

as yet, without either arms, accoutrements, or clothing. Nevertheless, they managed to perform their annual drill; the arms and accoutrements were borrowed, for the occasion, from the other companies of the 65th Battalion.

The Major-General commanding was present, and appeared much pleased with the Battalion.

On the 17th November I inspected the new company No. 7.

Present on Parade.

Officers.....	1
Men.....	31

Manual and firing, good; formation of fours, good; wheeling, counter-marching, good. This is a well drilled company for an entirely new one.

On the same date I inspected No 8 Company.

Present on Parade.

Officers.....	3
Men.....	42

This is a very fair company, composed of young men of education, chiefly law and medical students. Manual and firing, good; company drill, very good.

85th Battalion—Lieut.-Col. Brosseau.

This is a new battalion, under the command of a very good officer, Lieut.-Col. Brosseau. The six companies have performed their annual drill at company headquarters. Three of the companies have, as yet, no clothing.

On the 6th October I proceeded to inspect No. 1 Company at St. Jerome.

Present on Parade.

Officers.....	2
Men.....	42

The men of this company have a fine physique. They want a great deal more drilling. Arms, accoutrements, and clothing in good order. Manual and firing, fairly done; formation of fours, wheeling, counter-marching, not very well done.

On the 28th October I inspected No. 3 Company at Laprairie.

Present on Parade.

Officers.....	2
Men.....	36

This is a good company. Arms and accoutrements in good order. They want new clothing. (This company used to be No. 5 Company of the 21st Battalion, Laprairie.) Manual and firing, good; company drill, good.

On the 13th November I inspected No. 4 Company (Laprairie).

Present on Parade.

Officers.....	3
Men.....	40

The day of this inspection was very cold with a piercing north east gale; the men who had no great coats were shivering, and could scarcely hold their rifles. Manual and firing, fair; formation of fours, counter-marching, advancing and retiring in line, not very well done. Arms and accoutrements were in good order.

On the 25th November I inspected No. 5 Company (Côte St. Paul.)

Present on Parade.

Officers.....	3
Men.....	26

This company has no clothing. The arms and accoutrements were not clean. The manual and firing pretty well done; formation of fours, well done; wheelings, countermarching, not well done.

On the 25th November I inspected No. 2 Company.

Present on Parade.

Officers.....	2
Men.....	29

This is a fine company—(this used to be the Saint Jean Baptiste Independent company under Capt. Kirwin.) Manual and firing, good. The principal company movements were well done. Arms and accoutrements in fair order. Clothing old; the men have no great coats, and, as it was a very cold day, I had to inspect the company in the old drill hall, Bonsecours Market.

On the 30th November No. 6 Company (Longeuil) was inspected. The men have no military clothing.

Present on Parade.

Officers.....	1
Men.....	22

Manual and firing, good; formation of fours, good; proving and inspecting company, good.

TARGET PRACTICE.

The shortness of time allowed (6 days) for battalion camp exercises has been the cause of the target practice not being finished. It must not be forgotten that these men are almost to a man (except the two Rawdon companies of the 83rd Battalion), French-Canadians, whose only language is French, and scarcely understanding ten words of English (I mean men composing the country corps). In consequence of this their time is chiefly taken up with the learning of the meaning of the English words used for the command at company and battalion drill, guard mounting, posting sentries, &c., &c.

Again, some of the country corps who have drilled at their company headquarters have not sent in their target practice returns. They have probably not "fired" the ordered number of rounds at the ordered ranges! Every year it is the same thing, more or less, and will continue so, so long as an example is not made or the system altered. As I have already said in a former annual report "I am of opinion that the officers and men of the corps should not be entitled to receive a cent (or only part of their due) on account of annual drill until the target practice be gone through, and proper returns of the same made to the Deputy Adjutant General commanding the District."

RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS.

There are four Rifle Associations in the District under my command, viz: The 65th Battalion Rifle Association, Lieut.-Col. A. Ouimet, President; the 83rd Battalion Rifle Association, Lieut.-Col. J. Sheppard, President; the 86th Battalion Rifle Association, Lieut.-Col. K. Houde, President; and the Rifle Association for the 5th Brigade Division, Lieut.-Col. D'Orsonnens, President.

MOVEMENTS IN EXTENDED ORDER

When I inspected the corps or companies who had performed the annual drill at their company headquarters, I expected to see some movements in

extended order attempted. In answer to my queries some of the officers told me that they had not had time to practise them; the greater part said that they had expected French copies of the "Field Exercises," and of the "Regulations and Orders for the Militia, Canada, 1879," but that they never came.

I cannot conclude this report without thanking Lieut.-Col. d'Odet D'Orsennens, Brigade Major of the district, for the very efficient and always willing aid he has constantly afforded me. during the twelve years I have had the honor of being in command of Military District No 6.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. C. DELOTBINIERE HARWOOD, Lieut.-Col.,

Deputy Adjutant-General, Military District No. 6.

The Adjutant-General of Militia,
Headquarters, Ottawa.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 7.

HEAD-QUARTERS,

QUEBEC, 15th November, 1880.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward, for the information of the General Officer commanding the Militia, this, my annual report, for the annual training of 1880-81. The quota allowed to drill was 2,200, of all ranks; and the selection was made in accordance to the General Orders, 5th May, 1880. The City corps were first selected, and then those of the rural corps, which had not drilled the year previous.

The several corps performed drill as follows, namely:—

1879-80.

8th Royal Rifles, 6 companies.

1880-81.

