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REPORT

ON THE

STATE OF THE MILITIA

OF THE

DOMINION OF CANADA

FOR THE YEAR 1876.

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



OTTAWA:

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REPORT
STATE OF THE MILITIA
DOMINION OF CANADA
FOR THE YEAR 1876
DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE,
OTTAWA, February, 1877.

The undersigned has the honor to forward to Your Excellency the accompanying Report relating to the Militia of the Dominion of Canada for 1876, which is respectfully submitted for Your Excellency's consideration.

W. B. VAIL,
Minister of Militia and Defence.

His Excellency
The Governor General,
Ottawa.

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ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
STATE OF THE MILITIA
FOR
1876.

HEAD QUARTERS,
OTTAWA, January 1st, 1877.

The Honorable

The Minister of Militia and Defence, &c., &c., &c.

SIR,—I have the honor to present the Militia Report for the past year. In the various Military District Reports will be found the details relating specially to each. I shall refrain from recapitulating them, to avoid repetition.

The reduction of the parliamentary vote from over one million to 650,000 dollars has of necessity not only diminished the number of men trained during the past season, but has also reduced the number of days' drill. Whereas last year we were able to train 29,000 men and to form brigade camps, this year we could only train 23,000 men, at battalion and company head quarters. In order to limit the number to be called out, to fit the amount of money available, it was found necessary to decide by ballot, and, though no other mode presented itself to make selection without favor to any corps, yet I am afraid it has been attended with some dissatisfaction to those who were unfortunately obliged to be omitted.

It is to be hoped that if possible this year the usual vote may be resumed, in order that the whole of the Active Militia of the Dominion may be trained for the same period as formerly.

In consequence of the various corps being permitted to go through their drill at times selected by themselves, for the convenience of the officers and men, I was unfortunately able to see but few of them. I did, however, inspect some of the

Infantry Corps and Batteries of Artillery; amongst the former, four very fine battalions in Montreal: the Prince of Wales' Rifles, the Victoria Rifles, the 5th Royal Fusiliers and 6th Fusiliers, which quite come up to the highest standard that could be expected from corps so short a time under arms. I had an opportunity also of inspecting the 19th Battalion at St. Catharines, the Governor General's Foot Guards at Ottawa, and the Stadacona Rifles at Quebec. These Battalions also were in very satisfactory order and showed that every attention was paid to their efficiency. The arms, the clothing, the fitting of the accoutrements in each of these battalions, were all that could be desired; the ranks were full, and in point of physique and steadiness, I had every reason to be pleased.

Throughout the 12 Military Districts, all the battalions and all the companies of such corps as were not assembled at Head Quarters were in like measure inspected by a Staff Officer. And, as will be seen in their reports, the general result has been quite as good as could be expected from such a desultory system.

The period of drill had to be restricted to 12 days for Field Batteries of Artillery, and only 8 days for Cavalry, Garrison Artillery and Infantry. I need hardly say the amount of instruction to be acquired in those few days was small indeed.

The attendance of officers and men was very good; in nearly all corps the ranks were well filled.

By training as many men as possible even for those few days, no doubt the organization is kept alive throughout the Dominion,—and if this is only to continue for a short time until a rebound takes place in the commercial affairs of the continent of America, but little harm will be done.

But on the other hand, if the reduction of the Militia vote is to be permanent the work which has cost considerable expense, labour and exertion for many past years, would be in some measure lost. The military spirit which is very strong throughout this country would receive a check, and a fair organization adapted to the conditions of the Dominion would be considerably shaken in its vitality. It would take time to restore the confidence thus impaired.

I cannot conceive that any one will deny the necessity incumbent upon every nation in the past, the present and the future, to maintain a state of military preparation, for the defence of their country from whatever cause, whether externally or internally apprehension of danger to its peace may occur. And the very fact that an annual money appropriation is voted for that purpose shows that in the opinion of this country at large such defences are deemed prudent as well as necessary.

It is sometimes asked by a class of persons of peculiar habits of thought—"Why spend money on military establishments?" "Who are you going to fight?" It is hardly necessary to answer; happily we may have no one to fight, but military expenditure

is a description of insurance that every country has to pay against loss by war, the amount of insurance in a great measure depending upon the value of the property, the risk, and the means of the insurer.

It is a mistake frequently made that an army is maintained solely for the purpose of fighting with somebody. No doubt it should be in a fit state to do so if required, but it is much more a guarantee for peace instead of war, for the nation that is able to back its opinions is pretty certain to prevail over the weak country that has no power beyond simple argument, be that ever so sound and sensible, but wanting the unanswerable logic of force to support it.

In Canada there is happily little prospect of any necessity for military protection of that nature, as our only possible antagonist by land lives across the border upon the most friendly terms; still, with the teachings of history before us, neither nation has thought it prudent entirely to disarm. As long as our friends south of the line remain united, so long will Canada probably be secure from danger of any consequence in that direction. But if the great central Government should ever show signs of inability to control the enormous territory and the massive population over which it holds sway; if sections of men, or if separate States should break off, and giving way to lawless desires become turbulent, then Canada would have to look to her defence along her enormous frontier line of about 3,500 miles between the Atlantic and the Pacific, and to take measures for her protection.

To be prepared for any eventuality is often the best mode of preventing its occurrence, and therefore it would be only affectation to refrain from consideration of our own means of protection through sensibility of any question arising as to our peaceful intentions. A nation maintains a military force for a treble purpose. First, to defend the country against attack from external foes. Second, to aid the civil power, even though only as a last resource in maintaining the law. And thirdly, though in a subordinate degree, as a symbol of the State which pertains to all nations aspiring to rank as such. Every nation is liable to suffer from the effects of commotion, whether arising from external or internal causes. The delicate and sensitive fabric of Commerce and Exchange vibrates even to the emotions of a people. How much more then must it be shattered and disturbed by the collisions of brute force? Therefore, in the interests of peace, should military establishments be maintained, to prevent any invitation for attack. There are some who with a visionary idea of peace at any price would counsel us to disarm in order that we may have peace. They are welcome to counsels which never can prevail. But among the multitudinous hosts which may be reckoned by hundreds of thousands upon the continent of Europe, the modest force of this country could threaten no one. It is no more than a centre, round which, should necessity arise, the power and strength of the nation would congregate.

At a time when the great nations of Europe are carefully examining their armour

and perfecting in every possible manner their military systems, a strenuous effort to popularize the Militia of this country among the classes who are to replenish it, is the least that can be expected. Obstacles against military establishments of any sort exist more or less in every country—perhaps nowhere more in time of peace than under the free, constitutional rule of Great Britain. The economist has his cry, not looking beyond to-morrow; philanthropists indulge their sentimentalism, “Who would be a soldier?” “Poor fellow, he suffers such exposure to hardship, to fatigue, long marches in wet and cold, risk of sudden death in war.” Of course he does, but so also does the sportsman, the artizan, the daily labourer, only under other conditions of a more ignoble character. There is also a silly and ignorant prejudice among certain classes against discipline or allegiance of any description. It is a misfortune, but none the less indisputable, that the working classes especially are apt to associate obedience to command and discipline with a violation of their independence, and thus it happens that one of the most ennobling professions to which a man can aspire is often rejected in favour of some trade or calling where subserviency and dependency are no less marked and real, because to the ignorant understanding they are less apparent. To expatiate to such men upon the constitution of society, and to point out the obvious truth that the main condition of a civilized community is mutual dependence, would be to no purpose. Chivalry may not inspire them, martial renown may not tempt them, patriotism even may not animate them; but, they must admit, sordid though it may seem, that their wages in civil capacities would ill bear the strain of providing such luxuries as education and medical attendance, in addition to the necessities and creature comforts of food, lodging, bedding, clothing, fuel, light, and the means of mental and physical recreation. Yet all these things, with any of which the working man can but indifferently provide himself, if at all with some, are freely offered gratuitously to the soldier, and still the philanthropist, conscientious man, who has had the luck to sleep in a comfortable bed each night of his life, will continue to cry, “Who would be a soldier?” forgetting in his conventional bedstead, that but for the soldier and the sailor whom he holds so cheap he might have had occasionally, like them, to dispense with the luxury of an eider down or a composing draught before putting out his light.

If a voluntary army is to be maintained at its present strength, it must reach the sympathies and the self-interest of the great majority, which has no ardent temperament to inspire it and no ambition of military renown to sate; but it is not from this class of men, however good and commendable they may be, that the burning desire of distinction and the thirst for achievement—qualities which are the very body and soul of efficient armies—can be expected. The best officers and the most valiant soldiers are undoubtedly those whose love for their profession, with no mercenary view or prospect of monetary emolument, stimulates them to unwearying exertion in the wide area of enterprize which it furnishes, and it is by these means that every

fresh step in military prowess is enacted. Valour is the heritage of the British family in whatever part of the Empire its branches may have become planted; enthusiasm is the motive power with the soldier—as distinguished from the mild gentlemen who, under his protection, live at home at ease—which directs and regulates it. It is the happy blending of both that has caused success to follow our soldiers in so many past ages, and it will be good for the perpetuation of both, that every possible encouragement should be given by the Government of this country, to maintain the commendable enthusiasm which so highly distinguishes its excellent volunteer militia.

Never in the history of mankind has bravery alone been sufficient to effect the objects which are desired in an army. In these days especially it is essential that we should not only have physical capacity and physical endurance, but that we should have men trained intelligently to use with thought these arms of precision placed in their hands and invented for the destruction of their enemies. When we look at what is now passing, when men almost shudder at the tremendous powers which have been brought into operation for the destruction of their fellowmen, we may almost believe that these very inventions may be preparing a grand avenue for peace, when the powers of destruction have reached their culminating point and no nation will venture to go to war. But till that happy period arrives, when the benevolent can cry peace and the philanthropist can calmly repose upon his pillow without the protection of the soldier, let us look to our Militia in Canada, and determine what amount of force we shall maintain here in a state of thorough efficiency, and how to do it.

I have said that if the reduced vote is only to continue until the expansion of the revenue admits of a resumption in a short time of the usual annual estimates, no great harm will ensue—if so understood—but if the reduction is to be permanent, then it will behove us to cut our coats according to our cloth, and to let the militia throughout the country thoroughly understand the policy to be pursued towards them.

In view of reduced estimates, it would seem that as we can only train about one half our force for the limited space of 8 days, which amounts to the attainment of little or no military instruction, no discipline, no habits of order or soldier-like attainments, it might be better to institute 3 or 4 elementary schools for Infantry and Cavalry upon the same principle as “A” and “B” Batteries. It would follow then to reduce the Infantry force, retaining only the battalions in the cities and towns, by which means we can make them effective. It might be prudent, also, to have a Head Quarter Company in each county, so as to form a nucleus round which the population could rally in case of alarm or danger—or they would re-form the first companies of the county battalion whenever a more liberal appropriation would permit.

The system pursued this year appears to me demoralizing, because we retain nominally a large body of men, who if not brought together long enough for some amount of instruction are no better than recruits, and if we continue to maintain the

present numerical force and only train them, such as it is, for 8 days in each alternate year, we teach them next to nothing, and at the same time incur the expense of clothing and equipping the whole force of Active Militia authorized by law. Now on this point we are drifting into grave difficulties, because the appropriation for clothing in last year's estimates was not sufficient to supply outfits for more than 5,000 men. The clothing now used is intended to serve 3 years. But being of serge, and a bad quality, it will not even do that; but supposing it did, as it should, if of a proper quality of cloth, then if 43,000 men are nominally retained on the strength, it would be necessary to provide 13,000 suits each year, at least, and if the whole force was required to turn out, it could not fall into the ranks unless 14,000 suits per annum, about 3 times the quantity we were able to purchase this year, were procured and issued. At the same time it must be remembered that the 350 men serving in "A" and "B" batteries and in Manitoba receive two suits of uniform, per annum, each, equal to 700 suits, besides great coats when required. These being supplied from the appropriation, under the head of clothing, necessarily diminishes the reserves from which issues can be made to the Militia who train only for a specific number of days each year.

By the present system we pay 40 dollars a year for the care of arms to each Captain of a company who provides an armory and clothing store. We pay a contingent allowance of 30 dollars a year to commanding officers, and eight dollars a year per effective Company, to each Brigade Major. This latter, I think, is open to question; it originated from a desire to remunerate the Brigade Staff in proportion to the numerical strength in their respective divisions, but it would be better to pay them a consolidated sum as an equivalent.

We are by the system above mentioned absorbing our stock of arms, equipment and clothing to keep up a force which we cannot afford to discipline, or even to drill effectively, and are thus diverting considerable sums of money, which if judiciously applied would make a numerical force of half the present nominal strength, really compact and efficient.

The establishment of embodied companies as training schools would provide models to which we could send young men, officers as well as sergeants, from all parts of the country, and feel satisfied that the instruction imparted would be of the most serviceable and durable description, teaching them all points of interior economy, discipline, drill, military law, keeping of accounts, and, not least, the self-confidence in the management of men under arms which can only be acquired by actual presence and constant practice, but can never be derived by theory or from books.

The difficulty in the way of reducing the force of Infantry would no doubt be considerable. Men of the class which supplies the ranks of the Militia of Canada look for prompt action. If their services are required, they are capable and willing, patriotically, to render them with an amount of energy and good-will not to be surpassed;

but I think we should not retain upon the strength one single company, for the mere sake of a numerical army, beyond the number we have financially the means of maintaining with credit to the force itself and benefit to the country generally.

I do not wish for a moment to be understood to convey the idea that I advocate any reduction of the valuable Militia of Canada; far from it, I would not willingly reduce a single man, for I am perfectly sensible of their necessity in the future, and their value in giving status and stability to the country generally in the present. My suggestions are only grounded upon the fact of reduced appropriation with the desire to see that money applied to the best advantage for the military force of the country, and to give the Legislature a fair return for their monetary vote. I trust sincerely that the alternative of reduction may be avoided, but honestly it is my duty to point out and give warning that the present system is not as satisfactory as I should wish to see it.

