over by a detachment of the 78th Highlanders, but one first, and eleven second class certificates have been granted up to the 4th December last, a period extending over five months, and since the 6th July, eight cadets only have joined this school, and the average weekly strength since the 2nd of October last, has been equal to four and two-ninths.

The number of Cadets to whom certificates have been awarded, since the first opening of the Schools, in the respective Provinces, are as follows:—

| Provinces. | First Class. | Second Class. | Number of Cadets remaining in the School on the 1st January, 1870. |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|--|
| Ontario..... | 477 | 2086 | 74 |
| Quebec..... | 715 | 1912 | 99 |
| New Brunswick..... | 4 | 68 | 9 |
| Nova Scotia..... | 8 | 94 | 23 |
| Total..... | 1204 | 4160 | 205 |

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY BRIGADE.

The Grand Trunk Railway Brigade is composed of the Railway Employés (military service being exacted from all men in the Company's employment), and it forms part of the quota of the Active Militia of Canada, is subject to the "Act of Militia and Defence," and to all regulations governing the Active Militia Force.

The Brigade consists of two Brigades Garrison Artillery, one Company of Engineers and three Battalions of Rifles, numbering 2,128 (two thousand one hundred and twenty-eight) of all ranks.

There is, in addition, a Reserve of 200 (two hundred) men sworn in, but not gazetted.

The Brigade is distributed as follows:—

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Montreal, | Garrison Artillery, | 6 Batteries. |
| do | Engineers, | 1 Company. |
| do | Rifles, | 7 Companies. |
| Toronto, | Garrison Artillery, | 6 Batteries. |
| Point Levi, | Rifles, | 1 Company. |
| Richmond, | " | 1 " |
| Sherbrooke, | " | 1 " |
| Brockville, | " | 2 " |
| Kingston, | " | 1 " |
| Belleville, | " | 2 " |
| Port Hope, | " | 1 " |
| Stratford, | " | 1 " |
| Brantford, | " | 3 " |
| St. Mary's, | " | 1 " |
| Sarnia, | " | 2 " |
| Total | | 36 |

The Grand Trunk Railway Brigade District, extending from Rivière du Loup to Sarnia, from Buffalo to Goderich, from Richmond to the boundary line of Maine, &c., thereby running through the several military districts in the two Provinces, was made a distinct organisation; and by General Order, July 6, 1866, the Brigade was removed from any then-existing Brigade District, and placed directly under the Militia Department at head quarters.

The Grand Trunk Railway Brigade is under the immediate command of Lieut.-Colonel Brydges, by whom it was originally formed, and has been maintained in a high state of efficiency ever since, there are very many men in its ranks who have formerly served in the Regular Army, and the value of this organization for the protection of its own line of railway, and in expediting in time of trouble, the transport of men and material, would be very great.

TARGET PRACTICE AND RIFLE MATCHES.

From returns received at Head Quarters, to 1st January, 1870, it appears that 181 Rifle Matches have taken place during the year 1869. The arm chiefly used being the Government Snider Enfield Rifle. Shewing an increase, in 1869, of sixty four Matches over one hundred and seventeen reported for 1868.

The details and figure of merit attained by individuals in those matches, are shewn in the "Rifle Match Returns"—see Appendix No. 1. These returns, however, by no means embrace the actual number of matches that have taken place during the past year, for great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining satisfactory information on this point. I propose, therefore, establishing a system, by which fuller and more accurate target returns may be transmitted by Deputy Adjutant's General of Districts to Head Quarters.

Since 1867, 400 targets have been distributed proportionately in each district (200), two hundred of which were received and distributed last year, and I would strongly recommend that the annual supply of 200 targets may be continued until three have been supplied to the Head Quarters of every Company Division throughout the Dominion, in order to enable the men to carry on their independent practice and matches, up to 600 yards, at all times throughout the year, whenever it suits their convenience.

In connection with this subject, which is one of great importance for the defence of the country, every effort should be made to extend and popularise the practice of rifle shooting, and it is not too much to affirm, that, if all the young men of the Dominion were skilled in the use of the rifle, an attack upon the country by any enemy would be to them a serious matter.

The effect produced by the formation of the Dominion Rifle Association, and the many other Rifle Associations that have sprung therefrom, in introducing the practice of rifle shooting, and fostering a spirit of competition therein, has been attended with much good; but, as was naturally to be expected, the practical result from the Dominion Association has been to train a few highly skilled individual marksmen, who have, from time to time, moved through the country attending these matches, taking the very

handsome prizes offered for competition. The effect upon the Militia has been hitherto but slight, and as the principal object to be aimed at for the defence of the country, is the diffusion of a general knowledge in the use of arms, to enable all the men destined for its defence, to have opportunities of acquiring skill therein, the necessity and desirability of establishing Battalion and Company matches in each Regimental and Company Division throughout the Dominion, to be open to the men of both the active and reserve force, is apparent.

By furnishing targets to every Battalion and Company Head Quarters, and distributing prizes throughout the Corps of the active Militia, this desirable result would, doubtless, ultimately be attained. All that is necessary to enable a man to become a good practical shot is to teach him:—

1st. Position Drill, which he can learn when being instructed in the Manual and Platoon Exercises.

2nd. That he should be shown and learn how to align the back and front sights of his rifle upon the object aimed at.

3rd. Not to wink, or shut his eye, when he pulls the trigger.

4th. Not to pull the trigger with a jerk, but with a steady pressure of the finger.

5th. To hold the sight of the rifle perpendicularly, that is, inclining neither to the right, nor to the left.

Attention to these five simple rules, with some power of judging distance, and a knowledge of the influence of wind on the flight of a bullet, is all that is required.

The explosion of the charge has tendency to throw the muzzle up, and bullet high; to counteract this, press centre of heel plate firmly to shoulder. The sun shining from left, lights up right side of back notch, and left side of foresight; if these spots are aligned on the mark, the ball will go to the left, and *vice versa*.

166,100 rounds of Snider ball ammunition are returned this year as having been sold to the Active Militia during 1869, the value of which amounts to \$3,985.40, see Appendix No. 22. From this amount must be deducted 30,000 rounds, valued at \$724, that should have been paid for by the Dominion Rifle Association the previous year (1868), but which was not received by the Department until July, 1869. Deducting this the actual number of rounds sold during the year 1869, is 136,000, valued at \$3,262.40, to which should be added 12,500 rounds, value \$290.40, issued to the Dominion Rifle Association at Toronto in September, 1869, and which has not yet been paid to the Department. This added would make a total of 148,600 rounds, value, \$3,352.80, as sold during the past year, being 15,400 rounds less than the previous year.

Before concluding this Report, I feel it my duty to mention that very general dissatisfaction was felt on the reduction of the number of days drill last year from 16 to 13, and the consequent lessening of the pay issued to the men from \$8 to \$6.50, and at the system of allowing the 13 days drill to be actually performed in six days and-a-half, whereby very insufficient time was afforded for military training, and imparting a knowledge of camp and field duties. Indeed, Corps had barely time to shake into their places before the day of departure arrived. In view of these facts, I would beg to recommend,

that the full period of sixteen days drill authorized by law, be allowed for the annual training of 1870-1871—and that the training of the rural battalions be carried out in Brigade Camps under the personal command of the several Deputy Adjutants General in command of Districts in accordance with special instructions to be issued from Head Quarters.

By the adoption of these measures, much ground for dissatisfaction would be removed, and increased efficiency obtained.

In accordance with instructions received, I have prepared a code of regulations and orders for the active militia, the schools of military instruction, and the reserve militia (in the cases therein mentioned), these having been approved of by the Governor General in Council, are now authorised and will be promulgated. In the performance of this somewhat arduous duty, I have received great assistance from Lieut.-Colonel Powell, the D.A.G., at Head Quarters, Lieut.-Colonel T. Wily, the Director of Stores, and Captain R. Berry, chief accountant, all officers of much ability and experience.

These regulations and orders are somewhat similar in form to the Queen's Regulations and Orders for the Regular Army, but as a matter of course based upon the Militia Act.

Commissions applicable under the new law having been sanctioned, are now in course of preparation, and will be issued to such officers as are entitled to them with as little delay as possible.

The Snider Rifles at present in the hands of the active Militia (which are similar to those in use in the Regular Army), are on loan from the Imperial Government. The desirability therefore of laying the foundation of an independent supply would seem apparent, and when we take into consideration the great material and moral power obtained by the possession of the best arm, I would beg to recommend that a sum of money be annually appropriated for the purchase and gradual distribution of the most effective and approved breech-loading rifle to the men of the active Militia.