	Officers.	N. C. O. and men.
Quebec Squadron of Cavalry, 2 troops.....	10	65
Do Field Battery. Artillery, 1 battery.....	6	69
No. 1, Quebec Garrison Battery, Artillery, 1 battery.....	2	42
Do 2, do do do 1 do	3	42
Do 3, do do do 1 do	3	39
Do 1, Levis do do 1 do	2	39
Do 2, do do do 1 do	1	40
Gaspé Battery, Garrison do 1 do	2	35
9th Battalion, Voltigeurs, 6 companies.....	20	252
17th do Levis Infantry, 8 do	27	294
23rd do Beauce do 4 do	12	146
70th do Champlain do 6 do	21	221
Dorchester Prov. Batt. 4 do	11	149
Rimouski do 4 do	11	152
Charlevoix do 5 do	10	148
Total.....	141	1,733

Cavalry.

The Queen's Own Canadian Hussars, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Joseph Bell Forsyth, performed drill in April and May, previous to Queen's Birthday, and were inspected by me on the 8th May, 1880. A great improvement was particularly noticed in the drill. The squadron was full, the men of good physique and well set up. The horses were very good, but, owing to the short period of training, they were rather unsteady. The squadron manœuvred very creditably, and the saddlery, accoutrements and clothing, were very clean and well put on. The officers and men of the squadron, with commendable spirit, have given voluntary drills during the winter months. The two troops furnished escorts on several occasions, at the arrival and departure of His Excellency the Governor General and Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise. The squadron was also called out in aid of the civil power, in May last, but their services were dispensed with, not having been found necessary.

Field Battery.

The Quebec Field Battery went into the Citadel Barracks, Quebec, for annual training; and was inspected, on completion, by Lieut.-Colonel Strange, Inspector of Artillery. The muster of this corps was made by me on the 27th of May last, and 6 officers and 69 non-commissioned officers and men were found present on parade.

RIFLES.

8th Royal Rifles.

The 8th Royal Rifles performed the annual drill of 1879-80 during the winter months, and were inspected by me on the 6th of May, 1880. The battalion was full and appeared very well; they marched past in column, quarter column and at the double. The weather was very stormy and wet, but in spite of its inclemency the marching past and manœuvres were remarkably well done. The band (brass and reed) is very good and effective.

This corps was called out in May last by civil power, and on their services being dispensed with the men returned to their homes.

9th Voltigeurs.

This battalion was mustered by me on the 15th of May last, and 20 officers and 252 non-commissioned officers and men were found present on parade. The inspection of this corps was subsequently held on the 24th of May, by Lieut.-General Sir E. Selby Smyth, K.C.M.G.

On the 12th of May this corps was called out in aid of the civil power, and relieved from that duty on the 15th of the same month; one company being retained and dismissed the day following.

This battalion possesses an efficient band (brass and reed).

Two companies forming part of this battalion were exempted from annual training at the request of the officer commanding.

INFANTRY.

Rural Corps.

I inspected the 17th Battalion in presence of Major-General Luard, commanding the Militia, on the 28th of August, 1880, and the muster was made by myself on the same day, and 27 officers and 294 non-commissioned officers and men were found present on parade. The Major-General, after the inspection, addressed Lieut. Col. Blanchet, and stated that for the short period of drill they had gone through they

had drilled very fairly; but at the same time he reminded the officers of certain details regarding their dress and appearance of their men, which, had they been attended to, would have greatly added to the efficiency of the battalion.

The other corps were inspected by myself at the dates stated in the Appendix attached; and their degree of efficiency will be found marked therein. The drill was performed in camps of six days at their respective headquarters.

I must again repeat what I have already stated on previous occasions respecting the very short period of drill, and the want of infantry military schools to qualify provisionally appointed officers. Although one cannot let pass the efforts and sacrifices made by the officers of the whole force to render their several corps as efficient as possible; it is to be regretted that the system and funds at the disposal of the Government will not permit the attaining of efficiency. I would, therefore, recommend the formation of permanent schools of instruction or other means to enable officers and non-commissioned officers to obtain the necessary qualifications.

In several instances I have utilized the services of the Drill Instructors attached to "A" Battery, and I found that their services have been appreciated and that great benefit has been obtained by employing them.

AID TO CIVIL POWER.

On the 12th of May last, a requisition, signed by three magistrates of this city, composing the Police Board, was made upon me, for the services of the following corps, viz: "B" Battery, Royal School of Gunnery, Cavalry, Garrison Batteries, 8th and 9th Battalions, to quell an anticipated riot between the members of the "Ship Laborers' Benevolent Society" and the "Union Canadienne." As soon as the requisition was received, the order was immediately given to the different corps, which turned out with great alacrity, and were ordered to muster at the Citadel and to be under the orders of Lieut.-Col. Strange, the Commandant of the School of Gunnery. The same evening it was found that the services of the Cavalry were not needed, and orders were sent accordingly. On the 14th, the Police Board decided to arrest the ringleaders, and "B" Battery and one company of the 8th and 9th Battalions respectively were detailed to be in readiness to help the civil power in case of resistance. The arrest of eleven ringleaders was effected without having recourse to the military. On the 15th the whole force was dismissed, at the request of the magistrates, with the exception of two companies, one from the 8th and one from the 9th Battalion, which were ordered to remain in the Citadel for the protection of the fortress in the event of "B" Battery having to leave it. These two companies were afterwards dispensed with, on the Quebec Field Battery going to the Citadel for annual training. I must here bear testimony to the zeal and goodwill which animated the officers and men, called out at great personal inconvenience and considerable pecuniary loss.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

Her Majesty's birthday was celebrated by a divisional review on the Plains of Abraham, under the command of Lieut.-General Sir E. Selby Smyth, K.C.M.G., commanding the Militia, in presence of His Excellency the Governor General and their Royal Highnesses the Princess Louise and Prince Leopold.