I have in two previous Annual Reports, recommended the formation of 3 Infantry Training Schools. At present, neither officers nor sergeants have any means of acquiring the details of their duties, and as upon them devolves the necessity of instructing their men, it is only reasonable that they should have the opportunity of rendering themselves capable of so doing. While troops of the line were in Canada, there was every facility afforded for attending the military schools attached to them, and officers and sergeants of militia could fairly master all requisite details. Now there are really no means whatever, by which military knowledge for Cavalry and Infantry can be acquired, and the result must, year by year, grow more apparent. In the cities, I confess I was much struck with the accuracy with which many officers appeared to know their drill and general duties, but that is owing to their possessing the advantage of being able frequently to assemble their companies without pay, and to practice themselves as well as their men.

In advocating the institution of Infantry Schools, I by no means overlook the importance of the Military College. The Infantry Schools are intended to supply a means of elementary instruction in simple regimental acquirements which would be beyond the province of an establishment of a more scientific and higher order. It is also necessary that these schools should be so formed and placed that officers and men attending for short or long courses should not be called upon to travel far from their places of residence.

I should, therefore, suggest the formation of three Model Infantry Schools as follows:—

	Officers.	N. C. O. and Men.
At St. John's Barracks (River Richelieu)....	3	80
At Tête du Pont Barracks, Kingston.....	3	80
At the New Fort, Toronto.....	3	80

"A" Battery to move from Tête du Pont Barracks to Fort Henry, as more adapted for an Artillery Garrison, containing moreover a large depot of arms, ammunition and military stores at present without an adequate guard.

The estimate for each of these training schools upon the model of "A" and "B" Batteries is approximately as follows:—

1 Captain at \$2.82 per diem.....	\$ 1,029 30
2 Lieutenants at \$1.58 per diem each.....	1,153 40
2 Sergeant Instructors, \$1 each.....	730 00
2 Sergeants, 70 cts. each.....	511 00
4 Corporals, 60 ".....	876 00
72 Privates, 50 ".....	13,140 00
Rations for 83, 12 cts.....	3,624 00
Uniform, summer and winter kits, boots, great coats, &c.....	2,800 00
Barrack furniture, medical supplies, transport, fuel and lights, contingencies.....	7,137 00
Provision for instruction of 10 Officers and 10 N. C. Officers for periods of 3 months each, for one year, transport included.....	6,750 00
Each School.....	\$37,750 00
	3
Three do	\$113,250 00

Thus for one hundred and thirteen thousand two hundred and fifty dollars per annum, we could secure a certain means of thoroughly educating in all military essentials of an elementary nature, the young officers and sergeants of the militia, leaving it open to officers, afterwards to go through a course of higher instruction at the Military College in a senior department, upon the principle of the Staff College, at Sandhurst. We should then feel satisfied that as the officers and sergeants were thoroughly efficient up to the best modern standard, no difficulty could occur in disciplining and drilling with effect the rank and file of the whole Cavalry and Infantry Force of the Dominion, and really the result would be well worth this moderate expense.

In further considering the best mode of utilising with effect the reduced appropriation, but still in the hope that the reduction may not be permanent and therefore his alternative unnecessary, I have prepared the following statistical plan for consideration, acting upon the impression that if we cannot maintain at present the entire force of Active Militia under the reduced vote, it is wiser temporarily to limit that number to the extent of the means provided by Parliament for its maintenance.

I consider it would be imprudent to make any reduction in either Cavalry, Artillery or Engineers. Upon the rural battalions and the independent companies of Infantry unaffiliated to any Battalion should fall the reduction, if such must be temporarily resorted to, though I shall regret if it becomes necessary.

I am unwilling to put down the following figures, for I believe it would be impolitic in the present and the future to make any reduction in the Active Militia of this country, which has been organized through past years with so much labor and expense. I am only constrained, from the position I hold, to make plain the exigency to which we are approaching, through the reduction of the Military vote by nearly half a million of dollars.

The item of 26,000 dollars for the Military College taken from the 650,000, leaves a comparatively small sum for the maintenance of the Active Force of 43,000 men with its Staff, and the obligatory cost of providing stores of clothing, arms, ammunition, camp equipment, ordnance and warlike *matériel* of every description. I think it right to make this plain, because by-and-bye I might otherwise be reproached for not having brought to notice and given timely warning of the difficulties towards which we are apparently approaching by attempting to maintain a larger numerical force with all its *matériel* and *impedimenta*, than we are granted money to pay for. To this end I have had the following tabulated statement prepared with a view to show what we can alone afford to maintain provided it is the intention to limit our finances in the future as in the past year.

Trusting, however, this may not be the intention, I shall therefore only show what would follow as the result of a diminished appropriation with the largely increased calls upon it, to which I have alluded, and to which I propose to add 113,250 dollars for Infantry Training Schools. Last year, we were only able to assemble 23,000 officers and men: Field Artillery for 12 days, other arms for but 8, I can hardly call it training, for that could amount to very little in those short periods.

With a similar appropriation in future it is clear we cannot maintain more than 20,000 men of all arms, to train them at all usefully, and to arm, equip, clothe and feed them when called out. Making also provision for a proper reserve of ammunition, camp equipment, accoutrements and clothing, which year by year require to be adequately replenished, in the possible event of any need, as well as to make good the quantity expended in the periodical training, and in artillery and rifle practice.

The force now enrolled in Cities, Towns and Villages having a population exceeding 1,000, is 304 Troops, Batteries and Companies of all arms, representing a nominal strength of 18,112 men, in addition to which, in order to retain 20,000 in all, 32 Companies might be selected in those portions of the country where villages exist having a population of less than 1,000, but in the immediate neighbourhood of

which the settlements are such as will permit the attendance of men at Company Head Quarters without inconvenience. Or the strength of corps in the cities and larger towns might be increased if that should be considered preferable.

The reduction of the strength of the entire force to 20,000 would permit a corresponding reduction in the amount required to pay for drill instruction, care and repair of arms, ammunition and the perishable and costly item of clothing, with other contingent expenses.

Cities, Towns, and Villages having a population between 1,000 and 2,000.

	Cavalry.	Artillery.	Engineers.	Infantry.	Troops, Batteries and Companies.
Cities.....	9	37	4	116	166
Towns	8	12	0	65	85
Villages over 1,500	1	2	0	29	32
do 1,000 to 1,500..	1	0	0	20	21
					304
304 Companies at a nominal strength of 58 officers and men each.....					17,632
Additional 20 for each of the 16 Field Batteries of Artillery.....					320
Additional for Staff of 20 Battalions, 8 each.....					160
Total					18,112

These statistical suggestions are only made upon the assumption that the appropriation for militia, as reduced last year, will so continue. And so it is my duty to show that it is necessary, therefore, our numerical force should be reduced in a corresponding degree, in order that we may have funds to supply the requisite munitions and to train with some effect the force that would remain.

The method I have ventured to point out, with the addition of the formation of Infantry Training Schools will, I conceive, meet that object as fully as the means at our disposal will permit. We should have a compact force of all arms, with officers and non-commissioned officers well trained and instructed, capable of imparting fundamental education and discipline to the rank and file of their corps when assembled, whether for the annual drill or at other seasons of the year.

There is a great military spirit among all classes of the population of Canada which would ensure immense efforts and sacrifices in the event of alarm or apprehension of danger. It has been frequently exhibited, and it is hardly necessary for me again to bring it to notice so prominently, except with the view of adding that given that valuable element of zealous patriotism, it should be cultivated and encouraged in every possible way, to serve the country efficiently if ever suddenly required to be called into action.

Our active force ought to be compact and instructed; no stronger than we have funds to equip and maintain efficiently—corresponding with the parliamentary appropriation, and without imposing upon zealous officers the necessity, which has so frequently occurred, of supplementing considerable sums from private resources to maintain their corps creditably with an emulation that cannot be too much admired.

At the same time it must be borne in mind that the Active Militia is but the advance guard of the army of Canada in case a general call to arms ever should occur. The real force of the country should then be represented by the Reserve Militia, amounting by law to some 600,000 men. These should not be allowed to be merely on paper—as they actually exist and are enrolled, but from the length of time that has elapsed since they were mustered it stands to reason that a very considerable remodelling is necessary.

It would be quite worth while to send a reliable officer of the Reserve every year through the various Regimental Divisions to assure himself and to report for the satisfaction of the Government that all the men on the rolls were effective and not fictitious. We should likewise have Regimental Rolls showing the residence, occupation and age of each man whose name was on the list.

I believe this would be more economical than a general muster every 5 years, and that it would be more satisfactory—by tending to keep alive the general feeling of liability for the defence of the country, if ever necessity should arise for mobilizing the Reserve.

The Military College at Kingston was opened on the 1st of June last; 18 Cadets having passed the qualifying examination for entrance. I made a thorough inspection of the College in October and had every reason to feel perfectly satisfied with the arrangements for the comfort of the Cadets, and their course of studies. Each lad replied to my questions that he was very happy, contented and comfortable, and certainly this was corroborated by the general appearance and demeanor of the whole.

Lieut. Colonel Hewett, Royal Engineers, the Commandant, and Captains Kensington and Hawkins, Royal Artillery, the Instructors, are highly proficient officers, of distinguished professional and scientific attainments. Captain Ridout, 90th Light Infantry, an officer of Canadian family is Captain of Cadets; his duties are performed in a thoroughly satisfactory manner. Every possible attention is paid by all these officers to the intellectual, physical and moral training of the young men, and there can be no doubt that after their curriculum of 4 years in the College they will have acquired a sound mathematical and general education, with all the habits of discipline, regularity and respect for authority which will serve them well through life in whatever capacity they may be launched.

The Regulations of the Military College have all been published and circulated

through the country, and are, I conceive, generally known and understood, but I am aware an uncertainty prevails as to the future employment of the young men who will pass out of the College at the termination of the course. I need hardly say it would be beyond reason to expect a guarantee or promise of employment to every young man. Though I do not speak from authority but only from my own conviction, I have no doubt of the will of the country to employ really meritorious young gentlemen who pass through the College creditably. But it may be possible that some very good, though not very brilliant, lads may pass in a perfunctory fashion, and for such it might be difficult to provide. In the new code of Standing Orders which has just been compiled and published by authority, the following is a transcript of No. 1 section:—

"The establishment of a Military College was primarily undertaken for the purpose of securing such a complete military and scientific education to young men belonging to the country as would qualify them to fill all the higher positions in the Canadian Military Service. The limitation of the number of cadets as provided by the Act, is necessary to hold out a reasonable hope that graduates can be absorbed in the public service. The training and general branches of education will, however, be such as will qualify graduates to fill such other positions in the public service as may be found available when military service may not be required."

I think in this may be found as reasonable a hope that merit will be rewarded by employment as any parent can expect when placing a lad in the Military College. Perhaps too I might suggest for consideration, that to hold out further inducements to parents who wish to educate their sons at the Military College, application might be made to Her Majesty's Government to offer a limited number of commissions in the army to eligible cadets.

A further examination for entrance took place on 5th December last; 24 lads could have been accepted, but from one cause or another at the last only 7 came forward on the day appointed. It is quite possible, that by holding special examinations, the above number may be complete before the 12th of March. After that no more can be received till September, as the arrangements of the College, as laid down by its constitution, would otherwise be upset. In future it is hoped we may hold half-yearly examinations until the entire number of 100, for which the Act provides, is complete.

I took occasion during the autumn to inspect the two Artillery Schools and the "A." & "B." Batteries. I found them as I expected in every respect efficient and doing thoroughly well under the indefatigable direction of Lieut.-Colonels Strange and Irwin, Royal Artillery. In discipline, interior economy and knowledge of Gunnery, practically as well as scientifically, the officers and men attached to these batteries are proficient. These Schools are a very valuable institution for Artillery instruction, and the good work they perform in the education of officers and gunners of the various provincial batteries who attend them for a short or long course, cannot be too highly extolled.

The only field battery that I could inspect last Autumn was that under Major Peters, at London. This excellent officer had spared no pains upon his battery, and therefore in point of general equipment, field and gun drill as well as target practice it was efficient and fit for any rough service.

Throughout the country the 16 Field Batteries are in very thorough order; they are now all armed with 9-pr. rifled guns of the best description, of which we have 60 in use. They are also complete in good harness and other equipments.

The Garrison Artillery is in very good order also, but as a rule the several Brigades have not the same advantages for acquiring proficiency in gunnery and shot and shell practice from want of convenient garrison armaments.

In Ottawa this has been provided for this year by mounting 6 24-pr. guns in a battery on Nepean Point, available for the practice and instruction of the Ottawa Brigade, and also for firing salutes upon all ceremonial and other authorized occasions at the Seat of Government.

I had no opportunity of inspecting any of the Cavalry Corps in the past season. Those that trained by selection under the ballot have been very fairly reported on by the District Staff. Some of their saddlery and clothing stores I did inspect and found them in high order; especially I may mention that of the Squadron of Cavalry at Quebec.

The Military Stores continue in their usual good order, and have a fair reserve of arms, ammunition and general equipment for camp and garrison requirements. These, as I have stated, however, require to be annually replenished to supply expenditure and to add to the reserve stock in case of any operations. Our reserve of Rifle ammunition is particularly small; we have only 150 rounds for each stand of rifles in the country. This is at least one half too little, keeping in view the rapidity with which breech loading arms can be fired. In the item of powder too, our reserve is too small for Garrison and Field Artillery in time of necessity. A main reserve depot of all military matériel has now been established at Toronto for Western Canada, but in view of all our depots being close to the frontier line, I am anxious that a large depot for powder and munitions should also be formed at Ottawa.

In last year's report I enlarged at some length upon the importance of re-arming the Citadel of Quebec, the Forts at Point Levis and those at Kingston and Toronto with modern rifled Artillery, nominally for practice, in case of any hesitation as to the term re-armament. A small battery at Gaspé Basin has been also armed with 24-pr. guns for practice. I am glad to say that 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ converted muzzle-loading rifled guns will be sent out to Quebec early in the ensuing open season and mounted on the works. Five guns of the same calibre have also been ordered, and will shortly I hope arrive at St. John, N.B., to arm Point Negro Battery, which commands the

approach to that excellent harbour. These latter have been purchased without any charge upon the Militia vote or the Dominion Revenue. The only ordnance I would propose for this year's estimates are ten 64-pr. rifled guns: five for Quebec and five for Fort Henry at Kingston, to be mounted on 32-pr. iron carriages in our possession—which will save the expense of purchasing wooden ones.

