

REPORT  
ON THE  
STATE OF THE MILITIA  
OF THE  
DOMINION OF CANADA,  
FOR THE YEAR 1877.

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

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1878.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE,

OTTAWA, February, 1878.

The undersigned has the honor to forward to Your Excellency the accompanying Report relating to the Militia of the Dominion of Canada for 1877, which is respectfully submitted for Your Excellency's consideration.

A. G. JONES,

Minister of Militia and Defence.

His Excellency

The Governor General,  
Ottawa.



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ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE  
STATE OF THE MILITIA  
FOR  
1877.

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HEADQUARTERS,  
OTTAWA, 1st January, 1878.

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

SIR,—The longer I reside in Canada the more strongly I become convinced that both as regards material and spirit, and also as regards proficiency in ordinary drill, acquired under disadvantages, the Militia of the Dominion is of great value.

In stating this I am not influenced by any partial or professional proclivity, but by the broad experience of the world's history, which has never failed to prove that military protection is an indispensable, though it may be a costly insurance for the safety and independence of every nation.

Prestige is power—it permits the effects of power without constant recourse to it—it makes people obedient to rule; and if any one thinks that good rule alone will restrain the hands of either foreign or domestic foes, or, unaided, make a nation respected in its sway, he has not advanced far in the study of human nature.

It is our duty, therefore, whether through the sunshine of peace or the darkness and gloom of war, still to advance shoulder to shoulder, helping the weak and cheering on the strong, until we have prepared for those who come after us a safe camping ground on the shores of the great future; then, and not till then, can we take the rest of the weary—confident that so far as in us lies we have done our part to ensure that this land shall remain one and indivisible—till wars and contentions shall cease in all the world.



Owing partly to a belief in the friendly feeling, and the peaceful aspect that so happily exists throughout this great continent, as well as the absence of any symptom or cause for alarm, the idea has gradually and insensibly made itself felt that no great need exists for military preparations, and so I regret to say the Canadian Militia, though not reduced in number, yet, from the shortness of training, from the absence of any permanent or paid Regimental Staff, and from other wants and requirements of which I have given warning notice in three previous reports, has not improved in internal condition if measured by a military standard.

I trust the time may never come, but in the nature of things it may come, when a sudden crash will arouse the fears and awaken to a sense of danger the hearts and minds of those who, busied in the peaceful occupation and gains of their calling in life, cannot expand their ideas to the necessity of protection in that daily work, till too late they may find that the irritation due to losses would not be altogether allayed by the consideration of the fact that they had loudly raised their voices against providing funds sufficient for their security and defence.

The Canadians possess, in a marked degree, qualities to make excellent soldiers, being both hardy and industrious, used to rough life, easily subjected to discipline, and willing to submit to necessary authority; the habit of adapting themselves to the different conditions of life peculiarly fit them for the requirements of a soldier. Accustomed to horses they ride and drive with ease and self-possession, and these habits are proved by the manner in which their Cavalry can be handled, and the facility with which their Field Batteries are manœuvred.

There is no better material for soldiers than Canada can produce, and that there is a military spirit among all classes of the population is proved by the popularity of the Militia and the willingness—I may call it enthusiastic alacrity with which, on many an occasion they have turned out for any prospect of active duty. But yet being purely a volunteer force, unless encouraged by more interest on the part of those whom they may some day have to defend, peace and lukewarmness may tend to rust their arms, and in default of proper training establishments which I have so earnestly advocated, or the absence of any trained and disciplined body of men, or of regular troops to furnish a standard of excellence, a gradual diminution of efficiency, year by year cannot be surprising.

I can imagine no finer troops than could be raised from backwoodsmen and lumbermen who earn a livelihood in our forests. Their hardy and hazardous life in the woods, and in navigating the mighty rivers of this country, enures them to danger and accustoms them to discipline and organization in their work, while the various descriptions of labour on which they are employed calls forth the energy, the intelligence and the resource, which are invaluable in soldiers; their life of mutual dependence on each other for support, as together they encounter the hardships, the

privation and the hazards of the forest and the flood, binds them together in a spirit of manly brotherhood, similar to what prevails among the ranks of veteran regiments and bodies of troops serving together in the field.

Were I to confine myself to merely referring to my three previous annual reports and recommendations, and submit for detailed information this year the reports of the various staff officers which I subjoin, perhaps it would be sufficient; but my sense of duty and desire to leave no appeal untried for the material improvement and consolidation of the strong right arm of national defence which I have the honour temporarily to command, impels me again earnestly to advocate the cause of the high spirited and admirable body of officers and men who compose the Militia of Canada.

When I arrived in this country upwards of three years ago, I confess that coming almost immediately from the command of regular troops, and all their complete attendant military establishments, I was struck with some disappointment on my first tour throughout the country, which I immediately undertook to make myself acquainted with the nature and character of the organization with which I had to deal. Many defects and deficiencies presented themselves to my mind, and as soon as possible I brought them to notice, but with all these shortcomings in the important details of a military organization I was immeasurably surprised and pleased, when a few months afterwards I inspected the Montreal Brigade and the various camps assembled for their annual drill in Ontario. Strong, able and hardy men composed the rank and file; zealous, intelligent officers commanded, and willing obedient young gentlemen officered the companies.

A powerful force of all arms, Cavalry, Artillery, Engineers and Infantry; defective only in details and requirements over which they had no control, some of which have since received attention, and others I have more than once pointed out. I may again rehearse some of them, viz. :—

1. Too short a period allowed for drill, which should, if possible not be less than twenty-eight days, seven of which at Battalion headquarters if practicable, and the remainder in Brigade or Divisional camps of exercise.

2. Three model training schools for Cavalry and Infantry, by embodying three companies permanently on the basis and with similar objects to the two Gunnery Schools. From these, year by year, many officers and men qualified and capable of instructing in drill, discipline, interior economy, the management of bodies of men, rifle instructors, and every essential for the consolidation of regiments, would be annually sent forth.

3. A paid and permanent Adjutant and Sergeant Major, to act as Regimental Storekeeper besides, for each corps. In the Militia of the United Kingdom the per-



manent Regimental Staff consists of two Officers, Adjutant and Quartermaster, six Regimental Staff Sergeants and four Sergeants for each company, from thirty to thirty-six in all according to the strength. These are usually old drilled soldiers, and throughout the year when not otherwise employed, they are kept up to their work by lectures and skeleton drill, so that when the men assemble for thirty days' drill and the recruits for fourteen days previously in addition, they are "knocked into shape" in a surprisingly rapid manner. Moreover, this staff is specially charged with the care of arms, accoutrements and clothing, which are thus maintained in as high perfection as in the regular service, and the Government never suffers the terrible expense from abuse, neglect, loss, which unfortunately prevail. I have frequently called attention to this. It is a delusion to imagine that an efficient military force can be kept up without a properly paid permanent staff, and the attempt to do so can only lead to an unprofitable expenditure of public money.

I must not be mistaken in this recommendation to propose that these regimental staff officers should be brought from the regular army. There is no need to import material that exists in abundance among the intelligent youth of this country, who are inspired by a zealous, patriotic spirit and are soldiers at heart, but we must instruct them before they can teach others; and admirable as the Military College will prove to future generations in providing a flow of mathematically and scientifically educated men, we yet require for regimental officers an elementary and practical detail of instruction in all the minor essentials; to render the whole military machine capable of being reliable and well disciplined when required for use; and this can only be obtained with satisfaction through the practical experience to be gained in dealing with permanently embodied corps. I refer to the three Model Schools advocated in my three previous annual reports, and specified in detail in that of last year, amounting together to \$113,250. So impressed am I with the importance of these, that I earnestly submit the subject again for mature and reflective consideration.

The time is not distant when not only these elementary schools must be instituted, but as I believe it will be found desirable to have three permanent Infantry regiments in the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, each of them at least 500 strong.

4. I have before recommended that the arms, accoutrements and clothing of each corps should be kept at regimental headquarters, under permanent caretakers. In the city corps the effect of this is palpable; they are, with hardly an exception, in good order. In many of the rural corps, I fear I must say the same amount of care is not taken; probably it is not possible.

Accidentally I came across a French company this autumn, at drill in a field as I passed along the road; I went over and watched it unknown at first. The officer was doing his utmost with his company, but he was, to use an expression known in the army "knocking them about." The men had no

steadiness, no preliminary drill; they got through a few company formations in a perfunctory fashion, but it seemed to me that if they had to be made use of, confusion would have resulted. I gave the officer gladly, much credit for his well intentioned efforts, and if he had spent six months at a disciplined training school, his company would have been very different. Here, too, I noticed the absence of proper means for protecting the Government arms and clothing; hardly one tunic was complete in buttons; the trousers were of various patterns and material; boots with high heels and narrow toes that would have lamed the men in a few miles over a muddy road; the arms but tolerable, and some of the locks out of order; there were no slings, no snap caps, and I think I missed some ramrods; the sights of these rifles if examined, would I am sure, have been found defective. But this is the fault of the existing system not of this particular officer, and I believe only could be possible in an independent company. Regimental armouries and clothing stores under a permanent regimental staff, would be a saving to the Militia Department in the end; but from long habit I do not think captains of companies would be *persuaded* into the necessity for this—it must be by regulation and a regimental order. Rural companies as a rule, prefer keeping their own stores and the result is very bad, except when they have good drill sheds and armouries attached.

5. That a contingent allowance as in the army, should be paid to each captain of a company to cover losses, holding him responsible to keep the arms, &c., in repair, with power to recover penalties from any volunteer losing or damaging public property. This, I consider, might prevent the improper use of arms, which occasionally occurs and the glaring impropriety of wearing Government great coats, which I am told is of frequent occurrence.

I think the present system of payment for drill instruction is faulty; some officers are incapable of properly imparting drill, which cannot be acquired by inspiration but by long application and practice.

6. I before suggested that the Brigade Staff should be paid a consolidated allowance proportioned to the amount they now receive, instead of being paid eight dollars per annum for each efficient company. It is hardly to be expected from the most conscientious officer that he will willingly bring to notice and recommend the disbandment of an efficient company at the price of reducing his own income. I am aware the present system has this result—which has a bad effect and deters officers from independent action.

7. The batteries constituting the Gunnery or Artillery Schools should have their four field guns horsed. This would require at least 20 horses for each battery, but as I am afraid that addition may not be immediately authorized, I suggest an increase from eight, to ten horses, in order that the No. 1 of each of the two guns be mounted, as without a horse he cannot do his duty.



8. If circumstances render it beyond our reach at present to institute the Cavalry and Infantry Schools, which are so indispensable, then as a temporary substitute, I suggest that an addition of 50 men and two officers, as cavalry and infantry instructors, be added to the two Gunnery Schools, rendering them thereby schools for the three arms until more comprehensive measures are adopted.

9. Additional assistance is necessary for the repair of rifles; there are only two qualified armourers at Quebec and Montreal respectively, but in this wide spread command, at least two more are required to keep the 43,000 rifles in proper repair. A large supply of screws, springs and small articles of every description should be added to our present scanty stock for this purpose. The arms requiring repair could then be sent in at a trifling expense to the different Military Stores along the whole line of country.

10. That a brigade of Garrison Artillery be raised at Quebec and another at Kingston, composed of four batteries in each, to man the important fortresses at those stations.

Correspondingly a reduction to take place in certain corps hereafter to be considered, especially independent companies of Infantry; at present, five of the seven batteries of the Ottawa Brigade may be spared, leaving two only to fire salutes and perform necessary duties on State and other ceremonial occasions.

Many other improvements suggest themselves, but I shall not refer to them at present. If those I have ventured to submit could be adopted we should make a great stride in advance, and the Militia would take a pride in feeling that an interest was being manifested in their improvement and permanent value as an armed force of great power for national defence.

During the month of August I visited Prince Edward Island, proceeding by the Gulf ports and thence by Pictou to Halifax; crossing the Bay of Fundy from Annapolis and Digby I reached St. John, New Brunswick, and thence to Fredericton; returning by the Interecolonial Railway from St. John to Rivière du Loup, I proceeded along the North Shore of the St. Lawrence to examine the strategic points, and so to Quebec, where I spent four days in the Engineer camp at Levis, inspecting the drill and progress of "B" Battery; returning at the end of the month to Ottawa by Montreal.

Early in October I went to meet His Excellency the Governor General at Kingston, on his return from Manitoba, at the same time attending His Excellency's inspection of the Military College; and later on I went through Ontario, reviewing troops at various points, and shortly afterwards twice to Montreal on similar duty.