The division was composed of the 1st Prince of Wales Rifles, the 3rd Victoria Rifles, the 5th and 6th Fusiliers, and 65th Rifles, from Montreal; "B" Battery and Quebec City Brigade, and the 62nd Battalion, New Brunswick.

A royal salute and *feu-de-joie* were fired, and then the troops marched past, after which the force assembled was told off in two divisions for a sham fight. The manoeuvres were well executed and the details of the attack and defence properly carried out. The troops then resumed their former positions and were addressed by His Excellency the Governor General, who expressed his great satisfaction at the field day.

RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS.

There are nine rifle associations in this district, all working well, which rank as follows as to efficiency. They have held annual meetings at their respective headquarters:—

The Stadacona Rifle Association—Lieut.-Col. Turnbull, President.			
County of Megantic Rifle Association—Lieut.-Col. King, President.			
8th Royal Rifles	"	"	Alleyn, "
Temiscouata	"	"	Hudon, "
County of Quebec	"	"	Laurin, "
Rimouski	"	"	Dr. Fiset, "
County Champlain	"	"	Massicotte, "
Queen's Own Canadian Hussars Rifle Association—Lieut.-Col. Forsyth, Pt.			
17th Battalion Rifle Association—Lieut.-Col. Blanchet, President.			

The armouries, both in the city and in the rural parts, are in good condition, and accoutrements complete. The arms have been found generally in good order, with the exception of those of No. 6 Company, 17th Battalion, which were dirty. Several of the arms have been received into the military stores for repairs.

The Quebec Armory was inspected by Major-General Luard, who expressed himself well satisfied with the arrangements, and at the very creditable manner in which they were kept.

The arms of 38 companies have been thoroughly repaired by the Armorer of the District.

RANGES, BEAUPORT FLATS.

This range, the only available one in Quebec, requires constant repairs, in consequence of the great wear and tear by the ice in winter, and storms and high-tides in the fall and spring of the year. New wharves have been built, but a further expenditure will have to be incurred, to make them strong and durable.

DISTRICT STAFF.

Lieut.-Col. Lamontagne, Brigade Major, has diligently discharged his duties, and on all occasions has afforded me a ready and cordial support.

Lieut.-Col. Forrest, District Paymaster, has accompanied me during my inspections, and his arrangements for the payment of the several corps have been found very satisfactory.

The stores have been transferred to him, from Major Lampson, and he now acts as Storekeeper of the District.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

T. J. DUCHESNAY, Lieut.-Colonel,

Deputy-Adjutant General,

Military District No. 7.

The Adjutant-General of Militia,
Head Quarters, Ottawa, Ontario.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 8.

PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

HEAD QUARTERS,

FREDERICTON, 12th November, 1880.

SIR,—In compliance with the instructions contained in General Orders (9), of the 5th May, 1880, I have the honor to submit this, my report on the state of the Militia of the District under my command, for the military year, 1880-81.

The strength of the force as organized is 3,112 officers, non-commissioned officers and men.

The strength authorized to perform the drill for 1880-81, as per General Orders, 5th May, 1880, is 1,500 officers, non-commissioned officers and men. 1,459 officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the following corps have completed the annual drill for 1880-81.

	No. organized.		No. performed drill.	
	Officers	N. C. O. and men	Officers	N. C. O. and men.
8th Regiment of Cavalry, Lieut.-Colonel Domville, (7 Troops).....	28	335	15	126
Newcastle Field Battery, Brevet-Major Call, (1 Battery).....	7	74	6	74
Woodstock Field Battery, Capt. Dibblee, (1 Battery).....	7	74	4	77
N. B. Brigade Garrison Artillery, Lt.-Colonel Foster, (7 Batteries).....	28	385	19	190
New Brunswick Engineers, Lieutenant Hartt, (1 Company).....	3	55	1	31
Brighton Engineers, Bt.-Major Vince, (1 Company).....	3	55	3	42
62nd Battalion, Lieut.-Colonel Blaine, (6 Companies).....	25	330	18	252
67th Battalion, Lieut.-Colonel Upton, (9 Companies).....	35	495	23	210
71st Battalion, Lieut.-Colonel Marsh, (5 Companies).....	22	275	9	84
73rd Battalion, Major McCulley, (5 Companies).....	22	275	8	84
74th Battalion, Lieut.-Colonel Beer, (6 Companies).....	25	330	12	84
Independent Company, Captain Lloyd, (1 Company).....	3	55	Relieved from drill.	
Independent Company, Capt. Stewart, (1 Company).....	3	55	2	42
Independent Company, Brevet-Major McGee, (1 Company).....	3	55	1	42
Totals.....	214	2,898	121	1,338
		214		121
		3,112		1,459

ANNUAL DRILL.

Active Militia.

In submitting this, probably my last annual Report on the state of the militia in Military District No. 8, previous to my transfer to Military District No. 4, it affords

me great pleasure to state that I consider the militia of this district generally in a satisfactory state of efficiency, considering the circumstances so well known to the authorities and the public, viz: that for several years past, owing to the universal financial depression, it has been found necessary to authorize the drill and payment of but half of the quota of the active militia force of the Dominion, and during the interval of time that elapses without drill, the remaining half of that quota might reasonably be expected to deteriorate in efficiency. It is creditable, therefore, alike to officers and men, that even a fair degree of efficiency has been maintained in the interval.

