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REPORT

ON THE

STATE OF THE MILITIA

OF THE

DOMINION OF CANADA,

FOR THE YEAR 1878.

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



OTTAWA:
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1879.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE,

OTTAWA, February, 1879.

The undersigned has the honor to forward to Your Excellency the accompanying Report relating to the Militia of the Dominion of Canada for 1878, which is respectfully submitted for Your Excellency's consideration.

L. R. MASSON,
Minister of Militia and Defence.

His Excellency
The Governor General,
Ottawa.

INDEX TO CONTENTS.

(MILITIA REPORT, 1878.)

	PAGE.
REPORT OF GENERAL OFFICER IN COMMAND OF THE MILITIA	ix to xlviii
Introductory Remarks.....	ix
Active Militia, utility of.....	x
do do Quebec riot.....	x
do do Montreal riot.....	x, xiv, xxxi
do Review on Her Majesty's Birthday	xiii
do Small Permanent Force suggested.....	xi, xvi, xxxv, xxxvi, xlv
do Battalions, how Officered	xiv
do Called out in aid of Civil Power.....	xlvii
do Strength for Drill.....	xliii
Head Quarters and District Staff	xlv
Inspectors of Artillery.....	xlv
do Reports of.....	xxvi, xxx
Deputy Adjutants General, Reports of.....	xxx
Brigade Camps recommended	xv
Or Divisional Camps.....	xvi
Militia appointments—non-political	xv
Royal Military College.....	xxvii, xxix, xxxix
Schools of Gunnery.....	xxv, xxx, xl
Schools of Instruction.....	xii
Cavalry and Infantry Schools.....	xvi
Elementary instruction of young Officers and Sergeants	xvi
Special education required for Military profession	xliii
Drill Instructors.....	xii, xlii
Cavalry.....	xliii
Artillery.....	xxv
New Batteries	xxvi
Engineers.....	xxvi, xxx
Armourers.....	xlii
Governor General's Foot Guards	xxxii
Dragoon Guards.....	xxxii
Dominion Artillery Association.....	xxv, xli

	PAGE
Wimbledon Team.....	xliii
Proposal to convert an Infantry Battalion into Artillery.....	xxv
Permanent Battalion Staff recommended	xxxviii, xxxix
Militia in Manitoba.....	xliv
Defence of Canada.....	xlvii
Parliamentary Grant, variation in amount in recent years.....	xiv
do past year.....	xv
do Amount left for drill	xv
Suggestions in previous reports repeated.....	xvii
do some acted on.....	xviii
Offers of Service in event of War.....	xx, xxxiii
Coast of British Columbia.....	xviii
Action for Defence of British Columbia.....	xix
Caretakers of Batteries do	xix
Manning do do	xix
Marine Artillerymen for Vancouver Island.....	xx
Obligations to Admiral and other Naval Officers.....	xx
Defences on Atlantic Coast.....	xx
do do , cost.....	xxi
Manning Guns for Forts.....	xxv
Proposed purchase of Rifle-muzzle loading Guns.....	xxi
Report of Committee	xxi
Converted muzzle-loading Rifle $\frac{1}{2}$ pounders	xxi, xxii
Palliser Guns in Canada.....	xxiii
do presented to Dominion.....	xxiii
do tracing of.....	xxiv
Pebble Powder.....	xxiv
Reports and scales of prices.....	xxv
Table of total number of Guns in charge of Dominion.....	xxvi
Martini-Henry Rifle.....	xlii
Coast and Harbor Defence by torpedos.....	xxvi, xxvii
Act of Parliament for Naval Defence.....	xxiii
Marauding descent on the Dominion, at one time imminent.....	xiii
Training at Company Headquarters	xxxvii
Waste of Clothing, &c.....	xxxvii
Vice-Regal progress, Halifax to Ottawa.....	xxxii, xxxii
Concluding Remarks	xlviii

APPENDICES :—

PAGE

No. 1. Reports by Deputy Adjutants-General—

Military District No. 1.....	1 - 6
do No. 2.....	7 - 16
do No. 3.....	17 - 23
do No. 4.....	23 - 28
do No. 5.....	29 - 41
do No. 6.....	41 - 44
do No. 7.....	45 - 49
do No. 8.....	50 - 65
do No. 9.....	66 - 74
do No. 10.....	74 - 77
do No. 11.....	212 - 216
do No. 12.....	78 - 79

No. 2. Inspection Reports of Corps—

Military District No. 1.....	80 - 89
do No. 2.....	90 - 109
do No. 3.....	110 - 127
do No. 4.....	128 - 141
do No. 5.....	142 - 161
do No. 6.....	162 - 167
do No. 7.....	168 - 179
do No. 8.....	180 - 189
do No. 9.....	190 - 199
do No. 10.....	200 - 203
do No. 11.....	204 - 207
do No. 12.....	208 - 211

No. 3. Reports on the Artillery..... 217 - 247

No. 4. Report on Schools of Gunnery—

" A " Battery, Kingston.....	248 - 250
" B " Battery, Quebec.....	250 - 263

No. 5. Certificates from Schools of Gunnery—

(A) Gunnery Schools	264 - 268
(B) Artillery.....	269
(C) Engineers.....	269

	PAGE
No. 6. Certificates from Schools of Military Instruction—	
Province of New Brunswick.....	270 - 271
do Nova Scotia.....	272 - 273
No. 7. Certificates, Boards of Examiners.....	274 - 275
No. 8. List of number of Guns, property of the Dominion.....	276 - 281
No. 9. Number Combatant Officers having Qualification Certificates.	282 - 305
No. 10. Report on British Columbia Coast Defences.....	306 - 312
No. 11. Palliser Guns.....	313 - 322
do Diagram.....	After 322
No. 12. Report of Director of Stores.....	323 - 339
No. 13. Royal Military College—	
(A) General Regulations for Admission to.....	340 - 343
(B) List of those authorized do.....	344 - 345
(C) Questions used at Examinations for Admission to.....	346 - 433
No. 14. Annual Report of Royal Military College.....	434 - 481
No. 15. Scheme for Engineer and Infantry School, Toronto.....	482 - 484

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

STATE OF THE MILITIA

FOR

1878.

OTTAWA, 1st January, 1879.

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

SIR,—In presenting my fifth annual report on the state of the Militia of Canada, I shall, in the body of it, very briefly repeat certain suggestions which have been made in the previous reports of the past four years, and in doing so I hope I may be allowed to deprecate the idea of proposing anything beyond the grave consideration of what is due to that state of military preparation, which the teaching of history proves to be incumbent upon all nations.

The chief problem in all military organizations most difficult of solution, is how the defence of a country can be provided for with the smallest possible expenditure, both of money and labor, as well as to ensure that the system should not tax its resources too heavily, and that the money voted by Parliament should not be wasted.

Military expenditure is of course a sort of insurance, to be incurred by every country that has anything worth ensuring against loss, by either foreign attack or domestic commotion. The amount of insurance depending alike on the value of the property, the risk, and the wealth of the insurer.

Happily upon this continent, the risk is not very great from foreign aggression, as the only people with whom any difference could arise capable of giving much trouble by land, continue, and long may it be so, upon the most friendly and satisfactory footing. The two countries progress side by side as good neighbours in the peaceful rivalry of developing their resources. But in a young and growing country disturbance to the public peace is not only possible, but very likely annually to occur from various causes. In the absence of any organized force, other than the Militia, with the knowledge which we have tested over and over again, that the small police force is impotent to deal single-handed with a turbulent mob, it is only common prudence to provide for the security of the law-abiding population, by a stable military power, commensura with the calls at any time liable to be made upon it.

That such a duty may be required of the Militia, the events of the past two years have made manifest. I need not go further back than the past summer, when on two eventful occasions, the Militia saved the two principal cities of the Dominion from most serious consequences.

The month of June last saw Quebec the scene of a tumultuous riot, from the assemblage of a lawless mob of unemployed operatives and the idle sympathizers who invariably attach themselves to any such disorderly movement with the prospect of plunder. The soldierlike conduct of "B" battery, under Lt.-Colonel T. B. Strange, Royal Artillery, which after being obliged to fire upon the mob finally dispersed it for the time, has already been favourably noticed in General Orders. The promptitude with which three infantry battalions upon the shortest notice, proceeded by train from Montreal to Quebec during the night—has also been prominently acknowledged. This reinforcement, acting with the Quebec Cavalry, Artillery and Infantry, eventually reduced the mob to order and restored confidence in the city.

Again in the following month, a force of three thousand officers and men was assembled under my personal command in Montreal, for the preservation of the public peace and the safety of the city. The conduct of this force, and its patience and discipline under provocation, elicited my admiration and warm commendation. The City authorities, the public press and the country at large, acknowledged with a generous voice that the presence of this forbearing and imposing force saved Montreal from scenes of bloodshed and violence. The Governor General in Council passed a minute expressing their approbation of the measures taken for the preservation of the public peace upon this occasion, under alarming circumstances, and of the subsequent difficult question of maintaining harmony between the civil and military without conflict of authority or misunderstanding as to the respective duties of each. This minute, though specifically recognizing the General Officer commanding, undoubtedly reflected equal credit through him upon the entire force employed. It elicited in terms of great satisfaction, the approbation of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, and of the Right Honorable Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies. Upon the same occasion, too, the Militia Corps of Quebec had to be called upon to garrison the Citadel in the absence of "B" Battery in Montreal, and to continue under arms for the protection of the City until the result of the apprehended disturbances in Montreal became known. It will not be forgotten either that the crowd that witnessed the departure of "B" Battery, gave a cheer when they had started, and rushed off shouting: "Now then hurrah for the Citadel!" A considerable portion of the same mob proceeded to Montreal by steamer the next day armed with revolvers to take part in the riotous proceedings, which, but for the imposing presence of the troops, would probably have occurred.

I mention these facts, not for the purpose of recalling scenes now past and at the time only too well published over the whole of this Continent and throughout the Empire, but in the hope of creating reflection in the public mind which may I trust, in due time cause an important and much needed improvement in the condition of our National Forces.

It cannot but be apparent that with the probability of similar tumultuous gatherings in our large cities, whether they may arise from party processions, which unfortunately and illogically have been imported through mere sentiment from Great Britain into this young country, whether they are caused by labor riots, railway strikes or by any of the many causes which distract the rougher portion of the population, it can hardly be considered fair, and it might even prove an unsuccessful essay to continue to rely altogether upon a Volunteer Militia alone to maintain the public peace.

It must be borne in mind that the Militia Battalions are composed in most cases of citizens residing in the same locality in which they may be brought into hostile collision with their fellow citizens, and that should loss of life unfortunately occur in the performance of their military duty, the result may be a dangerous hostility, fraught with fatal consequences, for many subsequent years.

Therefore, I venture again to approach the subject of the establishment of a small permanent force, which I have frequently before suggested, and last year recommended to consist of three battalions of infantry of 500 men each.

Early in August last I drew up a report on the subject of permanent military establishments, which was submitted to the then Premier and afterwards to the Imperial authorities. And during my subsequent visit to England I had the pleasure of discussing the question several times. So far as I know, however, nothing as yet has been taken up in a practical form.

The basis of this plan was, supposing that the Canadian Government were willing to maintain three Regiments, composed of two Battalions each, to be both raised and recruited in Canada, one to serve in England and one at home, and to be interchangeable every three years. The men to be enlisted for six years, and after that to pass into a reserve, with a small grant of land or other inducement to reside permanently in Canada, and with a stake in the country.

The advantages would be that Canadian troops would be thoroughly well trained and imbued with a British spirit, as well as disciplined up to a high standard of efficiency, causing a complete solidarity between Canadian and Imperial forces, and in case of war the system could be expanded to any extent commensurate with the population and resources of the Dominion.

The chief difficulty appeared to me to arise in starting the system, as to whether recruits should serve the first part of their time and be drilled in Canada, or be shipped off at once to England, returning at the expiration of three years as efficient soldiers, and to serve here for the remaining three years of their enlistment. In my memorandum I endeavoured to provide for this satisfactorily, and I also recommended that the cost of sea transport should be defrayed by the British Government, in return for the three Canadian battalions whose services would be at their disposal.

An amendment to this scheme proposed, that three battalions only should be permanently recruited in Canada, and that triennially they should be interchangeable with three battalions of the line from England: this might meet the requirements of this country equally well, under a somewhat different form, and I think it only a question to choose between the plans without very much objection to the adoption of either—Canada would, without doubt, be the gainer in any case. We should then have established a standard of excellence up to which the Militia could improve their condition, and we should moreover ensure a constant interchange and current of British sentiment, habits and ideas which would weld more surely the links of our Imperial connection.

A third suggestion has also been under discussion, and it is very simple as far as it goes, but it does not provide the permanent military force that Canada must have, and the sooner the better. The suggestion is to recruit and maintain a body of selected Canadians for three or six years' service in the British army, and at the expiration to return them as drilled and disciplined soldiers to Canada to be employed as Drill Instructors in Militia Regiments, and to be enrolled as a Reserve with inducements of grants of land and pay for their drill services.

Any of these propositions would by-and-by provide for a want I have earnestly called attention to ever since my first tour of inspection in 1874, and that is, disciplined and educated Drill Instructors for the Militia. Either of the first two schemes would equally provide what I have also urgently recommended year after year, viz.: Schools of Instruction where young officers and non-commissioned officers could be taught respect for authority, drill, discipline, interior economy, the management of men, the experience and knowledge of character, and the self-reliance that alone can command respect and obedience from those over whom they are placed; for certain it is that in order to command with authority it is absolutely necessary to have first learned to obey. Where is this virtue so thoroughly taught, after a lad leaves his public school or university, as in military establishments or in the ranks of our battalions?

I have several times before pointed out, and I repeat it, that since the British troops were taken from Canada the Militia have no means, beyond theoretical reading and the use of models, of acquiring drill, of learning discipline, of studying

the various modes of handling troops, and of gaining the self-reliance that experience and habit under difficulties can alone inculcate. A man may spend his life in studying mathematics and the most abstruse subjects, and become perfectly at a loss if required to handle five hundred men, even in the face of a mob; how much more would he be likely to become perplexed in front of an organized enemy?