In the whole of that tour, which together with the Maritime Provinces, includes the entire length of Canada proper, I had the opportunity of making myself fairly acquainted with the condition and progress of the Militia in this year's training. The

result was satisfactory to the extent possible in the meagre instruction of twelve days. I saw some very fine battalions of Infantry at Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton and London. I occasionally met isolated companies performing their drill with what knowledge they had. The Cavalry Troop at Quebec, under an able officer, Lieut.-Colonel Turnbull, gave me satisfaction. The Artillery, wherever I met them, were far beyond an average. Landing at Pictou I was agreeably surprised by finding a smart and very efficient Garrison battery, which both in the field and at their guns, were instructed with intelligence and good effect. Strange as it may seem, the brigade at Halifax, which from its advantage in the presence and example of Her Majesty's regular troops ought naturally to have been the best, compares less favorably with the others. The reason for this is apparent to me.

All the corps that I inspected, with one exception paraded in the field, and thus I was able to judge of the proficiency of their mounted officers in taking up and dressing points and generally superintending the battalion; likewise the knowledge of company officers, guides and markers, I can speak favorably as a general rule. Every possible effort was apparent; all eagerly intent upon appearing to the best advantage. The broken ground on which they manœuvred tried the steadiness of the several battalions. The regiment that preferred the drill shed was strong in the ranks, well clothed, well armed and equipped, looked well, and on the flat floor on which they moved they were creditable. Of their proficiency in the field I form no judgment, nor whether their field officers can ride, without which accomplishment a staff or field officer is useless for active service. Only two of all the Infantry battalions I reviewed had practised the new formation for attack, probably because it was late in the season when the change reached us from England, and also because from confined space some of them had no means of practice in extended order.

The clothing, arms and appointments of all the city battalions are in a serviceable state. I cannot speak too highly of the great care taken by the commanding and other officers of these good battalions, and I regret to say some of them labor under disadvantage in point of armouries and storerooms, which leaves me in admiration of the zeal that animates them.

In so large a force some are and must be better than others; but I must not criticise, for all really do their best. I am afraid I could not speak quite confidently of some of the country battalions, and it is not in the nature of things that there should not be exceptions, but it is easily understood that so long as our small appropriation renders it impossible to assemble companies at battalion headquarters, and drill them under the orders and superintendence of experienced commanding officers, so long will it be expending money to no purpose at all in what is termed "company drill," under officers who though ever so willing, are in many instances rusty in their duties.



With a view to greater efficiency I last year recommended that if we could not afford to drill the whole 43,000 men every year for at least 16 days in camp, it would be better to face the difficulty by reducing the Active Militia by one-half commencing with the isolated companies belonging to no battalion, and then following up the plan by disbanding those battalions whose companies are so far from headquarters as to be out of reach of proper control, or at all events to maintain only their cadres. I repeat with much respect, my proposition of last year:—If the Parliamentary grant cannot be increased, I assure you that money is now being spent on many Infantry companies, not only for arms, accoutrements and clothing, but for daily pay under nominal training, which we urgently require for the portions of the force we can make certain of being efficient and ready for any emergent service. And even by reducing the present force one half, say to 20,000 men, we have only been able, with the voted appropriation, to drill that number last year and this year at battalion and company headquarters for twelve days.

Creditably and efficiently as some of the battalions appear, even with that meagre instruction, to what can it amount in the main, towards thorough, solid efficiency as reliable soldiers? We have no schools of instruction at which the constituted teachers and instructors of these men can learn. They do all in their power by aid of books and "models," and wonderfully smart and self-possessed are many of the commanding and other officers, but in some it is the remains of instruction gained in former days, and without renewal by means of some permanent model forces, this good element can hardly be expected to endure for a long time, at least as a general rule.

Where shall we in the future go to seek company officers and sergeant instructors unless we have the means of making them qualified? How shall we be, by-and-bye, if a sudden call or service arises, and our young men are found only clothed and armed, but without discipline? Armed men without discipline and professional instruction are as dangerous to their friends as to their foes, and as we have every material and every appliance and qualification on the spot to make our force solid, substantial, real and effective, I cannot but lament the absence of sufficient means, which I doubt not Parliament will ultimately supplement.

Equally hard is it to realize in this country, full of intelligence and education, while a devastating and atrocious war is raging in the East of Europe, upon whose ramifications it is not possible at present to place a limit, why we should in this elastic and expanding country neglect to put our house in order and assure ourselves that let what may happen beyond our shores, no threatening hand shall thunder at our gates with impunity.

I watched with interest during the past summer, when men of all shades of opinion expressed themselves freely, whether any allusion would be made to the

Militia. In only one instance could I note any reference, and to the effect, that as economy was necessary during commercial depression, the Militia vote was that most easily reduced. Happy are we in our contented security from commotion; I trust it may long last, and that no rude hand may ever give a warning knock at our door.

It may not be amiss here to remark, that during the past year portions of the Militia have been used with the best effect in keeping the peace in aid of the civil power. The "Queen's Own" and parties of other corps did good and efficient service in the case of the Grand Trunk strike in January, also upon two occasions in July the preservation of life and public property from a turbulent mob was due to the moral effect of the presence of the Montreal Brigade. In other parts of the Dominion, notably in British Columbia and Cape Breton, at the opposite extremes of our Military line of 3,000 miles extent, parties of Militia have been called out in aid of the civil power during the past year, and always with good effect in restoring the public peace without resort to force. I regret to notice the discouragement with which some of these good services were met, in the hesitation if not actual refusal for a time, by the Municipal Authorities to pay the forces employed in these important services. I believe it was not till after prosecution was threatened or commenced by commanding officers that tardy justice was done to these troops who so promptly responded to the call of duty, and so cheerfully accomplished it with forbearance under considerable provocation.

Our Active Militia, the advance guard of the Dominion forces, is at present constituted as follows:—

Cavalry.....	1,803
Field Artillery.....	1,326
Garrison Artillery.....	3,048
Engineers.....	232
Infantry } .....	27,990
Rifles } .....	9,330
	37,320
Total.....	43,729

The Field Batteries, 17 in number, are composed and armed as follows:—

- 13 with 9-pounder muzzle-loading rifles of latest pattern.
- 1 with 6-pounder Armstrong breach-loading, at Halifax.
- 2 with 9-pounder bronze smooth-bore, and a 24-pounder howitzer.
- 1 at Melbourne armed entirely with bronze 24-pounder howitzers.



There are also eight 9-pounder muzzle-loading rifled guns in possession of the permanent "A" and "B" Batteries Schools of Gunnery.

The Infantry is calculated at 55 per company, making a total of 37,320, to which extent they are armed; but recent reductions have placed the companies at only 42 each which causes a corresponding total in the number now only biennially trained.

The Reserve Militia, in three classes by the Militia Act, comprises 655,000; in round numbers the total force by law liable for the defence of the country is 700,000, between the ages of 18 and 60. I regret, I can say little as to the Reserve. It is duly regimentalized and in some measure efficient, but it has not been mustered since 1873. I trust a new muster may soon be made, and if it be possible, that both officers and sergeants be annually trained. I have before recommended that a reliable officer of the Reserve should be every year sent through each regimental division to ascertain that each man on the rolls is effective and not fictitious. I believe that in a floating population such as we have, this mode would be more satisfactory and economical than periodical musters at long intervals. It would also tend to keep alive the feeling of general liability for national defence. Upon this subject I venture with respect to submit the following suggestions:—

By the present Militia Law, a large number of persons are exempt from service in the Militia, and the only contribution made by those persons towards the defence of the country is the payment of their respective shares of general taxation.

The 43,729 men of the Active Militia not only contribute towards the defence of the country in the same ratio as the privileged class above alluded to in the general taxation, but they may have to give their personal service should occasion demand it, in addition.

The Reserve in like manner, though their services would be contingent upon the magnitude of any national disturbance, are equally liable to contribute both in purse and person towards the defence of the State, while the remainder of the community only pay with the purse, and that not in a higher proportion than the others.

The pressure of taxation upon the community at large by different classes is therefore unequal. No calling or profession from the Bishop to the peasant, should exempt any man of any degree whatever, who lives and pursues his vocation under the national flag, from bearing a share in monetary contribution proportionate to that of other members of the community who have to protect them and pay besides.

There are in every country certain sects of persons who have either penurious, conscientious or prejudiced scruples against contributing towards the maintenance of any military force. There are some who having lived an every day-life of

business or, trade or pleasure, have never been troubled with alarm at the possibility of any rupture in the even tenor of their way, who may have never seen soldiers at all, or having seen them only in times of rest and quiet, never allow their minds to grasp or from the narrow groove of their calling, may be unable to comprehend the extent of power a military force exerts by the very moral effect of its existence, in allowing them to live in peace. Far less can such persons rise to appreciate the virtue of military forces should wars or alarms arouse them from their prolonged dreams of security and their indifference to those by whom they have, unknown to themselves, been protected.

Possibly there might be grounds for some of these various shades of scruple, if the Militia of Canada could be made the instrument of aggression; but it is the essential nature of a constitutional Militia, that it should be only a purely defensive organization—to be employed by the Government in resistance to unjust attack, either from rebellion, invasion or insurrection, or by the civil power, to quell disturbance against which the ordinary police force is insufficient.

As the assistance of the Militia has been so frequently called for in the past year, by the civil authorities, I have considered it advisable to publish in General Orders the duties of the Militia in giving aid to the civil power, and to explain that such aid can only legally be afforded upon the requisition in writing of the chairman or custos of Quarter Sessions or by three Magistrates one of whom may be the Mayor, warden or other head of the municipality or county.

It can never be urged that the predatory acquisition of territorial, military or commercial advantages is either in accordance with national right or necessary to the progress of civilization; but we are bound from every point of view to stick to the advantages gained for us by our forefathers, we must never abandon self-preservation as a first law of existence, to think only of higher moralities; we must never lose sight of conscience and honour, nor for a moment permit the chance that Communism should with impunity make a grand experiment on the smallest portion of that collection of properties termed the British Empire—policy and national safety are worldly considerations, but they are quite worthy the attention of statesmen. As a consequence it does not seem to me an unreasonable proposition that every individual man in the community who is not borne on the rolls of the Active Militia, should pay an approximate capitation tax in money each year, of two dollars towards militia expenditure alone, and that this tax, which should be collected through the machinery of the various Provincial Governments, be proportioned by a sliding scale according to the means or income of each individual.

I consider no one can dispute his liability to contribute towards national defence. How can the merchant, the broker, the tradesman, expect to carry on his business and gain his livelihood unless protected from assailants against the public peace?



Our temporarily diminished revenue, due to exceptional causes over which no man, no Government could have any control, is unequal at present to give us a million and a half of dollars which we require annually for thorough national defence and to maintain our supplies and reserves of all warlike material, and so it is only just that we should use extraneous means, which I venture to hope, no thinking man who dispassionately and calmly analyzes the subject can object to for obtaining it.

We have at present three permanent and very important establishments at work, which will produce solid effects in the future progress of this growing country. They are all three but young and budding as yet, though two of them are old enough to have borne good and productive fruit. I refer to the two Gunnery or Artillery Schools, termed "A" and "B" Batteries, and to the Military College at Kingston.

The latter institution is progressing under the able and zealous command of Lieut.-Colonel Hewett, Royal Engineers, in a manner that reflects entire credit on himself and the officers of his staff, to whom he refers in high terms in his report, expressing the obligations he feels under for the ability and talent they have applied in the performance of their duties.

In the course of last year Captain Hawkins, Royal Artillery, one of the professors, resigned much to the regret of the Commandant, who alludes to him in terms of high commendation.

The Instructional Staff as at present composed, consists of—

Lieut.-Colonel Oliver, Royal Artillery.

Major Kensington, " "

Captain Walker, Royal Engineers.

Major Ridout, 90th Light Infantry, and

Mr. Ferguson, who is Professor of Modern Languages.

The number of cadets on 1st December consisted of thirty-eight and about thirteen more are expected at this half-yearly examination, and so on until the total number of 100 to 120 is completed at the end of four years from the 1st June, 1876.

Lieut.-Colonel Hewett has submitted estimates for the progressive increase of the staff of instructors in proportion to the increase of the cadets and has accompanied his estimate with cogent and practical reasons.

He states the necessity for establishing the staff requisite, upon a definite and proper footing from the present time until its complete development, based upon the educational curriculum as already determined by Council, for gradually carrying out the general intention of the Act establishing the College. His plans do not lose sight of the knowledge that means being limited and economy a necessity, they must therefore be confined to the smallest scale compatible with efficiency, to

afford a suitable return for the outlay. Attention to economy is apparent from the fact that with a more extended range of instruction, the staff is smaller than that of any kindred institution. It is based for 80 to 120 cadets; and as the same number of subjects have to be taught to the few as well as to the many, it could not therefore be materially reduced for even less than 80 cadets. The full value of the college can hardly be brought out while the number of cadets is small. It is very desirable that the early consideration of this scheme for the future organization of the college should be adopted, as working without a clearly understood and acknowledged end must be unsatisfactory.