On a careful consideration of the present Militia law, there can be no doubt but that it insures a just and equitable pressure of the burden of military service for the defence of the country on the people, and it will compare most favourably with the Militia Law of any other country, and certainly with the volunteer system at present prevailing in England which cannot be said to be as efficient in point of organization; under the existing Act, the Militia of Canada is capable of being developed, whenever the country requires it, into a great and powerful army, with the simplest, fairest, and best means of swelling the ranks of its active force from the very large reserve of enrolled men there is in the country.

It is said that in Prussia, the War Minister has but to ring his bell and an army of more than 300,000 men, fully equipped and complete in all appliances, and in all departments with ample reserves to re-fill its ranks, would be instantly ready at the call and the military system of that country is justly considered a triumph in organization.

Although as yet the military system of Canada is in its infancy, it may be said at all events with equal truth, that if required for the defence of the country, the Commander-in-Chief has but to give the order, and in a very few hours more than 40,000 men of the active Militia, who are at least admirably armed, would stand forth to form the first line of defence, animated with as much courage and determination to defend their Queen and country, as has ever been exhibited by any nation, and their ranks might be hourly swelled by men from the Reserve Militia.

But to enable the men of Canada to fulfil with success the sacred duty of defence, sufficient time for military training ought to be afforded them. The necessary reserve of arms and stores should be at all times available, and an adequate and permanent staff maintained, to secure their training in time of peace, and their guidance in time of war.

The question of the maintenance and support in a proper state of efficiency of the Militia of the Dominion to undertake the defence of the country, depends entirely upon the liberality of Parliament.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

P. ROBERTSON-ROSS,

Colonel and Adjutant-General.

Head Quarters, Ottawa,

3rd March, 1870.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 1.

HEAD QUARTERS,
LONDON, 8th January, 1870.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward you the Report of my Annual Inspection of the corps under my command which have performed the 13 days drill for the current year, up to the present date, these being all the Infantry Corps in the District, viz:—

11 Battalions of 78 Companies, 305 Officers and 3662 men; being an average of 3 officers and 47 men per Company, as per my Abstract enclosed herewith.

The London Field Battery E., under command of Lt.-Col. Shanly, will commence in a few days to perform their Annual Drill with guns and waggons of the Battery on sleighs. You will probably remember having held a Brigade Field day in London, on the 16th September last, when you inspected this fine battery, the number on parade being 2 Officers, 56 non-commissioned officers, gunners and drivers and 50 horses, at which time you also inspected the London Troop of Cavalry, numbering 3 officers, and 38 men and 41 horses; this troop, with the other "St. Thomas" Troop belonging to the Squadron, propose performing their Annual Drill next week.

I have to report that I have noticed a very great improvement in the drill of the battalions this year, and also I think that their arms, accoutrements and clothing were kept much cleaner than when in Billets as last year, and I consider the corps to be in a much more experienced state to take the field. But there is a general feeling that the period allowed for drill in camp is too limited and that the men had only commenced to get settled down to camp life when the day came for them to break up camp.

I have much satisfaction in reporting the zeal and energy of the officers, and that the general conduct of the men has been most exemplary, and highly creditable to them.

Since last year, one Battalion, (the 31st Battalion, County Grey,) has been moved from under my command, and 12 Companies in the District have failed to re-enroll, against which decrease five new Companies have been accepted, and I have to report the offers of many more new companies which only await to enroll themselves.

The 33rd Battalion at Goderich, upon your instructions, furnished the company of Garrison Artillery to man the guns on board the gunboat Prince Alfred, for the latter two months of the navigation on Lake Huron, which service they performed very efficiently and became very skilful at artillery practice with the guns.

The Target Practice this year has been unusually limited, in consequence of the unsettled state of the weather this season, and most corps have therefore postponed till better weather. A supply of 25 Targets was received and issued to the companies most in need, but a further supply is much required.

Generally the state of the arms and accoutrements of the corps is very efficient, the clothing in most cases servicable, but several companies will require new great coats for next drill, to this the Brigade Major will pay special attention, at their next inspection, and a Report will be forwarded you on the subject.

I have to suggest that a Hospital Marquee is much required for Battalions in camp,

and also a Marquee for the officers mess, the deficiency of the latter obliged most corps to go to an extra expense in building a mess house for themselves.

I have much pleasure in availing myself of this opportunity to express the valuable assistance which has been rendered by the Brigade Major and other Staff officers of the District under my command.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

JOHN B. TAYLOR, Lt.-Colonel,
Depy. Adjt. General Militia,
Military District No. 1.

The Adjutant General of Militia, Ottawa.

HEAD QUARTERS,
LONDON, ONT., 9th February, 1870.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward this supplementary Report of my Annual Inspection of the E, or London Field Battery Artillery Volunteer Militia, under command of Lt.-Colonel J. Shanly, which have now completed their Annual Drill, the greater part of which they have performed with the guns, &c., on sleighs.

I inspected this Battery on the 7th inst., but having sleigh equipments for only 3 guns, there were but 3 subdivisions or 9 carriages present on parade, with 2 officers, 60 men, and 45 horses.

I was much struck with the very efficient state of the Battery, both as to their movements on parade, the cleanliness of their equipments, and the servicable class of their horses; and the men with their new blue great coats looked remarkably well. The Battery fired several rounds of blank ammunition and the horses appeared steady under fire.

The average daily attendance during the Annual Drill has been 68 of all ranks.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

JOHN B. TAYLOR, Lt.-Colonel,
Depy. Adjt. General Militia,
Military District No. 1.

The Adjutant General Militia, Ottawa.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 2.

DEPUTY ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
TORONTO, 13th January, 1870.

SIR,—Agreeable to your instructions, I have now the honor to forward for your information, the accompanying Reports of the Inspections (Annual) of the Volunteer Militia Corps, which have performed their annual drill.

I beg also to append a List of the Volunteer Corps, which have not as yet performed their annual drill, and have not, therefore, been officially inspected for their annual drill pay, viz: Welland Field Battery, Toronto Garrison Battery, Collingwood Garrison Battery.

2nd Battalion Queen's Own Rifles, 10th Royals, 13th Battalion, 39th Battalion, and the Binbrook and Rockton Independent Companies. The strength of the Volunteer Militia Force, (all arms) in the strict under my command, still continues much the same.

The Volunteer Force have enrolled, and re-enrolled, under the Militia Act, in a far more satisfactory manner than was anticipated. At the same time, I consider it my duty to add that all praise is due, not only to the officers commanding battalions, but to the staff and company officers, in their praiseworthy exertions in upholding the strength and promoting the efficiency of their corps.

Agreeable to the general orders of the 5th and 25th June, 1869, the Volunteer Battalions have performed their annual drill under canvass. The advantages in every way of such drill cannot be over-estimated, as tending to promote the efficiency of the Force. Both officers and men prefer performing their drill under canvass.

With reference thereto, I would respectfully suggest that the lowest number of days both for *drill* and *pay* should be *eight*.

The formation of brigade camps, where the three arms of the force would be brought together, would be another great link in the chain of efficiency.

The companies of battalion having performed their annual drill together under canvass, there is a strong probability and fear that, on returning to their company head quarters, company drill, so essential, will be in some measure neglected, or rather there will be difficulty in getting the men to assemble for such drill.

I would respectfully suggest that some further inducements be held out to the men, in the shape of a small payment—say 20 cents per man—for a limited number of company drills during the year. Connected therewith, I would also suggest further encouragement being held out to the rank and file, as an inducement not only to fire off their annual allowance of ball cartridge, but to take part in rifle matches, and go into rifle shooting; a matter of vital importance to the Volunteer Force.

There must and always will be changes going on in the ranks of the Volunteer Force, which often impairs the efficiency of a corps; to meet that difficulty the above suggestions are respectfully offered in order to keep up company drill and company rifle shooting, thereby enabling officers commanding battalions, when performing their annual drill under canvass, devoting all that time (limited) to that branch of drill and field movements, which can only be made available at that time.

The general appearance, physique and efficiency of the force, still continues unimpaired.

The same desire and willingness to turn out and defend their flag and their country still animates the force as strongly now as ever.

The Return required of the rifle matches held in my District, will be forwarded in a few days.

It gives me pleasure to add that I have received the same cordial support and aid from the officers of the staff of the District, in the performance of their respective duties.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

WM. S. DURIE, Lieut.-Colonel,

Deputy Adjutant-General, Military District No. 2.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 3.

KINGSTON, July 12th, 1869.