It is also a pleasing duty to record the steps of progress of the past year, viz: (1.) That, in accordance with my own recommendations and that of many other officers, the system of assembling troops in brigade camps of exercise, though but for a short period of training, has been resorted to. (2.) That pay according to rank has been granted to officers, non-commissioned officers and men at such camps. (3rd.) Infantry schools of instruction have been re-established in different parts of the Dominion, on the basis of the schools recently under the district staff, in addition to the schools of gunnery at Kingston and Quebec, which schools are, in point of fact, now available for the instruction of both arms of the service—the cavalry and artillery.

I now propose (1st) to advert to the manner of carrying out the annual drill in this district under general orders (9), dated Ottawa, 5th May, 1880; (2nd) to refer to the performance of routine duties, and (3rd) to direct attention to some further recommendations for the improvement of the force.

BRIGADE CAMP.

Camp Lorne.

The general orders above referred to having limited the distance, for which travelling expenses of corps proceeding to camp would be authorized, to 75 miles, and taking into consideration the extensive area of this district, I arranged for two camps, one at Woodstock for the western corps, and one at Sussex for the eastern. The following were the corps at Camp Lorne, Woodstock, under myself as Brigadier and Lieut.-Col. MacShane, as Brigade-Major, viz:—

Woodstock Field Battery of Artillery, Captain H. Dibblee.

Brighton Engineer Company, Brevet-Major Vince.

67th Battalion Carleton Light-Infantry, Lieut.-Col. C. Upton.

71st Battalion "York," Lieut.-Col. J. Marsh.

St. Stephen Infantry Company, Lieut. McMullen.

It was, I regret to state, not found desirable to assemble the whole of the corps in the east of the district in brigade camp. The following corps, however, assembled in camp at Sussex, on the 6th July, and were inspected on 13th July.

8th Regiment of Cavalry, Lieut.-Col. Domville.

74th Battalion, Lieut.-Col. Beer.

On the 18th June I proceeded to Woodstock. The corps above named there assembled on the 2nd July, and Brevet-Major Vince spared no efforts with his corps of engineers, in pitching tents and preparing the grounds, as he afterwards left nothing undone to render practical service in other respects.

By an early hour—arrangements for the men's supper having been previously made—all the men had comfortably settled down in camp.

The usual system was observed of having corps grounded as carefully as possible in squad and company drill before having them exercised in battalion and brigade drill and field manoeuvres, and the attack in extended order.

There is, it will be observed, much to be learned during the short period of the training, and it is only by strict attention to their military duties by every member of the force, that efficiency can be attained. Nor was that attention wanting at this camp.

On Sunday, the 4th July, the brigade assembled for Divine service on the camp grounds. The Rector of Woodstock (the Rev. Thos. Neales) kindly conducted the service. On the 5th July, brigade drill was carried out, and on the following days the brigade was exercised in field manoeuvres; rapid progress having been made in drill and practice by all ranks. Having found suitable ground I carried out field manoeuvres on an extended scale.

The three arms of the service entered with spirit into the preparations for this field day, which was carried out successfully on the 9th of July, and a valuable lesson taught. In fact, from the beginning to the end of the short period of training in a camp such as this, where all are eager to attain efficiency, and where corps are ever vying with each other in securing the desired result, it becomes the frequent duty of officers in command to point out defects, and as frequent a pleasure to express approval on defects being rectified.

Target practice was carried out at this camp with good results.

I take this opportunity to thank Lieutenant McMullen—himself a trained Instructor from the school of musketry, Hythe—for his ready assistance in completing the target practice returns, who performed his duties with credit to himself and advantage to the corps.

As regards discipline in this camp, and on the line of march to and from camp, I need only state that it was all that could be desired.

Lieut.-Col. J. Raymond, I may add, has, in his praiseworthy efforts, received the cordial support of all officers in command.

I cannot close this report respecting "Camp Lorne," to whose success the 71st Battalion contributed so materially, without expressing regret that this corps has lately lost the services of two very efficient officers, both competent to impart knowledge to others, viz: Bt. Lieut.-Colonel Morris, and Captain Copley, who have retired from the service, retaining rank. I hope that the services of both these officers may yet be utilized.

The Lieut.-Colonel of this corps found no difficulty in finding qualified successors for these officers. The 71st Battalion abounds in efficient officers.

Camp Sussex.

8th Regiment of Cavalry, Lieut.-Col. Domville.

74th Battalion, Lieut.-Col. Beer.

I inspected these corps on the 13th July, on the same picturesque grounds (Keltie's Farm) on which they had encamped together last year, under their respective commanders, and the same good spirit and desire to avail themselves of every hour at their disposal for drill and discipline that characterized the annual training last year, largely prevailed this year. In no other way could the fair degree of proficiency displayed on the day of inspection be accounted for.

I have already reported to the Adjutant-General that, since the last annual training, the 8th Regiment of Cavalry has lost its commanding officer and true friend, in the death of Lieut.-Col. E. Saunders, and the militia force of Canada has lost an officer and a gentleman who was ever ready with his pen or his voice to further its interests. The command of this regiment has devolved upon Lieut.-Col. Domville, who I doubt not will take up the work of improvement in efficiency where the late Lieut.-Col. Saunders left it off. And with the knowledge of the material at his disposal as to officers, men, and horses, who can doubt but that success will attend his efforts, which, it is hoped, may produce the desired result.

My first duty, on the 13th July, was to make a minute inspection of the arms, accoutrements, clothing and saddlery of both corps.

The clothing in possession of the 8th Regiment of Cavalry, had recently been issued, appeared of excellent quality, and the men of this fine regiment being of good physique, presented a soldier-like appearance. The horses are of a good stamp, and increased attention had evidently been paid to the cleaning of both horses and saddlery. The saddlery (except fifty sets) is old pattern, and the bridles and halters,

though repaired about seven years ago, have become unserviceable, as reported on by the Board of Officers, and a fresh issue has been applied for.