I therefore request favourable consideration of Lieut. Col. Hewett's prospective estimate, as follows:—

At present the Staff, including the captain of cadets, numbers..	6
Subordinate staff.....	4
For 1878, 75 cadets, staff.....	7
Subordinates.....	5
For 1879, 90 cadets, staff.....	11
Subordinates.....	8
For 1880, 120 cadets, staff.....	16
Subordinates.....	12

The subjects of instruction have been mathematics, geometrical drawing, freehand and instrumental drawing, French, German, fortification, artillery, military topography and surveying, military history, military law, elementary chemistry and geology, drill and discipline. Four additional subjects will be taken up after next term. The progress of the cadets in the study of the above subjects has been remarkable, and their conduct is stated to be very satisfactory. Those appointed non-commissioned officers have continued to merit remarks for the manner in which they have performed their duty and assisted to maintain the good discipline which has been conspicuous. Artillery and infantry drill are taught by the captain of cadets with great success. Tent-pitching, guard-mounting and the duties of sentry are also practised.

Swimming is encouraged, as well as rowing and sailing, and in fact many exercises of every kind are practised, so necessary to the thorough development and training of youths of their age. A cricket ground and gymnastic apparatus have greatly assisted in physical exercises. The gymnasium building is very complete and in winter will be a most useful and healthful resort. I request attention to the necessity for a more complete arrangement for escape from fire; it was brought to my notice on my last inspection, and I suggest that one or two iron ladders should be placed against the building for that object.



In the month of June, I made an inspection of the College, and had the satisfaction of presenting the prizes awarded at the conclusion of the first annual term. It was a pleasure to me to feel that I had every reason to compliment the Commandant and Staff upon the untiring zeal and ability they had applied, to perform faithfully their duty to the cadets who had been entrusted by their parents to the educational curriculum of the College. And certainly, as I then said, any parent who could see for himself the contentment and happiness that prevailed among these manly young fellows, would gladly give his son the advantage of the sound education, the discipline of mind and body, the intellectual, classical, scientific and physical training, the habits of regularity, and the discipline and respect for authority, which will serve the rising generation of Canada in whatever position of life these young men may be launched for their future career.

Upon that occasion I had the honor, in the absence of the Governor-General, to present the first of a series of medals which the Earl of Dufferin has been pleased, with his usual liberal generosity, and with the hearty interest His Excellency always evinces for the welfare of every institution of the country, to bestow for competition by the cadets.

His Excellency the Governor-General has been pleased to bestow three medals, viz., a bronze medal for June, 1877, a silver medal for June, 1878, a gold medal for June, 1880; the latter year completing the four years Course of the first batch of cadets who entered in 1876.

The conditions of these medals are, that one be given in each of the above years to the cadet who from the time of his joining the Military College to the several dates specified, has obtained the greatest number of marks on all subjects, moral, mental and physical, that is to say, the best lad all round for the term at the time of the examination; the object being, to let conduct, military, physical and intellectual exercises as well as all branches of instruction, have due weight, and to test these, not by any one examination, which might occasionally be attended with a good deal of luck, but by marks cumulative from day to day throughout the cadets entire College career, the same cadet might in fact in due time take all three medals, but it is hardly probable in the course of the four years that this should occur.

I need hardly say more in regard to this excellent and useful Institution, than that it offers every prospect of being a complete success, when fully developed, and eventually destined to be a most valuable and permanently beneficial establishment for the Militia, perhaps for the future army, but certainly for the general public of Canada.

I may end my reference to this College in the words of Lieut.-Colonel Hewett, with which I fully concur:—"I venture to express the gratification I feel in being able to report my confident assurance that those who have completed their first

"twelve months residence in the Military College will return to their homes, having already acquired very materially improved education and habits of mind and body, from which they themselves will feel the benefit through life, and with which their parents and the country may feel satisfied. It may be fairly deduced that a still more beneficial result will follow at the end of four years at the Military College."

I have alluded at some length to the Military College because it is still a very young institution, hardly even yet sufficiently known or appreciated throughout the Dominion at large. It is intended that each Military District should annually send to the college two cadets, or 24 for the whole Dominion. From every Province and Military District save one, within reasonable reach, we have now representatives. Nova Scotia alone holds aloof for no reason that I know of, except want of proper encouragement and ventilation by the Military Staff of the District. The sister Maritime Province not only is represented, but I believe one of its cadets has taken the highest number of marks by 670 at the competitive examination for entrance British Columbia, from its great distance, and the expense of the long journey by land and sea could not be expected to send cadets; and Prince Edward Island is also unrepresented from similar unavoidable reasons.

I have not yet received the reports of the Dominion Inspectors of Artillery, and the Commandants of "A" and "B" Battery, Schools of Gunnery. These two officers, Lieut.-Colonels Strange and Irwin, Royal Artillery, have no need of further commendation from me; their professional acquirements are of the first order, and the zeal which they ably apply in the performance of their duties, sometimes under difficult circumstances, entitle them to the credit I have the pleasure to award them. Their reports, always searching and instructive, will speak for themselves, and I am sure will receive all the attention they fully deserve if I may be permitted to prejudge by the high character as artillerymen these officers possess.

I inspected both these permanent batteries during the autumn, commanded respectively by Lieut.-Colonel Montizambert and Lieut.-Colonel Cotton, two Canadian gentlemen of high abilities and fully qualified for the important posts they efficiently fill. "B" Battery I scrutinized minutely at the Levis Camp, and I cannot too well express my satisfaction with the proficiency attained by it, which applies equally to "A" Battery. The value of these Artillery Schools in instructing officers and men of the Garrison and Field Batteries of the Dominion, is proved by the efficiency of the Artillery generally. In this respect however as may be expected, much still remain to be accomplished, and we can hardly look for a really high standard of efficiency in this scientific arm, unless officers commanding batteries exert themselves to the full to obtain, and to retain, the services of officers and non-commissioned officers who take a keen interest in, and show a natural proclivity for their duties, by a willingness to undergo the necessary course of training at a school of gunnery. It happens that sometimes subaltern officers are retained who can barely drill a gun detachment, while non-commissioned officers are sometimes found whose chief



recommendation is age or length of service, thereby standing in the way of younger and more energetic men, of whom there are plenty who have qualified at one of the gunnery schools. Officers commanding Batteries of Artillery are in general very well qualified; they fill a responsible position. The increase in the efficiency of Artillery caused by the general substitution of the rifled for the old smooth-bore gun demands every exertion for additional knowledge on the part of those who have to use them, and as Gunnery Schools permit every facility for the necessary instruction, I hope and earnestly recommend, that officers of Garrison and Field Batteries will see the necessity for obliging all young officers and men to obtain the necessary qualification.

In the clothing of Artillery I find the serge overalls are universally condemned, especially for mounted men, they are totally unsuitable for Cavalry or Artillery, who ought to have cloth trousers with foot straps invariably. It is unsightly to observe mounted men with wrinkled trousers half way up the calf of the leg, as slovenly to look at as unserviceable in practice.

I have already alluded to the efficient armament of our 17 Field Batteries, they are as a general rule, quite serviceable for rough field work, and in most, if not in every instance, ably commanded by intelligent and competent officers.

I can hardly speak too highly of the satisfactory result already attained by the general introduction of the competitive gun practice under the rules of the Dominion Artillery Association. Although this Association, introduced through the indomitable energy and perseverance of Lieut.-Col. Strange, with the able assistance of Lieut.-Col. Irwin, is yet in its infancy, yet the increased interest taken by all ranks in the result of this practice, with the obvious necessity of careful instruction in drill, and a knowledge of ammunition and gunnery, is of itself very satisfactory and must lead to a much higher standard of efficiency.

The Dominion Artillery Association which was founded two years ago for the development of gunnery and skill, and the dissemination of artillery knowledge throughout the Dominion has excited emulation for prizes, and has succeeded well. His Excellency the Governor General is patron, and has, with his usual interest, presented medals for competition. The Government grants a small subsidy. The Militia Artillery, I believe without exception, subscribe annually. The practice is carried out whenever possible in presence of one of the Dominion Inspectors, with a qualified Artillery officer to assist and mark the score, and gold embroidered badges and bronze cross guns are awarded the successful competitors in the various corps. Thus, increased efficiency year by year will be obtained, and the waste of valuable ammunition by unskilled men be avoided.

The Dominion Inspectors of Artillery, who are also Commandants of the Artillery or Gunnery Schools, have independent duties to perform in those capacities, upon

which they correspond directly with the Adjutant-General at headquarters. Their officers and men are moreover employed for certain portions of each day upon duties of education and instruction, pertaining only to the gunnery classes. I found it necessary therefore to issue an order to the respective Deputy Adjutants General of Military Districts, in which they are quartered, to abstain from sending District Orders to these officers, but to communicate when necessary by letter, for courts martial, boards, courts of inquiry, or other such duties, requesting compliance in furnishing the required detail at times and hours of mutual convenience. This arrangement is necessary for the public service, in order to avoid any approach to a conflict of authority which would be detrimental to discipline, as well as to the harmony and good understanding which must not be disturbed, and therefore I require this order to be attended to, and carried out with mutual good feeling.

In view of the long military service and attainments of Lieut.-Col. Strange the Senior Inspector of Artillery for the Dominion, I am of opinion it is only just to him to recognize so much of the cancelled General Orders of 24th November, 1871, as defined his "rank" with that of Deputy Adjutants General of Military Districts, who however by law command, and I have given orders accordingly.

I have more than once suggested the propriety of re-organizing the old Brigade of Garrison Artillery of Quebec, because of all places in Canada, the important fortress commanding the gates of the St. Lawrence should be adequately manned. At present the "B" Battery is the only artillery force in Quebec, and they have not men enough, without making any allowance for casualties, to man one-fourth of the batteries of the Citadel and its outlying lines of important works including the commanding forts of Point Levis. The Gunnery School is on the spot to train and instruct this brigade, and the citizens of the place would make the best Artillery material, being residents acquainted with the locality and the ranges, and if need be, ready to defend their own property. Though I have recommended a numerical reduction in the Militia in general on financial grounds, I nevertheless consider it important to maintain efficient forces at points where their services might be required, and where besides there is ample means for instructing them. Quebec being assailable by privateers or ships of war which might in fog or darkness escape British cruisers in the Gulf, should be strongly manned and capable of resistance.

Though in a lesser degree the above remarks apply partially to Kingston, we have there also a first-class School of Gunnery, but the battery could not man one-fourth of the works of Forts Henry, Frederick, and outlying Martello Towers and advanced batteries. There also a Brigade of Garrison Artillery should certainly be established, if even by converting one of the Infantry battalions into artillery. It is so self evident that Quebec and Kingston, our two fortified cities (the former perhaps the most important fortress on the whole continent of America), should be strongly manned by disciplined and well drilled artillerymen, that I need not



enlarge further upon the necessity. The fact of the two Gunnery Schools being on the spot would ensure the efficiency of these Volunteer Brigades; the names for the Brigade at Quebec being actually already enrolled.

view of the above, I recommend a corresponding reduction in Garrison Batteries elsewhere; notably, the Ottawa Brigade of seven batteries might be reduced to two to be retained for the guns in position on Nepean Point. There is no need for a large Garrison Artillery force at Ottawa where there are no works of defence to man, and there is besides a thoroughly good Field Battery in all respects serviceable.

In the course of the summer, ten new rifled Palliser  $\frac{3}{4}$ -pounder guns have been added to the armament of Quebec and mounted on the ramparts, and these with the armament already in position, will pretty well lock the gates of the St. Lawrence, when artillerymen are authorized to man them: we have 200 rounds of shell for each gun. Five of the same class of gun have been mounted on Negro Point to St. John, New Brunswick; these with two 32-pounder guns in the same battery, command the entrance to St. John, a harbour of great importance, owning after London, Liverpool, Glasgow and Bristol, the largest amount of registered shipping in the world.

Concrete platforms have also been laid upon the salients of the three splendid forts at Point Levis for the seven-inch guns ready to be mounted. I am happy to say these forts have been carefully pointed and thoroughly repaired by the Department of Public Works. Much has also been done to the works of the citadel, especially in roofing in the bastions with wood to protect them from the arctic weather prevailing in winter; but much still remains to be done,—in fact Engineers ought to be permanently attached to "A" and "B" Batteries to keep the valuable works of Quebec and Kingston in repair. When garrisoned by Queen's Troops the Royal Engineers were employed on repairing the damaging effects of the winter's frost, all the year round.

In referring to Quebec and the demolition of some now obsolete outlying works of defence, I cannot refrain from an expression of grief at having witnessed the destruction of the stern old Jesuit Barracks, which so many thousand British soldiers have inhabited since the days when British troops landed on these shores, and round whose walls without the fortress of Quebec have surged those mighty waves of battle that have finally decided the fate of Canada. The walls of the Jesuit Barracks were so thick and solid that dynamite was necessary to destroy them.