As I have stated, the military profession requires education as much as those of the learned professions, although the members of the latter may not be aware of it, and it is a delusion to think that it is time enough when alarm arises to call for a *levée en masse* for the safety of a country. I repeat that an armed undisciplined multitude of officers and men are but a rope of sand, and as dangerous to their friends as their foes.

It is admitted that a military force has the outward appearance of being a costly insurance for the safety and stability of a nation, especially as happily their services are not very frequently called for. Therefore, in ordinary times troops may appear an unnecessary incubus on the public purse. But preparation for an emergency is frequently less costly and more sure than hastily providing for difficulties when they arise, and a nation backed by a moderate military establishment can give effect to its measures and command a respect from its neighbours which a weak unarmed people would fail to inspire.

At no time did it appear less likely that we should have any misunderstanding with our friendly neighbour on this continent, our cousins by kindred and descent, than at the present. But we are always liable to the effervescing unrest of a section of people who periodically rise to the surface, and seem quite disposed to make piratical incursions upon our territory. During the early part of this year, when peace or war seemed equally balanced in Europe, these unreasonable and illogical people were reported to be organizing and continually drilling in many of the populous cities of the Union. Hardly a week elapsed for many months without letters being received by myself or by some member of the Government, giving friendly and disinterested warning that a marauding descent was meditated upon Canada. So authentic were the accounts, that the Government directed me to take precautions. Arms and ammunition were served out to all the corps of Militia along the whole line of frontier, from Sherbrooke to Lake Huron, extending 500 miles. Guns and howitzers were placed in certain positions along the shores of St. Clair River, Lakes Erie and Ontario, and on the River St. Lawrence, fitted with ship carriages, to arm steamers which were prepared to receive them. A detachment of artillerymen was held in readiness to man these guns, and several other precautionary measures which ordinary prudence suggested, were taken to prevent surprise. These warnings became more frequent until the assemblage in Montreal of a force of three thousand men under my command on the 24th of May, to celebrate the Queen's Birthday in presence of His Excellency the Governor-General. At this review and subsequent

field operations, I am credibly informed many emissaries and leaders of the so-called Fenian or Communistic organization were present, and apparently they learned a wholesome lesson from the quality of the men they might meet in arms, for from that day to this we have had no further warnings.

The imposing force which held Montreal on the 12th July following, gave these obscure and misguided men a further practical proof that Canada was not to be trespassed upon, nor its fair territory invaded with impunity by lawless and disorderly people.

The Militia of Canada is a loyal, manly, and a valuable force, deserving every fostering care of the Government, and I trust the praiseworthy exertions of the gentlemen who officer this excellent force, and who have devoted time, money and labour to maintain its efficiency with but meagre encouragement, may eventually meet with due consideration and reward.

When first I came to Canada, I believe the Parliamentary grant for the Militia amounted to about a million and a half of dollars per annum, and with that sum the 42,000 men were annually trained in Brigade camps for the full period allowed by law. The following and each succeeding year the vote was decreased, until last year it amounted to less than one million dollars, out of which the maintenance of the Royal Military College and the North-West Mounted Police have become a charge upon it. Therefore the paid training of the Militia has been reduced to a minimum, only one-half the force being embodied for twelve days drill in each year, and such training as that amounts to is almost useless, being really little more than an armed muster at battalion and company headquarters.

Fortunately for the country, the Battalions are commanded, and in general officered, by gentlemen of zealous patriotism and strong military proclivities, and in the various cities they have continued to assemble their men for unpaid drill as often as possible, in the long and unoccupied winter evenings. Therefore city battalions and corps of all arms are in an efficient state, but country battalions are, owing to the absence of such opportunities and facilities, less so. However they are fairly drilled too. They are fully armed, clothed and equipped. They are proficient in the use of their rifles, being as a rule capital shots, and a few weeks would suffice to place them creditably in line with any troops.

The National Military Forces of Canada, may I be pardoned for saying, should, I humbly submit, have an annual Parliamentary vote of about two million dollars, and if the Legislature will accede to that, I will ensure them a better disciplined military force, which the country may regard with satisfaction. And it would be money well laid out. But, withal, it would be of the first necessity that the force should be purely military and entirely relieved from all political influence. Every

effort should be used to render it in all respects fit for active service, to consist of no more officers and men than could be usefully trained; that cavalry, artillery, engineers and infantry should be represented in localities where each arm would be most useful, and it should be understood that troops or companies cannot be raised merely to please some local community, without any practical view as to the need of that particular force in that place. In fact we should always take care that each link of our chain is in its proper place, and remember that no chain is stronger than its weakest link. It is I think my duty to submit that political pressure of this kind should be resisted, and that the force should not be overcrowded by raising corps to please communities, costing money which is much required to maintain the force that is absolutely wanted for the defence of the country, and which should not be stronger than the means of maintaining it in soldierlike condition absolutely permits. There are even now some corps that might be dispensed with.

The Militia grant last year was exactly \$931,956, from which deduct \$306,356, for North-West Mounted Police, and \$50,000 for the Royal Military College, leaving somewhat more than half-a-million dollars for militia purposes proper, and the supply of all warlike stores.

The supply of military stores takes a considerable portion of this grant. It comprises clothing for the whole force, which has to be frequently renewed, and for the two Gunnery Schools twice a year, great coats, rifles and material for their repair, ammunition, field and garrison guns, saddlery, gunpowder, as well as accoutrements and equipments of every description that an army requires. So that, in fact, after deducting besides, salaries, pay for drill instruction to Captains, store keepers, rents for armouries and store-houses, fuel and light, Artillery and Rifle Association allowances, band pay, targets, drill sheds, rifle ranges and contingencies for general service not otherwise provided for, there remains for the drill pay and incidental expenses attendant on drill and training, only the meagre and insufficient sum of \$155,000, or about £30,000 sterling. This sum is quite inadequate to keep the 42,000 Militia of Canada in a proper state of training and effectiveness, amounting approximately to the annual cost of a single British Battalion of the line: What progress can a general officer make in this case? He can only feel himself a source of disappointment to the excellent and loyal body of officers and men under his command, who look to him for support.

I would venture to suggest that if it be possible to supplement the Parliamentary grant, we should endeavour to revert to the system of brigade camps, as in 1875 and previous years. In such camps the friendly rivalry between corps causes a wholesome and beneficial emulation, and the officers and men have an opportunity of comprehending the method of handling large bodies of troops as they might be used upon active service.

If brigade camps are objected to, it has been suggested to me that two large divisional camps might be formed at Niagara and Laprairie respectively, for Ontario and Quebec. It has been submitted that the Niagara camp could be composed of four regiments of Cavalry, six Field Batteries of Artillery, one corps of Engineers, and sixteen Battalions of Infantry amounting to about:—

Cavalry	700 Officers and Men.
Artillery.....	450 " "
Engineers.....	75 " "
Infantry.....	5,000 " "

Making an approximate total of about 6,000 of all ranks.

The cost approximately of assembling and drilling such a force, which should have marching money issued under arrangements to be made by each commanding officer, would be probably—

Marching money, according to the days occupied each way, at 50 cents per diem, per man.....	10,000
Pay 6,000 officers and men for 16 days.....	75,000
Rations at 25 cents a day	25,000
	<hr/>
	\$110,000
Cost of such another camp near Montreal.....	110,000
Drill pay for 8,000 men to make up the 20,000.....	50,000
	<hr/>
	\$270,000

If this plan were possible, it would certainly be a substantial benefit, not only to the instruction of the force, but would circulate such enthusiasm and encouragement as would go far towards keeping alive the military sentiment, and the desire to excel in efficiency. It would, of course, be preferable that the entire Militia force in each Military District in the Dominion should be assembled in Brigade Camps, for I do not attach much advantage to the system of individual drill at Battalion and Company head-quarters.

If we had Cavalry and Infantry Schools similar to the Gunnery Schools, then officers and non-commissioned officers could make themselves thoroughly qualified and competent to be drill instructors. But they cannot teach who have had no chance to learn, and how can they learn unless Government provides the means, simple and inexpensive, as I showed in my last year's report: three embodied Infantry Companies costing only about \$114,000 per annum.

However, if it be contemplated to embody permanent battalions, such as I have alluded to, then the Militia would have ample means of learning all their duties by having military instruction provided by each battalion. This would certainly far

surpass the small Company Schools which I have so long asked for, hoping that when once introduced in a small and modest form the system would prove so useful as ultimately to expand on a larger and more comprehensive scale.

The want of means for elementary instruction of young officers and sergeants of cavalry and infantry is a subject of common complaint to me throughout the country wherever I go on my tours of duty, and the non-compliance with it is, I fear, attributed to want of interest in the force. This acts prejudicially in many ways, for the Militia comprises a very influential body of men with a powerful weight in the country.

I here repeat suggestions I have made in previous reports:

1. The entire Militia force should be drilled annually for the full period allowed by law.
2. Three model schools, for Cavalry and Infantry, embodying three companies of 80 to 100 men each, at an approximate annual cost of \$114,000.
3. A permanent and paid Adjutant and Sergeant-Major to each battalion of Infantry, the latter to act as Regimental Storekeeper, and both competent drill instructors.
4. Arms, accoutrements and clothing of rural corps should be stored at the headquarters of each battalion under one responsible caretaker.
5. The reduction of seven Garrison Batteries in Ontario, there being no guns for them to man. (Page 25 of last year's report.)
6. An increase to the artillery in Quebec and Kingston, where there are important works of defence and a large armament.
7. A special tax to provide funds for military establishments. (Pages 10 and 11, last year's report.)
8. Conversion of smooth-bore guns into rifled ordnance at the Montreal Engine Works, after testing the 32 pounder now under trial.
9. Concrete platforms to be finished on the salients of the three Lévis forts, to mount the 7-inch guns.
10. To complete the supply of Snider rifles in the country to 100,000, with 300 rounds of ball cartridge, per rifle.
At present there are only 21,000 rifles in store, and 40,000 in the hands of the Militia, with not more than 150 rounds of ammunition, per rifle.
11. Montreal drill shed rebuilding should be pressed by the Government, or the Corporation sued for \$12,000.
12. The drill shed about to be built at Ottawa last year, should be at once constructed. It is most urgently required.

13. A party of Engineers to be attached to "A" and "B" Batteries, to maintain the Fortress at Quebec and the Forts at Kingston in constant repair.

Some of the suggestions there made have been acted on, notably:

Arming Esquimalt and Victoria, British Columbia.

Consolidated pay to Brigade-Majors.

Reduction of staff.

Reconstruction of Ottawa Cavalry.

Armourers for Kingston and Toronto.

And some others.

In my report of last year I ventured again to call attention to the unprotected condition of the Pacific Coast of British Columbia. This had forcibly struck me when at Vancouver Island in 1875, and immediately upon my return I brought the subject to notice. I stated, in support of my proposition, that though it might be considered the defence of Esquimalt was an Imperial, rather than a Dominion liability, yet that it intimately concerned the honor of both, and the supremacy of British naval power in that region. It is necessary for our security on the Pacific, that the coasts should be well guarded, our fleets must keep the sea, and they cannot do so without coal. Nature has provided this all-powerful element at Nanaimo, and British instinct of a former age, ignorant of the value it would attain in the future, secured to us the place of its abode, Vancouver Island. No step was taken, however, until the spring of last year, when, in consequence of the arrival of the "Cimbria" steamship in American waters, with a large body of Russian seamen, and a cargo of heavy rifled guns on board, I considered it my duty again to submit to the Government a report of the unprotected condition of the whole Atlantic and Pacific sea-board of the Dominion.

This question having been made the subject of a reference to the Imperial Government, it followed that soon afterwards reports were sent out, drawn up by the Colonial Defence Committee at the War Office.

With regard to Esquimalt and Victoria, we were informed that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty waived the objection they had previously made to my suggestion for the loan of the guns in store at Esquimalt dockyard until required for Her Majesty's cruisers. The whole armament in store, whether belonging to the War Office or the Admiralty, was therefore placed at the disposal of the Dominion Government for the defence of these points, and Lt.-Colonel Irwin, Royal Artillery, was immediately despatched from Kingston to Victoria to select emplacements for these guns, and to mount them on works which he was empowered to construct.

Lt.-Colonel Irwin, immediately upon his arrival at Victoria, placed himself, by my orders, in personal communication with the Senior Naval Officer, in the absence of the Admiral, and acting together with perfect harmony and unanimity of

purpose throughout, the naval and military officers have placed a very effective armament around the harbours of Victoria and Esquimalt.

It was found necessary for this purpose to mount ten pieces of ordnance in position, arranged as follows:—

Finlayson Point.....	2	64 pounder,	R.M.L.
Victoria	2	64 pounder	"
Macaulay	3	7 inch 6½ ton	"
Brother's Island	}	1	8 inch 9 ton
		2	64 pounder

The Harbour of Esquimalt would have been further fortified if a battery had been erected on a commanding eminence within the basin which has been often pointed out. I regret to observe that still the Harbour of Nanaimo, the seat of the coal supply, remains unprotected by any military force beyond a Company of Rifles. Its approaches present every feature requisite for easy defence by cross fire from batteries.

I request attention to Lt.-Colonel Irwin's general report in the appendix. The report itself and the plans of the batteries have been forwarded to the Imperial Government.

As a caretaker is necessary to visit these batteries regularly, it is suggested that a properly qualified non-commissioned officer from the Royal, or Marine, Artillery be appointed, or from one of the Canadian Schools of Gunnery, as the guns and stores are of very considerable value, and might deteriorate if suffered to rust. It is also of consequence that the gun platforms should be traversed at least once a month, and the guns on standing carriages run up and back at the same intervals. A small working party should be periodically paid for this service. The batteries have each been housed in with wooden sheds to protect them from the weather.

To man these ten heavy rifled guns the only present means are the members of the Garrison Battery enrolled by Lt.-Colonel Houghton, Deputy Adjutant-General, and in some degree drilled and instructed by Lt.-Colonel Irwin. They number about fifty of all ranks, but cannot be counted upon, as yet, as skilful artillerymen. The battery is however fortunate in being commanded by an officer of much energy and zeal, Captain Dupont; and the Instructor, Lieut. McNaughton, who passed through the Kingston Gunnery School, is a capable officer.