In the same report I fully entered into the reasons why Quebec, the key of Canada from the ocean, should have an armament of modern rifled guns to replace the old obsolete and, now-a-days, useless smooth bore cannon, on its works. My reasons of a year ago are tenfold stronger in view of the present aspect of affairs in Europe, which were then only foreshadowed. It is of paramount importance that Quebec should have such an armament as would forbid the passage of the St Lawrence to any enemy's privateer, or even ship of war, that might escape the vigilance, through fog or darkness, of British cruisers in the Gulf. Nothing easier than that an enemy's ship bound upon such an errand should appear before Quebec and afterwards steam up to Montreal, to put both cities and any other intervening place under contribution, unless Quebec is so armed as to render such an enterprise so hazardous as to be impossible.

I have heard it boasted that if a ship of war were to force her passage to Montreal for that purpose—"she would never get away." It would be a waste of time to say more to a such vain threat than that there is not a gun along the line of the St. Lawrence, excepting perhaps the 7 inch guns upon the bastions of Quebec Citadel, that could dispute with an iron clad ship in doing what she liked and staying as long as she desired, returning at her pleasure. It will be quite different when we get rifled cannon on the works of the Citadel.

Last summer I was authorized to place a 7 inch breech-loading gun in each of the Levis forts, whose admirable works of the most improved modern profile and projection deserve to be armed. These heavy guns are intended to be mounted on the salient of each fort, as soon as the platforms are prepared and fitted with racers. There are now also sixteen 32-pr. carronades distributed between the 3 forts and mounted in the caponniers to sweep the ditches. It is very desirable that the 7-inch guns should be mounted early in the spring, and I should be glad to see the barbette parapets of these splendid forts more completely armed.

A reduction was last year made in the Brigade Staff to the extent of seven officers, for whom there was not sufficient employment. I consider the staff as at present constituted to be efficient. I shall only again bring to notice the desirability of appointing an officer of the staff upon whom should devolve all the special duties of supply, including commissariat, clothing, which is an involved and unceasing item, transport, and the various other duties pertaining to that branch, which would of necessity be special upon active service, and should therefore be instituted as a permanent department of the Head Quarter Staff.

I shall not extend this report into larger proportions. I beg to draw attention to the suggestions in my report of last year still uncomplained with. I have touched upon the chief additional points of consequence. I again repeat my regret at feeling obliged to point out the necessity that appears to me for compacting the Infantry into smaller dimensions. I don't advocate it—I wish it could be avoided; but I have no alternative than honestly to say what should follow, as a prudent consequent, upon the reduction of our Parliamentary grant.

E. SELBY SMYTH,
Major General.

P. S.—Since I wrote the above report the services of parties of the Militia have been called for to aid the Civil power in putting down a disturbance caused by insubordinate conduct on the part of servants of the Grand Trunk Railway Company, and as the circumstances under which this occurred appear misunderstood I venture to add a few remarks on the subject.

In the first instance application was made by telegram to Ottawa; the reply explained that the Militia Act only empowered the Government to call out troops to repel invasion, or to quell insurrection or rebellion. This law is by no means peculiar to Canada, but prevails in Great Britain and in every dependency of the Crown in which I have served. The cause of framing it in such manner may have originated from some desire under the Constitutional Government of the Empire to prevent the possibility of troops being called out for internal commotion except as the very last resource in support of the law, after the Civil authorities were overpowered, or upon sufficient proof of apprehension they might be so.

In the case in point, the course was to swear information before a Magistrate that a breach of the peace was apprehended, then troops could be called for by him if the gravity of the emergency rendered it in his opinion, prudent to do so. At Belleville this occurred, but the Mayor, instead of telegraphing to Kingston, the Head Quarters of the Deputy-Adjutant-General of the District, and only 48 miles distant, made a requisition upon the Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the 49th Battalion, who forthwith complied with it. Next day a reinforcement was called for at 8 a.m., and about forty men of the 15th Battalion were assembled and placed on duty. The official reports since received state that the detachments of both these corps behaved efficiently. Later on, the Mayor telegraphed to Toronto, distant 113 miles, and within a few hours a force of nearly 200 of the Queen's Own Rifles proceeded *en route* to Belleville by train, thus opening the Line for traffic, which was thenceforth resumed. This detachment performed its duty under trying circumstances with steadiness and discipline, as well as forbearance.

As might be expected in an occurrence of such public interest as the interruption of the traffic on the great arterial line of communication throughout Quebec and Ontario, many comments have been made and faults found with the usual facility of those who become "prophets after an event." I merely assert, it is surprising that any volunteers were forthcoming either at Belleville or Toronto, when it is remembered it was New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, general holidays, when, without any previous warning and unknowing of any call for duty, nearly every Volunteer might be naturally expected to be absent for recreation or amusement.

It is also perhaps right to say it is an unusual course to call suddenly upon Volunteer Corps to perform police duties, and to expect they should be as readily forthcoming as regular soldiers quartered in barracks. Had the Mayor telegraphed to Kingston, he could shortly have been supplied with 50, or 80 or 100 disciplined men of "A" Battery, who would have set any mob there at defiance, or had he even sworn in special constables, provided the police were insufficient, it might have been preferable to calling out the military,—the last resource in support of the law. A military force armed with rifles and bayonets, and encumbered with belts and accoutrements is unsuited to quell a disturbance among a disorderly crowd of unarmed men. They must not, except under great provocation and by the special orders of a magistrate, fire upon an unarmed mob, which would be more promptly dispersed by police or special constables, armed with sticks or batons, and who could seize and place in confinement prominent leaders of the riot. Rifles and bayonets are not the weapons for such a service, where one if not both hands of the civil force should be free.

Some smart writing has appeared in regard to the Militia Companies at Belleville, which I shall briefly notice. The 15th Battalion was trained in Camp in 1875, but the 49th was not trained that year. The 15th was not trained in 1876, because it drew a blank in the ballot; the 49th was trained; neither battalion is disorganized. Ammunition is, with few exceptions, issued as a reserve to Volunteer Corps, for the reason that few Company armouries have any magazine or safe place to store it. After the corps have expended their annual practice ammunition no further issue is made, unless, as recently in the Eastern Townships, apprehension arises calling for preparation for service,—it could hardly have been foreseen that a sudden call would be made upon Volunteers to perform local police duties,—it could hardly be expected, as I have stated, that upon the festival of the New Year, and a Sunday moreover, the services of even so many would have been promptly forthcoming. As to great-coats and clothing, the Militia Department is not in fault if any suits were deficient; that blame, if there really is any, rests elsewhere, but my belief is, their clothing is complete. Winter clothing is naturally not issued to the Volunteers unless their active services are required in the winter, as they are usually only called out in summer for training and

field exercise. Two years ago I drew attention to the necessity for retaining the entire clothing, arms and equipment of every Battalion at its head quarters under a responsible officer, and a non-commissioned officer as caretaker. Until such a system is adopted it is impossible for the District Staff Officer to be responsible that great coats are not, as I have represented they were, improperly worn by Militiamen when absent from their Regiments.

May I venture, in conclusion, to repeat the suggestion made in the body of the report, viz: That the strength of the Volunteer force should not exceed the number for which we have funds to arm, clothe, equip and instruct it, and that model schools for Regimental education should be instituted on some approved plan such as I have sketched out.

E. SELBY SMYTH,

Major General.

Ottawa, January 19, 1877.

APPENDIX No. 1.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 1.

HEADQUARTERS, LONDON, ONTARIO,
7th December, 1876.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward, for submission to the Major-General commanding, the enclosed Inspection Report of the Active Militia in this District under my command, which have performed their annual drill for the year 1876-77, in obedience to General Orders of the 18th May, 1876.

The selections of the corps who were to have the privilege of performing their annual drill were made by lot, in accordance with your instructions, and the following corps were thus chosen:—

NAMES of Corps of Active Militia in Military District No. 1, that were duly warned for Annual Drill for 1876-77, and number of those who drilled.

Name of Corps.	Commanding Officers.	Head Quarters.	Number who performed Drill.	
			Officers.	N. C. O. and Men.
1st Regiment Cavalry.....	Lieut-Colonel Cole.....	St. Thomas.....	8	129
London Field Battery.....	Major Peters.....	London.....	5	74
Wellington Field Battery.....	Major McDonald.....	Guelph.....	5	74
Sarnia Garrison Battery.....	Captain Adams.....	Sarnia.....		
7th Battalion Infantry.....	Lieut-Colonel McBeth.....	London.....	1	42
25th do do.....	do O'Malley.....	St. Thomas.....	8	145
26th do do.....	do Attwood.....	London.....	16	382
28th do do.....	do Smith.....	Stratford.....	12	240
29th do do.....	do Peck.....	Berlin.....	9	208
30th do Rifles.....	do Clarke.....	Guelph.....	19	370
32nd do Infantry.....	do Sproat.....	Walkerton.....	16	296
Windsor and Leamington Companies	Major Wilkinson.....	Windsor.....	4	84
Total.....			108	2,069

Thus, the Goderich Garrison Artillery; the 22nd Battalion, Woodstock; the 24th Battalion, Chatham; the 27th Battalion, Sarnia; and the 33rd Battalion, Goderich, were relieved from performing their annual drill for 1876-77.

With the exception of the Sarnia Garrison Artillery, six companies of the 7th Battalion, and two companies of the 25th Battalion, who have not yet been able to perform their annual drill, the remaining corps performed their drill by companies as authorized, at their own head-quarters. The majority preferred to put in their drill by consecutive days, and some companies assembled at their company drill-shed, where they slept and were provided with rations, (by private arrangement) the men remaining on duty and mounting guard the same as if at camp; by this means avoiding the daily journey from their homes to the company head-quarters and return.

The several corps (except five companies who had finished drill and arranged for inspection on the same day that the Brigade-Major and myself were engaged inspecting other corps) were duly inspected either by Lieut.-Colonel Moffat, Brigade-Major, or myself, and the men carefully mustered to ascertain that the number at drill corresponded with those on the acquittance roll, which was found to be the case.

CAVALRY.

No. 1 and 2 Troops of Cavalry drilled together at London, using the Exhibition Buildings for temporary barracks. The squadron turned out remarkably clean and soldierlike for inspection.

ARTILLERY.

The "London" and "Wellington" Field Batteries of Artillery performed their twelve days' drill in camp, according to regulations. Both corps mustered full strength and kept up their previous reputation for being very efficient and fit for service at any time.

To the great satisfaction of the Wellington Field Battery, they were supplied with the new armament of the 9-pounder muzzle-loading steel rifled guns, and have also had an excellent and commodious gun-shed built for them at Guelph, which was very much needed for the care and preservation of these valuable guns.

The London Field Battery while in camp was inspected by the Major-General commanding, who was also present during the annual gun practice with their 9-pounder steel rifled guns. This corps has now got a brick gun-shed built in London, so that the armament and stores of the two field-batteries in this district are now in a position to be properly taken care of.

I am happy to be able to report an increasing desire on the part of both officers and men to go through the course of instruction at the School of Gunnery at Kingston. There can be no doubt but that to the excellent training received there the two field batteries in this district owe a great portion of their efficiency.

INFANTRY AND RIFLES.

Though the squad and company drill at local head-quarters is looked upon as uninteresting in comparison with the excitement and emulation of a brigade camp, still the companies turn out in good strength, resulting in an average of over 41 officers and men per company, and will be better prepared for battalion drill from the squad and preliminary drill of the present year.

The rifles I found to be kept in very good order; a few in nearly every company were in want of repairs. These, I think, might be conveyed by captains of companies to their battalion head-quarters where they could be repaired by an armourer, sent there for that purpose, and thus save the expense of freight and purchase of arm-chests.

As a general rule the men paraded with their belts and accoutrements clean; some companies indeed showed that considerable trouble had been taken in pipeclaying their belts, the men having a pride in getting everything as near the example of "Regulars" as possible. The clothing is in very good serviceable condition and kept clean. A few companies had received issues of the new pattern uniform which appears well suited for drilling in, and the men look smart and soldierlike in it; while the new forage caps are considered a decided improvement on the former issue.

A few companies having been found disorganized on account of the volunteer element within reach being used up, I found very great advantage in moving the head-quarters to an adjoining locality so as to enable those willing to join, or to enrol themselves, and thus keep up the strength of the corps.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN B. TAYLOR, Lieut.-Colonel.
Deputy Adjutant-General, Military District No. 1.

The Adjutant-General
of Militia, Ottawa.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 2.

OLD FORT, TORONTO, 23rd December, 1876.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward, for submission to the Major-General commanding, the accompanying Inspection Report of corps of the Active Militia, relative to the performance of the annual drill of the year 1876-77, in Military District No. 2, in accordance with the General Orders, dated at Ottawa, 18th May, 1876.

The authorized establishment of the Active Militia in the District, consists of:—

	Officers.	N.-C. Officers. and Men.	Horses.	Guns
Cavalry.....	37	495	472	...
Artillery.....	27	390	195	12
Engineers.....	5	70	...	...
Infantry.....	461	6,380	68	2*
Total.....	530	7,335	735	14

*Mountain Guns in possession of the Rifle Company at Sault Ste. Marie.

By the above General Order, the strength of the force in the District, authorized to perform the annual drill of the year, was limited to 3,900 officers, non-commissioned officers and men.

In order to carry out the above order, and under the sanction of the Major-General commanding, the following arrangements were made and carried out.

The force may be classed under the following heads:—

The corps whose commanding officers applied for, and obtained permission not to perform the annual drill, as follows:—

Artillery.

Toronto Garrison Battery.

Collingwood Garrison Battery.

Infantry.

36th Battalion, Peel.

39th Battalion, Norfolk.