Respecting the  $\frac{3}{4}$ -pounder converted Palliser guns, I may observe that we ordered these guns from Woolwich relying upon the price list, "by authority" published in 1875, wherein the price of each such gun is laid down at £111 6s. 2d. plus 5 per cent, but the charge demanded is £189 11s. 8d. plus 5 per cent. for each gun, and upon remonstrance we are told by the Surveyor General that we must have taken the

prices from an old list. Well, we sent home the order in 1876, and we took our information from the War Office price list of the previous year—the latest we knew of. As the appropriation for Garrison ordnance was specific and definite, we are thus innocently placed in a difficulty by the War Office decision. I therefore recommend a further appeal for its reversal.

In connection with this, I lately had very interesting and instructive interviews with Captain Edward Palliser, late of the 7th Hussars brother and agent of Sir William Palliser the inventor of the converted rifled gun. Captain Palliser entered with great zest into the subject of the conversion of our old smooth-bore guns.

We have in the Dominion:—

19.8-inch guns.

135.32-pounder guns.

209.24-pounder do

32.18-pounder do

The 19.8-inch guns can be converted into 64-pounder rifles, capable of firing battering charges with the Palliser chilled shot of 80 pounds weight. The 32 and 24-pounders can be converted into 64-pounder rifles and the 18-pounders into 40-pounder rifles. Captain Palliser went into the subject of manufacturing, and inspected the machinery of the Canada Engine Works at Montreal owned by Messrs. Gilbert. He states there will be no difficulty in carrying out the conversion at these works. The projectiles for this artillery can also be made there and when a little experience has been gained, the manufacture of the 9-pounder rifled field gun its gun carriage, &c., can also be undertaken, so that there need be no necessity to spend more money out of the country. Canadian workmen and Canadian iron can do the whole work, and the cost would therefore go to Canadian citizens. Therefore, no iron guns should be sold, as they can be utilized. Over 1,500 converted Palliser guns are issued to the Volunteer and Militia Artillery of Great Britain, and no accident to the gun has yet been reported. As to the cost, Sir William Palliser will make no charge against the Canadian Government, or to the manufacturer, on the score of "Royalty" on the invention nor of commission, nor in fact any whatever; the Canadian Government would therefore reap the whole benefit of the manufacture in the Dominion. I understand the Messrs. Gilbert are prepared to undertake the conversion of 32 and 24-pounders smooth-bore to 64-pounder rifled guns at a cost of £120 per gun. A 32-pounder gun has now been lent to Messrs. Gilbert as an experiment for conversion at Sir William Palliser's expense, as well as the construction of 25 common shells. On the completion of this gun, the Dominion Inspector of Artillery will have the gun tested, and after trial will be able to report upon the Canadian manufacture of guns and projectiles.



In the Appendix (No. 9.) will be found a description of the manufacture of coiled wrought iron tubes for Palliser guns.

Before quitting the subject of ordnance, I beg again to refer to a suggestion submitted in December 1875 shortly after my return from Vancouver Island, viz.: for the construction of an earthwork battery upon a promontory called McAulay's Point, commanding the entrance to the harbours of Victoria and the Naval Station of Esquimalt.

I had plans and estimates of this work prepared by Lieut.-Col. Blair, Royal Artillery, and he estimates the expense, exclusive of magazines, at about six hundred dollars. The number of men requisite for this battery would probably be about 100 and I have no doubt that the loyal people of Victoria would readily raise a small brigade of Volunteer Artillery for the purpose. Booms and torpedoes would of course be an additional protection, but this battery is really a necessity, because, in the absence of a man of war from the anchorage in Esquimalt harbour, which sometimes happens, there is no kind of protection for the valuable naval stores in the dockyard, nor for the city of Victoria. Any piratical cruiser or privateer entering the Straits of Fuca could blow up and destroy both places with perfect impunity at present. On visiting the dockyard of Esquimalt, at the request of Vice-Admiral the Hon. Arthur Cochrane, I found two 7-inch and four 40-pounder breech-loading rifled guns obsolete for naval service, and about to be sent to England. I requested that they might be detained with their shell and equipments, pending my proposition to have them handed over to the Dominion Government. I submitted this scheme in Dec. 1875. I now find no steps have been taken to procure the transfer of the guns and I earnestly hope this may be done.

It might be considered that the protection of Esquimalt is an Imperial, rather than a Dominion liability, but it intimately concerns the honor of both and the supremacy of British naval power in that region. It is necessary for our security on the Pacific that it should be well guarded. Our fleets must keep that sea and they cannot do so without coal. Nature has provided this in ample stock and finest quality at Nanaïmo, and British instinct of a former age, ignorant of its value, or even of the existence of this all powerful element, secured to us the place of its abode, Vancouver's Island.

The British navy is scattered over the whole Pacific; there are no works of defence raised by Imperial hands at Vancouver when a Crown colony; no forts for the protection of our coal; nothing but prestige and the companies of Militia at Victoria and Nanaïmo. I trust that whether by Imperial or Dominion hands, we may not be much longer without a powerful battery to protect these harbours:—I have dwelt upon the subject to endeavour to show it is an Imperial as well as a Dominion question, for what affects one must affect both, and so there ought to be no difficulty

or hesitation in obtaining a free grant of the Imperial guns to arm the promontory that would equally guard the Royal dockyard of Esquimalt and the Capital of British Columbia.

I am sorry it has not been possible for me to see much of the Cavalry this year, owing to the uncertain periods of drill, but this useful arm is in fairly good order for service, and the squadrons in general commanded by officers who have made a study of the service. Of all arms, Cavalry perhaps, have most to contend against in consequence of their horses being untrained to the ranks; but for outpost duty, patrols and the various detached duties upon which Cavalry would be employed in this country, they are as a rule admirably well adapted. Canadians ride well and are accustomed to horses from their early years; they are good horse-masters, and as they have proved themselves before, so I am confident they would again be a most useful force in the field, as the "eyes and ears" of an army.

Among many excellent Cavalry officers, I must take the opportunity of specially referring to Lieut.-Col. George T. Denison, the author of a treatise on Modern Cavalry, and who this year was fortunate enough to bring himself, and through him, the Militia of Canada into enviable notice by gaining the first prize of 5,000 roubles offered by the Government of Russia for the best "history of Cavalry from the earliest times." It cannot but be a source of much satisfaction that the prize, for this history compiled after much laborious research, though open to all nations should have been carried off by an officer of the Canadian Cavalry against all competitors, even though at last the number of competing officers was reduced to three, two of whom were foreigners.

The various saddlery and clothing stores that I inspected in the course of the year convinced me that the Government property in charge of this arm is carefully preserved. As a rule, they were in the best order; the leather and iron work properly cared for, and complete even to a buckle.

Before dismissing the subject, I must notice unfavourably the Ottawa Troop of Cavalry, which by right, from the conspicuous duties it has annually had to perform, ought to be a show troop. Having the honour of escorting His Excellency the Governor General upon the ceremonies of opening and closing the Houses of Parliament, and sometimes upon other occasions, this troop ought to have been one of the best equipped, mounted, officered and drilled; but I regret to say it has not been so in any of these qualifications since my experience of it. I have often looked with chagrin at the guerilla-like appearance this troop presented to the observant eyes of those assembled at the Parliament Houses, when forming His Excellency's mounted escort. I trust the District Staff will bestir themselves to convert this troop into what it should be, for hitherto it has been a very irregular body of horsemen.

Three companies of Engineers form a very useful arm of our Militia. Two of these at Montreal are good, but that at Toronto, commanded by Lieut.-Col. Scoble,



who especially selected a high class of artisans and artificers, is a very superior company, and its commanding officer is most capable of rendering valuable service.

The reserve of stores of all kinds is maintained and replenished according to our means. We have a fair average supply of most things necessary for general use and under Lieut.-Colonel Wily's direction and that of his District Storekeepers, the equipment and war material in charge is in good order. The Reserve is perhaps sufficient for the Active force while not required to take the field; but with a view to emergency and the possible necessity for calling out some of the Reserve Militia, I should suggest the prudence of adding to our stores.

We have no reserve of military clothing; the yearly supply hardly meets the yearly wants, and as I said last year, under the present system this will soon be absorbed. With 43,000 men we should require one-third, or 14,000 suits to be issued each year, and as our funds only enable us to purchase outfits for about five or six thousand per annum, we shall soon reach the end unless a larger vote is taken or the Active force reduced as before proposed.

We have a reserve of 21,000 Snider rifles, and about 8,000 rifles and carbines of various patterns, which I think had better be sold and their places filled by 10,000 Sniders from England; of gunpowder we have about 200,000 pounds, and of Snider ball cartridges, about seven and a half million rounds. In addition, about a million and a half of cartridges are ordered from England, and upwards of 30,000 pounds of powder. Of shell of various sorts we have about 17,000 for Field Artillery, or about 290 rounds per gun, besides 100 rounds per gun in addition ordered from England. For the new  $\frac{4}{5}$  converted rifled guns we have 200 rounds of shell for each. In the item of ammunition therefore we are fairly provided, but we should have at least 10,000 additional Snider rifles in stock. We have suffered much loss this year from accidental fires in various parts of the country; in rifles alone we have had 2,013 destroyed, upwards of 1,500 of these in the appalling fire by which half the City of St. John, New Brunswick, was burnt; these were lodged in the barracks and stores adjacent, all of which were laid in ruins. But our loss by the great fire of St. John is not confined to rifles and clothing. When so many thousand people in the course of a few hours became houseless, an urgent appeal was made by the Mayor for tents and blankets from Militia stores; about 586 marquees and round tents, and 2,690 blankets were immediately issued from Quebec and Halifax, and sent wholesale to the Mayor of St. John, instead of being delivered for issue by the Military Staff on the spot. But there was little time for reflection and so in haste these articles were handed to the unfortunate sufferers. We have lost all the blankets, seven marquees and twelve circular tents, besides the equipment for all the tents issued, I fear those returned are hardly serviceable and as the amount of subscription sent to St. John was enormous, they ought to pay for the loss we have sustained and which we cannot afford.

We have only camp equipment complete for about 40,000 men, and blankets for half that number.

Ten years ago we had the complement of our military equipment, ammunition and stores in Quebec only, at one end of this spacious command; now we have military store accommodation with well filled magazines at Halifax, Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, Winnipeg, Victoria; and more recently, in order to have a reserve removed from the frontier, a considerable depot has been established at Ottawa, on Nepean Point.

The Staff may perhaps call for a brief remark. We have twelve Deputy Adjutant-Generals, one for each Military District, and eleven Brigade-Majors. A small reduction in the number of the latter was made two years ago, and the result has been good instead of the reverse. With trifling exception, the Staff as a whole is efficient and some of them as good as could possibly be desired.

My thanks are again due to the unremitting attention of the Adjutant-General who carries on the office detail, which in the regular army is sub-divided among the Adjutant-General, the Quartermaster-General, Medical, Commissariat, Clothing and Transport Officers. In fact, every requirement of the Militia, including Fortifications, Ordnance Lands, etc., etc., in some shape or other, passes through the Military Department whatever its ultimate destination may be. In the event therefore of the sudden calling out of the force for war service, it must not be expected that the machinery would start in very good working trim. A working staff would have to be immediately extemporized, and much anxious responsibility thrown upon the general officer in command, whose mind and attention should at such a time be free and unshackled from the consideration of small Departmental details. While every thing moves on in an every-day routine, I make no objection against requisitions for every article from guns to snow-shovels passing under my signature, in addition to the complex matters which come up from all parts of the country, but it is an unprecedented occupation for a General Officer in chief command and on active service would be impossible. At that time no doubt everyone would think himself both called upon and competent to criticise military arrangements, and great would be the outcry after the event, if any failure occurred; but even with such imperfect means, I make no doubt that both Headquarter and District Staff would accomplish all that might be possible, and that with judgment as circumstances required they would overcome criticism by the result of their labour.

Rifle practice has been carried out as usual at the various ranges; too much practice cannot be given to soldiers in this essential, in which, with the arms of precision of modern days extraordinary skill is required; a knowledge of rifle shooting is therefore of paramount importance, and a skilful use of the rifle an imperative necessity in every trained military force. In a country where the population seem



to have a reliance upon a special exemption from danger, it is hardly possible to persuade them of the necessity for any serious military preparation, or that to forestall any disagreeable eventuality is often the best mode to prevent its occurrence; it would be only affectation to refrain from self protection through a sensitive feeling, that our intentions might be misinterpreted. It is therefore most desirable to encourage rifle practice, not only as a national pastime and relaxation, but also necessary as an insurance for successful defence. I trust that friendly emulation in this valuable science may never flag. The assistance of trained Rifle Instructors is of great importance, for it is the case that without careful instruction cartridges are frequently wasted in careless firing. It was on that account that two years ago it was recommended by practical officers, that until more time and better instruction could be afforded it was desirable to reduce the quantity allowed for annual practice; but wherever there is a long rifle range and a qualified Instructor, I entirely approve of the full allowance of rounds being given.