Owing to the isolated position of Victoria, the very limited population and the high rate of wages for labour, great difficulties arise against the establishment of an efficient Militia Artillery corps, either sufficiently numerous or properly trained to man these guns and maintain an effective fire against armed ships in motion, a duty requiring thorough training. I have in previous annual reports, and in subsequent memoranda, suggested that, for the purpose of manning the batteries of Victoria and Esquimalt, it would be most prudent to maintain a small force of about one hundred

Marine Artillerymen in Vancouver Island, and I am gratified to observe that, without any communication between Rear Admiral de Horsey and myself, he has expressed a similar suggestion to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. Lt.-Colonel Irwin likewise coincides in the same opinion, and proposes also, as an alternative, that the Canadian Schools of Gunnery might provide the whole or a portion of the men. Some such force is necessary, not only to man and protect the guns, stores and batteries, but to form a training school for the Volunteer Artillerymen, and if a sufficient number of artificers such as stonemasons, bricklayers and carpenters were included, the work of converting the earthen batteries into defences of a more permanent character could be gradually carried on economically.

Offers of services were numerous made to Lt.-Colonel Houghton and Lt.-Colonel Irwin, by persons not connected with the volunteer force but who expressed willingness to serve in the event of hostilities. However loyally such spontaneous offers are made, and however much they are to be respected for the patriotism and public spirit they exhibit, I fear the value of such assistance in duties requiring the practical intelligence and education of artillerymen, and a careful course of training under competent instructors, would fall far short of the necessary standard of qualification.

Encouragement and assistance should be given to the Victoria Volunteer Battery, and as the ordinary price of labour in British Columbia is double that of Ontario and Quebec, as I am informed, special inducements might be given to attend drill, and to those officers and men who have passed qualifying examinations before Lt.-Colonel Houghton, who holds a first-class certificate from the Quebec School of Gunnery.

Before quitting this subject, I venture to acknowledge the obligations we are under to Rear Admiral de Horsey, Commander in Chief in the Pacific; Captain Bedford, Flag Captain; Captain Burrows, Royal Marine Artillery; Gunnery Lieutenant Lindsay, of H.M.S. "Shah"; Captain Robinson, of H.M.S. "Opal," and the other officers and seamen employed in assisting Lt.-Colonel Irwin, who performed his duty with great ability, and who speaks in terms of praise of the cordial and hearty co-operation he received in transporting and mounting these guns.

With regard to the defences of the Atlantic Coast, it was recommended that on Partridge Island in the Bay of St. John, N.B., a battery should be armed with four 7-inch 7-ton rifled guns, and three 64-pounder wrought-iron guns; Negro Point, with two 7-ton and three 64-pounders; Sydney, Cape Breton, two batteries in succession and in support of each other, on Chapel and Mines Points, each to have two 7-ton and two 64-pounder rifled guns; and on Edward Point, two 7-ton and two 64-pounders; Prince Edward Island, two 7-ton and two 64-pounder rifled guns on Battery Point; Pictou, N.S., three 7-ton and three 64-pounders on Moodie Point.

The total cost of these armaments, with 100 rounds of ammunition per gun, was estimated at about £50,000 sterling, subject to certain deductions, according to the defences which might be adopted for Charlottetown and Sydney.

Being desired to report upon this, I considered what might be within the power of the Government to perform, having regard to the financial condition of the country and the resources at their disposal. There can be no doubt that wherever we have smooth-bore guns mounted along our coasts, they should be replaced by rifled guns of heavy calibre. It was proposed the Dominion Government should purchase nineteen 7-ton 7-inch rifled muzzle-loading guns and nineteen 64-pounder wrought-iron guns; the first named guns cost about £1,000; and the latter about £600 each including 100 rounds of ammunition per gun.

Regarding the Report of the Committee with the weight which recommendations, framed with so much skill and experience demanded, I stated that our Atlantic Coast line required every gun they proposed, and that the Militia, I felt sure, would do their utmost to man and work them with all the scientific knowledge they could acquire and apply. Moreover, that if the Government felt its ability to purchase this expensive armament our long line of Atlantic seaboard would be thus tolerably well armed. On the other hand, as I knew, that the Government of the day viewed such an outlay with considerable hesitation, and were reluctant to incur any avoidable expense for armaments, owing to the reduced state of the revenue, I felt that as "half a loaf was better than no bread," I might, perhaps, induce the purchase of forty guns of a smaller calibre and at a greatly reduced cost, feeling it hopeless to press for the amount proposed. The result was that it was decided, after much consultation, to purchase only 17 converted muzzle-loading rifled $\frac{5}{8}$ -pounders.

In venturing to propose as an alternative, this more economical gun, I very innocently fell under the rebuke of the Committee, who naturally could not enter into the local difficulties surrounding the question, and the delicacy with which it had to be approached. I am only sorry that the purchase of the seventeen 64-pounder converted guns was stopped, as we would in any case have mounted them on our interior or second lines of defence, and now the chance is for the present lost.

The 7-ton gun will pierce, with its 112-pound shell, iron plates exceeding 8 inches in thickness, at 1,000 yards, or 6 inches at 2,000 yards. The 64-pounder wrought-iron Woolwich gun of 64 cwt., firing a battering shell of 90 lbs. weight, is also a powerful and accurate auxiliary gun, and even though not regarded as armour-piercing, is capable of penetrating iron plates exceeding 5 inches in thickness at 1,000 yards, while against unarmoured ships its fire would be very effective, as well as against the unprotected parts of armoured vessels. But the converted $\frac{5}{8}$ -pounder of 58 cwt., which I had, for the various reasons I have stated, as a last resource, ventured to recommend, is a different and an inferior weapon. The calibre is the same

as that of the wrought-iron 64-pounder, but, owing to the comparative weakness of its construction, it cannot fire the 90-lb. battering shell with the heavy charges which are used in the wrought-iron gun, and is consequently unable to compete with it in range, penetration, or accuracy of fire; its shell will not penetrate the thinnest armour afloat, at the shortest range, and could only, therefore, be useful against unarmoured ships or boats. It is undoubtedly cheap, and owes its introduction to the economy effected by turning otherwise useless smooth-bore guns to account.

The $\frac{3}{4}$ -pounder converted gun, with carriage and 100 rounds of ammunition, costs approximately £400, against £600, the cost of the wrought-iron 64-pounder complete. But, as we have in Canada a large supply of 32-pounder carriages, suitable to mount the converted gun, it is therefore clear that there is a very great saving of expense in purchasing that description of ordnance. The Palliser $\frac{3}{4}$ -pounder gun, without carriage, has hitherto cost us about £160 exclusive of freight, and we built most complete wooden carriages for those mounted on Fort Dufferin for about £40 apiece, utilizing the iron fittings of old carriages. One hundred rounds of ammunition and the gun cost about £200.

These 64-pounder guns on coast batteries can therefore only be considered, as auxiliaries for use against boats and small craft, but cannot be regarded as substitutes for the wrought-iron guns of the same calibre, nor for the armour-piercing 7-ton guns, so that coast defences unprovided with ordnance of greater power would be not merely less efficient but altogether illusory. I am therefore afraid it is my duty to bring under the notice of the Government the necessity of providing a supply of 7-ton and 64-pounder wrought-iron rifled guns for St John, N.B., Sydney, Picton, Yarmouth and New Liverpool, for so long as these points are not armed with armour-piercing guns, they cannot be considered in any degree safe from attack by sea during war. There would be no appreciable difference in the cost of maintaining the batteries, which ever description of ordnance were mounted. The real difference of expense may be said to lie exclusively in the first cost of the armament, and it would not be an economy to substitute the cheaper ordnance, which would when mounted afford no substantial security, and might be considered even a fictitious defence against cruisers armed with guns of longer range whether they were armoured ships or not.

It would become a necessity, in case of war with a Maritime Power, that a fleet of fast steamers armed with long-range guns should cruise around the Gulf coasts and in the Bay of Fundy, for experience has shown how much mischief can be done in a short time by a single cruiser of the Alabama type, notwithstanding that great efforts may be made to capture her.

It would be of no little service in the prompt suppression of such depredations, and perhaps might prevent them from being undertaken on any large scale if steps

could be taken by the Dominion Government to co-operate with the Royal Navy in coping with any future danger of this nature, by taking up and arming fast vessels from the Mercantile Marine with two or three guns of suitable calibre, a few of which should be purchased and kept in store.

With this object I venture to submit, for the consideration of the Government, the expedience of passing an act through the Dominion Legislature in pursuance of the 3rd section of the "Colonial Naval Defence Act of 1865," which was intended to make better provisions for the Naval defence of the Colonies.

We have at present thirty-seven rifled guns of various calibre from 64-pounders to 9-ton, mounted on works of defence throughout the Dominion. If Government felt in a position to purchase in addition the 19 seven-ton guns and 19 64-pounder wrought-iron guns recommended by the Colonial Defence Committee for Atlantic ports, the gates of Canada from both Atlantic and Pacific Oceans would be pretty well locked and bolted. Besides the rifled guns referred to, we have forty-five 32 and 68-pounder smooth-bore guns mounted on various coast batteries, but they are as already pronounced but fictitious defence against any but boat attack. The smooth-bore guns mounted on the Fortress of Quebec and on the Forts of Kingston and other batteries through the country are not included in the above.

I shall now refer to the conversion of smooth-bore to rifled guns in the workshops of Canada, and on this point I am happy to have the opportunity of thanking Sir William Palliser and his brother for the valuable efforts they have made, and the desire they have manifested to bring home manufacture to a successful issue. They have made arrangements with the Messrs. Gilberts of the Canada Engine Works in Montreal, for the conversion of smooth-bore guns of any calibre, into rifled guns, and have supplied him with the necessary machinery and utensils for the purpose. They feel no doubt whatever that this firm will satisfactorily convert the 32 pounder gun lent them for trial, and if they can do so, it would then remain for the consideration of the Government to give an annual order for the conversion of a portion of our smooth-bore ordnance to complete the armament of the country. We have 19 8-inch smooth-bore guns, 135 32-pounders, 209 24-pounders, 32 18-pounders, all capable of conversion into rifled guns, but none of these of sufficiently heavy calibre for coast defence.

However, the Pallisers are full of zeal and distinguished by inexhaustible perseverance. They are moreover very generous. They have gratuitously presented this country free of cost for transport, or any charge, with a 7-inch and 8-inch rifled gun, and they now adorn the ramparts at Quebec. Therefore they have earned the best consideration of the Government, and if by employing mechanical firms in

Canada, they can teach us to manufacture artillery, they will render this country still more self-reliant for its defence, and at the same time help to protect and encourage home manufacture. They have enclosed a tracing of a 7-inch rifled gun, designed by Sir William Palliser for Canadian coast defence, and a drawing to the same scale of the service pattern 7-inch rifled gun, but from its greater length of bore the former is said to consume a larger charge of pebble powder, to carry a heavier projectile, and to be altogether a more formidable weapon. The power of this gun is stated to be such that it may be fairly compared with the service 8-inch gun in regard to cost, range and penetration. The velocity of its 120 pound projectile, with 35 pounds of pebble powder, will probably be 1,700 feet per second. Many Palliser 8-inch rifles are in the service of the United States, both afloat and ashore at the entrance of New York Harbour. There is now in the Citadel of Quebec a 7-inch Palliser rifled gun weighing only 5 tons. The Shoeburyness record of the gun, states "80 rounds of 30 pounds of rifle large grain powder and 115 pound shot. Gun in excellent condition." There is much interesting matter in this report from the Pallisers, and so I publish it and other matter connected with his guns in extenso in the appendix, and I beg to draw attention to it, and to the estimates submitted by Sir W. G. Armstrong & Co., of the Elswick Works, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, for the 7-inch Palliser guns. Should the Messrs. Gilbert's report reach me in time, I shall publish it likewise, at the same time quoting their prices. They are very anxious to get an order, now that they have learnt the work, and it would, I think be a great step in advance if Canada could ensure the manufacture of artillery in her own workshops, at the same time it must not be lost sight of that Sir William Armstrong & Co. are also willing to tender for the manufacture of Palliser rifled guns for Canadian coast defence.

In the event of the Government arriving at a decision to arm the Atlantic sea ports, as recommended by the Colonial Defence Committee, and I trust sincerely for the better security of the Dominion they will see fit to do so, I think it will make the question more plain by publishing these scales of prices side by side with those extracted from the Woolwich vocabulary, as I am not aware of such an analysis having been before attempted, and so I think it may be interesting as well as important to the Empire at large to do so.

I likewise have added an engraving of the "pebble powder" suitable for the large 7-inch guns supplied by Messrs. Pigou, Wilkes and Lawrence, together with a memorandum of the price, which appears to be, with 10 shillings added for freight, about 85 shillings, per hundred pounds. This powder is I understand, used for all the guns in the service less than 10 inches in calibre, and is the same as the Government pattern.

I have the less hesitation in publishing these reports and scales of prices, as the Colonial Defence Committee themselves suggested the expenditure for coast armaments would be further reduced if smooth-bore guns could be converted into rifle guns on the spot. And moreover, that as a considerable time would elapse before they could be supplied from the Royal Gun Factory, they might possibly be supplied with less delay from Sir William Armstrong's works at Elswick, or from other private works.

I have dwelt perhaps rather too diffusely upon this question of heavy ordnance, because it is somewhat new in the Dominion, and no apparent necessity for coast armaments has arisen since the recall of Her Majesty's troops until the first half of the past year. Although I am aware that my words may be read by many persons who, among the population of Canada seem to have a reliance upon a special exemption from danger, yet it will not do, out of any susceptibility for these opinions to refrain from suggesting that to foresee any disagreeable eventuality, is the best mode to prevent its occurrence, and that it is therefore my duty never to abstain from pressing upon the notice of the Government that preparation for self-protection, though its necessity may be remote, yet also that it may come suddenly and by surprise, and that we should by all means try to maintain peace and security by paying strict attention to the first law of nature, even though it may seem to be costly.