The arms and accoutrements of the 74th Battalion are in good condition. The clothing, however, of No. 2 Company had become unserviceable, through fair wear, and a fresh issue had been applied for, but, owing to the supply in stores at Ottawa being exhausted, no issue had been made. Through no fault, therefore, of officers or men, this battalion appeared to disadvantage, so far as clothing was concerned; but as regards general efficiency, Lieut.-Col. Beer, who is ably assisted by his officers, left nothing to be desired. Both corps having previously been drilled under their respective officers, were brigaded, Lieut.-Col. Beer acting as Brigadier, and a variety of drill and field manoeuvres was performed with excellent results, when the short period of training is considered.

N.B. Brigade Garrison Artillery, Lieut.-Col. S. K. Foster.

The three St. John batteries of this brigade, viz., Nos. 1, 2 and 10, were inspected at Fort Dufferin by the Assistant Inspector of Artillery and myself, on the 5th August.

The batteries had lately been exercised in repository drill in addition to the ordinary gun drill, preparatory to practice, and were tested in both of these by Lieut.-Col. Lewes, and both officers and non-commissioned officers were questioned by that officer, who will, no doubt, report fully on these points.

I must state my opinion, however (perhaps it may be considered from the infantry officer's point of view), that these batteries have not recently been sufficiently exercised in infantry drill (simple company and battalion movements) as the foundation of all artillery training. This may be accounted for by the batteries having other important duties to perform in the limited period of the training. But in the past the St. John Garrison Artillery devoted much time to voluntary drill, and its steady marching was then as much the subject of praise as was its accurate shooting.

The Assistant Inspector of Artillery and myself inspected No. 6 Battery of this brigade (Captain Polleys), at St. Andrews, on the 10th of August. There could here be no divided opinion as to the drill and practice of this fine battery, and, as regards steadiness in the ranks and in marching, standing gun drill, and shot and shell practice, all alike met with the approval of the Inspector of Artillery, and both officers and gunners showed much zeal and efficiency. I may add that the arms, accoutrements and clothing in charge of this battery are in excellent condition.

I here beg to direct attention to the following remarks of the Board of Survey: "Strongly recommended that R. M. L. guns be mounted in this fort (Fort Tipperary) for the protection of the important harbour of St. Andrews."

No. 7 Battery (Bt. Lieut.-Col. Gillespie), Chatham, was inspected by the Assistant Inspector of Artillery and the Brigade Major, in my absence on leave, on the 3rd September, and both these officers will, I doubt not, report favorably regarding this battery.

Newcastle Field Battery of Artillery.—Bt. Major Call.—Camp Newcastle.

This battery was inspected by the Assistant Inspector of Artillery and Brigade Major, in my absence on leave, on the 3rd September, and I have learned with pleasure that the same success that has in no small degree marked previous camps under his command here, attended Major Call's efforts to secure efficiency.

N.B. Engineer Company, Lieutenant J. Hartt.

This company was inspected by the Assistant Inspector of Artillery and myself on the 5th November.

The company paraded somewhat under its full authorized strength. But, as regards steady infantry drill, cleanliness of arms, accoutrements and clothing, and the general appearance of the company, and it might be added besides the good shooting

of its members, no inspecting officer could find fault, nor did the Assistant Inspector of Artillery fail to refer to these important points in terms of praise—in fact saying that in these respects the company compared favorably with any corps he had seen in the Maritime Provinces this year. Lieut.-Colonel Price Lewes, at the same time, pointed out the desirableness, if not necessity for this (an *Engineer Company*), performing its drill in camp with the view to its carrying out there its prescribed duties as Engineers, and there making good use of the intrenching implements in its charge, in the improvement of the forts for the protection of St. John harbour.

REVIEW ON HER MAJESTY'S BIRTHDAY.

Inspection of 62nd St. John Battalion.

Important as brigade camps of exercise unquestionably are as affording scope, after regimental drill, for the development of tactics, and an opportunity for corps to vie with each other, not only in drill and discipline, but in that which has tended to popularize the force and to keep the men together, viz., the attainment of good shooting and steady marksmanship, I consider the assembly of troops at some central point annually for the review on Her Majesty's Birthday, not less important, for not only does the preparation for this review entail much *voluntary drill*, a thing to be desired, but friendly rivalry, friendly intercourse, the fostering of a national spirit, become annually more and more widespread amongst corps of the Dominion, and undoubtedly improvement in the *morale* of the force is amongst the good results.

Having had the honor to act on the Lieutenant-General's personal staff at the subsequent field manoeuvres on the 24th May last, on the Plains of Abraham, I felt proud of my connection with the fine force there assembled (while, no doubt, all concurred with the General as to the necessity for more instruction in "the attack in extended order"). I also feel proud that the corps of my district were well represented by the 62nd "St. John" Battalion; and having personally witnessed the good conduct of the men of the 62nd Battalion, during the somewhat trying circumstances of a long railway journey to and from Quebec, without the same comfortable meals being provided that the men were accustomed to at their homes or in the camp, I am enabled to bear cheerful testimony thereto. I may here express the hope that the assembly of troops, both of the Imperial and Dominion services, in the Maritime Provinces on the approaching "Queen's Birthday," 1881, may be favorably considered. I am of opinion that the historical grounds in the neighborhood of Fort Cumberland, between Sackville and Amherst, in Westmoreland County, on the line of the Intercolonial Railway, afford ample scope for field manoeuvres on a large scale, and the central position of these grounds would render it easy for corps of the Maritime Provinces, and even of Quebec, there to assemble.

73rd Battalion, Headquarters Chatham, Major McCully.