When brigade camps were formed it was more easy to ensure proper instruction, though even then the time was too short for rifle practice and the other routine of drills as well, so, much ammunition was thrown uselessly away, but the emulation was doubtless beneficial. Unless with proper time and good instruction, it only leads to unsteadiness and reckless firing to hurry through a specified number of shots.

The Dominion and Provincial Rifle Associations have given valuable assistance in making good marksmen, and in keeping alive a healthy emulation in rifle practice throughout the country. These useful Associations deserve warm support, and it is praiseworthy to Canadians that they have for so many years past been so well represented at the Imperial rifle ranges of Wimbledon. The thanks of the Militia, the people, and the Dominion at large are due to the indefatigable efforts of Lieut.-Col. Gzowski, who has year after year devoted himself with well directed zeal to have Canada efficiently represented at Wimbledon, where his hospitality was as liberal as his patriotic exertions were effective and acknowledged. I trust that every attention may continue to be paid to acquiring perfection in the care as well as in the skilful use of the rifle. Additional emulation would doubtless be inspired by the institution of a badge similar to that worn in the army, to be supplied by the Militia Department, and distributed to the best shots in each corps after the annual practice, and to be worn on the arm.

I have the honor to present the Reports of the following Staff of the Dominion, viz:—

Lieut.-Cols. Strange and Irwin, of the Royal Artillery, the Dominion Inspectors and Commandants of the Gunnery Schools.

Lieut.-Col. Hewett, Royal Engineers, the Commandant of the Kingston Military College. These will be found to embrace two periods ending respectively in June, 1877, and January, 1878.

The Deputy Adjutants General of the twelve Military Districts of the Dominion, extending from Nova Scotia to Vancouver's Island.

In these Reports detailed information can be found, as well as some useful and practical local suggestions worthy of consideration.

I may specially refer to a proposition of Lieut.-Col. Irwin, to disband the Garrison Batteries at Trenton, Napanee, Goderich, Collingwood, St. Catharines, Port Hope, Cobourg, and five of the seven in the Ottawa Brigade, as no defensive works exist at any of the stations named. The Sarnia Battery is in a useful place, but it has not trained since 1874. It is, therefore a question whether it should not be disbanded also, or remodelled, as such indifference to training should not be overlooked, Garrison Batteries he again suggests, should not be trained only as Infantry, which if limited to the twelve days without special drills at leisure times, is barely enough to make a recruit steady and handle his rifle, and therefore they should be brought to the nearest fort or work where guns of position are mounted and proper instructors at hand. This is likewise the opinion of Lieut.-Col. Strange, in which I fully concur, and have therefore recommended the formation of Garrison Brigades of four batteries each at Quebec and Kingston to man those fortified works, with the instruction of the Artillery Schools.

I am glad to know that the Garrison Brigade of Artillery at Montreal is being rapidly reorganized. From one cause or another this once excellent brigade has latterly been in less efficient order, but that is only temporary. Artillerymen in Montreal are specially necessary should the line of outworks on the opposite side of the St. Lawrence be constructed to cover the approaches to that city from the south and to protect the Victoria Railway Bridge, and that over the Ottawa at St. Anne's.

The want of a drill shed in Montreal is greatly felt. I cannot understand the apathy and neglect of the city authorities in this continued indifference to the training of their Militia and the storage of their arms and clothing. The condition of the present ruinous building is simply a disgrace to an opulent city such as Montreal, the commercial capital of the Dominion, which has been twice saved this year from a turbulent mob by the alacrity with which the brigade of Militia, over 1,000 strong turned out, and by the moral effect of their presence, without recourse to arms, saved the city from being wrecked. Some years ago a sum of \$12,000 was advanced to the Corporation of Montreal to assist in the construction of a drill shed, on the understanding that the city should maintain and keep it in repair. But it was so badly built that before being long erected the roof collapsed from the weight of snow, leaving but little of the building of any use. The city has been often pressed to rebuild the shed in compliance with the bargain under which they obtained the \$12,000. They passively abstain from any action whatever, which, under the circumstances is a position not easily or agreeably defined. I suggest



that proceedings be taken at law to recover the \$12,000 now due to the Government, and that the building be restored and made fit for use. It is hardly fair that regiments should be put to the expense of hiring the skating rink and other buildings for their evening drills. And it is really the case that the armouries temporarily fitted for the purpose are neither secure from robbers, nor defensible from attack in case of riot. This city, which spends millions of dollars on parks, public buildings, and contributions for Railways, abstains from affording shelter to the volunteer force, who not only pay their share of taxes, but protect the merchants and tradesmen of the city. The drill sheds, I believe, in every other city, as well as in many towns, and some country villages, are not only spacious and convenient, but are very much used for drill, and for armouries and stores. Some of these city armouries are really in admirable order, and it afforded me pleasure to see arms as neatly cleaned and regularly stacked as in the Tower of London.

Lieut.-Col. Maunsell alludes in some detail to the disastrous conflagration in St. John, New Brunswick, in June last. The service of the Militia was made use of for the protection of life and property. The Mayor applied to Halifax for a detachment of regular Infantry; quite a needless proceeding, as the Militia could have been drawn in from surrounding districts of New Brunswick to take the place of the force in the city whose arms and clothing were unfortunately burnt.

Lieut.-Col. Maunsell has made some suggestions deserving consideration. I agree with him in much, especially his opinion of the necessity for drill and discipline and experienced leaders. On that point I think there is no dissentient voice, but for this development we want funds to establish training schools, which even the armed and mounted Frontier Police at the Cape of Good Hope, have long ago established with marked success at King Williamstown, British Kafraria. Surely this great Dominion will soon be in a position and a temper to give its Militia (and though not under my command, the North-West Mounted Police also) similar advantages.

The recent addition to the Indian population of the prairies, by the arrival of a large body of Sioux under the notorious Chief "Sitting Bull," at Cypress Hills, calls for increased precautions and strength; and especially for the greatest possible efficiency of the North-West Mounted Police. From my personal experience of this valuable body of men I can speak in high terms of approval. In my Report subsequent to my journey through the North-West Territories two years ago, I ventured to recommend a dépôt and training establishment in Ontario for officers, men and horses of the North-West Police, to be an obvious necessity; to spend six months for instruction before joining their troops so widely detached over the spacious region of those pathless prairies.

Three years ago I ventured to refer to a subject which, I am afraid, will not be generally acceptable: I mean the comparative facility with which military titles in the higher grades are obtained.

The rank of Lieutenant-Colonel for instance, which in the Royal Army is acquired after twenty or more years spent in a world-wide service, and sometimes in addition before the enemy, is in Canada obtained in a much less time, merely by a scale of years and the good fortune of the recipient to live long enough. Consequently, the higher ranks have become too common and too numerous, and therefore lose much of the weight and distinction they deserve and receive in regular armies. Promotion by brevet is obtained by regulation after five years in each rank, no matter what service the recipient may or may not have had. It is therefore only a question of simple calculation when all the officers of Canadian Militia now serving, no matter what their regimental rank may be, will become Lieutenant-Colonels, beyond which they cannot rise. This cannot surely be right, and appears so unreasonable as likely to become by-and-by almost ridiculous. It might be a cause of difficulty, if not of mortification, should the Queen's Troops and Canadian Militia be called upon to act together, because inexperienced officers could not fill positions of responsibility, which their relative rank might indicate. Every officer should be eligible for a step of rank for conspicuous or gallant service, but as a general rule, I think promotion from grade to grade should be less easy of acquirement, and would therefore be more highly esteemed. I refrain through delicacy from suggesting a special modification, but I know the good sense of the Militia officers will support my views, and I invite their own solution of the question.

I do not think the \$10,000 granted for so called Schools of Military Instruction in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, give a satisfactory return for such an outlay. I do not see that the officers in these provinces are better instructed than those elsewhere; in fact in Halifax I almost was impressed unfavorably, but certainly there was some excuse from a heavy downpour of rain which prevented my testing their acquirements sufficiently, as well as some want of steadiness, perhaps experience in the mode of handling the Brigade. In the Maritime Provinces, where the Queen's Troops are stationed at Halifax, more use should be made of the instruction that is available and would be given if applied for. Attendance at regimental instruction would be far more profitable than in temporary Military Schools of this description, and therefore, if such schools are an advantage (which I am informed they were not found to be when they did exist) they ought to be in other provinces than those where the benefit of the Queen's Troops is close at hand. The sum of \$50 bestowed upon each student who goes through a perfunctory course and obtains a Certificate, may be some inducement for attendance in spare hours on winter evenings; but there is no surety that these young men will become available or seek employment in the Militia.

The Staff consists of the Deputy Adjutant General, as Commandant, receiving a dollar and twenty-five cents per diem.

The Brigade Major, as Adjutant, one dollar per diem.

A Medical Officer, seventy-five cents per diem.



Two Instructors under forty students, at one dollar per diem, each.

A third instructor over forty students, at one dollar per diem.

The Halifax School at present represents forty-one students, and the daily cost six dollars. I think this might be saved, and better instruction obtained by classes formed upon the Regiments of Regular Infantry.

I believe I have touched upon nearly every point calling for comment in a general Report of this nature. Were I to enter into details, there is much more remaining to be said; but I only wish to inspire more encouragement from the representatives of the people towards those patriotic men who are willing, not only to stand in the front rank for the land of their birth or their adoption, but also in defence of the British name and the British flag, as many have honourably volunteered to do during the past significant year.

The Volunteers have gone through many phases of public opinion and public feeling. There was a time, when perhaps as a military body they were overpraised in the early days of the movement, simply because it was thought a case of national need, and a number of public spirited Canadians came forward and took upon themselves what by law is everybody's duty, namely military service for home defence; then later on when peace was safe and all things righted, they gradually got a colder shoulder, partly because apprehension had passed away, partly because, though still popular, they were considered a burden on the exchequer when not wanted for immediate use.

I hope soon to see this force returning to increased popularity; their physique in general is superior to the lads at present taken for the British line. I have been often struck with the effective display of this physically fine body of men who through good or ill repute, encouraged by public opinion or not, believing it desirable the force should exist, have with becoming pride held together and I believe if called upon to-morrow, would be as numerous and as willing as at any previous period of their history. Nothing could show this more strongly than the national spirit which offered volunteers for service in Europe this year, should Great Britain have required more men, although it is contrary to the constitution and nature of the force. I know that many Militia Colonels feel confident that their regiments if invited would willingly accept active service in aid of the Empire, and I honor the spirit which inspires these patriotic men; they deserve every encouragement, and I trust when the financial condition of the country rebounds, that this valuable force may receive the attention they deserve from their countrymen. We are not aggressive: our system is defence, not defiance, but we must try to maintain efficiently the strong right arm that enables us to hold our own: and should the assistance of this country ever be required as a member of the British family, it

should not be treated merely as a recruiting ground, but dealt with as a powerful and loyal auxiliary of the Empire. To this end, under the disturbed conditions of the political horizon in the old world, we should in Canada inculcate and encourage by every means we can afford the solidity and the efficiency of the splendid body of men whose services are at our disposal.

There is some danger lest a country may be misled by military statistics and an outside show of numerical force when real military strength is still wanting. The accidents—so to speak—of an army sometimes tend to conceal its weakness in place of adding to its strength, by the influence brought to bear upon sentiment. Bright uniforms, stirring music, and a few showy manœuvres, do not prove that real requirements of an army are available. For the military or naval professions special culture and training are quite as necessary as for that of the statesman, the lawyer or the physician, and the knowledge of life and discretion in dealing with mankind, in acquiring and inspiring a confidence that will ensure moral respect and command obedience, are more called for in these than in any other position of life. It is better to maintain a small force so educated as to serve as a nucleus for a greater, than to have a large force which we cannot afford to drill or move, and where some of those who subordinately command may know little more than those who are called on to obey. Trained officers and non-commissioned officers are therefore an absolute necessity to prevent the disaster that would follow in case of war, when troops unaided by such preparation might too late be found merely multitudes of armed undisciplined men. Every chain is only strong in proportion to its weakest link. The officer, the non-commissioned officer and the intelligent staff are the main links and shackles of every army; the rank and file are but the machine easily put in order for use; their value consists in courage, obedience and thorough knowledge in the use of their cannon and their rifles.

I trust that some of the many members of the Militia who represent constituencies in Parliament may undertake to hold up their voices on their behalf. I have often felt how meagre is the support the Militia receives from those who by practical experience of their requirements, have it in their power to make their case clear before the Legislature. Some of the indifference shown towards the Militia when no alarm is rife, only arises from want of the information and warm support their officers who are in Parliament might reasonably be expected to advocate.