In my report of last year, I alluded in considerable detail to the Field Artillery, the Gunnery Schools, the Dominion Artillery Association, and the general efficiency of that special arm of the service in Canada. I have the pleasure to repeat my good opinion as before expressed. Our eighteen Field Batteries, thirteen of which are armed with 9-pounder muzzle-loading rifled guns, are in a condition of training and knowledge of gunnery ready for any rough service. They are, in a word, completely fit for service, and they owe much of their superior acquirement to the instruction given in the two Gunnery Schools, and the attention bestowed on them by Lt.-Colonels Strange and Irwin, Royal Artillery. These Schools continue, year after year, to produce and send forth well instructed members of the Artillery Service, and I trust in time to see the effectives of these Batteries increased by 50 gunners each, as artillerymen are much needed to man the extensive works in the Fortress of Quebec and Point Lévis, and the armed forts of Kingston. Lieut.-Colonel Strange, an officer distinguished by zeal and ability, has published, with my authority, an excellent manual for Field Artillery.

Three hundred men would not suffice to man the guns of Quebec and Lévis; neither would they be too many for Forts Henry and Frederick and outlying Forts at Kingston. A battery of 42 artillerymen, was this year raised at Quebec, and another at Lévis, to assist in manning the guns mounted on the Citadel and advanced Batteries. I endeavoured to have the Infantry Battalion at Kingston converted into

Artillery for the Forts around that city, but it was not taken up with the public spirit I expected, and I am afraid it has apathetically fallen through in consequence.

Batteries, however, were raised at Yarmouth and New Liverpool in Nova Scotia to man smooth-bore 32-pounders mounted there in spring, and another at St. Andrews, N.B., for the same reason; while at Sydney Cape Breton, where perhaps they might have been more needful than elsewhere, the call for Volunteer Artillery has not been responded to with the success that might have been hoped for. Like Victoria, Vancouver Island, I believe the population of Sydney are in receipt of good wages and have constant employment, and therefore, except in case of actual hostilities—when too late—could they only be relied on to turn out, and they would, in consequence, have but little knowledge of their duty.

The Reports from the Dominion Inspectors of Artillery will give information upon the condition of their branch of the service. I am glad to say that Lt.-Colonel Price Lewes, Captain Royal Artillery, has been added to the staff this year as Assistant Inspector of Artillery for the Maritime Provinces.

I propose to make arrangements this year by which these Inspectors of Artillery will be left free to make their inspections of Batteries at times most convenient, and that the District Staff shall assist them by remaining absent upon the occasions of special scientific inspections, of which they are not competent to judge. I regret it should be necessary for me to notice that inconvenience has arisen from this not having been always observed.

In the Appendix No. 8 will be found a table of the total number of guns of every calibre whether mounted or in store.

Again, I have to report favorably of the Engineer Companies, of which there are four. Two at Montreal appear efficient; that at Toronto under their enterprising commanding officer, Lt.-Colonel Scoble, is instructed in most of the requirements of Field or Garrison Engineers; while that at St. John, N.B., under an able and zealous officer, Captain Perley, also a practical Civil Engineer, is deserving of special mention, the more so as I most unintentionally omitted last year to refer to it among the other companies. Captain Perley has earned many thanks for the scientific knowledge he applied in mounting the rifled guns on Fort Dufferin, in reconstructing the platforms and superintending the construction of the gun carriages built in St. John. The cheerful readiness with which he gives his professional assistance upon all occasions is deserving of this record.

At a time when coast and harbour defence is under consideration, it may not be out of place here to refer to the formidable torpedo system now so much approved of

for such purposes. It appears that the "Whitehead" torpedos are not considered well suited for Colonial defence owing to the delicate nature of the machinery, and for other reasons, but that the "Outrigger" torpedo is suggested instead as being more suitable for the purpose and less expensive. It may be admitted that such places as Esquimalt and Victoria, on the Pacific, St. John, N.B., Pictou, N.S., and various others of our Eastern Sea ports on the Atlantic side, could hardly be defended against a powerful naval attack, supposing our fleets on those stations to be absent, but that besides the batteries it is proposed to arm, torpedos should likewise be supplemented with a view of defence against the attack of one or two cruisers which might evade our squadrons.

I would therefore suggest that some officers and men of the Engineer Company at St. John should go through a course of torpedo training with the view of acquiring sufficient knowledge of the system to impart it to others, and that eventually we might have a few of our own sea-board volunteers at each port sufficiently trained to use those engines of warfare with good effect. I have no doubt that the Commanding Royal Engineer at Halifax would willingly undertake to instruct a few officers and men of the St. John Engineers for that purpose, and I strongly recommend that this question be taken up. Captain Perley's engineering skill would serve him well, to undertake this important service, and thus initiate another and most necessary element for our coast defence.

The Military College of Kingston, which, by the gracious consent of Her Majesty, has this year been termed "Royal," progresses as favorably as could be desired, under the able direction of Lt.-Colonel Hewett, Royal Engineers, an officer so highly esteemed in his own Corps as to need that I should only say he maintains here the reputation he has earned for thoroughness of purpose with all the scientific and educational acquirement which he is so well known to possess.

The College was authorized by Act of Parliament to open with 22 cadets, with power for the next three years to admit three per annum from each Military District, later on this was changed to two per annum from each of the twelve Military Districts, by General Order, dated 30th June, 1876. The total number being thus fixed at 24, or only two instead of three for the first three and each succeeding year.

The College opened accordingly in June, 1876, and so upon the 1st July, 1879, the commencement of the financial year, when it will have been three years in operation, it should then have by regulation ninety-four cadets on its complement, but at the present time there are 57 cadets at the College, with 37 vacancies up to the end of June next. Nineteen applicants for examination are now on the list, should they all pass and enter there will still remain eighteen vacancies to be filled

in June, and by the June following, when the College has been at work for four years, the full complement of 120 contemplated by the Act, should be attained. By that time the cadets who have completed the four years course, will begin to pass out, and their places will probably be filled by fresh candidates. Thus I have endeavoured to show how necessary it is to make progress with the College buildings for the reception of these lads, and to complete the staff as authorized in order to relieve the already over-taxed Professors by additional aid in the performance of the responsible and onerous work they have so readily undertaken, and have so conscientiously performed.

The report of Lieut.-Col. Hewett, which will be found in the Appendix No. 14, embodies as much general information as possible, and considerably more than heretofore, with the view of enabling any person who may read it to form a pretty good idea of the working of the College, of its present condition, and somewhat of its anticipated future. The almost universal absence of knowledge of the scope of the College is apparent in a marked degree, and may be possibly, in some measure, the cause of much of the hesitating action which has hitherto surrounded it and retarded its development.

The report goes so fully into categorical detail, and is so plain and clear upon each point, that I feel I cannot improve upon it, and should only be taking up unnecessary time and space by recapitulation. It must therefore be read, and will quite repay the time spent in doing so. It points strongly to the absolute necessity for an increase in the Educational Staff, as the Professors feel that in spite of their strenuous efforts the inability to give sufficient attention to each cadet individually is becoming a very serious evil. This matter really does require remedy, being one in which the interests of the country and of the Cadets are materially concerned.

Horses are necessary in order to practice the Cadets in equitation. An officer who cannot ride is useless on the staff, or for any other sort of mounted duty, which every officer is at any time likely to be called upon to undertake, and it is only in youth that a man learns to feel at home on his saddle. The addition therefore of about 12 or 15 horses to the Field Batteries of each Gunnery School, which are each armed with four 9-pounder Rifled Guns, would render them effective as such, and at the same time enable that at Kingston to provide the necessary facilities for the practice of equitation by the Cadets. Cavalry Schools might also, by this desirable increase, be added to the Gunnery Schools.

At the Royal Military Colleges in England detachments of soldiers are always employed to perform certain necessary duties far more economically than civilians; by a small increase to the Batteries they might afford similar assistance to the College, while always available for recall for duty. The water supply for the College is reported still defective and indifferent in quantity. Additional accomodation has become necessary and should be commenced very soon.

The interest in this College and the estimation in which it is held, is evidenced by the valuable publications which are now regularly presented to it by the great Military Institutions of Great Britain.

The general conduct of the Cadets continues, I am happy to report, perfectly satisfactory. Their organization into small companies has been effected, but the more intimate relationship between staff and cadets cannot be developed until officers are attached. I venture, therefore, again to call to notice my repeated recommendation on this subject, which is not only the best, but also the most economical organization practicable.

This College has now progressed too far and become too material an Institution in the country to be allowed in any degree to retrograde or to lack the encouragement necessary to make it a permanent and a valuable success. It may have been, as I have said before, established before the country was ripe for such an Institution, or more properly, I may say that its formation has retarded the adoption of more simple elementary military establishments for instructing Regimental officers and non-commissioned officers. But the Royal Military College of Canada is a *fait-accomplé*, year by year gaining a firmer footing, and being appreciated by the people of different nationalities throughout the Dominion. It will eventually provide a body of young men carefully and highly trained morally, physically, intellectually, with habits of order, obedience and command, as well as respect for authority, which will qualify them for a large field of enterprise in either military or civil life in the future. They will, I doubt not, afford the country excellent service in whatever position it may be demanded from them. I have frequently had reason to address the staff of this College in terms of well deserved approbation. I have pleasure in again calling attention to these laborious officers, whose zeal never flags, and who perform duties at this College which would have a much larger staff at any kindred Institution in Great Britain. It is a pleasure to me to re-echo the words of their Commandant who considers it his duty to place on record the good and conscientious service they have given to Canada. I shall conclude my notice of the College in Lieut.-Col. Hewett's words, which so entirely correspond with much that I have endeavored to impress during the last four years, viz: "High excellence cannot be obtained without reasonable and adequate expenditures, and half measures and true economy are at all times incompatible."

I am in great hopes that e'er long a commission will be offered annually in each arm of Her Majesty's Military Service for such young men as may pass cleverly through the Royal Military College of Canada, another link in the chain that binds us all together, adding to the solidarity which I live in hopes of seeing more firmly welded still by the permanent corps before alluded to, interchangeable it may be with battalions of the British line. Financial considerations alone underlie it all, for with those aside everything and everybody is favorable.

Besides the report just alluded to, I have the pleasure to present those of the Dominion Inspectors of Artillery and Commandants of the Gunnery Schools, as well as of the Deputy Adjutants General of the twelve Military Districts of the Dominion. They will be found to contain local matter of interest, and explain in detail the general condition of the several corps under their command. Lieut.-Colonel Taylor expressly notices the Ontario Field Battery, which has been newly organized this year, manned by the students of the Ontario Model Farm near Guelph. This Field Battery is stated to be a most successful experiment, as the students devote much of the time spared from their studies to obtain such a knowledge of drill as to entitle the corps to be noted rather above the average standard of Field Artillery. It is considered this Battery will prove a valuable addition to the Artillery of the west. Captain David McCrae, a good disciplinarian, commands this corps, and Major Macdonald, Wellington Field Battery, has afforded great assistance.

Lieut.-Colonel Durie proposes that the Toronto Field Battery should be made Horse Artillery under Captain Grey, a very good officer. The Cavalry, Artillery and Engineers performed their drill in camp at Toronto, hence perhaps arose the idea that Horse Artillery would be preferable to act with Cavalry; it is an excellent suggestion, the only expense would be in adding eight extra horses to carry full gun detachments. There is sufficient saddlery in charge already. Lieut.-Colonel Scoble has taken much pains, and gone to considerable expense to make his Engineer Company efficient; they are provided with two pontoons, a wagon and two equipment wagons. The pontoons were made during the drill by the men of the Company. This corps has a quantity of engineering material provided at the expense of the corps. It is recommended that this corps may be made a Field Company of Engineers, provided with horses, wagons, field telegraph, &c., as noted in detail in the Appendix.

Lieut.-Colonel VanStraubenzee states the 14th Infantry Battalion at Kingston are willing to be converted into Artillery, and drilled to man and work the guns of the Forts and Batteries there. They only desire to be indemnified for new outfits, as the officers have recently purchased new equipment. The condition seems a fair one. I wish it may be met, for Artillery is the arm most needed at Kingston.

Lieut.-Colonel VanStraubenzee an officer of merit and varied experience in the army, has made some very pertinent and practical remarks upon drill and target practice, which must meet with the concurrence of all who read them. I invite special attention to this in the Appendix.

Lieut.-Colonel Jackson reports favorably of the new Garrison Battery of Artillery formed in the spring at Prescott. It is provided with four bronze 9-pounders, intended to arm Fort Wellington. This fort has been, at my request, ordered to be completely restored, as its position is commanding, covering the ferry across the St. Lawrence, and enfilading the principal street of Prescott, as well as the terminus of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Railway.

I invite attention to Lieut.-Colonel Fletcher's Report of Military District, No. 5 stating the prompt and effectual support to the civil power afforded by the Militia during the past year, which speaks most highly for the force, whenever or wherever it may be called upon to act. This Report is in itself a plain answer to an ungenerous expression uttered by some one in a public address this year, to this effect, as published in the press: "What has the Government got now? A force on paper " which has cost a great amount of money and is doing us no good." An unjust charge, which needs no comment.

Lieut.-Colonel Duchesney reports from Quebec, among other matters, the amount of aid afforded by the Militia to the civil power during the past year. As an actual collision occurred between the "B" Battery and the mob, in which some rioters were killed and wounded by the troops, I do not think the roughs of Quebec would agree that the Militia when called upon are only found on paper!

Lieut.-Colonel Maunsell reports well from New Brunswick, the suggestions of this thoughtful officer are always deserving of consideration, and I am happy again to call attention to his report.

From Prince Edward Island there is nothing new. Lieut.-Colonel Gray suggests a Field Battery, to cover exposed points, and urges a better armament for Point Edward, and more security for the guns and magazine.

I was glad to notice a marked improvement in the Halifax Brigade when I inspected them in November. I am happy to congratulate Colonel Laurie and the District Staff on the result of their exertions which appeared to me, evidence of much attention since last I saw this brigade in the field.