No. 2 Company, Captain Fenton, Chatham,

" " Captain McKnight, Black Brook.

Accompanied by the Brigade Major I inspected the two companies of this corps during the performance of their annual drill at their respective local headquarters, on the 30th July last.

Both officers and men displayed much intelligence—the former in imparting knowledge, and the latter in the performance of their drill. All acknowledge, however, that the performing of annual drill at local headquarters—not in camp—is far from satisfactory.

The arms, accoutrements and clothing of this corps are in good condition—and like all the clothing and equipment of corps at out-stations in this district, show, as I have stated in previous reports, that the strenuous efforts of our zealous and efficient Brigade Major for their care and safe keeping, are producing abundant results. It is now a pleasure to inspect the armouries at out-stations, in almost every instance.

St. George Infantry Company, Brevet Major McGee, inspected by the Brigade Major, 17th July, 1880.

St. John, 10th July, 1880.

MY DEAR COLONEL,—Major McGee's inspection, barring absence of our two subalterns, was very satisfactory: non-commissioned officers and men complete, arms and clothing in admirable order. I hope McGee may be long spared to us. He is a gentleman, and is always a guarantee that everything is all right. His men march well and dress well. The most casual observer can see that the public get more than the value of their money from them. The subalterns were forced to seek employment away, but are coming back.

Yours truly,

J. R. MacSHANE, Brigade Major.

Numerical Strength of Corps and Offers of Service.

When the existing militia had come into force it was considered a wise and prudent measure to provide for compulsory service, should any particular locality fail to supply the required quota of volunteers for the active militia force.

Happily, it has not been found necessary, nor does there appear any probability of such a necessity arising. Offers to form new corps have lately been submitted from York, Carleton and Westmoreland Counties, and the public generally take increased interest in the progress of the militia in all the military districts and in the material improvement of the country generally.

Is it not, therefore, but reasonable to expect that the active militia force of Canada, constituted as it now is, should receive continued public support, as time goes on; increased general efficiency will be the result. Nor will such support be withheld. I am convinced, when it is considered, as His Excellency the Governor-General has lately pointed out, in words that should receive the serious consideration of every citizen of the Dominion, that this is "the only available force for the protection of life and property in case of disturbance."

SCHOOL OF MILITARY INSTRUCTION.

The school of military instruction for infantry officers of the Maritime Provinces, who had been appointed "provisionally" to companies, authorised in General Orders (27) of the 14th November 1879, opened at St. John on the 7th January last, and was maintained during a period of two months with the following staff:

Lt.-Colonel G. J. Maunsell, D. A. G., Commandant.

Lt.-Colonel J. R. MacShane, Adjutant.

Captain J. Mackenzie, Militia Department, Drill Instructor.

No officers from Nova Scotia or Prince Edward Island attended this school.

Officers of the active militia of this district constituted the class under instruction, all of whom obtained second class certificates, as gazetted. These officers displayed much intelligence in acquiring the practical knowledge of drill, and from lectures by the Adjutant of the interior economy of a battalion, &c., and their individual proficiency was tested from time to time by myself and reported on to the Adjutant-General at headquarters.

I take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to Lt.-Colonel MacShane, for the able manner in which he performed the duties of Adjutant, and to Captain Mackenzie, for his zeal and ability in the discharge of the onerous duties of Instructor. With such officers as these on the staff of the school, my duties as Commandant were as light as they were pleasant. The course of instruction was carried on from day to day in a practical and systematic manner; and I have no hesitation in stating my conviction, that officers of the usual representative type of officers of the force—men who have acted in subordinate positions in civil life before becoming employers of labour, and have thus learned to obey, and are not unaccustomed to command—attending such a course of instruction as that carried out

in the St. John School last winter, and giving their entire attention to military studies, prove, as a rule, more useful as instructors on their return to their respective corps than men having opportunities afforded them to acquire knowledge in a larger school, but possessed of less local influence. In short, I consider that, in granting authority for infantry schools of instruction, such as this, the pressing want of this important arm of the service has been supplied. Officers of the three arms of the service now have means afforded them of obtaining knowledge of their military duties, and it is only necessary to develop this system, from time to time, by improving the courses of instruction, forming Brigade Schools, if necessary, and by permitting non-commissioned officers, as well as officers, *bond fide* members of the force to attend these schools, for it is well known that without well trained non-commissioned officers the duty of imparting knowledge by officers alone during the united period of the annual training must necessarily be uphill work.

TARGET PRACTICE.

Target practice has been carried out in my district this year.

In my Report for 1879 I submitted the following statement which I consider of so great importance I may be permitted to repeat it here:—

No one can be bold enough to contradict the assertion that the marksmanship of our active militia has vastly improved since the early days of our provincial and Dominion rifle associations, but the attainment of a *high degree of skill amongst comparatively few marksmen* is, as a rule, the apparent result of carrying out the annual matches, and though this is worthy of encouragement, I hope to see carried out, on the other hand, the Lieutenant-General's recommendation contained in the report for 1878, which entirely agrees with my own opinion often expressed, viz.: that "the issue of badges and prizes for regimental and company efficiency would do much towards securing the acquisition of knowledge in rifle shooting."

In the absence of Government aid for this service, I consider that the different rifle associations might, with advantage, offer prizes in this direction, to supplement prizes which our citizens, with praiseworthy liberality, give for this good object.

H. E. the Governor-General has taken such deep interest in the Dominion Rifle Association, and such active measures (already referred to) to obtain subscriptions towards the prizes given, the continued success of that association, and general improvement in rifle shooting cannot fail to be among the results.