I trust it will be felt that the few suggestions I have ventured to make are submitted with all deference from the military adviser of the Government I have the honor temporarily to serve; they are suggested solely with the motive of utility and advantage to the military force of the Dominion, and these remarks are meant in no spirit of dictation, but only as the exponents of professional views, which I hope, as opportunity and circumstances permit, may be duly weighed and considered.



Unless an argument is fairly stated it is hardly possible to grapple with it.

I came here with willingness to cast my lot for a time in this important Dominion, which is advancing step by step into a great future; desiring by every means to aid in the work I undertook as one of the stable foundations of national progress. I determined to apply the administrative and active experience gained in many distant lands to the furtherance of that object, to the improvement of the national defences of the country, while peacefully pursuing the arts of commerce and manufacture under the strong arm of its power. History teaches us, and our experience assures us, every nation must possess that power that wishes to rank as such, and to live in peace. And I truly hope that whenever the time may arrive for me to leave these shores where in my path of duty I have made many agreeable acquaintances and I think, some friends, I may not have to reflect that I do so with the disappointed feeling of having, even through unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances, been able to effect but little for the solid improvement of the national forces over which I have the honor to be temporarily placed.

It is unnecessary for me to make any allusion to works of defence for this enormous terraqueous region comprising three million and a half square miles; they could not just now be conveniently afforded, and they are not emergent. We have the report of the Defence Commission of 1862, and that of General Sir William Jervois, Royal Engineers, of 1865, to serve as our guides when required, and we have practical lectures and able brochures of Colonel Fletcher, who has devoted much study to the subject, in addition. To expect Canada to erect and build fortifications which considered from a purely strategic point of view might be thought necessary, would probably at present be beyond our reasonable means; but we shall I hope maintain in complete repair those we possess.

We must never allow the fortifications of Quebec and Kingston to fall into bad repair; they should have a larger armament of rifled guns when we can afford to convert them. Montreal should be covered by a line of defensive works on the right bank of the St. Lawrence, sufficiently distant to save the city from damage by artillery or rifle fire and similar works to cover the railway bridge near Vaudreuil at the junction of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence. While Toronto should have a line of earthworks running east and west about three miles from the shores of the Lake, in connection with Scarboro' Heights, utilizing ordnance land which the Corporation of that city are making strenuous efforts to get into their possession for the erection of Exhibition buildings. It is needless to allude here to entrenched camps with advance redoubts, which of course would be resorted to in case of commotion. Such camps in well chosen positions in various parts of the country, would be strongholds from whence columns of troops could operate with a safe base of supply and defence to fall

back on, and they would give general confidence to the population as rallying points and for protection of their property.

Gun boats and armed steamers on our Lakes and Rivers would of course become paramountly necessary in any serious operations. These may never be required, or at any rate at such a remote distance of time as to render their present consideration of no moment.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ED. SELBY SMYTH,  
*Lieut.-General.*

The Hon. Minister of Militia and Defence,  
Ottawa.



## APPENDIX No. 1.

### MILITARY DISTRICT No. 1.

HEADQUARTERS,  
LONDON, 3 December 1877.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward for submission to the General Officer in command, the accompanying Inspection Report of the corps of Active Militia in the District under my command, which have performed their annual drill for the year 1877-78, in obedience to general orders of the 11th May, 1877.

The Active Militia Force in this District consists of the following corps, who are all provided with arms, accoutrements and uniform :—

The 1st Regiment of Cavalry;  
The London Field Battery;  
The Wellington Field Battery;  
The Goderich Garrison Battery;  
The Sarnia Garrison Battery;

And the following Battalions of Infantry and Rifles, viz :—

The 7th London;  
22nd "Oxford" Rifles;  
24th "Kent";  
25th "Elgin";  
26th "Middlesex";  
27th "Lambton";  
28th "Perth";  
29th "Waterloo";  
32nd "Bruce";  
33rd "Huron," and  
The Independent Companies of Leamington and Windsor.

Being according to the reduced strength of companies, as ordered in 1875, a total strength of 267 officers and 3,626 non-commissioned officers and men, with eight field guns and 160 sabres.

In accordance with the instructions limiting the number of Active Militia for Military District No. 1 for this year's drill to 2,350, the following corps were duly warned to perform their drill, viz :—

1st Regiment Cavalry, under command of Lieut.-Colonel Cole;  
The London Field Battery, under command of Major Peters;  
Wellington Field Battery, under command of Major A. H. Macdonald;  
Goderich Garrison Battery, under Major Thomson;  
7th Battalion, under command of Lieut.-Col. Walker;  
22nd Battalion, under command of Lieut.-Col. Cowan;  
24th Battalion, under command of Lieut.-Col. Smith;  
27th Battalion, under command of Lieut.-Col. Davis;  
32nd Battalion, under command of Lieut.-Col. Sproat;  
33rd Battalion, under command of Lieut.-Col. Ross; and  
The Windsor Infantry Company,



## CAVALRY.

I inspected the four Troops of the 1st Regiment of Cavalry at their own local head-quarters; they turned out clean and soldierlike, the Kingsville Troop being remarkably well mounted, and evidently taking much pride in their corps. A cavalry instructor is however much needed for all the troops, who are very anxious to become proficient in their drill.

## ARTILLERY.

Being on other duty, I was unable to inspect the London Field Battery, which performed their drill in camp here, and was inspected by the Inspector of Artillery. I was, however, informed that he expressed himself very well satisfied with them.

I inspected the Wellington Field Battery at their camp at Guelph; they marched in full strength, and I found the Battery in every respect very efficient, all of the officers being most painstaking and zealous, thinking nothing a trouble that would improve the efficiency of their corps. I regret, however, having to report that this corps should not have been able to perform their annual shot and shell practice this season, on account of there not being any range sufficiently safe and convenient. Last year they were obliged to limit their practice at Puslinch Range on account of the danger of accidents, and I hope they may, in future, be permitted to have some days of extra drill to enable them to march to the Oakville Range for the practice.

I must also report the London Field Battery are much in the same condition with respect to obtaining the use of a range for shot and shell practice, and it is to be hoped that arrangements may be sanctioned by which these two most efficient Batteries may have the opportunity of performing such an important portion of their drill.

## INFANTRY AND RIFLES.

The Infantry and Rifle Companies, with the exception of the 7th Battalion at London, performed company drill at their own local headquarters, and generally preferred to drill in consecutive days, instead of during the evenings. Many of them were encamped for their drill, the tents and blankets being provided by the Militia Department. They also fired twenty rounds of blank ammunition, per man, practising skirmishing, and twenty rounds of ball at target practice. Upon my inspection of the several Companies during their drill, I have to report that I found their arms, with very few exceptions, in good order and well taken care of, their accoutrements clean and their uniform serviceable; new uniform has been invariably issued from headquarters without delay, as soon as the requisition was made, so that the Companies were all well clothed.

A few rifles in each Company require trifling repairs, which it would be advantageous should be attended to by a duly qualified armorer, so that every rifle may be fit for immediate service.

The Companies, at my inspection, went through squad, company and some skirmishing drill, and taking into consideration the few days they had to practice, and that the majority of the men were recruits, I can report that they appeared to have made the best use of their time, and where I had to find fault, which was only in a very few instances, it was occasioned by the want of a qualified instructor, and not from any negligence on the part of the men.

The 7th Battalion was inspected at London by the General Officer in command, the Companies having performed their drill by consecutive days in day time instead of at evening drill, which is an exceptional case for a city Battalion.

I was much struck with the numbers of recruits in every corps, nearly all the old members of the Companies having served their time, and their places are filled by fine young men, mostly the sons of farmers in the neighborhood. I noticed that a better class of men have now joined the force. I might give as an example the 22nd Battalion "Oxford Rifles," the eight Companies of which turned out in full strength,

and the Battalion (always a good one) has never appeared to me to have a finer or more respectable class of men in its ranks. The same remark will apply to other corps, and I was frequently told by the Captains that they could have turned out their Companies without difficulty up to the old strength of fifty-five men, and that the respectable young men of the locality appear more willing to join than formerly.

## QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS.

But now that the great majority of each Company consists of recruits, I find a serious difficulty in obtaining the services of properly qualified officers and non-commissioned officers, and unless Infantry Schools are opened or some other method of providing duly qualified officers and non-commissioned officers, I fear the result will soon be a serious detriment to the efficiency of the force.

## BATTALION CAMPS.

I have to report a very generally expressed wish, both by officers and men, that the coming year's drill should be in camp. I believe that regimental camps will be found most suitable, as the Companies are, practically speaking, ignorant of battalion drill, and should be quietly drilled by their own Regimental Officers in regimental camps, before going into Brigade camp; and having for the last two years been drilled as isolated companies, it is very important that they should have some practical knowledge of battalion drill.

## TARGET PRACTICE.

Should the coming year's drill take place in Battalion camps, I would beg to recommend that a small monetary prize be given to the best shooting Company in each Battalion; this would be of much benefit to insure the more careful carrying out of the proper regulations for target practice.

I have the honor 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, 5th Dec., 1877.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward, for submission to the General Officer in command, the accompanying Inspection Report of corps of the Active Militia, relative to the performance of the annual drill of the year 1877-78, in Military District No. 2, in accordance with the General Orders dated at Ottawa 11th May, 1877.

By the above order, the strength of the Force, in the District, was limited to 3,400 officers, non-commissioned officers and men, authorized to perform the annual drill of this year.

In addition to the above, 270 officers, non-commissioned officers and men who had performed the annual drill of the previous year, were now permitted to do so under the regulations of the above order.



In order to carry out the above order, the following corps, which had not performed, the annual drill of the year 1876-77, were now ordered to perform the annual drill of this year.

*Garrison Batteries.*

Toronto.  
Collingwood.

*Infantry.*

20th Battalion.....	7 Companies
34th " .....	7 "
36th " .....	9 "
39th " .....	8 "
3 Companies of the 44th Battalion.	

To complete the quota, the following corps were selected by lot:

*Cavalry.*

Squadron Governor General's Body Guard.  
2nd Regiment.

*Garrison Battery.*

St. Catharines.

*Infantry.*

13th Battalion.....	6 Companies.
31st " .....	7 "
37th " .....	7 "
38th " .....	8 officers and 111 non commissioned officers and men.
44th " .....	5 Companies.
Sault St. Marie Rifle Company, 1 officer and 25 N. C. officers and men.	

The following corps subsequently received permission to perform the annual drill of this year:

2nd Military District Engineer Company.
2nd Battalion, Queen's Own Rifles.
10th " Royals.
12th " No. 8 Company.

The following corps not having been selected by lot, were therefore not required to perform the annual drill:

*Infantry.*

12th Battalion .....	7 Companies.
35th " .....	10 "
77th " .....	6 "

Thus it will be seen that the above three battalions have not performed any drill for this year.

*INSPECTIONS.*

*Cavalry.*

*Governor General's Body Guard.*

The two troops, or squadron, of the Body Guard, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel George T. Denison, went into new barracks, having obtained the necessary permission in order to perform their annual drill (good stables for their horses),

were inspected by me on the 24th September, on the Garrison Common. The squadron presented a very creditable appearance, very fairly horsed; were put through the Field Cavalry movements by their commanding officer. Considering the short time allowed for cavalry drill, performed them smartly and well. A good band (mounted), lately organised, now belongs to this squadron.

*2nd Regiment.*

No. 1 Troop, St. Catharines, under the command of Major Gregory, paraded for my inspection at St. Catharines, on the 20th October, with the 19th Battalion.

The troop paraded and moved very fairly. The material is good. The remaining troops of this regiment were severally inspected, at their troop head quarters, by the Brigade Majors of their respective Brigade Divisions, whose reports show the same zeal on the part of the officers commanding troops to do their best, and whose general appearance and drill is reported upon favorably. Troops of cavalry labor under many difficulties, when performing their annual drill apart or separately. Time is necessarily taken up in getting horses, saddlery, &c., in any thing like order; six consecutive days, is but a short time for a troop of cavalry's annual drill.

I would here respectfully suggest that the same number of days drill, be allowed the cavalry, in the performance of their annual drill, as is allowed the field batteries, and when at all practicable, the drill be performed as a regiment; when more supervision will be naturally exercised; hence more efficiency attained.

*Artillery.*

Toronto Field Battery.  
Hamilton "  
Welland "

*Toronto Field Battery.*

Under the command of Major Gray, having received the necessary permission marched on the 22nd June, with praiseworthy zeal, from Toronto to Whitby, with a full equipment, some 32 miles, halted at intervals during the night in going and returning without any casualty, in order to join the camp at Whitby, formed by the 34th battalion, under Lieut.-Colonel Wallace, who obtained permission to avail himself of the General Order, which permitted him to perform the annual drill prior to the 30th June. This force was encamped in the Agricultural Grounds at Whitby, an excellent place for that purpose, good accommodation, &c.