The Halifax Brigade had the privilege of standing side by side with Her Majesty's Troops, in welcoming the advent of His Excellency the Marquis of Lorne and of Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise to the shores of British North America on the 25th of November last. Guards of Honor were furnished by the Militia on several occasions of ceremony, and they also assisted in lining the streets during the Vice-Regal progress through the City. The Militia wearing their tunics without great coats appeared to give a bright effect to the scene.

After this duty I inspected the whole force in quarter columns and half batteries and have much pleasure in speaking highly of their appearance, physique and general equipment, the more so as last year, I reluctantly felt it a duty to draw a less favorable comparison between them and the other Militia of the Dominion, an opinion which it is a pleasure for me to change.

Along the whole line of route from Halifax to Ottawa, 1,030 miles, the Militia loyally paraded at every point where the Vice-Regal train stopped for the reception of addresses of welcome by His Excellency the Governor-General, and royal salutes

were fired by the Field Artillery. Some of the batteries coming long distances by their own voluntary act. These Guards of Honor were well turned out in every respect, but the inclemency of the weather and large crowds of people assembled at each station, prevented their appearing to the best advantage. At Montreal the whole Brigade turned out to furnish Guards of Honor and to occupy positions along the line of the procession. Their general soldierlike bearing attracted much attention from all, but especially from those who saw for the first time the Militia of this country. This brigade afterwards had the honor of marching past His Excellency and Her Royal Highness in front of the Windsor Hotel, but the vast assemblage of vehicles and sightseers so crowded and impeded the passage of the street that the Infantry could only pass along four deep.

The Governor General's Foot Guards received the Vice-Regal party at Ottawa, and took up positions on the line of road leading to Government House. But the weather was wet and dismal in the last degree. Captain Stewart's new and handsome troop of Dragoon Guards formed the cavalry escort, and a detachment of the Ottawa Field Battery fired a Royal Salute from the guns in position on Nepean Point, the Royal Standard flying from the flag-staff.

The Governor General's Foot Guards now mount daily guard of a sergeant, corporal and six privates at Government House. I have frequently seen this guard, and they reflect much credit on Lieut.-Colonel Ross and his officers. Their general conduct has been hitherto very good, and their smart, soldierlike appearance on sentry is remarkable.

A letter lately appeared in the press regarding the dress of this Corps, which wears the clothing of the Coldstream Guards. The bad taste of this notice is only surpassed by the originality of the suggestion, - that the Canadian Auxiliary Forces should wear a different uniform from the Militia of Great Britain, who, with the exception of using silver instead of gold lace, are clothed and equipped in all respects as the troops of the Line. It should be understood that Her Majesty's Government have not only approved, but are desirous to assimilate the Militia of Canada in all respects with the British army, to which they form a most valuable and honourable auxiliary. They have sent a General Officer of the army here, with that among other objects in view, and they willingly detail officers of every branch of the army to assist in any service requiring military experience, upon the request of the Dominion Government.

The ill-judged notice on the uniform of the Foot Guards is at this moment peculiarly *mal apropos*, as it happened that by the last English mail the commanding officer received a letter from the officer commanding the Coldstream Guards, from which I extract a few words: "Upon making inquiry I also find that the Governor-General's Foot Guards in Canada is a Corps animated by the same feeling of loyalty to the Sovereign and devotion to duty as those which prevail in the Coldstream. Far therefore from feeling any jealousy or irritation upon the subject, I beg to

"express to you my gratification that the Coldstream uniform should be so worthily borne in the new world." The same sentiments are entertained by officers of other battalions of the Brigade of Guards who have served in Canada. "I will send you a tabular statement of the services of the Coldstream Regiment in different parts of Europe, Africa and America, and shall esteem it a favor if you will hang it up in your orderly room in Ottawa."

The *nom de plume* affixed to the anonymous letter is probably assumed, for it can hardly be conceived that any officer who had served in the army should not be better informed. Had the writer levelled his lance at the anomaly of retired staff officers continuing to wear staff uniforms there might have been some point to his thrust. Officers of the army whose staff service is completed are not permitted to wear staff uniforms upon any occasion.

Some persons have also exercised their susceptibility about the clothing and equipment of the new troop of Dragoon Guards, conceiving it to be similar to that of the Royal Horse Guards. I am happy to relieve this assumption by the assurance that the equipment and dress are those of the 6th Dragoon Guards, and I know I have not forgotten the distinction between the Carbineers and the Blues. This new troop does infinite credit to Captain Stewart, his officers and men. They are well adapted for the honorable duties of escort, for which they are principally required.

The staunch and remarkable loyalty of Canada to the British Crown has not perhaps ever been more significantly manifested than during the early part of the past and previous year, when offers of service in the event of war were preferred to the extent of raising in Canada several thousand men to serve with the British army. These offers, some of personal service, others to raise battalions, bore the stamp of a thorough determination to give willing and material reinforcement to Her Majesty's troops. They were the spontaneous expressions of a loyal and a high spirited people to throw in their lot, as a very important factor, in the destinies of Great Britain. These offers were as cordially received by the Imperial Government as they were loyally made, and should the occasion have arisen, no doubt but that the hardy and stalwart sons of Canada would have been found standing manfully shoulder to shoulder with their native-born brethren of that "old country" which they love so well.

But withal it would have been a question for careful thought, to determine to what extent such a contingent should have been accepted. It would be unwise and perhaps dangerous to denude this country too largely of its fighting men. It would have been the desire of all to reinforce the army of the empire by every important means in our power, but the very enthusiasm which inspired that desire might have proved a means of deranging the national fores of the Dominion. Battalions *en bloc*

could not have been shipped off owing to the conditions of service and local engagements of many of their members, but officers and men would have gone by thousands, dazzled by the prospect of military service in the field against an enemy of the empire. Our Militia would have been for the time being, to a great extent, disorganized; for it may be accepted that those who would have gone would have been the flower of the force, and in whatever way a contingent, a *corps d'armée*, or a division might have been recruited, the first to take service would have been Militia Officers and men.

There have been of course, times when such a result would not have been materially inconvenient, and we could have spared many thousand men with no ill effect, but at the time in question the forecast was more critical, we were bound by every law of prudence and self-protection to keep our house in order at home. I have already alluded to the steamship "Cimbria," which so suddenly appeared in the port of Ellsworth, State of Maine, only a few hours steaming from St. John, New Brunswick, and to her undoubted object to man and arm fast steamers to molest our shipping, and lay waste our seaports. I have also mentioned the warnings of an undoubted organization to make lawless and predatory incursions by land. So that Great Britain at war in Europe would coincidentally have been Canada under arms in North America for her own defence. We should, for the reasons and from the causes referred to, have been actually, in all apparent probability from our position and surroundings, the first to feel the effect of an enemy's assault after a declaration of war.

But the desire that inspired these loyal volunteers is deserving of record. It has already earned the thanks of Her Majesty's Government, and commanded the respect and admiration of the people of Great Britain and of the whole Colonial Empire. It has been a material example to illustrate that the oft' quoted term, "An Empire on which the sun never sets" is no superficial or vain assumption, but that the young scions of the old family tree are worthy of their origin, and will ever cling to the parent stem, a compact and mighty phalanx to fight for the freedom of a United Empire.

I shall once again recur to the saying of the gentleman who, when during a discussion on military preparation, said abruptly: "But who are you going to fight?" I trust with all sincerity now, as I did then, no one upon this continent. I hope that this country may be preserved for generations to come from the loss, the mourning and the desolation that follow in the train of war. But I do urge again, as I have so often done before, preparation for unforeseen eventualities, a disciplined military force fit for ordinary service, and capable of being expanded quickly in times of apprehension. A military force, in its fullest and broadest sense, to form the national defence of the country, free from all political bias and influence. A soldier force officered by gentlemen who have had opportunities of studying the profession

of arms, through our own military establishments or otherwise; a force that shall fairly represent the population of every nationality or descent in the Dominion, with a feeling of popular pride in its component parts, whose staff and regimental officers shall be selected for their intrinsic value as intelligent, industrious and educated military men, not bookworms, amateurs nor sedentary scribes, but large-minded, large-hearted, independent men, who have a call for military life and a love and a knowledge of nature, by forest, flood and field, men with ready head and willing hand in the pure organization, discipline and efficiency of the service. No offers of raising special corps should be accepted merely for the pleasure of a few persons who may desire for a time to wear a showy uniform, to throw it off when the hot fit is over. The force should not be overcrowded, but only sufficiently large to meet the requirements of the country and no more than our resources of money can bear. I desire to recommend that this great and expanding country may, like Great Britain, feel itself sufficiently prepared to encounter any ordinary difficulty or danger, with full reliance on its own means to do so. I might almost venture, without appearing irreverent, to quote the spirit-stirring words of a popular ballad of the day in support of my meaning:—

" We don't want to fight,
But, by jingo, if we do,
We've got the men,
We've got the guns,
We've got the money too!"

That is really, in very homely but expressive words, the gist of the whole mystery of keeping a national force ready for use. No one wants to fight for the sake of fighting, for it is no child's play, but only fitting preparation to prevent it. Least of all should soldiers desire war, for upon them falls its severest shock and fatal effects; seeking little reward, their lives are devoted to the service of their Sovereign and Her Empire. Yet for these they freely risk their lives, as precious to themselves and their families as those of the persons who live at home at ease, and pursue their politics, their trades or professions under their protection.

I have alluded, even though in a mere sketch to inspire criticism and discussion to the institution as soon as may be convenient of a permanent force of three Regiments, with six battalions, or of three battalions only, as might be determined, interchangeable in either case triennially between Canada and Great Britain; and everyone who thinks out the effect of this, unless too much prejudiced against military or any paid protection, must on reflection see the material and social benefit that this country would derive.

I have pointed out that tramps and strikes and processions, and the hundred and one elements of discord that countries become heir to, have already warned us that some independent force is indispensable to keep order and ensure security from plunder and riot and fire, which have been more or less threatening during the past year.

I have ventured also to say, for reasons I stated, that it is hardly fair to call upon a voluntary force, time after time, to be solely responsible to maintain order, and possibly to come into hostile collision with their townsmen and neighbours. They have always responded promptly to every call and I feel they can be fully relied upon in the future. It is only a question of politic expediency.

It is not my province or my feeling to press these or any military questions with any intent beyond that of the strong desire to be of use to the country and the Government I temporarily serve, it rests with me only to point out and place on record what may be the expression of professional views; their adoption of course requires consideration from various points of examination.

But in hopes that sooner or later, and I hope it may be soon rather than late, that the Government may feel in a position to introduce a permanent military force in Canada. I have had a memorandum drawn up to show approximately and tolerably nearly what a single Battalion, 500 strong, with 25 officers, would cost per annum for maintenance on the usual scale of Canadian pay, viz:—

The following Estimate of the cost of maintaining one Battalion of Infantry consisting of 25 officers and 500 non-commissioned officers and men for 12 months, at the scale of pay and allowances under Dominion regulations, will give a practical illustration:—

No. of each Rank.	Rank.	Rate of Pay per Diem.	Rate of Pay per Year.
		\$ cts.	\$ cts.
1	Lieut.-Colonel.....	4 87	1,777 55
1	Major.....	3 90	1,423 50
3	Captains, at \$1.82.....	16 92	6,175 80
6	Lieutenants, at \$1.58.....	9 48	3,460 20
6	2nd Lieutenants, at 1.28.....	7 68	2,803 20
1	Paymaster.....	3 05	1,113 25
1	Adjutant.....	0 86	313 90
1	Quarter Master.....	1 94	708 10
1	Surgeon.....	3 65	1,332 25
1	Assistant Surgeon.....	2 43	886 95
1	Sergeant Major.....	1 00	365 00
1	Quarter Master Sergeant.....	0 90	328 50
1	Hospital Sergeant.....	0 90	328 50
1	Paymaster Clerk.....	0 90	328 50
1	Orderly Room Clerk.....	0 90	328 50
6	Pay Sergeants, at 80c.....	4 80	1,752 00
18	Sergeants, at 70c.....	12 60	459 90
24	Corporals, at 60c.....	14 40	5,256 00
6	Buglers, at 50c.....	3 00	1,095 00
441	Privates, at 50c.....	220 50	80,482 50
	Total pay.....	\$314 63	\$110,719 10
	Rations for 525, at 12c.....		22,935 00
	Forage for four horses, at 37c.....		540 15
	Uniform, summer and winter, kits, boots, great coats and extra winter outfit.....		17,500 00
	Barrack accommodation, barrack equipment, medical supplies, attestation, transport, fuel and light, contingencies, &c.....		48,246 00
	Total.....		\$200,000 00

Upon the scale of British pay this sum would be considerably smaller.

The kit of necessaries issued to each man on joining, comprises the following articles: 2 shirts, 1 pair braces, 2 pair socks, 2 towels, 1 sponge, 1 knife, fork and spoon, 1 razor and case, 1 holdall, 1 button brass, 1 button brush, 1 cloth brush, 1 pair blacking brushes, 1 shaving brush, 2 tins blacking, 1 leather stock, 1 crumb, 1 pair boots and additional for winter, 2 under shirts, 2 pair drawers, 1 muffler, 1 pair of mitts, 1 fur cap, 1 pair of boots, and snow shoes and moccasins are supplied when required

This estimate is on the supposition that the enlistment of the men is for one year, in order that more men may be drilled in a given time. But if the period of enlistment be for 3 years, the annual expense for uniform, kits, &c., would be decreased by \$5,000 for each year after the first. It will thus be seen that the annual vote of \$1,000,000 for Militia service, if expended upon a regular force alone, at Canadian rates, would only be sufficient to maintain 5 battalions of infantry, consisting of 125 officers and 2,500 non-commissioned officers and men.

With respect to the Militia in general through the country it can hardly be expected that in times of financial depression, a costly system of training for the whole force can be authorized, but we have, nevertheless, a very efficient force, with of course some exceptions, upon which to rely, and on no occasion, except perhaps one in my experience, has any portion of the force been found wanting in prompt obedience to a call for its services.