The corps whose commanding officers preferred and received permission to perform the annual drill to the extent of two-thirds of the strength of their respective corps, rather than run the risk of not drilling at all this year, as follows:—

The Governor General's Body Guard.

2nd Regiment of Cavalry.

2nd Battalion, Queen's Own Rifles.

10th Royals.

12th Battalion, York.

13th Battalion, Hamilton.

37th Battalion, Haldimand.

38th Battalion, Brant.

The corps selected by ballot in order to complete the quota which performed the annual drill, up to their authorised strength:—

The St. Catharines Garrison Battery.

The Engineer Company.

19th Battalion, Lincoln.

31st Battalion, Grey.

35th Battalion, Simcoe Foresters.

44th Battalion, Welland.
77th Battalion, Wentworth.
Rifle Company, Sault Ste. Marie.

The two following corps failed to be selected by ballot, consequently did not perform any drill.

20th Battalion, Halton.
34th Battalion, Ontario.

The three Field Batteries, Toronto, Hamilton and Welland, performed the annual drill in full strength, at their respective head-quarters, agreeable to the above General Order.

It will thus be seen that the two Garrison Batteries and the four Infantry Battalions were the only corps which have not performed the annual drill of this year.

With the exception of the three companies of the 44th Battalion, whose strength was included with the regiment, ordered to drill, but failed to do so (as reported) within the time prescribed by the General Order, I would still beg to recommend that these three companies be permitted to do so.

The Cavalry performed the annual drill at the respective head-quarters of corps: The Squadron, Governor-General's Body Guard, at Toronto.

The 2nd Regiment of Cavalry at the head-quarters of troops. The drill consisted of sword exercise, mounted and dismounted drill, with troop field drill.

The reports made by the Inspecting Field officers of these corps were favorable.

Toronto Field Battery.

I inspected this battery on the 8th July, quartered in the New Barracks, with the Inspector of Artillery, Lieut.-Colonel Strange, R.A.

The battery was duly mustered by the District Paymaster, Lieut.-Colonel Alger.

The battery when paraded in the field for inspection presented a very creditable appearance; very well horsed; the field movements well done; certainly deserved the high encomiums passed upon it by the Inspector of Artillery. The shell practice was subsequently carried out the following days, under the supervision of the Inspector of Artillery.

Hamilton Field Battery.

Inspected this battery on the 6th July, encamped in the Crystal Palace Grounds at Hamilton.

The battery was duly mustered by the District Paymaster, Lieut.-Colonel Alger. Camp was in good order; horses in the stables (attached); very fairly horsed.

Battery paraded in an open space some 10 or 12 acres, a few miles from the camp. Field movements very fairly performed; limber and guns in fair order. 28 horses; no waggons.

Welland Canal Field Battery, and St. Catherine's Garrison Battery.

Inspected by the Inspector of Artillery and Warlike Stores.

The Engineer Company.

This company, which has been lately organized under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Scoble, was inspected by me on the 4th November, at the New Barracks, Toronto.

The company mustered well in their new clothing; looked remarkably well; fine body of men. Arms and accoutrements clean.

Having performed the manual and firing exercises and company drill, the men were relieved of their arms and accoutrements, and gave me practical evidence of the care and attention which has been given to their drill exercises by erecting a spar bridge, well

and carefully put together, sufficiently strong to permit troops to pass over if required; also barrel piers, well and securely bound together; signalling, &c.

This corps is also provided with a band, 18 in number, the clothing of which was purchased by the officers, is in very good order.

A large quantity of stores of all kinds, purchased for the drill and practice exercise of the company (a list of which has already been submitted by me), was on the ground, shewing the zeal and attention which has been shown by all connected with this corps.

The 2nd Battalion Queen's Own Rifles, the 10th Royals, and the 13th Battalion.

These three Battalions of Infantry performed their annual drill at the head-quarters of their respective regiments—were inspected by me as regiments. Their appearance on parade was smart and soldierlike; arms clean; accoutrements, though of different sizes and patterns, in very fair order. These regiments have excellent bands; muster good.

The drill of these regiments consisted of the manual and firing exercise. Company and battalion drill was very fairly performed.

The county battalions performed their annual drill, as a rule, at the company headquarters of their respective regiments; were inspected by their commanding officers and the field officers of corps.

These officers report favourably as to the performance of the drill, which consisted principally of squad and company drill, skirmishing, and, where practicable, of target practice.

19th Battalion.

This regiment, 6 companies, under command of Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. T. G. Currie, and No. 6 Troop (Queenston) 2nd Regiment of Cavalry were inspected by the Major-General Commanding, at St. Catharines, on the 13th October, on which occasion the regiment was presented with a new set of colours, the gift of the ladies of St. Catharines and the County of Lincoln.

Nos. 2, 3 and 4 Companies, 38th Battalion.

On the 30th October three companies of the 30th Battalion, Nos. 2, 3 and 4, paraded for my inspection in the headquarter drill shed at Brantford. It gives me much pleasure to be able to report a great improvement in this regiment. The three above companies mustered well; performed the manual and firing exercise very fairly; moved very steady; a marked improvement in their general appearance. A new band is about to be organized, which will add to the efficiency of the regiment.

When at Brantford inspected the rifle ranges, butts, &c., which had fallen into decay and quite unserviceable, all of which has been duly reported. Immediate steps will now be taken to put the ranges in a serviceable condition. Lieut.-Colonel Dickie in command, deserves much credit for the manner in which he has re-organized the regiment.

On the 13th October proceeded to the Sault Ste. Marie, inspected the arms, accoutrements and stores of the Rifle Company under the command of Major Wilson. Found all in good order; also the gun shed substantially built and finished, in which I found the two mountain guns, limbers and stores appertaining to the guns in very good order.

The shed has been built at Major Wilson's expense, who deserves much credit for his zeal in the public service.

Before closing this report I would respectfully submit that as the time for the performance of the annual drill of this year was so limited, it could not be expected that the same results in drill and target practice could be attained as have hitherto been effected, more especially when in brigade camps of instruction. I would, therefore, earnestly and respectfully recommend a return to that mode of performing the annual drill, with the view of keeping up the *esprit* and efficiency of the force.

I would also refer to the great want of qualified Drill Instructors, (when at the performance of the annual drill) which is becoming more apparent every year, or in other words, of officers and non-commissioned officers able to impart *correctly*, squad and company drill, manual and firing exercises, musketry instruction, &c., so essential for all company organizations before being placed in battalions. This want was in a great measure supplied by the cadets (qualified) from the District Military School of Instruction.

From the force of circumstances these Instructors are naturally decreasing in numbers, and their places are not filled up.

I would therefore respectfully solicit earnest attention to this want of company drill and Musketry Instructors. Of course my remarks apply principally to the district under my command.

I consider that I am only doing my duty in bearing testimony to the cheerful zeal and attention shewn by all the commanding officers of corps, as well as the field officers and officers of the different corps, in carrying out, to the best of their ability, the performance of the annual drill of this year.

I beg also to acknowledge the cordial support derived by me from the officers belonging to the permanent Staff of the District.

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

W. S. DURIE, Lieut. Colonel.
Deputy Adjutant-General, Military District No. 2.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 3.

DEPUTY ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
KINGSTON, 13th December, 1876.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Major General commanding, my Annual Report on the state of the Militia in Military District No. 3, and much regret that my serious illness has prevented my sending it in at an earlier date.

I am still unable to attend office, but Brigade-Major Lieut-Colonel Worsley has made out the report (A.) on the state of efficiency of each regiment in the district, which has performed drill for the year 1876-77, and will no doubt furnish you with all the information in his power. I beg to append a return (B) shewing the establishment, the number detailed for drill, the number actually drilled, the figure of merit of each battalion, the best company in each battalion and the best shot, together with the amount paid to each corps by the District Paymaster.

The selection of corps for drill, was made by lot, in the presence of two field officers of the active force and in accordance with instructions from Head quarters, when the following corps were exempted from drill:—

- One Troop, 3rd Provisional Regiment of Cavalry.
- One Troop, 4th Provisional Regiment of Cavalry.
- Napanee Garrison Battery.
- 15th Battalion.
- 16th Battalion.
- 7 Companies, 40th Battalion.

3rd Provisional Regiment of Cavalry.

On the 21st of September I inspected two troops of this regiment at Peterborough, the Port Hope Troop, under the command of Lieut-Col. Smart, having marched to Peterborough to perform their annual drill together. They were billeted

in the Agricultural building, blankets being supplied to the men from the Government store. Lieut-Col. Boulton commanded the parade at the inspection, putting the troops through several manœuvres, marching past at a trot, gallop and ranking past, all well performed. Major Rogers commanding the Peterborough troop, putting them through the sword exercise, also well performed.

The general appearance of the men was good, accoutrements clean and in good order, and the horses, especially those of the Peterborough Troop very fine. Great credit is due to Lieut-Colonel Smart, officers and men of the Port Hope Troop for their zeal in undertaking so long a march, for the purpose of making the short period allowed for drill this year as efficient as possible by joining the Peterborough troop.

I beg to enclose herewith a letter (C.) to me from Lieut-Colonel Smart, relative to the march of his troop from Port Hope to Peterborough which contains some useful information. Major Rogers, complained (and very justly so) of the trowsers recently issued to the men as of inferior quality and totally unfit for cavalry soldiers. I would respectfully suggest that in future pantaloons of a good strong texture be served out to this branch of the service, believing that the men would be quite willing to provide themselves with long boots, which would give them a much more soldier-like appearance than they have at present.

4th Provisional Regiment of Cavalry.

On the 4th of July I inspected the Kingston and Loberough Troops of this regiment, under command of Lieut-Colonel Duff.

Owing to ground selected for inspection being totally unfit for the drilling of cavalry, I was obliged to content myself with a few manœuvres at a walk and the sword exercise. I regret to say that in preparing for the inspection, Lieut-Colonel Duff's horse fell, breaking its neck, but providentially the rider escaped with slight injury. The general appearance of the men was good and the horses and equipment of the Kingston Troop superior to that of the Loberough Troop, in whose clothing and equipments I regret to say I found many deficiencies.

On the 6th of July I inspected the Picton Troop, under the command of Major White. The men were billeted in the Agricultural Hall, performing their drill in four days.

The general appearance of the men was good, their arms, accoutrements and clothing in good order and the horses also good.

The troop marched past and performed several manœuvres very creditably, but were unable to go through the sword exercise not having been practiced in it.

Artillery

All the batteries detailed performed their drill. The Field Batteries in camp and the garrison batteries at their respective head-quarters. The Inspector of Artillery will report on the state of efficiency of these batteries. I accompanied him on his tour of inspection through my district.

The two Field Batteries have been recently armed with the new rifled muzzle-loading field gun, and are now complete in every respect as far as equipment is concerned.

Infantry.

The battalions of infantry performed their drill by companies at their respective company head-quarters, and were inspected by me or Brigade Major Lieut-Colonel Worsley, on completing their drill. The report on the state of efficiency of each company is embodied in that of the regiment, with the exception of that of the 14th Battalion, which performed its drill in battalion, and was inspected by me on the 13th July. After inspecting the battalion minutely in the ranks, they marched past in open and quarter-column, and were then wheeled into line, and put through the manual and firing exercise by the Adjutant, Capt. Smythe, and through various battalion movements by Lieut-Colonel Callaghan, all of which they performed in a most

creditable manner. The general appearance of the men was good, and their arms, accoutrements and clothing in good order, though I observed a few deficiencies in regimental trousers.

I have much pleasure in bringing to your notice the Port Hope Companies of the 46th Battalion and their band, whose cleanliness and general appearance on parade was quite equal to any regiment of the line. Their drill was also good, reflecting great credit upon Lieut.-Colonel Williams and all concerned.

The Lindsay Company of the 45th Battalion was also very efficient in drill, as also the Battersea, Portsmouth and Barriefield Companies of the 47th Battalion.

The two companies of the 40th Battalion (Cobourg and Brighton) also turned out and performed their drill in a most creditable manner.

In making my inspection I was sorry to observe that in many of the companies there were men deficient in articles of uniform, thereby giving an unsoldierlike appearance to the whole company, and shewing negligence on the part of the officers in command of companies in not collecting and storing their clothing after the annual drill. I believe it would be to the advantage of the Government if all the arms, clothing and equipment were concentrated at battalion head-quarters, under the eye of the officer commanding the battalion and in charge of a paid caretaker, whose services might be made available if necessary as a drill-instructor, as there would be no difficulty in obtaining the services of qualified non-commissioned officers recently discharged from Her Majesty's service who would be only too glad to obtain such employment.

I would here beg to express my thanks to the officers commanding corps for their assistance in making arrangements for these inspections whereby much time as well as expense was saved.

Drill Sheds.

No new drill sheds have been erected in the district since the last Report and the one at Cobourg, which was destroyed by fire in 1875, has not yet been rebuilt, though I would strongly recommend that it should be and upon the same plan as the one at Port Hope, which is the best in my district. This has already been the subject of a special report to Head Quarters.

In travelling through the country, I regretted to observe that many of the drill sheds were in a bad state of repair, the glass broken and in some instances doors off, showing a want of care on the part of those in charge. The one at Norwood especially; the rooms in which the arms, accoutrements and clothing of the company are kept, having become detached from the main building, necessitating their removal to the private residence of the Captain.

Captain Preston, of the 46th Battalion reported to me that the drill shed at Lifford was of no use to his company, and suggested its removal to Bethany, where it would be available for his men, and also for the men of the Durham Field Battery who reside chiefly in that neighbourhood. I directed him to make a special report on the subject, which he has not yet done.

I would beg to observe that the period allowed for drill this year is too short for much to be accomplished, the majority of the men in the ranks being only recruits and their instructors in many instances not very well up to their work. The inspection of companies separately has this advantage, that it enables the Inspecting Staff Officer to judge of the capabilities of each individual officer in command, and by pointing out defects might possibly be the means of inciting them to become more proficient in drill.

I was sorry to notice that the non-commissioned officers, as a rule, were of very little assistance; but this is not surprising, as there is at present no means afforded them of acquiring a knowledge of their military duties.