SIR,—I have the honor to report to you, that I inspected the 16th "Prince Edward" Battalion of Volunteer Militia, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Walter Ross, at Picton, on Friday, the 9th inst., at 5 P.M., and the 15th battalion, under Lieutenant-Colonel A. Campbell, at a place two miles from Belleville, on Saturday, the 10th inst., at 9 A.M., in their respective camps, which had been formed since the previous Monday morning.

These corps maintain their character for discipline and general good conduct, as well as for cleanliness, and care of clothing, accoutrements and arms.

The parade-states were not prepared when the inspection took place: but when they are furnished they will be forwarded.

The new Militia Law has been the means of bringing many recruits to the ranks of these corps, who, having never before been subject to drill, the execution of battalion manoeuvres could not be expected to equal the performance of the same battalions, in this respect, on former occasions, when composed of experienced volunteers.

The camps were regularly formed, according to the rules of the service, and both the Lieutenant-Colonels reported to me that the men had remained in camp the whole week, day and night.

The arrangements for cooking, and supplying the messes, were good. It was believed that 25 cents a head would cover all the cost of their commissariat.

The 16th battalion encamped within the ground of the Agricultural Society, at Picton, enclosed by a high board fence. They had erected a long shed for kitchens, and the shed was partitioned off for each company. Each partition was provided with a cooking-stove, and a rough deal table. Water was supplied by a water cart from a spring in the neighbourhood: 400 pails of water, per diem, being sufficient for the wants of the camp.

The 15th Battalion encamped about two miles from Belleville, on the shore of the Bay of Quinté, and built their kitchens on the ground.]

Great care had been taken of the Government tents and blankets, which would be returned into store at Kingston, on the breaking up of the camps.

Some of the tent poles were reported as too weak for the weight of the tents, and several of them were broken in consequence.

This first attempt at encamping Volunteer Corps for annual drill, has been successful, and appears to have given general satisfaction to all concerned.

If the country could depend upon the same men remaining, continuously, the six days, after they were once well drilled, would be sufficient to keep up their efficiency, but as the rank and file are constantly liable to change, I am of opinion that six days once a year, is not nearly sufficient to get the men into proper form; and, in fact, amounts to little more than a muster parade, which, in former times, took place on one day in each year, at a trifling cost comparatively, to the public. If, however, one fourth

of the quota for each Province, assembled for one month every fourth year, alternately, in one camp, under the personal supervision of the District Staff Officers, a better value would be obtained for the money expended than under the present system, which involves a considerable outlay, without corresponding advantage.

The District Paymaster accompanied me, and paid the sums due to the men in all cases where the captains were ready with their acquittance rolls.

The District Quartermaster was also present to see the equipment properly packed and shipped to the Provincial Store, at Kingston.

His report will be forwarded, when ready, and the damages assessed.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

S. P. JARVIS, Lt.-Col.

D.A.G.M., M.D. No. 3.

To the Adjutant-General Militia of Canada, Ottawa.

D. A. GENERAL'S OFFICE,

KINGSTON, 1st November, 1869.

SIR,—In obedience to your instructions, I have now the honor to submit a report upon the state of the Volunteer force and Militia, in Military District No. 3, at present under my commands, which embraces two Brigade Divisions and sixteen Regimental Divisions, viz., 6th Brigade Division, under Brigade Major Patterson, comprising the counties of East and West Ridings of Durham, North and South Ridings of Victoria, East and West Ridings of Peterborough, and East and West Ridings of Northumberland; 7th Brigade Division, under Lieutenant Colonel Shaw, Brigade Major, comprising North, East and West Riding of Hastings, Prince Edward, Lennox, Addington, Frontenac, and City of Kingston. The following is an abstract of the nominal strength of the Volunteer Militia in the District :—

MILITARY DISTRICT, No. 3.

| Arms. | Battalions. | Troops, Batteries, and Companies. | 6th Brigade Division. | 7th Brigade Division. | Total in District of all ranks. | |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cavalry..... | | 5 | 123 | 160 | 283 | |
| Field Battery..... | | 1 | | 80 | 80 | |
| Garrison Batteries..... | | 4 | 116 | 116 | 232 | |
| Rifles and Infantry..... | 10 | 66 | 1656 | 2245 | 3901 | Grand Total all Ranks, 4496. |
| Total..... | 10 | 76 | 1895 | 2601 | 4496 | |

The following Corps of Volunteer Militia, as detailed in the accompanying return have not yet been inspected, viz: the Napanee Troop of Cavalry, Napanee, Cobourg, and Port Hope Garrison Batteries, 14th Battalion, or "Princess of Wales" Rifles, Kingston, and one company of the 45th Battalion, at Orono, which failed to muster with the battalion in camp; these corps being permitted to perform the annual drills, at such time as may be convenient to them, during the year, will be inspected early in the ensuing spring, or before the end of the financial year.

Besides the force under my command, the following companies of the Grand Trunk Brigade, are stationed within the district; one Company Rifles at Kingston, two Companies Rifles, at Belleville, and one Rifle Company, at Port Hope.

ARMS AND ACCOUTREMENTS.

As will be observed by the detailed reports upon each corps in the district, the arms and accoutrements, with very few exceptions are in good order, a large number of the accoutrements are of the obsolete pattern, and not serviceable, would recommend an issue of new accoutrements in exchange. Since the date of my inspection, the arms, &c., have been distributed to the Volunteers for safe keeping, in accordance with orders from head quarters, and with a view of ascertaining that these arms are being properly cared for in the hands of the men, Commanding Officers have been directed to detail Subaltern and Non-commissioned Officers, to inspect frequently the arms, &c., in their several localities.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT.

The uniform clothing of the various corps, is generally in fair order, but as already reported, some of the Battalions will soon require a fresh issue, Cavalry cloaks are required for the several troops in the district, and several Infantry Companies will require more Great Coats; all the Battalion have been supplied with Great Coat Straps, Haversacks, and Water Bottles, as shewn in the accompanying return.

TARGET PRACTICE.

The Returns of Target Practice, have not been received regularly, and in the absence of information, it is impossible to report as to the extent volunteers have availed themselves of this part of their duty. With a view of affording several companies increased facilities for target practice, a certain number of iron targets, in addition to those already in possession of Battalions, are now being distributed, under the direction of Brigade Majors; a return of the number of targets in the district, will be found in the appendix.

RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS AND MATCHES.

There are several Rifle Associations in the district, one at Kingston, in connection with the 14th Battalion Rifles, and one of the 47th Battalion, "County of Hastings Rifle Association," Belleville, and "County of Peterborough Rifle Association," at Peterborough, at all these places good ranges exist. A number of Rifle Matches in connection with

these Associations took place during the year, returns of which will be submitted. A good many of the volunteers in the district, having affiliated with the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association, competed successfully in the Rifle Matches, at the Toronto Meeting in September last.

DRILL SHEDS.

There are Six Battalion (3 and 2 Company) Drill Sheds, and Sixteen one Company Drill Sheds, within the district, at various stations, as detailed in the accompanying return, all of which, with five exceptions, have been erected through Government Aid.

DRILL ASSOCIATIONS.

There are Nine Drill Associations in the district, viz: Kingston—"Kingston Cadets," composed of pupils of the Grammar school—in possession of carbine and accoutrements, "Queen's University," composed of students of Queen's College "Kingston," no arms or accoutrements in possession. "Cataraqui Drill Association," composed of cadets of common schools, not armed, at Belleville. "Belleville Cadets," composed of passed candidates of military schools. At Picton, "Picton Union School," composed of the pupils of the school. Cobourg "Grammar School Drill Association." Port Hope "Trinity College Drill Association," and "Grammar School Drill Association." Peterborough "Grammar and Union School Association." The "Trinity College Association" is armed with Enfield Rifles.

ANNUAL DRILL IN CAMP.

It becomes a pleasing duty for me to report, upon the success which has attended the system of assembling the Volunteer Militia, for consecutive drill in camp, during the period recently concluded, the various corps appeared to have taken good advantage of the short time at their disposal, in acquiring a very creditable degree of proficiency, and the experience thus attained, cannot fail to be attended with the most beneficial results; the zealous attention, and desire manifested by all ranks, to perfect themselves in their military duties, is worthy of high commendation.

The experience of the past year or two, has convinced me, that the number of days drill prescribed annually in camp, is too limited, and, I venture to suggest might be increased, with the greatest benefit to the force, to at least ten or twelve days, reserving a certain number of days, for drill at company head quarters, preparatory to the assembling of battalion in camp, this suggestion, is fully supported by the opinion of Commanding Officers of Corps, and having in view the convenience of the volunteers generally, in the rural districts, I would strongly recommend, that the period of the year for assembling corps in camp, for the annual drill, should be fixed between seed time and harvest, say from 10th June, to the 10th July.