The time therefore seems to have arrived for carrying out the suggestion above quoted as to the issue of badges and prizes for regimental and company efficiency in rifle shooting, and I consider the existing target practice regulations of the department admirably adapted for this purpose.

By doing so, we should, I conceive, recognise the two important features in all rifle training, viz., (1) the utility of turning out in every corps the *greatest possible number of good shots*, (2) the training of each soldier in acquiring *skill in the use of his individual weapon*.

RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS.

I quote the following from the Report of the Council of the New Brunswick Rifle Association for 1880, of which Major J. H. Parks is the zealous President, and Major O. R. Arnold, the efficient Secretary.

"The annual competition took place at Sussex on the 24th of August and following days.

"The sum of \$1,114.00 was appropriated to the prize list, in addition to the several cups and medals which are the property of the Association, and a number of prizes given by individuals.

"We have again to regret that the attendance of competitors was not as large as it should have been, as, notwithstanding the inducements offered, it showed no increase over that of the previous year.

"The Council would ask the earnest consideration of the members of the association, to the best means of increasing interest in rifle shooting, and as to what improvements could be made in the system that would bring a large number of marksmen to the annual matches.

"The system of nursery prizes or prizes from which first-class shots are excluded, would, perhaps, if more fully developed, produce good results. The monthly competitions of the St. John County Rifle Association have had a beneficial effect on the shooting of that county, and if adopted by the other County Associations, would work a decided increase in the number of competitors at Sussex, and also an improvement in their shooting. It might also be worthy of consideration how far some of the matches might be exclusively appropriated to the non-commissioned officers and men of the Militia force."

I am glad to observe that the opinion of the Council, as to "exclusive" appropriations for prizes "to the non-commissioned officers and men of the militia force," coincided with my own, already expressed, under the head of "Target Practice."

In my opinion, in no better manner could such appropriations be applied than in offering prizes by the rifle associations for regimental and company shooting during the performance of the annual drill, under rules framed by the associations.

The following County Rifle Associations held their annual matches this year as usual:—

York—President, Brevet-Major Staples.

Carleton—President, Lt.-Colonel Raymond.

St. John— " Capt. Hall.

Kings— " Lt.-Colonel Domville.

Northumberland—President, Lt.-Colonel Ferguson.

Charlotte—President, Major McGee.

FORTS AND ARMAMENTS.

A copy of the proceedings of the Board of Survey that assembled in this district in August last, is submitted herewith, and special attention is drawn to the following remarks of the Board.

Fort Dufferin, St. John.

"Referring to the recent land-slide already reported on by the Deputy Adjutant-General and Captain Perley, commanding New Brunswick Engineers, no further slide has taken place, nor does there appear any likelihood of any further slide at present."

"Whether it be decided on or not by the Government to thoroughly repair this fort as affected by the slide, the Board is of opinion that it is most desirable to arm Carleton Heights with R. M. L. guns of heavy calibre."

Red Head Battery and Fort.

The Board states as regards this fort:—

"This fort, though having six (6) embrasures, has but four (4) 32-pounder S. B. guns mounted. Owing to the fact, however, that the nearest point of the channel is about three thousand yards distant from the fort, in the opinion of the Board, these S. B. guns are not adapted for the position, and should be replaced by R. M. L. guns of heavy calibre."

Fort Tipperary, St. Andrews.

Strongly recommended that R. M. L. guns be mounted in this fort for the protection of the important harbour of St. Andrews.

Chatham Battery.

The Board invites attention to their remarks communicated in last year's proceedings with reference to this battery, as they consider it most desirable that a small earthwork should be thrown up on the site selected by Lieutenant-Colonel Strange and the Deputy Adjutant-General, armed with R. M. L. converted guns.

ARTILLERY STUDIES.

Considering it of great importance that a Staff Officer should have more knowledge of gun construction and laboratory work, &c., than it is possible to acquire from reading books on these subjects, or from ordinary practical experience, I applied for permission to go through a course of instruction at the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich, and authority having been granted, I attended classes of instruction during September and October in the Royal Laboratory, the Gun Factory, the Carriage Department and the Experimental Branch, and nothing could exceed the desire evinced to facilitate my instruction, nor the kindness and courtesy extended to me in the departments of study above referred to.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Previous to summing up, from recommendations submitted in previous annual Reports as well as from suggestions embodied in this Report I may state the following as my recommendation, viz:—To foster and encourage more and more, from year to year, military ardour and military efficiency in every class of the population, and in every part of the country, in the development of the active militia force of Canada under the existing law,—than which I consider no better law can be framed to meet the requirements of this country—and thus the true "fighting line" will not fail us in the hour of need. And if the whole quota of active militia for the Dominion *cannot* be drilled and paid annually, to reduce the strength by not less than *one-third*, and drill and pay the remaining quota for a longer period than has heretofore been authorized, on a *settled principle*, in a systematic manner.

(2.) To encourage extra or voluntary drills, and grant distinguishing badges to men performing the same.

(3.) To authorise the opening of infantry military schools annually during the winter months, on the basis of the infantry schools under district staff for officers and non-commissioned officers of the active militia.

(4.) To form an unattached list for such qualified officers late of active and reserve militia, as, owing to non-residence within the limits of the locality from whence the men of their corps are drawn or other causes, have been precluded from remaining on the strength of their respective corps.

(5.) That the officers of the present reserve militia be employed in taking the census under the laws relating thereto as recommended in my report for 1879.

(6.) That staff and other officers of the force be encouraged to obtain information, and transmit it to headquarters from time to time, for use in the intelligence department, with respect to the military resources of their districts under Regulations and orders 1879.

(7.) That increased importance be attached to the target practice of troops, batteries and companies, by giving prizes for marksmanship in the annual course of target practice.