The training of rural Battalions at company headquarters for three successive years has not resulted in much good. The majority of the men reside on farms, at a distance from their company headquarters, and when called on to drill they have to give up their days' work and that of their horses, receiving only fifty cents in lieu. Therefore they are naturally anxious to shorten the period by performing two days drill in one, and so the work is hurried over in a perfunctory fashion; the drill instructor who draws his forty dollars a year as such, possibly having learnt but little of the rudiments of drill, discipline or regimental economy. A looseness and laxity of system therefore occurs which does not conduce to the first principles of training a soldier. It has been brought to my notice that rural corps ordered out for training are frequently composed of about one half recruits, showing that men often join for one training only, with no desire to carry out the terms of their three years' enlistment unless it be convenient. Officers commanding Companies are in fault for this, they are responsible for their Companies under the existing law; they should not enrol men unless they know them well, their employment, their place of residence, and whether they are likely to fulfil the provisions of the Act. They are too lenient with their men, and to save themselves trouble or perhaps unpopularity, or even politics may here again interpose, they enrol new hands rather than proceed by law against the old ones to compel them under the penalties of the Militia Act to

fulfil their terms of enrolment. All this requires looking into and a thorough reformation. Rural corps have the disadvantage of such long distances between their Companies that the Lieut.-Colonel who has of course his daily business to attend to, can hardly supervise their details; and it may happen that the staff officers who make the muster and the half yearly inspections do not always, as a rule, take minute notice of what has on the surface an appearance of being "all correct."

Rural Companies should be always drilled at Battalion headquarters—I may instance the Richelieu Light Infantry in exemplification—the report on some of their Companies is, the Company was full, but nearly all were wanting in drill; the men able bodied and active; arms and clothing in good condition; drill much needed; accoutrements old, some articles unfit; suffers for want of Adjutant, &c., &c.

In the same degree that rural company drill] works badly, that of city corps does well, because men can assemble in long winter evenings in the drill-sheds without loss of pay, and they look upon their drill and lectures as a recreation. I have every year opposed the system of rural company drill; it has the effect of circulating some money through the locality, and that may be convenient and satisfy local interests; it also brings a body of men together, armed and equipped for a time. But in my opinion it wastes more arms and equipment and clothing than any good that can result from it, and I should disband every independent company not affiliated to a battalion, except in Manitoba and British Columbia; and I should suggest, if possible, in future to abstain from annual drill at company headquarters unless the captain holds a first-class certificate for drill and rifle instruction.

This leads me to revert to the the subject I have so often before dwelt upon, the necessity for some regimental permanent staff. The Militia of Great Britain has, according to regimental strength, two officers, and from 30 to 36 staff sergeants, who are thorough drill instructors; the quartermaster being charged with the care of arms and clothing, which are thus kept in order, and no loss from neglect or theft permitted. In fact it is a delusion to believe that an efficient military force can exist in perfection without a trained permanent staff, an unprofitable expenditure of public money being often the consequence of dispensing with it.

A permanent Adjutant and Sergeant-Major for each Canadian battalion would possibly appear an additional expense, and in some degree it would be so, but it would be worth it. They are wanted to look after the internal economy, to be responsible for the care of rifles, to trace and keep clothing in good order, aired and dusted, to instil discipline and good order necessary in every force of armed men. It has been shown to me how a paid Adjutant could be appointed without adding much expense. In this way:—An Adjutant would receive, say \$1,000 a year, with perhaps quarters. His office would be the armory of his battalion. He would also be Paymaster and Quartermaster, and so responsible for all stores. He would super-

intend target practice, rifle instruction and the drill of the battalion. At present there are \$240 allowed for drill instruction of a six-company battalion, and this might be thrown into the Adjutant's salary. The present annual waste in each battalion would be guarded against, which would produce another item of saving; and possibly there might be other modes of economising, for instance, by reducing some corps, or at least all independent companies, which would save \$40 a year for drill and \$40 a year for care of arms of each company. Then there are caretakers employed in armories, but if each battalion had a paid Adjutant and Sergeant-Major it would not require any other caretaker. The Sergeant-Major should be also a first-class drill instructor, and Quartermaster Sergeant. With two such permanent members of the Staff, much greater efficiency and much less loss would be the result.

No doubt, as I have often reported, independent companies and isolated rural companies do waste clothing and illuse arms, and take greatcoats for the ordinary purposes of civil life. It was only yesterday I was informed that many of the emigrants from Ontario to Manitoba arrived there last year with Government rifles, which they must have stolen from some of these rural companies, and which I shall of course call on the District Staff to replace or pay for.

Such appointments would, I think, be very popular; they would open a career and be a reward for men who have been long making sacrifices for the Volunteer Militia, because their regimental course would qualify them afterwards for staff officers, and without early and special training in regimental details, a staff officer can hardly ever be fit to deal with the many knotty questions that so frequently crop up for decision. I was myself, in early life, a regimental adjutant for five years, and I have never ceased to find the benefit of it during 25 years' staff service to this day.

By opening a career of this sort to young men, whether they may have been graduates of the Royal Military College or otherwise instructed—and I may here draw attention to the importance of having such permanent employment in prospect for the Royal Military College Cadets—it would at any rate serve to carry out one of my previous suggestions, that the force should be purely military, and an end put to of the vicious practice of making militia appointments at political instigation. The country would feel more satisfied with their National Force, and regard it as more stable and compact. At present rural battalions can hardly be called so, though there are exceptions. But with a small paid staff, and the permanent battalions I have proposed, which would supply schools of drill instruction, and with some expansion of the Gunnery Schools, I should believe, on leaving the shores of Canada when my work is done, that during my agreeable abode among the kind-hearted people of this country, in my position in command of the Militia, I had been the humble means before quitting it of doing the State some service, and that my labor had not been in vain.

Before dismissing the adjutant question I wish to draw special and marked attention to this as an important means of recruiting more advantageously the rural and other battalions which I have mentioned to be, under the present system, not satisfactory in some instances. But more particularly I wish to invite consideration to the solution of the often-suggested problem, the permanent employment of the passed Cadets of the Royal Military College. Here is a military career at once open to them. Moderate in emolument it may be stated in the first start in life, but as they have been educated in the higher courses of important branches in a great degree at the Government expense, I consider many of them would not hesitate to enter the Government military service, for which they will be well fitted upon quitting the College. They are Canadians, and Canada progressing in self-reliance upon native production would be well served by these highly educated young gentlemen. Their career would extend in time into qualified staff officers, and who knows but that some among them who may accept commissions for a time in the British army, may not return by and by as general officers to command the National Forces of the Dominion.

I have pleasure in quoting what I have recently read in an able article upon the subject of this class of regimental staff officers:—

“Every one admits that it is difficult to find a first-rate adjutant, but no one but a commanding officer knows how great the difficulty is. A perfect adjutant must possess a rare combination of mental, physical and moral qualifications. He must be energetic, well set up, capable of hard work, of every description, a good horseman, healthy, temperate, firm yet conciliatory, a good judge of character, content to be only the commanding officer's organ, yet not afraid of necessary responsibility, full of resources and foresight, possessed of method and a good memory, skilful with his pen, but with all careful what he puts on paper, realizing the fact that “*littera scripta manet*,” quick to seize his commanding officer's ideas, moderate in social pleasures, yet cordial in terms with his comrades, a fair tactician, an excellent drill, able to impart rifle instruction, and finally, thoroughly acquainted with the Mutiny Act, the Articles of War and the rules and regulations of the service generally.” Of course all these qualities are never found united altogether in one and the same person, but unless an officer possesses some of them in perfection, and all of them to a certain extent, he is not fit to be an Adjutant. There are, therefore, as may be imagined, not a superfluity of officers who can be considered perfectly qualified for that most important regimental staff-position, but I believe the Royal Military College of Kingston will come as near to producing that class of men as any institution I know.

In previous years I have called attention to the useful work performed by the Gunnery Schools and to the propriety of officers commanding batteries taking as much advantage as possible of these institutions by requiring their officers, non-

commissioned officers and gunners to attend them for short or long courses. I repeat we can hardly expect to attain a really high standard of efficiency in this scientific arm, unless officers commanding batteries exert themselves to obtain and to retain the services of officers and non-commissioned officers who take an interest in, and show a natural proclivity for their duties by their desire to pass through a gunnery training. It has happened that subaltern officers are retained who can barely drill a gun detachment, while some old non-commissioned officers are retained with but little qualification, thereby standing in the way of younger and more energetic men who have qualified at a Gunnery School. Commanding officers themselves are in general well qualified, but the substitution of the rifle for the smooth-bore gun demands exertion to acquire knowledge by those who have to use them.

The Dominion Artillery Association is doing good work for the development of gunnery and skill. The practice is carried on in presence of a Dominion Inspector or his substitute, with a capable Artillery Officer to mark the scores; rewards and badges are granted to successful competitors.

It has been objected that the competition is confined to a selected few only in each battery, but the objection is only made by those who do not understand the science of gunnery, and who may believe that “Fire away my lads and make a noise” is quite sufficient for laying a rifle gun of most delicate precision on a target. The commanding officer of the battery, from his knowledge of the men, selects from among the best, those who have paid most attention and are most skilled in laying, firing the gun, judging the range, and boring the fuze, a most difficult and important acquirement, and by them the competition is carried out. It would be a wanton waste of ammunition to allow every man in the battery to compete, but every man has the opportunity to study the science as thoroughly as he pleases, and year after year new men come to the front. The very restriction and the knowledge that application and study are necessary, creates and ensures that healthy emulation which makes good and proficient gunners.

Rifle practice was carried on last year as usual. The number of rounds is however too small for the thorough instruction required with the delicate arms of precision of the present day. Considering, however, that the total ammunition in this country amounts to only 150 rounds per stand for the 70,000 rifles in our possession, and that the limited appropriation for stores has not as yet enabled us to increase that average, I cannot with a prudent outlook to the possibility of cartridges being suddenly required for service, recommend the diminution of our supply, which on the contrary should never be less than 300 rounds, per rifle. Cartridges have to be imported from England, as I regret to say we have no manufactories in this country to produce them, and as Snider cartridges will by-and-by not be forthcoming in the Royal Arsenal it may be necessary for us to bespeak them some time before we can demand our annual supply.

Trained and paid rifle instructors are of the greatest consequence to the efficiency of the Militia. Should paid adjutants be sanctioned this defect will be remedied in a great measure. Without such an instructor cartridges are wasted in careless firing. On that account, three years ago, practical officers recommended fewer rounds until instructors were provided. The "fire away boys" system is only a reckless waste. When Instructors are appointed, and when our reserve stock of cartridges is sufficient, I cannot too strongly advise that at least 40 or 50 rounds a year should be fired at practice by each man, with the same care and precision as taught in the Hythe School of Musketry.

Lieut.-Colonel Van Straubensee, who speaks with full experience, says on this point many officers would willingly qualify as instructors if the Government would remunerate them. Under the present system it is only waste of money, issuing ammunition to some of the corps, and each year many men join who have never had a rifle in their hands before. They cannot be expected to learn the use of their rifle and some knowledge of drill in 36 hours, the time allowed for training—3 hours in each 12 days—by law established. A paid adjutant would prevent this constant influx of recruits by obliging men to complete their three years engagement, or incur the penalty in default thereof under the Militia Act.

I am told that further provision for local rifle ranges is requisite to ensure practice by every enrolled man. The issue of badges and prizes for regimental and company efficiency would do much towards securing the acquisition of knowledge in rifle shooting.

It would tend to the efficiency of our force if we could afford to substitute the Martini-Henri for the Snider rifle, but we cannot afford to purchase the requisite quantity in bulk, and to have volunteers armed with two sorts of rifles and two descriptions of cartridges, on a line from the Atlantic to the Pacific, would be only to court disaster if they were called upon to take the field. The Snider is an accurate, strong and serviceable weapon, not very far behind the Martini-Henri in trajectory and range, and probably the better adapted of the two for the rough usage it has to undergo, and the difficulty of repairing it at long intervals.

Two additional armourers have come from England, I am glad to say, at work at Kingston and Toronto. A third has been appointed at Halifax, but Colonel Laurie informs me he is either lazy or idle, for he gets through very little work. I think a better substitute might be found who would repair the rifles rapidly.

I am happy to record that the Dominion and the Militia are again under obligations to Lieut.-Colonel Gzowski, who has as usual, devoted himself to ensuring Canada being well and prominently represented at the Wimbledon Rifle Ranges at last year's meeting. The genial hospitality extended by the Lieut.-Colonel, including the most distinguished visitors to the camp, goes far towards ensuring the Canadian team a foremost place in the acquaintance of their friendly rivals.

I have not alluded to the Cavalry in the proper place, and unfortunately this year I have only seen the two Troops of Montreal and Ottawa, but the inspecting officers speak well of them in general, and some of their storehouses which I have seen showed me their saddlery is well looked after. They are in general well mounted and equipped, fairly proficient in drill, and some squadrons have been practiced at outpost duty. Applications have been made to form corps of Mounted Infantry or to convert battalions into such, but though in field operations in the country Mounted Infantry would be very much in request for rapid movement, I am afraid the expense of providing and feeding so many horses and furnishing mounted equipments will be an insurmountable barrier till the country grows more wealthy.

I request to draw attention to the remarks in my report of 1877, relative to the strength of the Militia force, taking the reduced estimates for their maintenance into account and to the question of clothing, which latter will be found at page 6. The same trouble existed last year from want of money, only about 21,000 men were trained for twelve days, and we could only purchase about one-fourth the requisite quantity of clothing and stores. This is a question of considerable gravity. My statement at page 9 of that report was to the effect that the force now enrolled in cities, towns and villages exceeding 1,000 inhabitants is 304 Troops, Batteries and Companies, representing somewhat over 18,000 men, and that a certain number of Companies might be selected to form Battalions in some villages having less than 1,000 people in the centre of populous settlements, but that the difficulty of maintaining order, discipline and imparting drill to Companies whose members are residing on farms at long distances apart is very great and not satisfactory by any means.