In order to afford an opportunity for corps to practise more extended movements, in the field, in large bodies, I would suggest, for your favorable consideration, the desirability of forming a Brigade Camp next year, in each Brigade Division, to be under the command

of a Staff Officer of the district, in which two or three battalions, with Cavalry and Artillery, might assemble together.

It will be observed, by the accompanying returns, that the musters of the various corps, in the district, have been highly satisfactory, the average of Cavalry per troop, being 3 officers, and 48 non-commissioned officers and men; Artillery, 4 officers, and 59 non-commissioned officers and men; Infantry, per company, 3 officers, and 46 non-commissioned officers and men.

Under this head, it may be proper for me to mention, that I had observed during my inspection of several corps, that the reduction of \$1.50 per man, from the usual annual drill pay, had not a pleasing effect upon the force, and several municipalities, especially in the Regimental Division of East Durham, supplemented the drill pay for this year, by an allowance of 30 cents per diem, for each man and horse, of the volunteers belonging to that section.

CAMP EQUIPMENT.

The tents issued by the department, gave the greatest satisfaction, and are certainly as good and servicable as could be wished for, but the tent poles were found defective, being too slight, and quite inadequate to support the strain upon them, bending and breaking in many instances; almost all commanding officers of camps, have reported against them.

It has been suggested by Commanding Officers, that when corps are again ordered into camp, some sort of coarse ticking be provided for the purpose of enclosing straw for beds, some of them report that they "found great and endless trouble in keeping their camps clean and tidy, owing to the loose straw being constantly dragged out of the tents."

FIELD DAYS.

In the absence of Lieutenant-Colonel Jarvis, D.A.G., of Militia, whose duties I assumed under general order, on the 1st August last, I am unable to report, as to the field-days, in which Corps in the District may have participated, previous to that date. I am informed, however, that on the Queen's birthday and 1st July last, the 14th Battalion Volunteer Rifles, Kingston Troop of Cavalry and Field Battery, took part in a review and field day with the Royal Canadian Rifles, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Hibbert, on Barrifield Common.

During the period of Annual Drill on the 17th September, a field-day took place near Kingston, the force consisting of the Volunteer Brigade in camp, viz.—the Squadron of Frontenac Cavalry, Kingston Field Battery, the 47th and 48th Battalions, the whole being under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton.

According to arrangements made under my direction, the Northumberland and Durham Squadron of Cavalry, the 40th and 46th Battalions took part in a field-day and sham fight, at a point midway between Cobourg and Port Hope on the forenoon of the

28th September, details of which appear in the inspection returns. The day passed off well, and without casualty, except a cavalry officer getting his leg severely bruised by a fall from his horse.

VISIT OF H.R.H. PRINCE ARTHUR.

On the occasion of the visit of His Excellency the Governor General, and His Royal Highness Prince Arthur, on the 6th October last, Guards of Honor were furnished by the Volunteer Militia, at several stations within the district, as the royal party proceeded on their way eastward to Kingston, viz :

At *Port Hope*, a detachment of the 46th Battalion, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Williams ; at *Cobourg*, a detachment of the 40th Battalion, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Smith ; and at *Belleville*, detachments from the 15th and 49th Battalions, and the 3rd Battalion Grand Trunk Brigade, the whole being under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, of the 15th.

On arrival at Kingston, Guards of Honor of 100 men each, were detailed from the 14th, or "Princess of Wales' own Rifles," Lieutenant-Colonel Callaghan, and the 47th Battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton ; the Escort duty being performed by the 1st Troop "Frontenac" Cavalry, under command of Major Duff.

The Kingston Field Battery, under command of Major Drummond, fired a royal salute, on arrival and departure of His Royal Highness, and also during the visit to the provincial Penitentiary and Rockwood Asylum.

An officers' Guard from the 14th Battalion, "Princess of Wales," was maintained at the residence of His Excellency the Governor General, during his stay in Kingston.

The occasion was such as to call forth the greatest enthusiasm on the part of the Volunteer Force, and the satisfactory manner in which the several Corps performed their duty in honor of the distinguished visitors, is worthy of high praise.

On leaving Kingston, His Excellency the Governor General was graciously pleased to convey his thanks to the officers of the Militia Staff, and Volunteers of the several corps who turned out for duty on the occasion.

STAFF.

On assuming the temporary command of the district, the following officers comprised the Staff at Head Quarters, Kingston, viz. :—Lieutenant-Colonel Shaw, Brigade Major ; Lieutenant-Colonel Strange, District Paymaster ; Major Phillips, District Quarter-master ; and Lieutenant-Colonel Patterson, Brigade Major, 6th Division, at Cobourg. To these officers I am much indebted for the aid they have afforded me in their several departments.

During my recent inspection of the various camps in the district, I was accompanied by one of the Brigade Majors, and the District Paymaster ; on each occasion the latter officer issued the drill pay to all corps, with promptness, enabling the volunteers of any corps, without exception, to receive the money due to them, before leaving for their homes. I need hardly remark that these satisfactory arrangements were duly appreciated by the force. The District Quarter-master, or his representative, was present at the

breaking up of each camp, to receive over the camp equipments, and arrange for its transport, and through his personal supervision of this department, the stoppages for loss, and damages, were comparatively of small amount.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. MACPHERSON,

Colonel Robertson-Ross,

Lieut.-Colonel,

Adjutant General of Militia, Ottawa.

D. A. A. G. Militia

M. D. No. 3.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 4.

BROCKVILLE, January 8th, 1870.

SIR,—I have the honor to report that the battalions that were assembled in camp derived great benefit from their being encamped even for such a short time, but six days is much too short and twelve, or fourteen, would show a most marked improvement, as the battalions only just began to get shaken into camp life, and to drill steadily as a battalion when they had to return home.

The transport allowance was also found not to be sufficient, in this district, to pay the officers, and meet expenses in joining the camps, even although the railway companies most generously undertook to convey them at considerably reduced fares, and the general opinion seems to be, as far as I can find out, that if a fixed rate per mile was allowed to every man, commencing from the Company's Headquarters to where the camp is formed, it would be more satisfactory.

I have further to report, that there is in many localities in this District, great difficulty in procuring suitable ground for encampments, and where no Government ground exists much expense had to be borne by the Volunteers, unless relieved, which in Brockville, and some other stations, they have been by the kind assistance of the Town and Country Council, who have rented the necessary ground.

I would also most respectfully suggest, that if the Volunteer Companies are called out for any longer period than six days that they be allowed to perform three or four days' drill at their Company Headquarters, to perfect them in company drill, and thus fit them, when they join the camps, to acquire more quickly battalion and brigade movements.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

F. T. ATCHERLEY,

Lieut.-Colonel,

D. A. G. Militia,

The Adjutant General of Militia, Ottawa.

M. D. No. 4.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 5.

MONTREAL, JANUARY 2ND, 1870.

SIR.—In accordance with your instructions, I have the honor to transmit to you herewith, an abstract of Report of the Corps, in the District under my command, which have performed the annual drill for the "Financial year" ending June 30th, 1870.

In presenting this report to you, I have respectfully to draw your attention to the fact that of the Corps belonging to the City of Montreal, in my District, none have as yet undergone the annual inspection for the current year, as their drill has not, as yet, been performed; this is in a great measure owing to the fact that no facilities in the way of Drill Hall and Armoury have been at their disposal. The commanding officers of all the Corps however, inform me that it is their intention vigorously to prosecute the drill of their corps directly the new Drill Shed, lately erected by the City of Montreal, is available.

Although it would be premature for me to report individually on the Montreal Corps in my District, I may state generally that with a few exceptions much re-organization is required to bring them to a satisfactory condition of efficiency, and I shall have the honor, at an early date of making a special report to you on this subject.

Turning from the City to the rural corps in my District, it is highly gratifying to me to be enabled again, this year to make a most satisfactory report of these fine battalions, which, drawn almost exclusively from the backwoods, and frontier districts, present a body of men whose physique is only equalled by their zeal for, and aptitude in acquiring military knowledge.

The spirit which animates this force is, I think, best exemplified by the extraordinarily large proportion of men, as compared to the nominal strength of corps, which is shown in the attendance in camp for the annual drill; and this, too, it is to be remarked in the face of a certain amount of disappointment, involved by the curtailment of a portion of the annual drill pay. Reference to the Abstract of Inspections which I have previously alluded to, will show a larger proportion of men than have previously attended any annual drill, since I have had charge of the District.