I think it would be a great advantage to the force if the Infantry and Cavalry Schools were re-opened at this station during the winter months; and, in the event of their being so, would suggest that the old system of giving a bonus to those who passed be discontinued, and that in lieu a daily rate of pay be allowed to cadets

while attending the school: by this means only those who are anxious to acquire a knowledge of their drill would be induced to attend, and it would effectually exclude those whose sole object in going formerly was to obtain the \$50 grant. Some means for providing instruction must shortly be adopted, otherwise in a few years there will be no qualified officers in the force.

The report of Lieut.-Colonel Worsley is herewith forwarded.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

BOWEN VAN STRAUBENZIE, Lieut.-Colonel,
Deputy Adjutant-General, Military District No. 3.

The Adjutant-General,
Head-Quarters, Ottawa.

[A.]

BRIGADE OFFICE, KINGSTON,
15th December, 1876.

SIR,—It is with regret that the duty of making up the inspection reports of corps in the Military District No. 3 has devolved on me, owing to your severe illness, which I trust now will soon be at an end. I enclose them to you and trust they will meet with your approval. The corps which I received your instructions to inspect and report upon were the following, viz:—

47th Battalion.

I inspected Nos. 2 and 3 Companies on the 5th July. The company drill was fair, considering the short time and number of recruits; manual and firing exercise indifferent, and skirmishing fair. In No. 3 Company at Elginburg the physical appearance was good, in fact it was the best company of the two.

On the 21st September, accompanied by the officer commanding, Lieut.-Colonel G. Kirkpatrick, I inspected No. 1 Company at Battersea. The drill of this company surprised me, it was really well. The Instructor, (the captain) a good one; the guide, markers and men knew their work, and the Company Buglar could blow every call used in the service. The manual and firing exercise, well done; skirmishing excellent, arms and accoutrements not so clean as I could wish. This company was reported to be a strictly temperance one, which accounted, perhaps, for their great attention and steadiness at drill.

40th Battalion.

On the 10th November I inspected No. 2 Company of the 40th Battalion, at Cobourg. Arms and accoutrements very clean, also the men, who had their hair cut short; a great improvement in many companies. Company drill very good; manual and firing exercise creditable; skirmishing also. This is all one could expect, and was due to the officers, and to Lieut.-Colonel Smith and Major Smith (late Brigade Major) who take great interest in anything connected with the 40th Battalion.

49th Battalion.

On the 28th November I inspected No. 1 Company, 49th Battalion. This company has actually, I was informed, no uniform belonging to the company, but that the officers had purchased tunics for them. This company was well drilled, though it paraded in so confined a space, being at night in the company's armory, that it did not do them justice. Manual and firing exercise well performed; arms and accoutrements very clean, and the target practice well carried out, and the result good.

I inspected No. 3 Company at Sydney on the 29th November, and was accompanied by Lieut.-Colonel Brown. I was not in any way pleased with this company; its drill was indifferent. The physical appearance of the men was very small; some young and others very old. They had little uniform, giving an unsoldier-like appearance. The arms and accoutrements were fairly clean. Target practice was performed. The company had little instruction worth speaking of.

I inspected No. 5 Company on the 20th November, accompanied by the officer commanding and the Adjutant. This company was composed of very fine men indeed, but they had received no instruction. Company drill, bad; manual and firing exercise, indifferent; skirmishing, bad. The officers wore the uniform of the 4th, with civilian *wide-a-wakes* as a head-dress, and the men generally were without uniform.

Target practice has been performed, I believe, but I have not received the registers.

Trenton Garrison Battery.

Accompanied by the Inspector of Artillery I inspected the Trenton Garrison Battery on the 25th November, and considering the short time, and in it so much to learn, and not having been out for two years, they did, I think, fairly. The officers, however, knew nothing of their work; arms and accoutrements clean.—I refer to infantry drill. (See Inspection of Artillery Report.)

On the Drill of 1876-77.

I shall make a few remarks on the effect the drill has had this year in this district: it has kept companies together, which is something, and that is about all. If at each company head-quarters we could have sent out a really first rate Instructor, as from the School of Gunnery here to the artillery companies, who would have really drilled them, better results would have been obtained; but this kind of knowledge is fast dying out in this district, it is now two years since any officer or non-commissioned officer obtained a certificate either in the Infantry or Cavalry, and unless something is done in this direction, I fear very bad results for the Militia force here. Good instruction is worth paying for, but it by no means follows, because a man has been a non-commissioned officer in Her Majesty's regular army, that he should be a good instructor, it is quite a special gift, and I have seen as good a one as I ever knew, a volunteer, but he must have practice, and come (to use the expression) fresh from the mill in order to do his work effectually, he is then a host in himself for instruction purposes, and can make himself felt amongst a thousand men. I trust, therefore, that the Government may see fit to establish schools, both of Infantry and Cavalry, as I feel persuaded it would be money expended in the right direction, in sending out qualified men to instruct at the annual drill.

Target Practice.

I send you the details of target practice; the results are not what I could wish. There are, no doubt, in Canada some first-rate marksmen, but they are few in number. To shoot well with a rifle a man must be taught, or he must take such pains with himself by practice to become a marksman, otherwise he will be more dangerous to his friends than his enemies. At various times I have visited the camps of instruction and watched the practice, when the shooting was so bad that I am certain people would not credit it, but the results on paper would be good; but I find it is easier to shoot on paper with a pen with good results, than with a Snider at a small target at 500 yards. In this also the services of competent instructors are required, as much as in the drill.

Arms and Accoutrements.

I have much pleasure in informing you that the arms and accoutrements in the 7th Brigade Division are in a much better state than they were, and I find that

stopping the allowance for care of arms in cases where they are in a bad condition has a wonderful effect. The Field Batteries have all stores in excellent condition, particularly the harness. The cavalry equipments is also now well cared for. I trust, however, battalion armouries with paid caretakers will be insisted upon. The force is to a great measure minus haversacks and great coat straps; these I look upon as necessities with our force as accoutred, and should be made up to the established strength of the companies.

Enrolment of Men.

It has come to my knowledge that the men in many companies are not really legally enrolled when they are called out for training. Since I have known this, I have taken pains to see the rolls properly made out, filled in, and the men sworn in.

Notwithstanding many drawbacks I think the Militia Force here is now in better order than it ever was; it has stood the test of time, and without the excitement of a Fenian raid to keep it up, or the presence of Her Majesty's regular troops to emulate officers and men up to the proper standard of excellence, and I therefore trust that we have a bright future before us, and with the Military Schools already established and in which we all feel a pride, and others I trust to be formed here, it will continue to improve and become second to none.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

P. W. WORSLEY, Lieut.-Colonel,

Acting Brigade-Major, 6th and 7th Brigade Divisions.

The Deputy Adjutant General of Militia,

Military District No. 3, Kingston.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 3.

RETURN showing the Establishment; the Number detailed for Annual Drill; the Number actually Drilled; Figure of Merit of Battalion; Figure of Merit of the best Company in each Battalion, and the best Shot; together with the amount paid to each Corps by the District Paymaster.

Corps.	Establishment.		No. detailed for drill.		No. actually drilled.		Figure of Merit of Battalion.		Best Shot.		PAYMENTS.	
	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.	Figure of Merit of Battalion.	Figure of Merit of best company in each Battalion.			Amount paid by District Paymaster to each Corps.	
3rd Regiment Cavalry....	13	126	6	64	6	59	No returns.	17-60	Sergt. Sanderson (36)....	cts.	\$	2 Troops drilled.
4th do	15	168	8	97	8	97	.....	.....	.....	674 00	1,082 00	do
Ducham Field Battery....	6	75	6	74	6	74	.....	.....	.....	1,385 88	1,165 68	3
Kingston do	6	75	6	74	5	55	.....	.....	.....	Nil.	144 00	Not detailed for drill.
Cobourg Gar. Battery....	2	42	2	42	2	36	.....	.....	.....	184 00	936 00	1 Company No. 2 not exerc'd
Napanee Gar. do	2	42	2	42	1	34	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	do
Port Hope Gar. do	2	42	2	42	2	42	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	do
Trenton Gar. do	2	42	2	42	2	42	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Only 2 Co's. detailed for drill.
14th Battalion	20	252	14	252	12	210	11-84	22-70	Sergt. Hume (48)....	.....	.....
15th do	20	252	14	252	.....	.....	No return.	.....	.....	.....	.....
16th do	24	336	6	84	6	84	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
45th do	26	378	14	252	14	225	13-70	21-17	Pte. Grundy (44)....	.....	.....
46th do	20	252	14	252	14	236	No returns.	.....	.....	.....	.....
47th do	22	294	16	294	16	282	19-28	22-41	Sergt. Bailey (48)....	.....	.....
48th do	20	252	14	252	8	230	17-39	22-78	Sergt. McGinnis (50)....	.....	.....
49th do	18	210	12	210	9	122	26-61	31-23	Pte. Hogle (35)....	.....	.....
57th do	20	252	14	252	13	238	Not ascert'd	18-36	Sergt Miller (44)....	.....	.....
Total.....	258	3,442	136	2,283	122	2,014	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$12,047 56	

BOWEN VAN STRAUBENZIE, Lt.-Colonel,
Deputy Adj.-Genl. M. D. No. 3.

[C.]

3rd Provisional Regiment of Cavalry.

PORT HOPE, 25th November, 1876.

SIR,—I have the honour to report that I mustered the 2nd Troop of the 3rd Cavalry at Port Hope, on the morning of the 18th September last, for the purpose of annual drill.

It had been previously arranged by Lieut.-Colonel Boulton that we should march to Peterboro', the head-quarters of No. 3 Troop, and put in our drill together there.

The troop paraded in heavy marching order, each man having provided himself with one ration, and at one o'clock p.m. we commenced our march by the main, or what is called the Boundary, Road for Peterboro'. This is a good gravel road running between the Townships of Hope and Cavan on the west side, and Hamilton and Monaghan on the east side. Arriving at the Village of Centreville, 15 miles from Port Hope, we halted for an hour for refreshments. Continuing the march we reached Peterboro', a distance of 31 miles, making the march in seven hours, through a rain storm which continued all day.

I have to state that the march was conducted in an orderly manner, without any accident or injury to man or horse, and without any apparent exertion, the proof of which is that every man and horse appeared on duty next day.

Arrangements made by Quartermaster Stapleton, with a hotel keeper to board the men for 35 cents per day, proved to be very satisfactory. The men used the sheds of the Agricultural Association, which are on the same grounds as the drill shed, for sleeping in. The horses were put up in the stables attached, and it was an excellent place both for the protection and safety of the animals. The forage for the horses cost 30 cents per day.

On the 23rd September the troop under Lieut. Williams marched home, leaving Peterboro' at 9 o'clock, a.m., halting at Centreville for one hour, and arriving at Port Hope at 4:30, p.m.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

R. W. SMART, Lieut.-Colonel.

Lieut.-Colonel Van Straubenzie,
Deputy Adjutant-General, Kingston.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 4.

DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
BROCKVILLE, 4th December, 1876.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Major-General commanding, this my Annual Report for the present year, on the state of the Active Militia in Military District No. 4, together with "Abstract Inspection Report" and "District Target Practice Returns."

The strength of the force as originally organized, is as follows:—

	Officers and Men.		Horses.
Cavalry, 2 Troops.....	90	...	90
Field Artillery, 2 Batteries.....	160	...	122
Garrison Artillery, 7 Batteries.....	412	...	5
5 Battalions of Infantry and Rifles.....	1,818	...	25
3 Independent Companies of Infantry.....	174	...	...
Maximum strength at present.....	2,654	...	242

The above are exclusive of the Governor General's Foot Guards.
Reduced strength as per General Orders of 23rd April, 1875 :—

	Officers and Men.	Horses.
Cavalry, 2 Troops.....	88	88
Field Artillery, 2 Batteries.....	160	122
Garrison Artillery, 7 Batteries.....	316	5
5 Battalions of Infantry and Rifles.....	1,580	25
3 Independent Companies of Infantry.....	132	
Total.....	2,276	240
Strength authorized to perform drill for 1876-77, as per General Orders of 18th May, 1876 :—		
All arms.....	1,800	124
Actual number who performed the drill 1876-77 :—		
All arms.....	1,786	124

Pursuant to General Orders I made the selection of companies which were to drill, but owing to some of those selected being a few below the maximum strength, I placed three additional ones under Orders, which completed the quota within fourteen.

CAVALRY.

The Ottawa Troop—Capt. N. Sparks.

Owing to the impossibility of having satisfactory musters, except by assembling the men and horses for consecutive days drill, Captain Sparks made arrangements to have the men and horses occupy buildings at "Mutchmor Driving Park," where the men cooked their own rations, and lived as if on actual service.

Although the weather had been very wet the day and night before, the men paraded in a clean and soldierly manner for inspection, were of good physique and well mounted, and for the short period of drill showed satisfactory progress (see Abstract Report). The absence of both subalterns caused considerable inconvenience and threw too much work upon the Captain.

A qualified Cavalry Instructor would be of much service to this troop.

Present at Inspection.

Officers.....	1
Non-Commissioned Officers and Troopers.....	33
Horses.....	34

Prescott Troop—Capt. Raney.

This troop performed the drill in consecutive days at Prescott, the men making their own arrangements for rations and forage. Although the head-quarters of this troop is at Prescott, the men and horses are from the country, principally from the Township of Edwardsburg; consequently they could not live in Prescott for a number of days without being put to considerable expense, but this they preferred to drilling at odd times.

The troop presented a creditable appearance so far as the physique of men and horses, but the appointments were not so well cleaned as they should have been; this detracted from the general appearance. The field movements, sword exercise and skirmishing were all well and smartly executed.

Present at Inspection.

Officers.....	2
Non-Commissioned Officers and Troopers.....	32
Horses.....	34

FIELD BATTERIES OF ARTILLERY.

The Ottawa Battery—Capt. Jas. Stewart.