Lieutenant-Colonel Scoble with a detachment of the Toronto Engineer Company, also joined the camp, with the view of rendering service in throwing up an earthwork.

The camp was under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Wallace, 34th Battalion.

The force paraded for my inspection on the 28th June, on a common adjacent to the town, which presented a very creditable appearance, especially the Field Battery. After the usual inspection and marching past, the force was divided into two columns which proceeded through the town with the supposed intention of reducing an earthwork, which had been very cleverly thrown up previously, near the harbour, by the Engineer Company, assisted by fatigue parties from the 34th Battalion. After passing through the town, fire was opened by the Field Battery upon the work, which ultimately blew up. Lieutenant-Colonel Strange, R. A., Inspector of Artillery, with Majors Holmes "A" Battery, was present on this occasion.

This officer, who had previously arrived at Whitby in order to inspect the Field Battery, kindly rendered both advice and assistance.

Lieutenant-Colonel Denison, Brigade Major, rendered good service with the Infantry. I am happy to report that no accident or casualty occurred during the day, although the town was crowded to excess by the country people.



*Hamilton Field Battery.*

This Battery, under the command of Captain Smith, marched from Hamilton to Burlington, some 9 miles, on the lake shore; dry and healthy, where it encamped. During the performance of its annual drill it was inspected by me on the 7th July. The general appearance of the Battery as well as its drill, did not appear quite as well as I have seen it. Some unpleasantness occurred during the drill, with regard to some of its members, which when inquired into, did not redound to the credit of the Battery. This Battery was previously inspected by Lieutenant-Colonel Strange, R.A., Inspector of Artillery.

*Welland Canal Field Battery.*

This Battery was inspected by Lt. Colonel Irwin, R. A., Inspector of Artillery.

*Garrison Batteries.*

Toronto.  
Collingwood.  
St. Catharines.

These Batteries were inspected by Lt. Colonel Irwin, Inspector of Artillery.

*Engineer Company.*

This Company under the command of Captain and Brevet Lieut.-Col. Scoble paraded at the new Barracks on the afternoon of the 4th August. A very fine body of men well clothed and appointed, all in good order.

Manual and firing exercises, and company drill very well done; after which the men relieved themselves of their accoutrements, etc., set to work and made, in a very practicable manner, the first part of a Pier bridge, which was carefully lowered into the water, from the embankment. Also dismantled a Spar Bridge, previously erected, carefully and well. No accident. The above shews, that both care and attention had been paid in the instruction to this Company.

*Infantry.*

The three City Battalions.  
2nd Battalions, Q. O. Rifles, Toronto.  
10th Royals, Toronto.  
13th Battalion, Hamilton.

*2nd Battalion Q. O. Rifles*

Paraded in full strength (in fact over its strength) on Saturday afternoon, 17th November, for inspection by the General Officer commanding, who was accompanied by Captain Smyth, A. D. C., in the Queen's Park, which was very much crowded on this occasion.

After the parade was over, the General called the Commanding Officer, Lieut. Colonel Otter, also the Field Officers, to the front, when the General expressed himself in gratifying terms, on the appearance of the Battalion; and the different movements which were gone through. I must not omit to mention, that the corps has been furnished with busbies, at the expense of the non-commissioned officers and men.

*10th Battalion (Royals.)*

This Battalion paraded in strength, at the Old Fort, on the afternoon of the 22nd September. I must say this Battalion is much improved, composed of a fine body of young men. Arms, clothing and accoutrements, clean and in good order. Manual firing exercise and battalion movements, well done. Lieut. Colonel Stollery,

who commands the Battalion, as well as his officers deserve much credit, for their exertions in thus improving the Battalion.

*13th Battalion—Hamilton.*

This battalion was inspected by the General Officer commanding, accompanied by Captain Smyth, A. D. C., in the Hamilton Drill Shed, on the evening of the 13th November.

The battalion mustered strong (in fact over its strength) and elicited from the General, after the parade was over, words of warm commendation with what he had seen of the battalion and the manner in which the different exercises and movements were performed, expressed to the Commanding Officer and his field officers. Lieut.-Colonel Skinner, who commands the battalion, was present on this occasion, although unable, from an accident, to take command. Major and Brevet Lieut.-Colonel Irving commanding the parade.

*No. 8 Company, 12th Battalion.*

This Company has been lately re-organized, at Yorkville, under the command of Captain Vidal. I have seldom seen a finer body of young men, paraded clean and soldierlike; all their appointments, arms, &c. in good order. Captain Vidal deserves much credit for his exertions in thus re-organizing this company. Their company drill also was very good.

*19th Battalion.*

This battalion under the command of Lieut.-Colonel the Honorable J. G. Currie, assembled at its battalion headquarters, St. Catharines, in order to perform its annual drill, was inspected by me on the 20th October.

The appearance of the battalion was decidedly good. Arms, clothing, accoutrements in good order. Manual, firing exercises as well as battalion movements were well done. The Lieut.-Colonel commanding had evidently taken more than ordinary attention with his battalion.

*20th Battalion (Rifles.)*

Nos. 2, 3, and 4 Companies, under the command of their respective Captains, paraded for my inspection, in a field adjoining George-Town, on the afternoon of the 28th September. Lieut.-Colonel Murray (who commands the battalion,) and Major Allan being present. These companies mustered well and looked well. Arms, accoutrements and clothing in good order. After the manual and firing exercises were fairly performed Lieut.-Colonel Murray put them through some battalion movements which were creditably done.

No. 6 Company of this battalion (Acton) was inspected by Lieut.-Colonel Murray, on the 4th October, who reported favorably.

The remaining companies, of this battalion were inspected by Lieut.-Colonel Villiers, Brigade Major, whose reports were favourable. This battalion performed its annual drill by companies.

*31st Battalion.*

Nos. 2 (Meaford), 3 (Leith), 1 and 5 (Owen Sound), companies, paraded at their respective company Head Quarters on the 29th and 30th of June, for my inspection. These companies all mustered well, arms and appointment clean and in good order, Company drill good. These Captains deserve more than ordinary credit for the manner in which they turned out their companies.

Captain Telford, No. 3 Company, ordered his Company to advance and skirmish, and by bugle calls, entirely, put these through their companies skirmish drill.



The remaining companies performed their annual drill at their respective company Head Quarters.

Lieut.-Colonel Brodie commands this battalion.

### 36th Battalion—Lieut.-Colonel Gracy

Nos. 1 and 3 companies, Captains commanding, paraded for my inspection on the Agricultural Grounds at Brampton in the afternoon of the 6th October. I cannot speak as highly of these two Companies, as hitherto done of those which I have inspected; their arms, accoutrements, clothing and drill, fair, but not quite up to the mark. The remaining companies of this battalion which severally performed their annual drill at their Company Head Quarters were inspected by Lieut.-Colonel Denison Brigade Major, who reported very fairly of them, state of arms, accoutrements, clothing and drill. This battalion labors under the disadvantage of having clothing now worn out (and will be therefore entitled to a new issue) which always militates against a battalion, as men decline to wear clothing much worn.

### 37th Battalion (Rifles.)

This battalion under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Davis, mustered and performed its drill at its battalion Headquarters, York, County of Haldimand, under canvas; was inspected by Lieut.-Colonel Villiers, Brigade Major, on the 22nd June, who reported very favorably. Muster very good; arms, accoutrements and clothing in good order. Drill very fair. Camp clean and in good order. Cost of rations, including milk, butter, rice, vegetables, bread, meat, wood and water, about 23 cents per man. Moreover, being a well conducted camp.

### 38th Battalion (Rifles.)

Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 Companies, under their respective Captains, paraded at Brantford, on the afternoon of the 16th October, on their drill shed grounds. Lieut.-Colonel Dickie, commanding the battalion being present. These Rifle Companies mustered in full strength, with their Regimental Band, all in good order. Clean and soldierlike, drill very fair, a well conducted parade. The remaining Companies of this battalion, were not required to perform annual drill.

### 39th Battalion (Rifles.)

This battalion assembled, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Mabey, at its battalion headquarters, Simcoe, (County Norfolk) and was encamped on the Race Course; was inspected by Lieut.-Colonel Villiers, Brigade Major, on the afternoon of the 24th September. Considering the short time allowed for drill, 6 consecutive days, including the marching in and out days, and the long distances nearly all the companies had to travel, to reach the Battalion headquarters, that officer reports, that the progress in drill was satisfactory, the conduct of the men was good.

### 44th Battalion.

Inspected No. 1 Company, at Thorold; 3, at Chippewa; 4, at Fort Erie; 7, at Stevensville, their respective company head quarters, on the 14th and 15th September. I remarked these companies were all composed of fine healthy looking young men; drilled well. Were clean and soldierlike, mustered full strength. The remaining companies performed their annual drill at their company head quarters; were inspected by Lieutenant-Colonel Villiers, Brigade Major, who reported equally favorably of them. This battalion is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Barnett.

With reference to the performance of their annual drill, the general muster of the force, by corps, was decidedly good, better than usual, drill better than could be expected considering the short time allowed, which I can only account for, on the supposition that there was less changing going on, the men must have remained more stationary, less inducements for them to move.

### Sault Ste. Marie Rifle Company.

This Company, under the command of Major Wilson, was inspected by Lieutenant Colonel Denison, Brigade Major, on the 9th November.

This officer's report shews that Major Wilson has paid every attention to his company and all their appointments, all in good order. The company paraded with two rifled mountain guns, which they handled very well in the field.

This officer deserves much credit for his zeal and attention in the public service.

Lieutenant-Colonel Denison, Brigade Major, who was detained at the Sault by stress of weather, rendered every assistance to this company during the performance of their drill.

### TARGET PRACTICE.

Owing to the very limited time for the Annual Drill, the Target Practice for this year has not been efficiently carried out. As target practice or rifle shooting, is, I might almost say, the very life of the Force as so much depends upon it, I would respectfully urge more time be given to this important branch. Connected therewith, Rifle Instruction, "Drill Instructors" and "Rifle Instructors" are urgently required. As a rule it is hopeless to expect good drill or good rifle practice without good instruction; the establishment of military schools, whereby the above instructors could be obtained, is respectfully recommended. These schools would also give an opportunity, which is much needed, to company officers and non-commissioned officers to obtain certificates of qualification for promotion.

### AID TO THE CIVIL POWER.

The force in my District, has been called upon on more than one occasion, to aid the civil Power, in upholding law and order, which has been promptly responded to, reports of which have been already submitted. Although the duty required has been performed satisfactorily, still there appears a great difficulty in obtaining from the authorities (local) the pay for the officers and men. As in the case at Belleville, pay was not given to the officers and men of the Queen's Own, for upwards of six months, and then only when compelled to do so by the officer commanding that corps entering an action at law, a poor encouragement both to officers and men who promptly obey orders and do their duty.

It gives me pleasure to report that Lieut.-Colonels Denison and Villiers, Brigade Majors, and Lieut.-Colonel Alger, District Paymaster, have each performed their duties in a very satisfactory manner.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

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

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

The Adjutant General of Militia,  
Head Quarters, Ottawa.



## MILITARY DISTRICT No. 3.

DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
KINGSTON, Dec. 1st, 1877.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit, for the information of the General Officer Commanding, my annual report on the state of the Active Militia in Military District No. 3.

The strength of the force to be drilled in my District was 2,330 of all ranks, including 180 allowed to drill for 1876-77.

Corps not performing drill in 1876-77 were first detailed for drill, and the remainder, to complete the quota, were selected by lot in the presence of two officers of the Active Force.

The following is the detail:—

1876-77.

Four Companies 40th Battalion, numbering 176 of all ranks. These companies performed their drill prior to the 30th June, in accordance with the instructions.

1877-78.

3rd Cavalry, Two Troops.  
4th " Three "  
Kingston Field Battery.  
Durham " "  
Trenton Garrison Battery.  
Napanee " "  
14th Battalion.  
15th "  
16th "  
40th " Three Companies.  
46th "  
47th " Four Companies.  
57th "

The following Corps were relieved from drill for 1877-78:—

3rd Cavalry, One Troop.  
4th " "  
Cobourg Garrison Battery.  
Port Hope " "  
40th Battalion, Two Companies.  
45th "  
47th " Three Companies.  
48th "  
49th "

The drills have been performed in accordance with the General Orders of the 12th May, 1877.

## CAVALRY.

## 3rd Provisional Regiment.

The Peterborough and Cobourg Troops of this regiment have performed their drill and were inspected by me, the former on the 12th September at Peterborough, and the latter on the 23rd November at Cobourg.