The system of annual training in camp, instead of, as heretofore, (with partial exceptions), by drill at desultory periods, has proved a complete success, and whilst it has given universal satisfaction to both officers and men, will tend to the most beneficial results as regards efficiency.

I would, however, most respectfully recommend, if found practicable, that future periods of annual training may be held in brigade instead of, as in the past instance, by battalions; the report which, in the course of a few days, I shall, in accordance with your orders, have the honor of presenting to you on this subject, will fully embody my views as to the points for, and expense of, such concentration of corps for annual drill.

As the special report ordered by you, and which I have the honor to forward herewith, embodies all details of interest connected with the inspection of corps; the necessity of my recapitulating here the individual inspections which I have made, is obviated.

The target practice returns and abstract of Rifle Matches held in my District, which I have already forwarded, will show you the progress made in this respect.

On this subject I would respectfully recommend to your favourable consideration the advisability of a somewhat increased allowance of ammunition being made, both of ball and blank, as tending further to foster this highly important branch of military training.

In concluding this report to you, I beg to express the satisfaction I feel, and the cheerful aid and assistance at all times given to me by the officers of the staff of the District under my command.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. OSBORNE SMITH.

Lt-Col. D.A.G. Militia.

Mil. District, No. 5.

The Adjutant General of Militia, &c, &c, &c.

Ottawa.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 6.

MILITIA OFFICE.

MONTREAL, 7th January, 1870.

Sir,—With reference to your instructions, I have the honor to make you the following Report.

I entered on my duties on the 1st January, 1869. My District comprises the 4th, 5th, and 6th Brigade Divisions.

At the time of my assuming the office, there were in my District, only eight companies of Volunteers, and seven drill associations in all.

The Volunteer Companies were those at

| | | |
|--------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 4th Division | Como..... | Captain McNaughton. |
| | Lachine..... | „ Wright. |
| | Beauharnois No. 1..... | Major Martin, |
| | do. do. 2..... | Captain Prudhomme. |
| 5th Division | Ste Martine..... | „ Turcot. |
| | Three Rivers..... | „ Antrobus. |
| 6th Division | Joliette..... | „ Shepherd. |
| | St. Hyacinthe..... | „ St. Jacques. |

The Drill Associations, all formed in our principal Colleges were those at

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 4th Brigade Division | Terrebonne. |
| | Beauharnois. |
| | Ste. Therese. |

| | | |
|--------------|---|------------------------|
| 5th Division | { | L'Assomption, |
| | | Joliette, |
| | | Three Rivers. |
| 6th Division | { | Nicolet, |
| | | Ste. Marie de Monnoir. |

The small number of Volunteers enrolled in our French Canadian Counties, would have been sufficient to discourage the most zealous, were it not that the sentiments of patriotism and loyalty of the Canadians fulfilled the expectations of the Hon. the Minister of Militia.

Thanks to the efforts of our Brigade Majors, the number of Volunteer Companies actually organized and gazetted, and the equipment of which still continues every day, amounts in the 4th Brigade Division to 24 Volunteer Companies—of which two regiments are at Montreal—one at Beauharnais, and six independent companies, and four drill associations, numbering six companies.

In the 5th Brigade Division, there are now eleven Volunteer Companies, which I would wish to see formed into a Battalion,—and three Drill Associations.

The 6th Brigade Division comprises sixteen Volunteer Companies, organized and gazetted, of which fourteen are equipped and armed, the two others are still waiting for their uniforms and arms, besides three drill associations.

Several Companies are still being organized. I regret very much that the allowance for Drill Instruction in the Colleges has been stopped.

These associations were really of great assistance to the Militia, in diffusing a military spirit.

The young gentlemen instructed in the Colleges, who have there acquired military tastes, and who afterwards by their position in society, would have been able to popularize our military system, are now likely to be greatly discouraged, and we may be deprived of their services, should occasion require them.

DRILL AND CAMPS.

With the exception of two battalions, the Chasseurs Canadiens, and the Mont Royal Rifles, two or three old companies performed their drill last Autumn, for 1869-70.

I have not allowed newly organized Corps to drill merely to receive pay from the Government.

I thought that it would be better to allow these new recruits to acquire some military knowledge, and a little drill, so as to enable them to derive more profit from their drill in Camp next Summer.

Under particular arrangements with Lieutenant Colonel Osborne Smith, D. A. G. Military District, No. 5, as the number of tents allowed by the Government, to our Military Districts, was not sufficient to meet the requirements of the moment. I lent him the tents required for my District, in return, I am to get from Military District No. 5, any tents I may need in June next, to enable the Volunteers under my command to perform the days drill required by the Government.

Three Companies were enabled to perform their drill for 1869-70, last fall, under tents—the best results have followed these companies. These companies are,

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| St. Simon, Captain Sylvestre, | 38 men. |
| St. Pie, „ Chagnon, | 55 „ |
| St. Hyacinthe „ St. Jacques, | 52 „ |

Total 145 „

present in Camp.

These Companies assembled at St. Hyacinthe on the 20th October, 1869, the St. Simon Company marched, in marching order, as far as St. Hyacinthe, a distance of nine miles, the men performed the march in four hours, the roads were very bad, but they endured their first march very well.

The St. Pie Company, having a distance of eleven miles to travel, proceeded to St. Hyacinthe by steamboat. Capt. Chagnon deducted the cost of the transport from themen's pay.

These three Companies were placed under the command of Captain St. Jacques, Lieutenant Corcoran acting as Adjutant.

Twenty-two tents were sent from Montreal for the use of the Camp, but only eighteen were used; two hundred blankets were distributed to the officers and men; the weather was already very cold and changable.

The men did not receive rations; but by particular arrangements between the Volunteers and the Citizens, the board of the men during their six days service did not average more than twenty cents per day. The conduct of the men was exemplary.

The drill in Camp, consisted in the morning of Squad drill and Company drill; in the afternoon of Battalion drill and Skirmishing; in the evening, posting sentries and rounds. The men were paid on the last day of service.

There were no entries in the Defaulter's book, which proves much in favour of men who knew nothing of service on arriving in Camp.

I have remarked generally, that the country soldiers were more enduring, and able to bear more fatigue than those from the cities.

There are still several other Companies in course of organization, in Military District No. 6, which I have the honour to command.

I am to bring to your notice in conclusion that the delay in the distribution of arms, accoutrements, &c., has the effect of causing discouragement amongst the Volunteers.

During last Autumn there was a Rifle Match held at Berthier—Lieutenant-Colonel Hanson, Brigade Major—which was crowned with great success. I had the honor to send you at the time, a complete report of it.

I trust, Sir, that you will be satisfied with this my first report, and believe me with the highest consideration,

Your very obedient servant,

A. C. de LOTBINIERE-HARWOOD,

Lieutenant-Colonel, D.A.G. M.,

The Adjutant-General Militia, Canada.

Military District, No. 6.

MILITARY DISTRICT, No. 7.

HEAD QUARTERS,
 QUEBEC, 7th January, 1870.

SIR,—I have the honor to report that twelve battalions, and four independent companies of the active force in this district have now performed the thirteen day's drill, authorised for the year ending 30th June, 1870. I beg to forward, herewith, an abstract of inspection for the same. The rural Battalions drilled in camp, according to orders, and the Quebec Garrison Artillery, and 9th Rifles, have also been authorised to perform their annual drill in camp. In two instances, one company of the Battalion has been allowed to put in the yearly paid drill time at its own company head quarters. These are the Matane Company, distant sixty miles from the battalion head quarters at Rimouski, and the Township Langevin Company about as far distant, and which had to come through an unsettled District, and by such roads as are next to impassable. These companies, in the abstract annexed, are entered with the independent companies, thereby reducing by so much the strength of their respective battalions.