This battery performed twelve days' drill in camp at Ottawa, and presented that efficient, clean and soldierly appearance for which this old corps is noted. The inspection was made by Lieut.-Col. Irwin, Inspector of Artillery, Province of Ontario, to whose report I beg to refer.

A new feature at this inspection was that of competitive driving for four prizes which were generously given by Capt. Stewart.

1st Prize won by No. 3 Gun.

Drivers H. Marling, who has served twelve years, and A. Gray, who has served eight years.

2nd Prize won by No. 1 Gun.

Drivers T. Demptsey, who has served fourteen years, and R. Martin, who has served eleven years.

3rd Prize won by No. 2 Gun.

Drivers R. Nelson, who has served fifteen years, and D. Johnston, who has served seven years.

4th Prize won by No. 4 Gun.

Drivers W. Henry, who has served twenty years, and R. Bell, who has served eleven years.

I may here add that a Rifle Association has been in existence in connection with this corps for some years, several hundred dollars being given annually as prizes. This year the matches were carried on in connection with the Ottawa Troop of Cavalry; the Cavalry and Artillery carbines being the weapons used in the competitions.

Capt. Stewart has also organized in connection with the battery an efficient band of sixteen musicians, which will, I trust, be recognized by the Department as being entitled to the same consideration as battalion bands.

Owing to a gale of wind which was blowing during the last few days of the encampment, the targets for shot and shell practice could not be placed in the river, consequently the practice could not take place. The corps had been entered to compete for the prizes of the Dominion Artillery Association, and Major Cotton, with proper assistants from "A" Battery, had been sent to Ottawa to superintend the firing. It is therefore hoped that permission will be given to allow this practice to take place in winter on the ice.

Capt. Stewart states that the reduction of horses to twenty-eight interferes very much with the efficiency of the corps, and as no reduction has been made in drivers and gunners, it is a difficult matter to utilize the men to good advantage, which, probably, partly accounts for the organization of the band.

Present at Inspection.

Officers.....	5
Non-Commissioned Officers, Gunners, Drivers and Band.....	71
Horses.....	28

Gananoque Battery—Capt. Wm. McKenzie.

This battery performed twelve days' drill in camp on the bank of the St. Lawrence, about two miles west of Gananoque, and presented a clean, soldierly and efficient appearance, and notwithstanding that this is a new battery, and only the third annual drill which it had performed, Lieut.-Col. Strange, Inspector of Artillery, who made the inspection, complimented the officers and men very highly on their appearance and efficiency, and to whose report I beg to refer.

At the time of the encampment and drill the corps was in possession of the bronze smooth-bore guns, with which the competition for the Dominion Artillery Association prizes was carried on. Owing to some mismanagement or accident with the target, the practice (although superintended by an officer of the "A" Battery) was not satisfactory.

The new steel muzzle-loading rifled guns have, since that time, been issued to Captain McKenzie for the use of this corps, in whose hands I am sure they will be well cared for and efficiently handled.

Owing to the reduction of the horses to twenty-eight, it was not found practicable to turn out the full number of men authorized.

Present at Inspection.

Officers	6
Non-Commissioned Officers, Gunners and Drivers	52
Horses	82

GARRISON ARTILLERY.

The Ottawa Brigade—Lieut.-Col. Jas. Egleson.

This brigade numbers seven batteries, all of which have head-quarters at Ottawa except No. 3 Battery, which is six miles in the country, and which came into the city and paraded with the Brigade for the annual inspection.

The ranks of the corps are well filled, and the officers are zealous in the discharge of their duties. It is impossible for a great number of the officers to leave their private business sufficiently long to enable them to go through a course of instruction at the School of Gunnery, consequently promotion in the Brigade is blocked, and the officers are reduced to fifteen (in place of twenty-eight). On this reduced number devolves the whole expense connected with the corps, including that in connection with the band. I submit that the interest of the service require some scheme to be devised by which this difficulty may be overcome.

Owing to the small and inconvenient drillshed at Ottawa, but few movements could be gone through at the inspection. While the corps showed that it had received considerable training, the Infantry movements were not gone through with much precision. During the summer a great part of the drills had been performed with the big guns on Parliament Hill. These guns have now been moved to Nepean Point, where they will more easily be made available for the drill and exercise of the corps, a knowledge of which appears to be the pride of artillerymen generally to acquire.

Present at Inspection.

Officers	15
Non-Commissioned Officers and Gunners	291
Efficient Band	21
Total, all rank	306

INFANTRY AND RIFLE CORPS.

18th "Prescott" Battalion of Infantry—Lieut.-Colonel A. Urquhart.

(Head Quarters, Hawkesbury Mills.)

Six companies strong, five of which were authorized to perform the drill. This is purely a rural corps, two companies being at Hawkesbury Mills, one each at Vankleek Hill, L'Orignal, East Hawkesbury and Plantagenet, and for the past few years all have been efficiently maintained.

Drill and efficiency as follows:—

No. 3 Company, indifferent; Nos. 2 and 4, fair; Nos. 1 and 6, good; the latter two being particularly clean and well dressed, steady on parade, and skirmished very well indeed. All completed the target practice.

Present at Inspection.

Officers	10
Non-Commissioned Officers and men	182
No Band	

Total, all ranks

192

41st Battalion of Rifles—Lieut.-Colonel W. H. Cole.

(Head Quarters, Brockville.)

Five companies strong, four of which were authorized to drill. No two companies are located at the same place: No. 1 Co., at Head Quarters; No. 2, Gananoque; No. 3, Frankville; No. 4, Merrickville; No. 5, Carleton Place.

With the exception of No. 6 Company now disbanded, the battalion has always been efficiently maintained. It would be very desirable to have another company authorized so as to complete the battalion to six companies.

Drill as per abstract, Inspection Report. General efficiency fair. All completed the target practice.

Present at Inspection.

Officers	9
Non-Commissioned Officers and men	165
An efficient band of	15

Total, all ranks

174

42nd Battalion of Infantry—Lieut.-Colonel J. D. Buell.

(Head Quarters, Brockville.)

Seven companies strong. No two located at the same place: No. 1, Almonte; No. 2, Brockville; No. 3, Perth; No. 4, Kinburn; No. 5, Lansdowne; No. 6, Smith's Falls; No. 7, Pembroke.

Six companies authorized to drill. The battalion has always been efficiently maintained. Drill as per abstract, Inspection Report. Nos. 1 and 2 Companies fair; No. 4, good; Nos. 3 and 7, very good. The latter two being particularly clean, steady on parade, and well up in drill.

Present at Inspection.

Officers	10
Non-Commissioned Officers and men	250
An efficient band of	20

Total, all ranks

270

56th "Grenville" Battalion (The Lisgar Rifles)—Lieut.-Colonel H. D. Jessup.

(Head Quarters, Prescott.)

Seven companies strong. Nos. 1 and 2 at Head Quarters; No. 3, Burritt's Rapids; No. 4, Kemptville; No. 5, Ottawa; No. 6, North Augusta; No. 7, Spencerville. The whole of the companies authorized to drill.

With the exception of one or two companies which are now reorganized; the battalion has always been efficiently maintained. Drill as per abstract, Inspection Report. No. 1 Company, physique good, drill fair; No. 2 Company (with the exception of three or four men who were ordered to be discharged), physique good, drill fair; Nos. 3, 6 and 7 Companies, good; No. 5 Company, physique and general appearance very good. Manual and company movements, good. Firing exercises and skirmishing indifferent.

Present at Inspection.

Officers	14
Non-Commissioned Officers and men.....	256
No Band.	

Total, all ranks..... 270

59th "Stormont and Glengarry" Battalion of Infantry—Lieut.-Colonel D. Bergin.

(Head-Quarters, Cornwall.)

Seven companies strong, six authorized to drill. Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Companies at Head-quarters; No. 4, Lancaster; No. 5, Farran's Point; No. 6, Lunenburg; No. 7, Athol.

This battalion has been efficiently maintained for a number of years. Drill as per abstract, Inspection Report. Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Companies, fair (a few men objected to on account of age and size); No. 4 Company, good; Nos. 5 and 6 Companies, very good. The two latter paraded very clean and soldierlike, were steady on parade and well up in drill.

Present at Inspection.

Officers	14
Non-Commissioned Officers and men.....	256
Band.....	9

Total, all ranks..... 270

INDEPENDENT COMPANIES.

Goulburn Infantry Company, Capt. Wm. Garvin.	
Metcalfe do do Capt. Ira Morgan.	
Vernon do do Capt. Robert McGregor.	

Metcalfe Infantry Company—Capt. Ira Morgan.

For the past few years this company has been somewhat sickly, but now appears to have been reorganized and placed upon a more satisfactory footing. Many of the stores are deficient (Special Report). Drill as per abstract, Inspection Report. Appearance and physique, fair, and under Sergt.-Major Keating, Governor General's Foot Guards, the company showed a fair amount of training.

Present at Inspection.

Officers.....	3
Non-Commissioned Officers and men.....	42
Total, all ranks.....	45

Vernon Infantry Company—Capt. Robert McGregor.

This company has always been efficiently maintained. Drill as per abstract, Inspection Report. The physique this year is above the average, men very clean and steady; with a few days' more drill would make a highly efficient company.

Present at Inspection.

Officers	3
Non-Commissioned Officers and men.....	42
Total, all ranks.....	45

Goulburn Infantry Company—Capt. Wm. Garvin.

This company was not authorized to drill, but can always be depended upon when required.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The system of drill as carried out this year has not given satisfaction. The small amount of pay authorized has been no inducement for good men to take a lively interest in the welfare of the force, and the difficulty of carrying out the drill (more particularly by rural companies) except by consecutive days has proven too great for any of the officers to wish for a continuance of the present system.

Those who thought it would be beneficial to drill at convenient times as authorized this year are now fully satisfied that continuous days drill either at head-quarters or in Brigade Camp is the most satisfactory manner of training, and the Brigade Camp is generally given the preference.

The new clothing is an improvement on the previous issue, but I noticed a tendency in the jacket to work up above the waist belt and form a plait across the back. The colouring is often bad, and the trousers are of poor quality as well as colour. All would prefer the old pattern cloth tunic.

I would urge the propriety of authorizing a more liberal allowance of ball ammunition for practice, which would enable companies to fire at the target at other times than when performing the annual drill, owing to the shortness of which there is no time for proper instruction in this very important part of a soldier's training.

Increased interest has been manifested during the past year in rifle practice, more particularly at Ottawa, Brockville, Almonte and Pembroke; but owing to the cost of ammunition many who would make good shots are deterred from taking part in such practice.

I am still of opinion that a small sum of money given as prizes to be competed for at Company head-quarters under the proper regulations, would be of great utility in stimulating more generally the members of the force to acquire a thorough knowledge of rifle shooting.

The Brigade-Major has made the usual inspections of the stores, and otherwise assisted me. The District Paymaster has been prompt in making payments, and in mustering the Field Batteries which were in camp.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

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

W. H. JACKSON, Lieut.-Colonel.

Deputy Adjutant-General, Military District No. 4.

The Adjutant-General of Militia,
Ottawa.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 5.

HEAD-QUARTERS,
Montreal, December 1st., 1876.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward for your consideration, and for submission to the Major-General commanding, the Annual Report of Military District No. 5, under my command.

The number of officers and men allowed to perform the annual drill for 1876-77, being under the nominal strength of the corps in the District, a selection was made, first, of corps desirous of being relieved from drill, and second, by relieving one troop of cavalry and one company of infantry from drill from each of the regiments or battalions that could not muster for battalion drill. The following corps did not drill, viz:—

The Cookshire, Sherbrooke, Stanstead, Compton and Sutton Troops of Cavalry, Montreal Brigade Garrison Artillery (6 batteries), St. John's Battery Garrison Artillery, No. 2 Company Engineers, Montreal; 51st Battalion (8 companies), three companies each of the 11th and 54th Battalions, one company each of the 21st, 52nd, 53rd, 58th and 79th Battalions, and the Eardley Independent Company.

It was thought that this reduction of five Troops of Cavalry, seven Batteries of Garrison Artillery, one Company of Engineers, and twenty Companies of Infantry—taking the remaining corps at the average strength of the same corps at the annual drill of 1875-76—would have brought the strength within the quota allowed for the District: 3,450. But the corps throughout the District have mustered stronger at drill this year than was anticipated, and the quota has been exceeded by 200 or 400 ranks. The number of horses has been very much reduced, out of nine troops of cavalry four only have drilled, being a saving of 175 horses, which will more than compensate for the pay of the men over the quota.

CAVALRY.

The Montreal, St. Andrews and Huntingdon Troops drilled at their own headquarters; troop drill. The Missisquoi Troop, by special permission, was allowed to drill in camp with the 60th Battalion at St. Armands. All these troops mustered in full strength and passed a creditable inspection; the horses were well fitted for cavalry service.

FIELD BATTERIES.

The Montreal Field Battery, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Stevenson, performed the annual drill of twelve days in camp, Montreal West, commencing on the 13th and ending on the 25th September. The battery was inspected by Lieut.-Colonel Strange, Inspector of Artillery, and Lieut.-Colonel Fletcher, Deputy Adjutant-General. The gun practice was performed at Laprairie under the superintendence of Lieut.-Colonel Strange. The practice was considered satisfactory.

The Shefford Field Battery, under the command of Major Amyrauld, went into camp at Granby on the 1st and broke up camp on the 12th September. The battery was inspected by Lieut.-Colonel Strange on the 11th September; he was present at gun practice on that day, and expressed himself satisfied with the result. The Deputy Adjutant-General inspected the camp on the morning of the 12th before the camp broke up.

Both of these batteries mustered strong—the Shefford Battery full; fine able-bodied and intelligent men. The horses were well fitted for the work. The guns and equipment were all in good order. The movements and practice of both batteries at inspection shewed that they were thoroughly efficient.

The Garrison Artillery did not drill.

ENGINEERS.

No. 1 Company Montreal Engineers, under Lieut. Berry, drilled at head-quarters, and mustered with the brigade for celebration of Her Majesty's birth day 24th May, and for the Major-General's inspection on the 1st November. The company is efficient in infantry drill.