I have no desire to reduce the strength of the enrolled Militia, but I have a great desire to see those who are enrolled capable of being made equally efficient as the city corps and those rural corps existing in populous neighborhoods which are easily assembled for voluntary drill throughout the winter. Those Companies which do not assemble except for the perfunctory annual summer drill at Company headquarters, often gone through in a negligent manner, I should wipe out. Arms, ammunition, clothing, drill pay, and \$80 a year for their nominal care and equally nominal drill instruction would be saved. It is surely wiser to have such a force as we can drill and discipline to serve as a nucleus for a larger, than to attempt year after year with insufficient means to keep up a nominal large one, which does not altogether, for the reasons stated, give satisfaction. Trained and disciplined officers and non-commissioned officers are of the first importance; they form the back bone, the rank and file the sinews, and the intelligent staff the directors of the whole fabric.

In physique, in battalion drill, in subordination, and in love of country, the 42,000 Militia of Canada, with the exceptions and from the causes stated, are equal to a similar number of any Militia in any country in the world, and in a few weeks in

training camps they would hold their own if subjected to the rude test of regular warfare. They are hardy and patriotic, they have outlived a period of unpopularity, and are now looked upon with favor as an important national institution by the country at large. No one doubts their fidelity; no one questions their courage, and I believe, when it becomes possible to effect some of the suggested reforms, no one will be able to find much fault with the general efficiency of the whole force, so far as regards the individual officers and rank and file.

But to render the force fit for the field we should have the nucleus at least of a larger organization. We should have the commissariat represented, for it is a difficult branch to make efficient, and we should have the means of providing a staff whose duties should be the art of obtaining and issuing supplies and providing transport. Everyone who has served a campaign in the field knows that nothing paralyzes a force from the General in Command downwards more than a faulty or ill-managed commissariat. Food is just as necessary as rifles, and in an enemy's country, or in presence of an enemy, often more difficult to obtain. An efficient Army Corps must have ammunition, waggons, pack animals, pontoons, ambulances and many other indispensable impedimenta for carrying baggage supplies of boots, tents, and in these days of breech-loaders, a good reserve of cartridges. I do not for a moment mean that we are to maintain such a staff in times of peace, but we should know where to lay our hand on them readily. They would be the first requirement called for in any field operation, and we should have a good Supply Officer at headquarters thoroughly acquainted with the whole country.

The beginning and the end of the present headquarter staff, the sole representative is the attentive and pains-taking Adjutant-General, for a large force spread over the Canadian Dominion with nearly as many square miles as the whole of Europe, and everything connected with the every day work, which embraces every imaginable description of subject, both of organization, discipline and supply, passes through him to the General Officer. This could not possibly work if flying columns or divisions were in motion, and therefore I again submit that it is wise not to be unprepared. The District Staff has been considerably reduced, and though it would bear further reduction without effecting general efficiency in peaceful times, it must be thought over carefully beforehand. For instance, the Maritime Provinces might be in two instead of three Military Districts; Prince Edward Island might fall into the New Brunswick Command, retaining only a Staff-Adjutant for details. Nos. 5 and 6 Military Districts with Montreal as a centre could be administered by one Deputy-Adjutant General. The objection to this being that a French staff is considered desirable in such a large French population, No. 3 and 4 Military Districts might be united without prejudice. Should regimental adjutants be permanently appointed, much of the inspection travelling of brigade staffs would cease; a saving of expense, a constant local responsibility instead of casual half-yearly inspections,

In the regular army staff appointments of all kinds change every five years, and such a system would if practicable, do good here, for there is generally a virtue in a "new broom;" but it is hardly possible here, nor quite fair under the present system. If the Military College should later on supply the staff, then they should take service with the understanding they would be moved from District to District periodically. But in this country, appointments have been made in former days without any limitation, and removal from office every five years would leave the officer unprovided for. Unlike officers of the army they do not revert to half-pay, or to regimental position with a future prospect of staff employment. At the same time I do not see that if the country considers its staff over officered, why they should not be reduced with gratuities. A field staff would always have to be organized for field operations in any case.

Considering the importance of the artillery arm, and the experience and length of service of the Senior Inspector of Artillery, in his own corps and in the Dominion service, I have the honour to recommend that Lieut.-Colonel Strange, Royal Artillery receive the title of Inspector General of Artillery, not for the sake of the superior titular rank, but because it would carry more weight and do more good if the Chief of Artillery was so recognized; and considering there are two Dominion Inspectors I am of opinion that the time has arrived when the science has reached that point in Canada when a special arm requires a special head. I do not propose any increase of pay nor any change at present in the existing constitution and command of the Gunnery Schools, but only in the general inspection of the Garrison and Field Artillery.

I have not been quite satisfied with the Militia in Manitoba. I am afraid there is still a sort of clinging to the hope that a permanent force will again occupy Fort Osborne, and therefore, perhaps less enthusiasm distinguishes volunteer companies there than elsewhere. But I wish to dissipate this idea, which is unlikely to be fulfilled, and so heart and hand they had better make the most of volunteer protection.

There is a good Field Battery, well commanded, manned and horsed; the practice is not so favorably reported of as might be wished.

A new troop of Cavalry recently gazetted is progressing in drill, and there are three fairly good Infantry Companies. I regret the circumstances under which No. 1 Winnipeg Infantry Company appears to have been recommended for disbandment.

In briefly reverting to the idea of arranging for the institution of a permanent military force, I think a question might arise for consideration, under whose command such a force would be placed. The question can hardly affect myself personally, for before such an important reformation is made, my official life in Canada will be drawing to a close, if not ended; and so I may speak dispassionately. But I

should consider the service and the position of my successor. He, probably, will be a practical General Officer of active experience, and versed in responsible intercourse with Colonial Governments, for the Militia of Canada, keen-witted and observant men, patriotic and thorough in their military as well as social attributes, are willing and faithful followers of a leader who gains their confidence.

Battalions of enlisted men, who may moreover be liable to serve temporarily out of Canada, cannot be classed as Militia, but they while here would be paid by the Dominion Government, as would the representative battalions I presume, with which they would take turns of service. In fact, this question of pay is one of the difficulties to be overcome, because the scales of pay of the British Line and the Dominion Forces at present do not coincide. It would seem I think, that corps raised in and paid by Canada should be under command of the General Officer employed by and in immediate communication with the Government who provide both men and money. The withdrawal of the Queen's troops from Canada produced a desire for self-reliance and self-protection by its own exertions. This patriotic feeling deserves encouragement from its motive, though the absence of Her Majesty's Troops from Canada upon other grounds is I consider a matter for much regret. It might on the other hand be urged that were Canada unfortunately involved in war, the command of all the Forces might by Order in Council be vested in the Imperial General Officer at Halifax, and that therefore it would be better to organize in peace what might be adopted in war. But it does not follow that the Militia of Canada, if they have a capable General employed by the Dominion, would necessarily so be placed under command of the General at Halifax, which is one thousand miles from the Seat of Government, unless the war were of sufficient magnitude to require heavy reinforcement from the Queen's Troops. In such an event, of course other arrangements would have to be made, as it would be impossible to carry on a successful campaign with a dual command. It might be therefore, that the Dominion General should command these Canadian regiments and their interchangeable representatives, furnishing the Imperial commander with such periodical returns as would be defined. In this event it would be necessary to add an Assistant Adjutant-General to the Head-quarter staff in Ottawa, a thoroughly trained soldier, of a firm but conciliatory disposition, and versed in all modern principles of military discipline. There would also be constant use for the commissariat officer which in any case I have submitted to be a prudent appointment for the staff of a force of such dimensions, so widely extended, and at any time liable to be called upon for civil aid.

Either of the two Gunnery Schools is quite capable of producing one or both of these staff officers, they have a thorough practical military education, with knowledge of command and discipline, well acquainted with the country and character of its people. Their appointments to such posts would be popular, and satisfy the country we can produce our own working staff. It would be a graceful honor to the officers of these Schools, cause promotion and inspire them with emulation and

hope of reward for the training to which they have devoted their time and energies with so much success.

A hardship towards the Militia arises in cases when their services are called for in aid of civil power. By law the requisition of any three magistrates obliges the attendance of Militia whenever their aid may be necessary for the public peace, and they turn out with prompt alacrity. But though the Dominion Militia Act enforces their attendance, there is no provision to ensure payment for the service performed. In many instances this payment has been too long withheld, and sometimes only recovered by legal process. A strong case in point is that of a company at Cape Breton which turned out upon requisition over two years ago and up to this day they have not been paid by the municipality. An action was instituted by the captain for recovery of the amount, but the bill, as I am informed, was thrown out by the grand jury. The members of the company have now threatened to prosecute the captain for non-payment and he, poor fellow, naturally appeals to the Supreme Government who enacted the law compelling him under a penalty to comply with the legal requisition. This is a case of hardship and I cite it in hopes of causing a remedy.

It is almost unnecessary that before concluding a report of this character, I should venture to approach the subject of the "Defence of Canada," I might almost take sides with my friend who wished to know "who I was going to fight?" and say, "against whom is Canada to be defended?" It seems quite improbable that so long as the great central power of our good neighbours remains firm, we have anything of magnitude to apprehend from that quarter, but if sections of men should break off and give way to lawless desires, they might become so turbulent and unruly as to require us to take measures for our defence, and so as before said, preparation is more likely to prove preventive than to await the occurrence of unprovided for and troublesome events. For these reasons I have sketched out some of the departmental arrangements which would be absolutely necessary before entering on any operation, such as field staff, commissariat, transport, &c., for which we should have at least a foundation, and also a supplement to all our stores adequate to requirements of 100,000 armed men.

The system which might probably have to be adopted to hold the country in military occupation would be by a series of entrenched camps. Quebec and Kingston being fortified, troops would be massed in their neighborhoods as bases of operation. Montreal being unprotected from the south, would require to be covered by a strong body of troops and earthworks, in the direction of the Richelieu River, with its flanks well watched, while the eastern townships would be held by an entrenched camp near Sherbrooke. A strong force would assemble at Prescott to cover the approach to the Capital, having the defensible work of Fort Wellington as a base. The promontory of Ontario should have entrenched camps about Paris or London and Guelph, with strong advanced columns at Thorold, Windsor, Sarnia, and pro-

bably Collingwood, on the Georgian Bay. Block houses at intervals should be erected for the protection of the Grand Trunk Railway, our main artery of communication by land, while all steamers and transports necessary would be taken up for Government purposes, the former being armed as intended in the early part of last year. Such would possibly be considered on general principles the system necessary to pursue in the unlikely event of any invasion in force. But so much would depend on the strength and character of such an inroad that details would have to be determined upon its development.

If in the suggestions I have made in the course of this and of previous annual reports I appear to advocate measures which may be considered by some as excessive and unnecessary expenditure I can only assure critics that I am simply influenced by the most honest professional views in stating candidly what I hope may be admitted as the first elements of a national force suitable to the safety of a great and growing nation such as Canada. So long as a considerable portion of Her Majesty's troops were in Canada they furnished a standard to which the Militia could conform; but with their departure those advantages have disappeared and Canada must therefore feel its own responsibilities. Soldiers, a great part of whose time is spent in civil life, require when called out highly trained and capable officers and non-commissioned staff to drill, discipline and lead them, and this opinion is held in every military nation of Europe as well as in the army of the United States. It is therefore that I have wished to make clear the absolute necessity of a permanent military force in Canada, where officers and non-commissioned officers might acquire the rudiments of instruction and impart that discipline to the Militia. The time has also arrived when a small permanent body of troops has become necessary to keep the peace of the country, which the police are not strong enough to accomplish, and for which it is hardly fair upon the Militia to expect them to be responsible.

I trust therefore my suggestions may when convenient, be weighed and considered; and I hope, however they may be dealt with, that it will be felt they are submitted with perfect singleness of purpose, from no personal or pedantic professional motive, but truly and honestly with the welfare and prosperity of this magnificent and progressing dependency of the Crown sincerely at heart.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD SELBY-SMYTH,

Lieutenant-General.

APPENDIX No. 1.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 1.

HEAD QUARTERS, LONDON,

3rd December, 1878.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward for submission to the General Officer commanding the accompanying Inspection Report of the District under my command, which have performed their annual drill for the year 1878-79 in obedience to General Orders of the 16th May last.

The Active Militia Force in this District consists of the following efficient corps—

CAVALRY.

The 1st Regiment of Cavalry under command of Lieut.-Colonel Cole, consisting of the four Troops of St. Thomas, London, Mooretown and Kingsville. These are four good Troops, composed chiefly of sons of well-to-do farmers, and are very respectable intelligent young men, willing and anxious to perfect themselves in drill; their horses are strong, active and wiry, well fitted for outpost duties.

ARTILLERY.

The Field Artillery consists of three Field Batteries, viz.: the "London," "Wellington," and "Ontario," the two first named fully equipped and armed with 9-pounder muzzle-loading rifled guns. The "Ontario" Field Battery is also about being fully equipped. The Artillery of Canada is acknowledged to be the *élite* of the Force and these Batteries are no exception.

There are two Garrison Batteries, the "Goderich" and "Sarnia," who are armed as infantry, and have one gun each of position to practise gun drill with.

INFANTRY AND RIFLES

Consist of eleven Battalions viz.:

The 7th London Light Infantry;
 22nd "Oxford" Rifles;
 24th "Kent" Infantry;
 25th "Elgin" Infantry;
 26th "Middlesex" Infantry;
 27th "Lambton" Infantry;
 28th "Perth" Infantry;
 29th "Waterloo" Infantry;
 30th "Wellington" Rifles;
 32nd "Bruce" Infantry;
 33rd "Huron" Infantry;

The total, according to the full establishment, being 365 officers and 5,010 non-commissioned officers and men.

ANNUAL DRILL.

As laid down in General Orders of the 16th May last, the strength of the Force in this District that was authorized to perform annual Drill for the current year was limited to 2,350 of all ranks; and in accordance with instructions contained in that order, the following corps were ordered to perform their Drill, viz.:—

Cavalry.

Nos 1 and 2 Troops, 1st Regiment of Cavalry.

Artillery.