Nearly the whole of this force is composed of new levies, there being, with the exception of Quebec and Levis, only three Volunteer companies in the whole district, previous to the coming into operation of the Militia Act of 1868. The Quebec Garrison Artillery, 9th Rifles, 17th and 55th Battalions, and St. Sylvester companies re-enrolled under the law, although having a considerable number of recruits, are old corps, already reported on favorably in former years. They appear not only to have maintained their former efficiency, but to have considerably improved. The zeal and alacrity with which officers of all ranks perform their duty is deserving of all praise, and is the chief cause of the efficiency attained. As an instance of the earnestness and liberality of officers for the good of the service, I may mention that Lieutenant-Colonel Bowen, and the officers of the Quebec Garrison Artillery, finding that their men could get no great gun-practice elsewhere than at the Island of Orleans, actually took their brigade, with its heavy material, camping equipage, &c., at their own expense, to the range at that island, and remained there during the whole time of their annual training. The charges for transport of the men, material of all sorts, and daily rations were very considerable, and I think it can hardly be expected that officers should every year be put to such unusual and heavy expense for the good of the public. I would, therefore, respectfully recommend that, in future, the Quebec Garrison Artillery be given the transport allowance allowed to rural corps. This would enable them to have some great-gun practice every year, without which Artillery, however well disciplined and drilled, cannot be considered efficient. While on this subject, I would beg leave, respectfully, to submit that Artillery, having, besides infantry drill to learn, also the working and practice of its own arm, should be allowed more time for training every year than is given to Infantry. Sixteen days a year being already much too short a time for Infantry, becomes altogether insufficient for Artillery, with more than twice the amount of drill and training to go through. The same remark applies to Cavalry having equitation sword drill, and mounted and dis-

mounted drill to go through. I would, therefore, recommend that cavalry and artillery be allowed and paid for twice the number of days' training allowed for infantry.

Of the commanders of the old-established corps, I cannot speak too highly. Their tact and discretion in dealing with the men, their ever ready and hearty support of authority, their gentle yet firm and uncompromising enforcing of discipline, and obedience to orders, have been invaluable, and given a tone and standing to the Militia of this District, which has contributed much not only to the efficiency of their respective corps, but rendered possible the raising of a very large, and entirely new, and untrained force, which in the very short time of twenty-one days, bids fair to rival the old one.

The new battalions and companies have shown great aptitude, readiness, and good behaviour. The commanders, although, of course, a little wanting in experience, do their utmost, and appear well chosen and fitted for their rank and duties. The company officers are generally efficient and willing; but I regret to say that, in some instances, I have remarked a want of knowledge of the duties and privileges of each rank, and the knowledge of drill and discipline, has been insufficient. This is owing, perhaps, in some measure, to the length of time that elapsed since these officers have obtained their certificates from the Military School, and also to want of aptitude, and deficient training when there. Altogether, the new levies have done very well, and far surpassed my expectations. Their drill, though somewhat loose, is much better than regulars usually do in the same number of days. They are easily kept in hand, by an officer used to command, and if called on service a very short time, would make them equal to any other troops for actual practical work, though they would, of course, appear to disadvantage for parade and show work when brigaded with men of several years training.

CAMPS.

Camps for Battalions were formed at Leeds, Ste. Claire, Levis, Montmagny, Kamouraska, River du Loup, Rimouski, St. Ambroise, Point aux Trembles, and St. Geneviève de Batiscan. The camping equipage was good, with the exception of tent poles, which are made of "swamp ash," and break very easily under the pressure of tents when the wind is at all strong. These, I consider, should be replaced by better material, as it entails expense that can be avoided by securing good ones in the first instance. The attendance, considering the season of the year, has been very fair, averaging something like 49 per company. The drilling and training of the men in camp is much better attended to under supervision of commanding officer than it would be were the men, as heretofore, to drill in their own parish; besides, it affords opportunity for battalion and skirmishing drill, and accustoms the men to drill as a corps, and tends to create that feeling of *esprit de corps* almost indispensable, especially in Militia, having so little training. The men were put through the most useful battalion movements, in addition to squad and company drill, manual and platoon exercises, and began practicing skirmishing. They went through the whole very fairly for the time they have been in the service. I would strongly recommend that brigade camps be formed next year where three or more battalions could be brought together under an experienced officer.

TARGET PRACTICE.

There has been very little target practice this year, owing to want of proper targets. And although this District boasts of some of the crack shots in the Dominion, especially in the 8th Battalion, I am sorry to say that, for want of ranges and targets, the firing in this District has been up to this time much neglected generally. The Rifle Associations already formed, and in course of formation, however, will, it is hoped, now that something has been done in the way of supplying targets, make a wholesome change in this respect. For the number of associations formed, and the firing they made, I beg to refer to the return forwarded by me on the subject.

DRILL SHEDS.

There is only one drill shed in the whole District—at Quebec: the lighting of which is very expensive. I believe a considerable saving could be made by altering the present system, and changing the pipes and burners. Steps have been taken with a view of having suitable drill sheds built at Rivière du Loup and Ste. Geneviève.

ARMOURIES.

In Quebec there is a public armoury, where arms, &c., are kept at the public expense. It is very inconvenient and insufficient. A good and proper armoury could be built in rear of the drill shed. The rural corps have their arms in charge of the captains of companies, who provide private armouries or storage for the safe-keeping of the arms, uniforms, and accoutrements of their respective companies for the Government allowance of forty dollars per annum. The arms, &c., are well taken care of, and favorable reports are made by the Brigade-Majors at their semi-annual inspections.

CLOTHING.

The clothing of new corps, having been but a short time in use, is in good order. Some of the old corps, however, having had no issue at the end of their five years as entitled to by the clothing regulations, are very badly off. The Quebec Garrison Artillery, for instance, with a large balance to the credit of its clothing account, is still in old and much-worn uniforms, which takes a great deal from their appearance on parade. The cavalry have had no cloaks, and when parading in mid-winter, generally prefer doing so in summer uniform to wearing some infantry great coats, ill-adapted to the movements of a horseman, and suffer a great deal from the inclemency of the weather.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

L. A. CASAULT, Lieut.-Col., D.A.G.

M. D. No 7

Col. P. ROBERTSON-ROSS,
Adjutant General, Ottawa.

MILITARY DISTRICT, No. 8.

DEPUTY-ADJUDANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

FREDERICTON, N.B., 12th January, 1870.

SIR,—In compliance with your instructions I have the honor to transmit the Inspection Returns and Reports hereto appended, and to submit the subjoined remarks as to the general efficiency of the Volunteer Force in District No. 8, New Brunswick, under my command. With the view to point out more clearly the steps towards efficiency taken during the year, it has been customary, in previous Reports, to take up the statement where last left off. I cannot do better on this occasion than endeavour to pursue that course. At the time when the last Annual Report was issued—February 1869—the Militia Law of the Dominion had been but a brief period in operation; various were the surmisings as to the conditions of service of the Volunteer Force, and men were in consequence tardy in subscribing their name to the rolls. The number shown as enrolled in New Brunswick in that Report was 1789, being 1475 below the authorised quota. I may here state that, although New Brunswick has been ever remarkable for the military ardour of its people, the total strength of the Volunteer Force at no time exceeded 2,000 of all ranks. This may be accounted for in many ways. This military ardour seems to have been handed down from father to son from an early period, and to have been aided and increased from time to time by infusion of the "Old Soldier" element from the Imperial Army, now settled in the country, and whether in the annual drill of the old Militia with, in many instances, well drilled officers, or in the more recent formation of Home Guards, or in the Volunteer movement, it has at all times been the pride of the loyal and patriotic to take part in that which has for its object "preparation for defence."

The Volunteers, however, it will be observed, did not compose the only force in the Province, not even the only Local Force; the zealous and energetic were also to be found in other branches of the service; and, although the annual Government grant for Militia purposes was on an increasing scale previous to the law of the Dominion coming into force, the amount at the disposal of the Commander in Chief to be expended on the Volunteers was comparatively small, so small, indeed that many pressing wants of the force were unprovided, and the command of a corps was, too often, a bill of expense on the officers, and the men had, in most instances, either to purchase uniform clothing or to contribute largely towards its purchase, besides having to meet the incidental expenses of the corps. All this while, I must add, those who failed to join the Local Forces were satisfied to allow others to bear the whole burden of the day.

On its being made known, a year ago, that New Brunswick should furnish 3,264 volunteers, or, failing that, resort to the draft, whilst some deemed it impracticable to organise so large a force in times of peace; others delayed joining it, awaiting specific instructions as to the conditions of service, or being too credulous of exaggerated, or ill-founded rumors respecting the nature of the service. On their being assured, however, that all should be placed on the same footing as their brethren in other parts of the

Dominion, that inducements and advantages are held out to them such as cannot fail to come up to their expectation, I entertained no doubt as to the ultimate successful results. I have now much satisfaction in stating that the progress attained during the past year is all that could be desired. The required quota has been completed; and, far from the task being a difficult one, the numerous offers of service on the part of officers and men to form additional corps, received subsequently to the quota being filled, though of course it is impossible to accept them, fully proves that the volunteer movement is being daily more appreciated and held in estimation. It is true that more advancement in this respect has been made at some places than at others.