RIFLES AND INFANTRY.

City Corps.

The 1st Battalion "Prince of Wales" Rifles, 3rd Battalion "Victoria Volunteer" Rifles, 5th Battalion "Royal Fusiliers" and 6th Battalion "Fusiliers" of Montreal, performed the annual drill by battalions, and drilled regularly weekly from 1st May to 1st December. The drill performed by these corps exceeded by far the number of days for which pay is claimed. Their efficient performance of brigade and battalion movements at the inspection of the brigade by the Major-General commanding on the 1st November, and at the inspection by battalions on their private parades by the Deputy Adjutant-General, proved that the several corps had made good use of the time spent at their weekly drills.

Two brigade parades were held, the first on the anniversary of Her Majesty's birthday, 24th May. The brigade mustered on the Champ de Mars, of all arms and of all ranks 870, and marched to Fletcher's field, formed in line and fired a *feu de joie*, marched past, and afterwards went through a number of field movements, skirmishing and firing, all performed in a very creditable manner. The Montreal Field Battery, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Stevenson, fired a salute from the Mountain Plateau, and a detachment of the Garrison Artillery a salute from St. Helen's Island.

The second brigade day was held on the 1st November, on the Champ de Mars, when the Troop of Cavalry, No. 1 Company Engineers, 1st and 3rd Battalion Rifles, and 5th and 6th Battalions Fusiliers mustered, of all ranks, 1,082, for the Major-General's inspection. After inspection the corps marched past in column, quarter-column, and quarter-column at the double; wheeled into line of columns. The limited space of the parade ground, and the presence of the immense crowd, prevented any other movements from being performed. The General was pleased to express himself satisfied with the soldierlike appearance of the officers and men, and the efficient manner in which the movements were performed. The Rifles and Fusiliers appeared in new "head dresses," purchased by the corps; the 1st Prince of Wales' Rifles, with a neat cloth shako; the 3rd Battalion Victoria Rifles, a fur busby; the 5th and 6th Fusiliers, bear-skin caps, similar to those worn by the Fusiliers of the line.

The want of a drill-shed is very much felt in Montreal. The Fusilier Regiments drill in the City Hall, and the Rifle Regiments in the Victoria Skating Rink, hired for the purpose by the officers, an item of expense which cannot well be borne by them. The existence of an efficient brigade of all arms—of the nominal strength of 2,050—such as Montreal West possesses, is truly deserving of more encouragement than it has lately received from the city authorities. The \$12,000 owing the Militia Department by the corporation on the old building, would go far towards the erection of a suitable building for drill purposes. If the city would give a site, the above amount, with an equal sum from the Government, would erect the building. An earnest effort should be made during the coming year to have this accomplished.

Rural Corps.

The only battalion that drilled in camp was the 60th "Missisquoi" Infantry, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Rowe. This battalion, with the Missisquoi Troop of Cavalry, under command of Capt. Bush, applied for permission to perform the annual drill in camp, and supply their own rations and forage, if the Department would supply tents and blankets. This the Department kindly granted. The camp was formed at St. Armands on the 28th August, and was inspected by the Deputy-

Adjutant General on the 1st September. The camp was well pitched on a fine field, with good water supply, at about a mile from the railway station. The battalion and troop were put through field movements, skirmishing and firing, all of which was creditably performed.

The "St. Andrews" Troop of Cavalry and Huntingdon Troop of Cavalry drilled at Troop Headquarters.

The 11th Battalion, "Argenteuil Rangers;" the 21st Battalion, "Richelieu Light Infantry;" the 50th Battalion, "Huntingdon Borderers;" the 52nd Battalion, "Brome" Infantry; the 53rd Battalion, "Sherbrooke" Infantry; the 54th Battalion, "Richmond" Infantry; the 58th Battalion, "Compton" Infantry; the 79th Battalion, "Shefford Highlanders;" Drummondville Independent Company; Wakefield Independent Company, and Aylwin Independent Company, drilled by companies, at company head-quarters, during the months of September and October, and were inspected by the Deputy Adjutant-General and the Brigade Majors. The companies, with two or three exceptions, were all full, the men able bodied and fit for duty. A number of the corps have the clothing well worn, and with most of them there is a deficiency in forage caps; the want of a good head-dress takes away very much from the appearance of soldiers on parade. The arms and accoutrements are in fair condition, but in every battalion there are several rifles out of repair; it would be well if means were sanctioned to have these rifles sent to Montreal this winter, to be repaired by a competent armourer, ready for service in the spring if required.

The drilling by companies at their own head-quarters is less expensive than that of drilling by battalions in camp, but it does not afford so good an opportunity for officers, non-commissioned officers and men, to acquire a knowledge of the duties required of them if called out for service. Camp drill is popular throughout the district.

TARGET PRACTICE.

The target practice has been performed by all the corps in possession of targets and ranges, but some of the companies have no targets or safe ranges at company head-quarters. The tabular returns shew the figure of merit of each corps, so far as returns have been received.

RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS.

There are nine Rifle Associations in the District, all carried on efficiently and with spirit. These Associations, as mentioned in last year's report, have proved of real service in teaching officers and men the value of the efficient rifle placed in their hands. And the success of the competitors from the District, at the Provincial matches at Point St. Charles, and the Dominion matches at Ottawa this year, shews that good use has been made of the practice afforded them at the District competitions. Six out of the seven competitors for Wimbledon from the Province of Quebec are from this District.

STATE OF THE DISTRICT.

An excellent spirit prevails throughout the district in favour of the Active Militia. Several offers have been made lately to raise new companies. In case of an emergency every company in the force would be filled at once up to its nominal strength. There is also a loyal and willing spirit existing in the force itself. At the first alarm every man would be found at his post.

The officers of the 53rd "Sherbrooke" Battalion, under the command of Lieut-Col. Ibbotson, have, with some of the friends of the force, formed a Military School at Sherbrooke, for the purpose of practicing and acquiring a knowledge of drill and military duties. The school meets weekly for practice in the drill-shed. This action of the 53rd is commendable and deserves encouragement.

I beg to bring under your notice, and to acknowledge with thanks, the cordial support and efficient aid in the work of the District, received from Lieut-Colonels

Bacon and Aylmer, Brigade Majors, and Major Amyrauld, District Paymaster. I beg also to thank Major Pope, Provincial Storekeeper, for his prompt attention to requisitions for camp equipage and stores.

STRENGTH of Corps at Annual Drill for 1876-77.

Corps.	Officers.	N. C. O. and Men.	Horses.
Montreal Troop Cavalry	3	31	34
St. Andrews do	2	33	35
Huntingdon do	2	33	35
Missisquoi do	2	33	35
Montreal Field Battery.....	3	52	28
Shefford do	6	75	28
No. 1. Company, Engineers, Montreal.....	2	39	
1st Battalion, "Prince Wales" Rifles, Montreal.....	19	242	
3rd do "Victoria" do do	18	252	
5th do "Royal" Fusiliers do	25	252	
6th do "Montreal" Fusiliers	17	250	
11th do "Argenteuil Rangers"	14	203	
21st do "Richelieu" Light Infantry.....	6	119	
50th do "Huntingdon Borderers"	19	328	
52nd do "Brome" Light Infantry	15	210	
53rd do "Sherbrooke" Infantry	11	207	
54th do "Richmond" do	4	74	
58th do "Compton" do	23	368	
60th do "Missisquoi" do	19	216	
79th do "Shefford Highlanders"	17	281	
Drummondville Independent Company.....	2	42	
Wakefield do do	2	42	
Aylwin do do	2	35	
Total.....	233	3,417	195

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

JOHN FLETCHER, Lieut.-Colonel.
Deputy Adjutant-General, Military District No. 5.

The Adjutant-General of Militia,
Head-quarters, Ottawa.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 6.

MILITIA BRIGADE,
Montreal, 4th December, 1876.

SIR,—In conformity with your instructions, I have the honour to report for the information of the Major-General commanding, that in accordance with the General Orders (10.) 18th May last, I have selected by lot, on the 21st June last, in the presence of a Field Officer of the Active Militia, the following corps for the annual drill 1876-77:—

	Officers and Men.
64th Battalion (Lieut.-Col. Prudhomme).....	270
65th Battalion (Lieut.-Col. Labranche).....	270
80th Battalion (Major de Foy).....	270
Three River Provisional Battalion (Major Lambert).....	215
Joliette Provisional Battalion (Lieut.-Col. Sheppherd).....	215
St. Hyacinthe Provisional Battalion (Major Doherty).....	170
Arthabaska Independent Company.....	45
Wotton Independent Company.....	45
Total.....	1,500

That on the 8th July last the different companies of the 64th Battalion, Lieut.-Col. Prudhomme, had completed their eight days drill, and they were, in consequence, inspected in the following order:—

No. 3 Company was inspected the first, on the 8th of July.

Present on parade—1 officer and 42 men.

After the manual and firing, the company went through a few wheelings and some company drill on the move. This was done in a creditable manner. The men looked well and had a soldierlike appearance. The arms and accoutrements were in good order.

On the same day No. 4 Company was inspected.

Present at inspection—2 officers and 42 men.

They were put through manual and firing, formation of fours, wheelings and some skirmishing. This was fairly done considering the short period for drill. The arms and clothing were in good order.

On the 9th of July No. 5 Company was inspected.

Present at inspection—2 officers and 42 men.

Manual and firing were gone through; wheeling and company drill on the move. The arms and accoutrements were in good order.

On the 10th July No. 6 Company was inspected.

Present at inspection—2 officers and 42 men.

Manual and firing, wheeling and company drill on the move. Arms and accoutrements in good order.

On the 11th July No. 1 Company was inspected.

Present at inspection—2 officers and 42 men.

Proving and inspecting of company and arms; manual and firing were gone through, after which formation of fours, wheelings, &c., &c.

The arms and accoutrements were in good order.

On the same day No. 2 Company was inspected.

Present at inspection—2 officers and 42 men.

Proving and inspecting of company and arms; manual and firing were gone through, after which formation of fours and wheelings.

The arms and accoutrements were in good order.

80th Battalion—Major de Foy.

On the 13th July No. 1 Company of this battalion was inspected.

Present at inspection—2 officers and 40 men.

All able bodied and good men; the arms were clean; clothing and accoutrements in a fair state; company drill fairly performed.

Same day No. 2 Company was inspected.

Present at inspection—1 captain; 1 adjutant, and 42 men.

This is a good company; all good men. Company drill was fairly performed; arms were clean; clothing and accoutrements in a fair state.

On the 14th July No. 3 Company was inspected.

Present at inspection—2 officers and 40 men.

Arms clean and in good order; accoutrements and clothing in good order; company drill was fairly performed.

On same day No. 4 Company was inspected.

Present at inspection—2 officers and 40 men.

This is a good company; strong men. Company drill fair; arms in good order; clothing and accoutrements in a fair condition.

On the 15th November No. 5 Company was inspected.

Present at inspection—1 officer and 40 men.

This company is a good company, composed of active young men. They drilled fairly; arms in good order; clothing new; accoutrements in good condition.

On the same day No. 6 Company was inspected.

Present at inspection—2 officers and 37 men.

This is also a good company. Arms, clothing and accoutrements in good order; company drill fairly performed.

Three Rivers Provisional Battalion.

Staff—1 Major commanding; 1 Paymaster; 1 Adjutant; 1 Quartermaster; 1 Surgeon. Total—5.

On the 18th July I inspected No. 3 Company, Berthier (*en haut*.)

Present at inspection—2 officers and 42 men.

This is a good company. Arms, clothing and accoutrements in a fair state.

After the general salute the manual and firing was gone through. Company drill was fairly done.

On the 19th July I inspected No. 2 Company at Rivière du Loup (*en haut*.)

Present at inspection—2 officers and 42 men.

This is a good company; strong, healthy men. Arms, clothing and accoutrements in good order. Company drill fairly performed.

On the 20th July I proceeded to Rawdon and inspected No. 5 Company there.

Present at inspection—2 officers and 41 men.

This is a very good company, all Irishmen; strong and healthy men. Arms, clothing and accoutrements in good order; company drill well performed.

On the 24th July I inspected No. 1 Company, Berthier (*en haut*.)

This is a good company; the greater number are strong healthy men. Arms, clothing and accoutrements in a fair state. Company drill and skirmishing fairly performed.

Present at inspection—2 officers and 40 men.

On the same day I inspected No. 4 Company.

Present at inspection—2 officers and 42 men.

This is a good company, strong men. Arms, clothing and accoutrements in fair order; company movements were well performed.

Provisional Battalion, Joliette.

Staff—1 Lieut.-Col.; 1 Surgeon; 1 Paymaster; 1 Quartermaster. Total—4

On the 20th July I inspected No. 1 Company at Joliette.

Present at inspection—2 officers and 42 men.
 This is a good company; well up in company drill. Arms, clothing and accoutrements were in good order; skirmishing movements well performed.
 On the same day I proceeded to Rawdon to inspect No. 5 Company there.
 Present at inspection—2 officers and 42 men.
 This is a good company, all Irishmen. They are well up in company drill. Their arms, clothing and accoutrements were in fair condition.
 On the 21st July I proceeded to inspect No. 2 Company, "Ste. Jacques de L'Achigan."
 Present at inspection—2 officers and 42 men.
 This is a good company. Arms, clothing and accoutrements in good order: company drill fairly performed.
 On the same day I inspected No. 3 Company, "Ste. Melanie D'Aillebout."
 Present at inspection—2 officers and 39 men.
 The men are good, healthy young men, but did not seem to understand sufficiently the word of command. It is true that they are all French Canadians and cannot speak English. Some company movements were fairly performed. The arms, clothing and accoutrements in a very fair state.
 On the 30th August I inspected No. 4 Company. (Ste. Elizabeth.)
 Present at inspection—2 officers and 42 men.
 This is a good company; the men are strong and healthy. Company drill was fairly gone through, at least some of the company movements.
 The arms, clothing and accoutrements are in a pretty fair state.

Provisional Battalion, St. Hyacinthe.