The Peterborough Troop performed the drill in eight days. The men were billeted in the Agricultural building, blankets being supplied from the Government store. The arms, accoutrements, clothing and saddlery, were clean and in good order. Horses good but not as fine as last year. The men were rationed at one of the hotels, paying 35 cents a day. The forage ration cost 40 cents, owing to hay and oats being very dear this year in this section of the country. The drill was very well performed and the sword exercise very fair.

The Cobourg Troop performed the drill in six days, the men drilling six hours a day. The men turned out without uniform, the clothing for this troop not having arrived from Europe in time for the annual training. The weather was so wet on the day of inspection that I was prevented from seeing the men at drill, and had to content myself with inspecting them and their horses under a shed. The arms and saddlery have been recently issued and are quite new. The troop is composed of a fine body of men, and, with a few exceptions, well horsed. A few men were mounted on hired horses, which I consider objectionable.

## 4th Provisional Regiment.

Three Troops of this regiment (Kingston, Picton and Napanee) performed their drill together in camp at Bath in eight days, and were inspected by me on the 25th June. Camp equipage was supplied from the military store, the regiment defraying all transport charges. The camp was under the command of Lieut.-Col. Duff, and the site selected was on the Lake shore, about half-a-mile east of the village of Bath, and was well adapted for the purpose. The duties of the camp were carried on with regularity, and I was glad to observe a marked improvement in the general appearance of the men. The arms, accoutrements, clothing and saddlery were clean, and the horses good, especially those of the Picton Troop. The drill and sword exercise was performed in a very creditable manner, the Kingston Troop being the best up in their drill. The men's rations cost 20 cents, and the forage rations 30 cents. The conduct of the men whilst in camp was excellent, and there were no complaints. The Picton Troop paraded without belts, as those forwarded to them this year were found to be of an obsolete pattern, and were therefore not issued to the men. I must again beg to remark that the serge trowsers issued are totally unfit for cavalry, and will not last the required time.

## ARTILLERY.

The Kingston Field Battery went into camp for twelve days at the Artillery Park, Kingston, and were inspected by Lieut.-Col. Irwin on the 26th June. This battery turned out in good order; accoutrements, clothing and harness clean, guns well horsed, and the field movements performed with precision, eliciting favorable comments from the Inspecting Officer, who expressed himself perfectly satisfied with the progress made since last inspection. The conduct of the men whilst in camp was satisfactory.

The Durham Field Battery went into camp at Port Hope for twelve days, and were inspected by the Inspector of Artillery on the 29th of June. Brigade Major Lieut.-Col. Worsley accompanied the Inspecting Officer, and I regret to say that he was unable to report favorably on the state of this battery, the horses being poor, and the discipline, I have reason to believe, somewhat slack. I trust that next year's report may be more favorable.

The Napanee Garrison Battery was inspected by Bt. Lieut.-Col. Cotton, "A" Battery, on the 24th July. The men turned out clean and performed their company drill, manual and firing exercises, in a satisfactory manner, considering that there were thirty recruits in the ranks. Only one squad had been practiced in gun drill, and these men did not appear to have much knowledge of stores or ammunition. Lieut.-Col. Cotton will doubtless report the result of his inspection.

The Trenton Garrison Battery was inspected by Lieut.-Col. Irwin on the 27th



Nov., and I regret being unable to accompany him, having other engagements at the time. He will report on the state of this battery. I think it would be an improvement to the Force if these two Garrison Batteries were changed to Rifle Companies, unless some means can be adopted for imparting better instruction in gun drill, such as moving them to Kingston to undergo their annual training in Fort Henry, where they would have the benefit of qualified instructors.

#### INFANTRY.

##### *14th Battalion.*

The 14th Battalion performed the drills in the evenings on the parade ground attached to the Drill Shed, Kingston, and was inspected by me on the 13th July. After marching past in column and quarter column, the Battalion was wheeled into line and put through the manual and firing exercises by the Adjutant, Captain Gordon, and afterwards through battalion movements by Lieut.-Colonel Kerr, which they performed in a most creditable manner. Their advance and retire in line was especially good, and the skirmishing drill also. Short rifles and new clothing have been issued to this corps since last inspection, and I have much pleasure in reporting that the Battalion presented an excellent appearance on parade on the day of inspection, reflecting much credit on both officers and men.

##### *15th Battalion.*

This corps having been thoroughly reorganized, went into camp at Belleville, performing the drill in six days, and was inspected by me on the 18th September, 1877. The Battalion marched past and performed a few battalion movements and skirmishing drill under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Lazier.

Owing to the number of recruits and the shortness of the time for training, they were not practised in the manual and firing exercises, but in other respects the drill was very fair. I am glad to say that there appears to be a desire on the part of all the officers to bring the corps into a thorough state of efficiency, and I therefore trust that next year I may be able to report a marked improvement. Much could not be expected this year, as all but fifteen were recruits. New clothing has been issued to this corps before it was entitled to it, but on the condition that it shall last the prescribed period from the date on which it would have been entitled to the issue. The arms and accoutrements were fairly clean, and the men were rationed by officers commanding companies at 25 cents per ration, this sum including the purchase of mess tins, &c. The conduct of the men was reported good and their health excellent. The armoury has been refitted by Lieut.-Colonel Lazier, at his own expense, and each man is now provided with a locker for his accoutrements, clothing, &c. The arms are placed in circular racks in the armoury, and I trust that henceforth there may be no more deficiencies to report in the equipment of this Battalion.

Lieut.-Colonel Lazier is deserving of great credit for his efforts to promote the efficiency of the corps.

##### *16th Battalion.*

Six Companies of this corps performed the drill at their respective headquarters, and were inspected by me on different days in November. They turned out very well and every man in uniform. The arms and accoutrements were clean, and the drill satisfactorily performed, considering that the Battalion has not drilled for four years, and almost all the men in the ranks were recruits. The Wellington and Consecration Companies having failed to turn out, and the officers lately in command having left the limits, I would recommend that they be disbanded.

##### *40th Battalion.*

Four Companies of this corps performed their drill in camp: No. 1 at Cobourg, and Nos. 7, 8 and 9 at Colborne; and the remainder at their respective Company

headquarters. I am glad to be able to report that the drill of this Battalion was most satisfactory. The officers, from the Colonel down, take a lively interest in the welfare of the Corps, which is in a most efficient state. No. 2 Company, Cobourg, performed its drill in a manner reflecting the greatest credit on all concerned. The arms and clothing of this company were remarkably clean, and the manual and firing exercise was admirably done. This may be attributed, in a great measure to Major Smith, the late Brigade Major, who has been indefatigable in drilling the men.

##### *46th Battalion.*

This Battalion performed its Drill in camp at Port Hope, and was inspected by me on the 17th September. The regulations for encampments were scrupulously carried out, and I was much pleased with the fine appearance of the men. Their arms, accoutrements and clothing were clean, and the drill on the whole was very good, though the corps had not been practised in the exercise for the long rifle. This corps is certainly one of the best in my District, and has a very fine band.

##### *47th Battalion.*

Five companies of this Battalion have performed drill at their respective headquarters, and have been inspected by me. The arms, accoutrements and clothing were, generally speaking, very clean, and the drill good. The Barriefield Company was decidedly the best drilled company this year.

##### *57th Battalion.*

Four companies of this Battalion drilled together at headquarters, Peterboro', and were inspected by me on the 25th September, 1877. The men were billeted in the Agricultural Society's buildings, blankets being issued to them from the military stores. The men were rationed by captains of companies, at a cost of 20 cents per ration. The drill of these companies was satisfactory, but the men did not present as fine an appearance on parade as other corps, chiefly owing to many of them being in the ranks improperly dressed. The clothing of Nos. 1 and 4 was very bad, and there were many deficiencies. No. 3 Company was entitled to new clothing, but the officer commanding failed to apply for it in time for the drill. No. 2 Company presented by far the best appearance, their clothing being new, and their arms and accoutrements very clean. Captain Kennedy deserves credit for this. On the 26th September I inspected the Norwood Company. I regret to say there were many deficiencies in the equipment, but in other respects the inspection was satisfactory. This company was pretty well up in drill, and the marching good. They performed the manual and firing exercise for the short rifle, not having been practised in that for the long rifle. The skirmishing drill was also very fair. No. 6, the Hastings Company, Captain Howard, has performed drill, but has not yet been inspected. Through some misunderstanding this Company did not turn out at the same time as the rest of the battalion, and had only put in two drills when I was at Norwood. I therefore did not consider it advisable to make the inspection. I however directed Brigade Major Lieut.-Col. Worsley to make the inspection when on his tour inspecting arms, but through some mismanagement the company again failed to turn out. I have now requested Lieut.-Col. Poole to make the inspection. I was not very well satisfied with the appearance and drill of this company last year, and was therefore most anxious to inspect them myself this year. Captain Howard was very rusty, and hardly qualified to instruct his men.

#### RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS.

The Rifle Associations in this District appear to be in flourishing condition, nearly all having held competitions this year—the subscriptions also, have been more liberal.



I am happy to report that two new Associations have been formed, one at Port Hope and the other at Peterborough, and have held meetings, although the latter did not participate in the Government grant for this year. I trust they may receive it next year. I consider that money is well spent on these Associations, which are conducive to the efficiency of the force, encouraging many of the men to take a greater interest in target practice and thereby to become marksmen.

#### RIFLE RANGES.

The butts of the Kingston Range have been put into a thorough state of repair at a cost of \$150. The estimated cost was \$200, but thanks to Lieut.-Colonel Cotton and a Sergeant of 'A' Battery, who superintended the work, the repairs were effected at a saving of \$50. The Range is now in very good order. Last year I submitted an application from Lieut.-Colonel Williams for a grant of \$150 for the purpose of fencing in the Range at Port Hope, and for an annual grant of \$10 for leasing the said Range, but I regret to say that as yet the application has not been granted.

#### DRILL SHEDS.

The Drill Sheds remain in the same condition as last year, most of them being somewhat out of repair, with the exception of those at Kingston and Port Hope. In the former a room has been fitted up with shelves as a Quartermaster's store, at a cost of \$61, in which the clothing of the 14th Battalion has been stored, so that it can be properly looked after by the caretaker. I think that Drill Sheds ought to be erected in all the large towns.

#### GENERAL REMARKS.

It affords me much pleasure to report that the undermentioned officers belonging to my District, have gone through a short course of instruction at the School of Gunnery, obtaining first-class certificates, viz.:—

Major Henry Smith, 47th Battalion.  
 Captain Kelly, 47th Battalion.  
 Captain and Adjutant Gordon, 14th Battalion.  
 Captain and Adjutant McGill, 4th Cavalry.

I trust that many more will avail themselves of this privilege next year, as it is the only opportunity they have at present of acquiring any real knowledge of the duties of a soldier.

As the establishment appears to be fixed at forty-two rank and file, per troop or company, I would strongly recommend that all arms and accoutrements at present in possession of corps in excess of that number be returned into store. Many of the corps have a number of rifles totally useless for want of needful repairs. If these were returned into store an armourer could be employed to repair them under the direction of the Military Storekeeper, so that they would be fit for issue in the event of its being necessary to augment the Force.

I am glad to say that there is a marked improvement in the Force in my District this year, nearly all the corps turned out properly dressed, and the arms and accoutrements were, generally speaking, cleaner and in better order than last year. Officers commanding corps appear to take greater care of their equipment, and the Brigade Major has in consequence fewer deficiencies to report. There is, however, still room for improvement in this respect. The drill has been well performed on the whole, and, in some of the corps, remarkably so. I believe the best mode of promoting the efficiency of the Force, would be to assemble corps in camp at Battalion head-quarters for sixteen days, the officers and men receiving pay according to rank, rations and transport. By this means the field officers and adjutant could devote their whole attention to the drilling of the companies, and in a much more satis-

factory manner than when brigaded with other corps, when so much time is taken up with brigade parades. It seems to me an absurdity to assemble in brigade, battalions which are almost always composed of one-third recruits. It is also quite certain that any well drilled battalion will always be able to hold its own in brigade. Doubtless brigade camps are the most popular with the Force, but the question is not one of popularity, but of efficiency.

The best drilled corps in my District this year were decidedly those which were in a position to assemble the men in the afternoons or evenings, putting in the drill in twenty-four days. Town corps can do this, but rural corps cannot, and therefore recommend the training to be at Battalion head-quarters for at least twelve full days.

My thanks are due to Brigade Major Lieut.-Col. Worsley, to the staff generally, and to Commanding Officers of Corps who have been assiduous in their duties and rendered me every assistance.

I beg to append a return of corps in detail which have performed drill (marked A), copy of District Order relative thereto (marked B), and Brigade Major Lieut. Col. Worsley's Report (marked C).

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

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

The Adjutant-General,  
 Head-Quarters, Ottawa.