Lieut.-Colonel Otty, in a recent report, states that the little interest manifested by the people of St. John in the Volunteer organization is a serious obstacle to be overcome, this is more to be regretted as the citizens of St. John have every reason to be proud of their Volunteers. The Brigade of Artillery possesses as fine a body of men, as regards physique and general training, as any in the Dominion. The 62nd Battalion, and New Brunswick Engineers, too, are well drilled and efficient corps. The lack of interest is also apparent at other places, happily but few, and I sincerely hope that the community generally will ere long become fully sensible of the fact that as the Imperial troops are being withdrawn the Local Force becomes the standing army of Canada, ready and willing to repel invasion, or aid the civil power and maintain peace within our borders, and surely it is not too much to ask for support and encouragement from the people. I may, perhaps, be allowed, on behalf of the force of New Brunswick, to express my acknowledgments to the Lieutenant Governor, the Hon. L. A. Wilmot, himself a volunteer of some standing, not only for his presence on any opportunity which offers to advance the interests of the force, but his Honor, too, is ever ready with his voice to instil fresh ardour and love for the service. Thanks are also due for the valuable assistance which the Press has invariably afforded all those who have the welfare of the Force at heart. I propose to embody in my inspection reports some brief extracts from the local newspapers, indicating the high opinion formed of the Force, and as a contrast to the statements regarding the lack of interest manifested at some places. And here I may quote part of a letter published in the "Daily Telegraph" from the pen of an old Militia Captain, dated Bathurst, November 24th, 1869:—"Having referred to the highly creditable degree of proficiency attained by the Bathurst Volunteers, as well as the attention paid to their welfare by Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. John Ferguson and others he adds, "By untiring zeal and efficient aid liberally supplied most of those obstacles which are always found in the way of any new movement, have already disappeared. The public are now regarding the Volunteer movement, apart from consideration of a mere military character. The organising of a band of steady, active and loyal young men, clothed in the scarlet livery of our Queen, with her arms on their shoulders, and her love in their hearts, is a sunny spot in this remote corner of the British Empire; and it is refreshing to perceive that the old taunt, 'playing at soldiers,' has become an obsolete expression, and that all classes of the community appear now to be fully alive to the value and vital importance of 'Volunteer movements.'"

I may with truth add that the Force of New Brunswick is justly entitled to the support of the community, I feel proud of the honor of commanding it.

It is composed of excellent material, every section of the Province is well represented; we have the hardy North-shore men, the merchants and mechanics of St. John, and other cities, and, last not least, the wealthy farmers of the River St. John, and the frontier counties.

In speaking of the excellent material of the force, I am proud to know that his Excellency the Governor General and the Hon. the Minister of Militia and Defence formed high opinions of the soldierly bearing of the officers and men composing the guards of honor at the various places visited during their recent tour in New Brunswick.

H.R.H. Prince Arthur, too, was pleased to express himself in terms of praise at the general appearance of the Force.

It is hardly necessary to revert to the manner in which the members of the Force of my District, and of Canada generally, I believe responded to the order to hold themselves in readiness to proceed on active service on short notice. An order such as that "tests the metal," so to speak, of the Force, and to its credit, be it stated, in less than (24) twenty-four hours after the issue of the order, every man was as ready as willing, to meet any enemy whose object was to disturb the country's peace. And at that time, whether travelling by rail or in steamboat, one not unfrequently heard such expressions as this, "No lack of Volunteers now-a-days." Indeed if required the "Reserve" Militia would speedily send a valuable "support" to our volunteers or "advance guards."

During the past year steps have been taken in order to secure the division of the Force into battalions, as far as practicable, under the command of competent officers.

The Force is now divided into corps as follows:—

One (1) Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry.

Seven (7) Troops.

One (1) Brigade of Artillery.

Ten (10) Battalions.

One (1) Field Battery of Artillery.

Three (3) Battalions of Infantry.

Six (6) Companies each (an additional Battalion has lately been recommended.

Isolated companies remain.

Some of these last named may yet be formed into battalions, and it is to be hoped that all, or nearly so, may be drilled in battalions.

A return recently submitted, served to shew how effectively concentration of corps can be carried out in the event of invasion, or internal disturbance at any point, and doubtless this concentration of corps will be facilitated yearly, in proportion as improvement in the efficiency of the entire force is effected and as the means of communication are made easy.

It is a subject of congratulation to all that the Hon. The Minister of Militia and Defence has this important object in view, and I earnestly hope that the formation of Brigade Camps for Rural Corps may shortly be authorized.

* It was disbanded the following year.

As regards means of locomotion, such a step of advancement in this particular, has been made in this Province during the past two (2) years as to surpass the expectations of the most sanguine.

It therefore only remains, in order to carry out this system of concentration of forces, adopted with such advantage in European armies, that the necessary additional funds for transports be obtained; and it is well known that the money appropriated for this service, as is the case in all militia appropriations, will be spent in the country, and on those who, directly or indirectly, contributed to its revenue.

It cannot be denied that to reap full benefit from the period allotted for drill in camps, corps must previously be carefully drilled at their respective Head Quarters. I may here with truth assert that each arm of the Service in my District, is in a rapidly improving condition, in proof of this assertion I need but refer you to the Inspection Returns of the Brigade Majors, as well as my own, in fact in most instances corps have attained a very creditable degree of proficiency, of course this degree of proficiency cannot be expected in all new corps, in some of which there is much to learn, and in all (old and new) there is still room for improvement.

Having complied with the instructions, regulating, drills, and field manoeuvres, contained in your circular of the 19th July last, the following results, amongst others, have accrued: "The Recruit" has found that the course of training, so clearly defined, is by no means as difficult as he was induced to believe.

"The Old Volunteer," on the other hand, is enabled to devote the time at his disposal to drill of a practical nature, and thus all training may be rendered at once interesting and instructive.

SKIRMISHING PRACTICE.

An important step has also been taken in requiring all Officers in command to instruct their corps in skirmishing, before the sum granted for efficiency can be issued. I was glad to observe at my Annual Inspections, that a practical knowledge of this most necessary drill, had been readily and thoroughly acquired, except in some few new corps, which must of course be allowed a reasonable time to acquire it.

BANDS.

The annual appropriation in aid of efficient Bands, as well as authority for the issue of superior clothing thereto, cannot be too highly appreciated. No better means, in my opinion, can be adopted for infusing and maintaining "Esprit de Corps."

It is quite true that many wants have yet to be supplied, clothing to be issued, targets to be furnished, drill sheds to be erected; there are, however, no insuperable difficulties to be overcome, and besides the proficiency already attained, the desire evinced, and the efforts being made on the part of all to become thoroughly instructed in the knowledge and practice of military duty, is most praiseworthy.

MILITARY SCHOOL, ST. JOHN.

Scarcely a year has elapsed since the opening of the Military School at Saint John.

Cadets have obtained certificates therefrom, of which four are 1st Class certificates. Though I regret that few have been enabled to avail themselves of the advantages of the school during the summer months, it cannot be denied that the Force has already derived much benefit from the thorough knowledge of drill diffused throughout the Province. Under the old system, whereby but a limited number of non-commissioned officers of the Imperial Army were employed as Drill Instructors, it was impossible that every corps could share alike the advantages of the presence of these men, who I regret to add too often failed to afford company officers sufficient opportunities of acquiring a knowledge of that important duty of imparting instruction to others.

Those drilled at Military Schools, however, bring to their corps the "education" which they have received by their training under the new and admirable system.

RIFLE COMPETITION.

I regret that I have so nearly exceeded the limits assigned for my Report, as to prevent my reviewing at any length, the steps taken during the past year, to attain improvement in rifle practice, by means of rifle competition. Returns of the following matches have been transmitted to you:

1. The NEW BRUNSWICK Provincial Rifle Association, held at Fredericton, 14th to 17th September, inclusive.
2. CHARLOTTE COUNTY Rifle Association, held at St. Stephen, 13th October.
3. CARLETON Co. Rifle Association, held at Woodstock, September 7th.
4. ST. JOHN Rifle Association, held at Adelaide Road, St. John, September 10th.
5. KING'S Rifle Association, held at Sussex Vale, August 29th.
6. NORTHUMBERLAND Rifle Association, held at Chatham—two matches—August 31st, September 1st, and do. 30th.

With reference to the general competition at Fredericton, having been present in command of the competitors.

I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the successful result of the match.

It is true there should have been a larger number than 120 volunteers to compete for the numerous prizes offered.