On the 3rd of November I inspected No. 2 Company at St. Pie.
 Present at inspection—2 officers and 37 men.
 This is a good company; men strong and active. Arms, accoutrements and clothing in good order. They were put through manual and firing, and a few company movements, which they executed in a fair manner.
 On the 4th November I proceeded to St. Simon to inspect No. 3 Company.
 Present at inspection—2 officers and 37 men.
 This is another good company. Arms in good order; clothing and accoutrements in a fair condition.
 Manual and firing; formation of fours; wheelings and a few other company movements were satisfactorily performed.
 I am sorry to have to report that No. 4 Company (the Sorel Company) did not drill this year. During the summer the captain was in ill health; he had even the intention of resigning, but upon reconsideration thought he would drill his company this autumn. However, the 1st December has arrived and that has not been done, very much to my regret.
 During the month of August the St. Hyacinthe (No. 1 Company) performed the eight days' drill, but before I could inspect it the great fire of the 3rd September last consumed the captain's house and premises. The arms, clothing and accoutrements were stored there, part of them were burnt, part of them were lost or stolen.
 According to the "Acquittance Roll" signed by the Captain, the Paymaster of the battalion, the Major commanding the battalion, two officers and forty-two men performed this drill.
 In obedience to a special order from the Major-General commanding, I proceeded to inspect this company on the night of the 29th November.
 Present at inspection—2 officers and 28 men.
 They had neither arms, military clothing, or accoutrements. All, save a few rifles, had perished as I have before stated. I will forward you, in a few days a special report upon this head.
 The captain told me that he had not been able to find a hall or large room for

the inspection. The consequence was, the company had to be inspected out doors in a yard, with a few lights here and there.

It was a bitter cold night, the men were half clad and shivering. They had no arms, and there was no space for any kind of movement.

I counted 2 officers and 28 men.

The captain said the balance of his men were away, some working in the States, others with farmers away in the country. I then, after addressing a few words to them, dismissed the company, which gave three hearty cheers for the Queen.

It was a pitiful sight to see such a lot of fine young men totally ruined, some having lost their houses and homes with all their clothing, others all they had in the world.

The "Wotton" Independent Company, Captain Richard, was not prepared to drill. The St. Jean Baptiste Independent Company, Captain Simpson, was to have drilled in its stead. All was ready, when the Captain (Simpson) fell into bad business and had to take refuge on the other side of the line. It was then too late to find another company to take their turn.

67th Battalion or "Mount Royal Rifles."

This fine corps was inspected on the 15th November.

Present at Inspection.

Staff.....	3
Company Officers.....	9
Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates.....	249

This is a really good corps, and is destined under the able command of Lieut.-Col N. Lebranche, to be second to none in the force.

The arms, clothing and accoutrements are in good order. This corps has no forage caps or head dress of any kind—those the men had on at the inspection were borrowed for the occasion.

I am happy to see that the Department is going to furnish them with Kil-marnock forage caps.

At the inspection several battalion movements were gone through in a creditable manner.

Rifle Associations.

There is as yet only one Rifle Association in the District; but I have good reason to expect that two new ones will be formed this next year.

A rifle match was held at Joliette, Military District No. 6, on the 20th and 21st September last. Return forwarded.

I regret that the offers made by different parties in the District to raise cavalry troops and form batteries of artillery have not been accepted by Government, yet this District has not its quota of men.

The events which are foreshadowed in the complicated questions that agitate the civilized world just now makes one almost regret that every second man in this new Dominion of ours has not some kind of military training.

Our position is rather an exceptional one. With a large area of country to protect and defend, a great and powerful nation for neighbour, far from the Mother Country, circumstances might arise that would cause the country to regret its apparent indifference as to the proper arming and training of its inhabitants.

The Major-General commanding, in his remarkable report of 1st January, 1876, to the Honourable Minister of Militia and Defence, very properly says, at page x: "The moral power of a nation without being backed by physical power, would have but small influence, if any, in the politics and the councils of the nations of the world; but when supported by physical power, it must possess in a corresponding degree the weight which strength can command, and so tend to peaceful solutions of questions which might otherwise drift into an opposite direction."

Since my last annual report a reduction has taken place in the Brigade Staff of this District.

The services of Brigade-Major Lieut.-Col. Hanson, and Lieut.-Col. Lefebvre de Bellefeuille have been dispensed with. I cannot conclude this report without thanking both these officers for the valuable aid they have invariably given me in carrying out the orders received from head-quarters, and for the zeal and promptitude with which they were ever ready to promote the interests of the force.

have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

A. C. DELOTBINIERE-HARWOOD, Lieut.-Colonel.
Deputy Adjutant-General, Military District No. 6.

The Adjutant-General of Militia,
Ottawa.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 7.

HEAD-QUARTERS, QUEBEC,
16th December, 1876.

SIR,—I have the honour respectfully to lay before you, for the consideration of the Major-General commanding, and in accordance with the General Order of the 18th May, 1876, my Annual Report on the state of the Militia in the District under my command for the year 1876-77. Annexed will be found an appendix shewing the corps which have performed their annual drill.

The total nominal strength of the force which was allowed to drill and to receive pay for the year 1876-77, was 2,300 officers, non-commissioned officers and men.

The total actual strength which was mustered at the time of the annual drill was 2,120 of all ranks.

Out of the number balloted which have failed to comply with the General Order of the 30th April, 1875, are No. 2 Troop of the Quebec Cavalry, and No. 6 Company of the 17th Battalion.

The Active Militia of the District which turned out for annual drill consists of the following corps, viz:—

Quebec Field Battery.
Gaspé Battery Garrison Artillery.
8th Battalion Rifles—5 companies.
9th do do
17th Battalion Infantry—3 companies.
23rd do 3 do
55th do 4 do
61st do 3 do
70th do 5 do
Portneuf do 2 do
Dorchester do 3 do
County, Quebec do 2 do
Kamouraska do 3 do
Temiscouata do 3 do
Rimouski do 2 do
Charlevoix do 3 do
St. Raymond Independent Company.

Artillery.

The Quebec Field Battery, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel La Montagne, during the absence of Major Baby, went through a course of 12 days' drill in 1876, at Lévis. This corps was mustered by me and inspected by Lieut.-Colonel St

The Gaspé Battery of Garrison Artillery, under the command of Major Slous performed eight days' drill, and was inspected by Lieut.-Colonel LaMontagne, Brigade Major, accompanied by Capt. Duchesnay of "B" Battery, School of Gunnery. This corps was reported very efficient.

Infantry.

The rural infantry corps performed the annual drill at their respective company head-quarters. Notwithstanding that the period allowed was very short, and considering that two days had to be taken for rifle practice, the results obtained, contrary to my expectations, were very satisfactory.

The 8th Battalion Rifles drilled at head-quarters, and were inspected by the Major-General commanding, who expressed himself highly satisfied with the steadiness, cleanliness and very efficient manner with which the whole movements were performed.

The 9th Rifles also performed drill at head-quarters and were inspected by me. I found the officers, non-commissioned officers and men thoroughly understanding their work, and the general appearance of the battalion, and the efficiency in drill were highly commendable. This battalion possesses a very good brass band.

The 8th Battalion have an efficient band of fifes and drums.

Rifle Associations.

There are nine Rifle Associations in this District; all worked efficiently; they are as follows, viz:—

	Moneys Expended.
Quebec Stadacona Rifle Association	\$682 00
8th Battalion do	126 00
17th do do	75 00
55th do do	297 00
70th do do	88 00
County of Quebec do	185 00
do Montmorency do	50 00
do Temiscouata do	225 00
do Rimouski do	95 00

The total amount thus expended in the District being \$1,823 for the year 1876-77.

Military Schools.

The difficulty of filling vacancies occurring from time to time in the different corps of the Active Militia, renders the opening of the Military Schools at Quebec of an urgent necessity. The number of passed Military School cadets having greatly diminished, officers have to be appointed provisionally owing to the want of means for qualifying for commissions.

State of Arms, Accoutrements and Clothing.

The arms and accoutrements are in a fair state, but nearly the whole of the arms of rural corps would require to be taken into store for repairs.

The guns, rifles, swords, harness and saddlery in the Quebec Armoury are in very good order. The very good condition in which they were found merited the praises of the Major-General commanding, while inspecting them on his last visit here.

I have much pleasure in bringing to your notice and favourable consideration the efficient support I have received from the Staff-officers of my District.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

T. J. DUCHESNAY, Colonel.
Deputy Adjutant-General, Military District No. 7.

The Adjutant-General of Militia,
Ottawa.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 8.

PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK,
HEADQUARTERS, FREDERICTON,
5th November, 1876.

SIR,—In compliance with the instructions contained in General Orders (10) of the 18th May, 1876, last, I have the honour to submit this my Report on the state of the Militia of the District under my command, for the military year 1876-77.

The nominal strength of the force in the District, as reduced in General Orders above quoted, is 154 officers and 2,107 non-commissioned officers and men. The total actual strength of the force, when mustered at the time of the annual drill of the year 1876-77, was 113 officers and 1,447 non-commissioned officers and men. Forty officers and 546 non-commissioned officers and men were relieved by lot from performing their annual drill.

The Active Militia of the District consists of the following corps, which at the time of the annual drill turned out as follows:—

Corps.	Officers.	N. C. O. and Men.
8th Regiment of Cavalry, Lieut.-Col. Saunders (5 troops; 2 troops relieved.).....	14	162
Newcastle Field Battery, Brevet Major Call.	4	60
Woodstock Field Battery, Capt. Dibblee.....	3	76
New Brunswick Brigade Garrison Artillery. Lieut.-Col. Foster (4 batteries; 1 battery relieved.).....	11	164
New Brunswick Engineer Corps, Capt. Perley (relieved.)		
62nd Battalion, Lieut.-Colonel Blaine (6 companies.)	16	227
67th Battalion, Lieut.-Colonel Upton (6 companies; 4 companies relieved.).....	18	249
71st Battalion, Lieut.-Colonel Marsh (4 com- panies; 1 company relieved.).....	16	168
73rd Battalion, Major Sheriff (3 companies; 2 companies relieved.).....	12	126
74th Battalion, Lieut.-Col. Beer (4 companies; 2 companies relieved.).....	15	139
Dalhousie Infantry Company, Capt. Barberie.	2	39
Deer Island Infantry Company, Capt. Lloyd (drill not completed.)		
St. Stephen Infantry Company, Lieut. Stewart (drill not completed.)		
St. George Infantry Company.....	2	37
Total.....	113	1,447

The past year has been one of almost universal financial depression, and it has been found necessary to practice economy on all sides—economy in the case of the Active Militia. It is hoped, consistent with the maintenance of efficiency.

Hence, in order to bring the expenditure for drill and training within the appropriation made by Parliament, the strength of the force to be drilled and paid for eight days had to be limited. The ballot had to be resorted to, not for the purpose of completing the quota for each District, but temporarily to reduce its numerical strength. And the good sense of officers commanding corps thus reduced had to be relied upon, not in vain, under the circumstances.

And while it is both my duty and pleasure to report favourably in most instances on drills, however limited, carefully performed, on good use being made of field and garrison guns and rifles, every branch of the service looks forward to the speedy return to the established system of which sufficient time may be allowed to train the soldier in matters of discipline, drill, and appearance under arms, all leading up the last stage of the annual drill, viz: target practice.

During the present year there could necessarily be but little preparation for target practice; and the more credit is due, I conceive, to those corps, and they are many, that, having been instructed in preliminary drills, made good shooting; and to those corps that in the true spirit of volunteering performed both drill and practice without money payment.

Happily, corps of field artillery were not included amongst those limited to eight days drill. These corps assembled in camps and performed twelve days drill. The field artilleryman having in addition to many of the duties required of the infantry soldier, important though they be, the care of guns and horses; and to ensure good shooting, the knowledge of laying guns and handling them with readiness must be acquired. It may be added, that the knowledge of ammunition cannot be learned in a day, especially, as has been proved at the summer practice, the bursting points at various ranges of shrapnels.

It is to be hoped, however, that another very important arm—the cavalry—may in future be allowed a similar privilege to that allowed field artillery as regards the limit of the annual drill in camp. The cavalryman has also, besides many of the duties required of the infantry soldier, the care of his horse; he is, so to speak the “eyes and ears” of an army. He must have his intelligence developed in a peculiar way by careful training. In the event of active service he would probably be the first required to act, and it is I think of primary importance that his training should be effective.

I may here state that so eager was the 8th Regiment of Cavalry, Lieut.-Colonel Saunders, to keep in view the object for which it had been carefully trained for many years past, and to prevent deteriorating in efficiency, the regiment assembled at its head-quarters, and no camps being authorized this year, except for field artillery, bivouacked on the grounds of the Lieut.-Colonel, both officers and men availing themselves of such means of shelter as the place afforded, and at my inspection of the corps on the 15th July, it was evident that no pains had been spared to maintain in every particular the efficiency for which the regiment has been frequently and justly commended. There was no lack of discipline, the conduct of the men was reported as excellent, and it would be hard to disturb or destroy its *esprit de corps*.

It is, however, impossible for the routine of regimental duties to be strictly carried out when men are thus assembled for a few days at local head-quarters and not in camp.

The same argument may be adduced, but with greater effect, against drills of country corps being year after year in succession performed at company head-quarters.

The captain of the company at such drills finds it difficult for several hours daily to render squad and company drills interesting and instructive, it is also difficult to ensure the *punctual* attendance of the men at drill, and when assembled to attain *steadiness in the ranks* as the foundation of efficiency. The Battalion Staff (Lieut.-Colonel or Major) is probably not within easy reach to support and advise, the District Staff is elsewhere employed except at the time of inspection, and the captain is in consequence left to his own resources. I am far from saying that this state of things, as far as infantry corps are concerned, is not at times productive of good results. Officers hereby acquire confidence in their ability to impart instruction without aid, and both officers and men are rendered more self-reliant, drill in camp will be more appreciated when authorized, and the proof of the attention paid to these local drills will be shewn in the degree of efficiency displayed by the respective corps when assembled in camp.

For these and other reasons it is, I conceive, very essential that it be made