The London Field Battery under Major John Peters.
The Wellington Field Battery, under Major Arch. McDonald;
The Ontario Field Battery, under Captain D. McCrae;
The Sarnia Garrison Artillery, under Captain J. F. Adams.

Infantry and Rifles.

7th Battalion, under Lt. Col. Walker;
26th Battalion, under Lt. Col. Attwood;
28th Battalion, under Lt. Col. W. Smith;
29th Battalion, under Lt. Col. T. Peck;
30th Rifles, under Lt. Col. Clarke;
33rd Battalion, under Lt. Col. A. M. Ross, and the
Windsor and Leamington Independent Companies.

INSPECTIONS

Cavalry.

No. 2 Troop, 1st Regiment Cavalry, performed annual drill in camp near London commencing 28th June, and were inspected by me on the 4th July. Their arms, accoutrements and saddlery were clean, the horses of a good serviceable stamp, and the troop looked well on parade. Lieut. Colonel Cole, commanding the regiment was present all the time in camp superintending the drill and looking after the comforts of the men.

No. 3 Troop, 1st Regiment, performed their drill in consecutive days at their local head quarters, I was much struck at my inspection with the great improvement displayed by this troop in the very clean state of their accoutrements and saddlery, and also in their drill, skirmishing and firing blank cartridge. They would be a very useful body of men on this frontier should any disturbance arise.

On the 4th July, while this troop was drilling, the Mayor and Corporation of St. Clair, Michigan (opposite to the troop head quarters) sent over an invitation to Major Stewart and his troop to pay them a friendly visit, which was accepted, and they crossed over to St. Clair and met with a very kind and hearty reception, the whole troop being hospitably entertained, after which they formed on parade and went through several manoeuvres to the gratification of their hosts, and returned well satisfied with their friendly treatment.

*Artillery.**London Field Battery.*

The London Field Battery went into camp at Salter's Grove, near London, for their drill, on the 28th June. They turned out for my inspection on the 4th July, with every thing complete and in excellent order, and were formed up for drill along with

the No. 2 Troop of Cavalry, which camped along with them. Major Peters, who is an excellent and smart officer in the field, commanded the parade and put them through many field movements which they performed very creditably and rapidly. I regret that this corps has not been able to fire their artillery practice this year, there being no range convenient.

Wellington Field Battery.

This very efficient corps marched 16 miles to Fergus, where they camped for 6 days' drill, and moved camp to Elora for the remaining 6 days, in company with the 30th Rifles. I inspected them on the 1st July at Elora where, paraded with the 30th Rifles, they fired a *feu-de-joie* and afterwards went through a sham fight and all acquitted themselves very creditably.

I have to report that I found the Wellington Field Battery still maintaining its high standard of efficiency, the same as at last year's drill. I believe this corps to be the best disciplined one in this district, and everything connected with the interior economy of the corps is carried on with a regard to military discipline that reflects great credit on Major MacDonald and all under him.

Ontario Field Battery.

This is a corps which has been newly organized this year, its head quarters being the Ontario Model Farm, near Guelph, and it is manned chiefly by the students at the Model Farm, who take the utmost possible interest in their drill, in which they are materially aided by the Rector, Professor W. Johnston, (who has accepted the position of 1st. Lieutenant in the Battery) and by his staff of assistants.

This Field Battery has been called an experiment, if so it is a wonderfully successful one. It was doubted by many people, at the first inception of the corps, if the students would be willing to give up so much of their time allowed for relaxation as was necessary to enable them to obtain a good knowledge of their drill and to enable the corps to be noted as being above the average standard as a Field Battery; but (considering that the corps was not 6 months old) the result as shown by their drill at the inspection made by the Inspector of Artillery for Ontario (at which I was present), by their clean accoutrements and well fitted saddlery, by the smartness with which they worked their guns, and by the correct answers they gave on being examined verbally by the Inspecting Officer, certainly proves that this corps will be a most valuable addition to the artillery of Canada; and the students, who belong to all parts of the Dominion, by the time they have finished their course of instruction in farming, will also be good artillerymen and return to their respective homes able to drill others and render valuable assistance in forming other corps if required.

I must not omit to add that we were fortunate when commencing this new corps to be able to select a very efficient officer to take command, one who in addition to having a love for this arm of the force, could spare the time, and had the ability to organize the corps, and who was himself well drilled and a good disciplinarian, such an officer was found in Captain David McCrae of the Wellington Field Battery, to whose unwearied exertions the Ontario Field Battery owe the very creditable inspection which they passed. I feel called upon also to notice that to Major MacDonald of the Wellington Field Battery is much credit due for his able assistance during the formation of the Ontario Field Battery, and the active interest which he takes in its welfare.

This Battery marched 18 miles to Elora, performed their regulated artillery practice, and marched back the same day—one of the students making the best individual artillery practice of any corps this year.

The Wellington and Ontario Field Batteries, assisted by the town and citizens of Guelph, have organized an excellent artillery brigade band which is a credit to all concerned.

Infantry and Rifles.

The 7th Battalion London Light Infantry performed their annual drill in camp at Byron, 3 miles from London, commencing the 25th August. At my inspection on the 31st the battalion looked smart and clean in their new uniform; but with the exception of No. 1 company under the command of Captain Thos. O'Brien, who is an excellent and painstaking officer, the corps have not kept up to their old high standard of drill and efficiency.

26th "Middlesex" Battalion.

This is a good corps and performed its drill in camp at Lucan, commencing the 19th September, the companies are full and well drilled, clean and soldierlike; but they feel the lack of interest taken in them by their County Council, so different to the patriotic encouragement of other County Councils who give an annual grant to their County Battalion as a token of recognition for their services.

28th "Perth" Battalion.

This corps assembled in full strength at St. Marys on the 9th September for annual drill in camp, but unfortunately this happened to be during the very rainy season, the rain was incessant for nearly the whole time they were in camp and sometimes such heavy storms that the men had to be marched to the Town Hall for shelter and warmth.

I was surprised to find the battalion looking clean and well disciplined at my inspection notwithstanding all the bad weather. I heard not a complaint among them, and Lieut. Colonel Smith reported to me most highly of his men's quiet behavior, no grumbling, nor lack of discipline during quite a trying time for young soldiers; probably their experience in camp during such bad weather has taught them more practical lessons for actual service than double the time of fine weather. The officers of this battalion deserve much credit for the management of their companies in this camp.

29th "Waterloo" Battalion.

This fine corps commanded by Lieut. Colonel Peck commenced drill in camp near Berlin on the 3rd September. I never saw them looking better. Lt. Col. Peck has by his great kindness and personal care for all his battalion transformed, what was formerly a second rate corps, into a very efficient battalion, well officered, well disciplined, and well drilled.

30th "Wellington" Battalion Rifles.

This 10 company Battalion is the strongest corps in the District and always turns out above strength. Commanded by the Lieut. Colonel C. Clarke, they performed drill in camp at Fergus for 6 days, and then marched to Elora for 6 days longer accompanied by the Wellington Field Battery who encamped near them. One great reason why both of these corps are so efficient and muster full strength is, that the inhabitants of the county Wellington and of the town of Guelph take a lively interest in their local corps, augmenting their pay at drill, and subscribing with great liberality to their Band and other necessary objects, consequently both officers and men feel that their reputation and interests are bound up in that of their county and county town, and this gives them renewed energy for performing their duty with credit to their corps.

I inspected this very efficient battalion on the 1st July at Camp Irvine, Elora. when on parade with the Wellington Field Battery they fired a *feu de joie* in honor of the Dominion's birthday, and afterwards went through a long field day and sham fight in presence of a great concourse of people from all over the county.

Notwithstanding the excessive heat the men drilled very steadily, and the skirmishing was remarkably well done, the men showing great readiness to take advantage of every possible irregularity in the ground for covering themselves from the enemies' fire.

33rd "Huron" Battalion.

This Battalion under command of Lieut.-Colonel A. M. Ross, encamped at Goderich on 23rd September for their annual drill. Considering that several companies had not drilled for two years previous, and that they have a large majority of recruits the inspection was satisfactory.

The county of Huron has always had a good battalion composed of a very fine body of men, active, and capable of undergoing more hardship than the majority of the Force.

Independent Companies.

The "Leamington" and "Windsor" Companies drilled at their local head quarters. I found the former company very good and well drilled at my inspection, it is one of the best companies in the District and takes great interest in Target Practice nearly every man being a good shot, and they keep up a strong Rifle Association among them.

The Windsor Company is fairly drilled, and paraded with their accoutrements and uniform very clean. I am glad to find that an effort is being made to renew the old battalion in this County of Essex, since on account of its being the most exposed frontier county in Western Ontario and opposite to the populous City of Detroit, it is highly important that it should have an efficient and strong Battalion ready to turn out at very short notice, should it be required to protect the frontier.

RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS.

There are 12 Rifle Associations in this District which appear to be in a flourishing condition and have held matches and are affiliated with either the Dominion or the Ontario Rifle Association. London is head quarters of the Western Rifle Association, but owing to the loss of our Rifle Range and inability at present to procure one, the annual matches, usually very well attended, have to be postponed; steps are however being taken to procure an excellent and convenient range.

I feel pride in noticing that Wheeler Ogg, of the Wellington Field Battery, received the Dominion Rifle Association silver medal for second highest score among competitors from all parts of the Dominion.

UNIFORM, ARMS AND ACCOUTREMENTS.

I have to report that the whole Force in this District is supplied with good serviceable uniform and great coats, the quality of the uniform supplied this year is very good and gives satisfaction.

Every man is supplied with arms and accoutrements which are serviceable, with a few exceptions in most of the corps; these rifles requiring repairs I hope soon to have sent to a competent armourer.

There are also in the stores here a supply of tents and blankets sufficient to encamp the whole Force of the District.

OFFERS FOR ACTIVE SERVICE.

During the early part of this year it appeared probable that Great Britain would be engaged in war with Russia; and I received offers from the following corps through their commanding officers who begged to be permitted to offer their services

to the mother country for active foreign service in the event of such a war taking place.

1st Regiment Cavalry, Lt. Col. Cole commanding;
London Field Battery, Major John Peters commanding;
7th Battalion, Lt. Col. J. Walker commanding;
22nd Battalion, Lt. Col. T. Cowan commanding;
26th Battalion, Lt. Col. Attwood, commanding;

The following officers also offered for active foreign service individually:

Major McKnight, 28th Battalion;
Major J. Lewis, late 27th Battalion;
Captain Thos. O'Brien, 7th Battalion;
Captain H. G. Reed, 24th Battalion;
Captain J. L. Hamilton, 28th Battalion;
Captain J. Morton, 32nd Battalion;
Lieut. Wm. Heath, London Field Battery;
Lieut. J. G. Guillot, late 23rd Battalion.

GENERALLY.

I found much improvement this year in the drill, and every battalion without exception, took advantage of the permission given in General Orders to drill in battalion camp, instead of at their several company head quarters.

I noticed that the men are getting to understand better how to clean their belts and accoutrements and to wear them in a more soldierlike manner, also silence in the ranks at drill was better observed.

I reserve the most important subject for conclusion; it is this, that every year the difficulty of getting qualified officers and non-commissioned officers increases. How this is to be remedied will, I trust, receive serious consideration.

I have to acknowledge the cordial and ready support that I have received from Lieut.-Colonel Moffat, Brigade Major, Lieut.-Colonel Leys, District Paymaster, and the several commanding officers of corps during the past year.

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,

Head Quarters, Ottawa.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 2.

OLD FORT,

TORONTO, 7th November, 1878.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit, for submission to the General Officer commanding, the accompanying Inspection Report of the corps of the Active Militia in Military District No. 2, relative to the performance of the annual drill of the year 1878-79, in compliance with the General Orders, dated at Ottawa, 16th May, 1878. The strength of the force in this District authorized to perform the annual drill, was limited to 3,400 officers, non-commissioned officers and men.

In obedience to the above order the following corps were ordered to perform the annual drill:—

The Governor-General's Body Guard—2 Troops.
Field Batteries—Toronto, Hamilton and Welland.
Garrison Batteries—Toronto, Collingwood and St. Catherines.
2nd Military District Engineer Company.
Infantry—2nd Battalion, Queen's Own Rifles; 10th Royals, Toronto: 13th Battalion, Hamilton. (These are city corps.)

The Corps not drilled last year—

12th Battalion, York Rangers.
34th " Ontario.
35th " Simcoe Foresters.
38th " Brant, Dufferin Rifles.
77th " Wentworth.

To complete the quota—

No. 1 Company, 19th Battalion, Niagara.
Two Companies, 44th Battalion, Clifton and Fort Erie.—Frontier Companies.

The following Corps were, therefore, not required to perform annual drill:—

2nd Regiment of Cavalry.
19th Battalion, Lincoln, 5 Companies.
20th " Halton.
31st " Grey.
36th " Peel.
37th " Haldimand.
39th " Simcoe.
44th " Welland, 6 Companies.
Rifle Company, Sault Ste. Marie.

It will thus be seen there are eight Battalions in my District which have not performed any annual drill, these corps having performed drill last year.

INSPECTIONS.

The Governor-General's Body Guard, 2 Troops.
The Toronto Field Battery.
The 2nd Military District Engineer Company.
The Squadron was commanded by Major Denison.
The Field Battery by Major Gray.
The Engineer Company by Lt.-Colonel Scoble.

These three corps paraded for my inspection on Saturday at 3 p.m., 29th June, on the Garrison Common, under the command of Lt.-Colonel G. T. Denison, Governor-General's Body Guard.

The force presented on parade a very creditable and soldierlike appearance. The horses of the Body Guard and the Battery were decidedly a better class of horses than usual. The marching past was well done, although in trotting and galloping past, the horses of the Body Guard were somewhat wild, and hard to hold. The Battery went past uncommonly well and very steady.

Immediately after the Brigade took up a position facing the Humber beach, under the supposition of an enemy moving from that quarter on the Old Fort; the three arms were well disposed of, working well in mutual support; falling back on the Old Fort, seizing the points favorable for defence. Altogether it was well carried out, reflecting much credit upon the officer commanding, and the officers commanding Corps.