However, one could not fail to observe that all, or nearly all, of those present were "crack shots." The shooting of one man in particular must be noticed, "Young Pallin," from Northumberland, now well known for his extraordinary shooting and steadiness of nerve, carried off three first prizes of seven offered. I may here state that a novel feature in our competition was introduced at the suggestion of H. H., the Lieut.-Governor, who, in conjunction with the Local Government, offered the sum of \$120 as prizes for skirmishing. The practice was carried out under the Hythe Regulations with excellent results; the men, well trained at individual firing, speedily learned to think and act for themselves; and this most essential practice was, in consequence, very effective.

The limited number of competitors at the provincial meeting, may not only be accounted for, I think, by the fact that counties, as a rule, only send forward their best shots; but also, it will be observed, that of fourteen counties in New Brunswick, but five held county matches.

The obvious advantages of having many well-organized County Rifle Associations are great. Steps have been taken by the Council of the Provincial Association to facilitate the accomplishment of this important object which has already been attended with good results.

I gladly advert to one county—Northumberland—in which, thanks in a great measure to local energy, the large sum of \$229 was offered in prizes, and competed for within the year at rifle matches, conducted under excellent rules.

I respectfully suggest that it be intimated to the secretaries of the Provincial and County Rifle Associations respectively, at as early a date as possible, as to the amount granted by the Government for this service, to enable those officers to make preparations for holding the competition at the most convenient season.

In conclusion, I cannot refrain from expressing myself as much concerned at the resignation of his position at the head of the Provincial Rifle Association, of our worthy President, Colonel J. V. Thurgar, who, since the formation of the Association, has earnestly exerted himself in its behalf.

It is, however, satisfactory to know that he is succeeded by a no less energetic officer, Lieut.-Colonel B. L. Peters; and, under his control and that of an efficient council, the Association will, I am confident, prosper.

SUGGESTIONS.

In accordance with your instructions, I recently submitted when furnishing you with a detailed account of duties, some suggestions for the better government of the force, from the staff officers of my district and myself. The following points, amongst others, were touched upon:—

1. The number of days for which drill pay is authorized being decided by Parliament, I recommended that some inducements be held out to volunteers—those residing both in town and country—to perform additional drills, weekly, if possible; in fact, some mark of recognition of such services, with a view to prepare them for the annual training, and enable them to maintain efficiency.

Under the old law for the Militia of New Brunswick, effective volunteers, those in cities and towns, were allowed exemption from taxes to the amount of \$6, those in the country exemption from road work. Is it not perfectly just thus to tax more heavily those who refrain from taking part in the duty of defence?

The obvious benefit to be derived from such a system of extra drills, carefully and regularly conducted throughout the year, is great, increased efficiency is attained, discipline enforced, the men learn to trust implicitly in their officers, and the officers seek the welfare of the men.

2. With the view to meet more fully the convenience of volunteers as to the period

for the annual drill in camp, and various reasons considered, it appears to me expedient that Lieutenant-Colonel Powell's suggestion in the Militia Report, 1868, be carried into effect, viz., that the Militia financial year should close on the 31st December instead of 30th June.

3. I offered some suggestions in order to facilitate the mode of obtaining the Government Grant in aid of the erection of drill sheds. Lieutenant-Colonel Otty refers to the steps taken with the view to ensure the erection of a suitable drill shed at Saint John—the needful thing at that city—and recommends that fresh efforts be made on the part of the Government and the municipal authority, conjointly.

4. Lieutenant-Colonel Otty suggested that qualified Adjutants of Battalions should receive some remuneration for their services, such allowance, of course, not to prevent the payment of grants to captains for private armouries, and for instruction under the existing system.

5. Lieutenant-Colonel McCully submitted some remarks as to the importance of encouraging the instruction of the young, those in schools and colleges, in drill and military discipline.

Several suggestions were also submitted relative to the issue and safe keeping of the clothing and equipments of the force, and some important points respecting their respective departments were touched upon by the District Paymaster and Provincial Storekeeper.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

GEO. J. MAUNSELL, Lieutenant-Colonel,

Deputy Adjutant-General.

Mil. Dist. No. 8.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 9.

OFFICE OF DEPUTY-ADJUTANT GENERAL.

HALIFAX, N.S., 30th November, 1869.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit my Report on the Inspection of the local forces in Kings, Annapolis and Digby Counties, the Bay of Fundy shore of Lt-Col. T. Milsom or 2nd Brigade Division.

I annex a tabular statement of particulars required, naming dates and corps.

There is a great anxiety on the part of all ranks to get into uniform; I explained to each command the unavoidable cause of delay on this point.

A considerable number of officers reported their intention to proceed to Halifax this winter to join the Military School, many of them require instruction.

On the whole, the men moved well both in quick and double time.

But the officers and men were all that could be expected at a first muster, and seem to wish to go into camp next year when their progress will be far greater.

Three companies of the first Annapolis cheerfully marched long distances to muster; 20, 16 and 15 miles respectively.

Captain Well's company paid 60 cts. per man to go from Annapolis to Bat. muster at Paradise by rail. If not against precedent, I recommend this to be repaid on the Captain's requisition.

I have to recommend that the company on the Annapolis side of Bear River, Captain Harris, No. —Company, 1st Annapolis Regiment, be detached from that command with the ulterior view of forming the wing of a battalion in Digby County. Bear River is thirty miles away from Paradise, head-quarters 1st Annapolis, and 17 miles from Annapolis, beyond which railway communication will not reach, whereas Digby is only two or three hours march from Bear River.

I have to notice that while several officers of Militia have heretofore gratuitously allowed their land for training, persons not connected with the force are usually not so liberal, next year two, if not three, of these musters will be in camp, and the pasture lands used will suffer very materially from the constant marching of the men, I trust due consideration will be given to this, and a proper remuneration will be given for the use of the land.

Also, that in some instances, captains of companies experience much real inconvenience, from using rooms in their dwelling houses for armouries in lack of public ones.

I have to represent that a reasonable rent should be allowed them besides contingent for care of arms.

The same things will recur more or less in other county districts.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. B. SINCLAIR,

Lieutenant-Colonel, Deputy Adjutant-General Militia.

Col. P. Robertson-Ross,

Mil. Dist, No. 9.

Adjutant-General, Canada, Ottawa.

OFFICE OF DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL,
HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 20th, 1869.

Sir,—Enclosed are submitted the Reports of the Majors of Brigade of Divisions 1, 2, and 3 of this District.

The new organization has not been joined with alacrity, but the quota of this District is now full with a margin beyond, for casualties.

The totals, all ranks, except officers give 4125 gazetted, and 812 not gazetted.

I shall await instructions before forwarding any more rolls beyond this number.

As seen by Lt.-Col. Read's report, No. 3. Division presents the chief portion of rolls of men not yet accepted.

As for some time, it was doubtful whether our quota would be filled, the first Rolls in, were forwarded as they were received.

With exceptions so few as not to be of any consequence, the active force is very efficiently officered, and the provisional officers are qualifying.

On this point, I have the honor to refer to the notes of the Majors of Brigade, sent in with their respective recommendations of officers.

Having previously delivered my report of my Inspection of the greater part of No. 2 Division and the remarks in it being applicable to the other Divisions, I have little to add.

Lunenburg will be prepared for my Inspection in a short time.

Colonel Laurie has held his first inspection in Halifax, where the men are completing their training, under their officers who devote so much attention and time to their commands, that the Metropolitan force cannot fail to be very effective and good.

The arms are reported in good order.

The Military School has been much better attended of late. Five and twenty or thirty more officers and cadets are expected to join after the New Year commences.

It is much to be regretted that the two principal towns in the District next in size and importance to Halifax, Yarmouth and Pictou have given no contingent.

If needful, however, men can be thrown into these posts from other places, to defend them.

I enclose the report of Captain Guy, storekeeper and acting paymaster, respecting arms.

I conclude by drawing attention to the non-existence of any reserve in support of the active force, I mean any intermediate support ready to act.

I am not prepared to recommend any considerable issue of arms beyond those in the hands of the active force, but were these fully utilized for the further encouragement of musketry, an intermediate force could I think be raised at no further expense than the privilege of using the rifles and contending for prizes, such a force being merely trained in platoons; *i. e.* to move only in fours and act as light infantry, and in platoon exercise without the manual.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. B. SINCLAIR, Lt.-Colonel,

Depy. Adj. Gen., Military District No. 9.

Colonel Robertson-Ross, A. G. M., &c., &c., &c.

Ottawa.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY BRIGADE.

MONTREAL, February 23rd, 1870.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the following report of my inspection of the Grand Trunk Railway Brigade for half year ending December 31st, 1869.

The Brigade coming under the head of "Town Battalions" did not go under canvas to perform their annual drill.