CHANGES OF STAFF.

General Orders (20) of 15th October last contain the following changes affecting this district:—Lieut.-Col. G. J. Maunsell to be Deputy Adjutant-General, Military District No. 4, Headquarters at Ottawa. Lieut.-Col. B. Van Straubenzee to be Deputy Adjutant-General, Military District No. 8, Headquarters at St. John, to take

effect 1st April, 1881. Lieut.-Col. J. R. MacShane to be Brigade Major 1st, 2nd and 3rd Brigade Divisions, Nova Scotia, Headquarters at Halifax, N. S., to take effect 1st January, 1881. I cannot quit the command of this District without here expressing my best thanks to Lieut.-Col. MacShane, B. M., for his able assistance in everything having for its object the good of the service, and to Lieut.-Col. Baird, D. S. and D. P., who during many years efficient staff employ and several previous years of active command of a battalion of militia—"The 1st Carleton"—served by my side in this Province. My thanks are also offered to all officers in command for their hearty co-operation in all that concerned their respective corps, and to all members of the force, officers, non-commissioned officers and men for their cheerful obedience of orders at all times and under varied circumstances. If my career in command of this district for the past fifteen years has been in any degree successful it is owing, almost exclusively, to the above-mentioned particulars, viz.: assistance received from the staff, co-operation on the part of officers in command, and the cheerful obedience of all members of the force. I must state, besides, that thanks are largely due to the people generally for their moral and material support in our efforts towards success. And, in conclusion, I should indeed be ungrateful were I to omit to offer my cordial thanks to the members of the press of this Province, the press being an institution of which the people may feel proud, whose social and other influence has increased and is increasing with the national progress of the country, for directing public attention and public efforts, thus ensuring public support to the "only available force for the protection of life and property in case of disturbance." I only ask for my successor, in the discharge of his important duties, the same public support and the same hearty co-operation that I have experienced in the performance of my duties. And, need I add, that I will, in my new sphere of duty, regard with the keenest interest the steps of progress of the force whose efficiency it has been my earnest endeavor to secure.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

GEO. J. MAUNSELL, Lieut.-Colonel,
Deputy Adjutant-General,
Military District No. 8.

Colonel POWELL,
Adjutant-General.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 9.

HEADQUARTERS,
HALIFAX, 24th November, 1880.

SIR,—In forwarding my annual report I have the honor, in accordance with instructions, to recapitulate:

The quota required to be furnished from the District was originally fixed at 4,284, the actual enrolled strength of corps accepted and gazetted is 4,568; under the regulations for annual training for 1880-81 the number of men to be called out was limited to 2,200, and the strength of companies called was not to exceed 42 non-commissioned officers and men, including bands and staff.

The corps for drill were selected under General Orders (9) of 5th May, 1880, and District Orders were issued in accordance therewith. Reference to the tabular returns will show that of the corps selected as above, and of the full authorized strength, absence without leave, sickness or change of residence, reduced the numbers present at inspection from 2,200 to 2,180; and as the six companies of the 78th Battalion, which were not on the list for drill, had applied for and been granted leave to drill without pay, and had satisfactorily completed their drill, I obtained authority to issue pay to them and thus bring up the number to the quota fixed.

Tabular inspection reports, also reports of inspection of each corps, marked A, are appended, also general remarks marked B.

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

J. WIMBURN LAURIE, Colonel,
Deputy Adjutant-General,
Military District No. 9.

The Adjutant-General of Militia,
Ottawa.

A.

1st Brigade.

As usual, on Her Majesty's birthday the city brigade of militia turned out (with the exception of the 66th Princess Louise Fusiliers, who had not received an expected issue of clothing), and took part with the regular troops; and again, on the 19th of October, the whole brigade was formed in division with the regulars, on both of which occasions General Sir P. L. MacDougall, K.C.M.G., under whose command I placed myself and the brigade of militia, expressed his approbation of the appearance, steadiness, and drill of the militia, and which he repeated in published general orders, copy of which I attach.

(Copy.)

HEADQUARTERS,
HALIFAX, N.S., 20th October, 1880.

GENERAL ORDERS.

No. 3. The General commanding desires to convey to the whole of the troops who took part in the review yesterday, his entire satisfaction at the manner in which the various manœuvres were carried out.

The General begs that Colonel Laurie will express to the different corps of volunteer militia who were present, his thanks for their co-operation, and the pleasure it gave him to witness the precise and steady manner in which their part of the programme, both of the attack and defence, was carried out.

By order,

(Signed) A. S. CAMERON,
Lieut.-Colonel, A.A.G.

I can only repeat an oft-expressed regret that the selection of corps for drill is made so late in the season, that I am unable to press on the preliminary drill during the winter months, when the men can better spare the time, and thus bring the several corps forward, so that battalion and brigade field days could be held more often during the summer months, in more suitable weather; but with the very limited opportunities afforded, officers and men are handy and prompt in brigade movements. I appointed the brigade parade of 19th October as my annual inspection.

Desiring to show due respect to Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise, the several corps of the brigade offered their services, and on entering Halifax harbour on the 2nd February, H. R. H. was saluted by 21 guns fired from the militia battery at Point Pleasant by the 2nd Halifax Brigade Garrison Artillery.

On landing at Halifax, Her Royal Highness was received by a guard of honor of the 63rd Rifles, and on alighting at Government House by another guard of honor of H. R. H.'s own Regiment, the 66th Princess Louise Fusiliers; the following day, on her departure, the 1st Halifax Brigade Garrison Artillery furnished a guard of honor at the railway station, and the Field Battery fired a Royal salute in the station yard

as the train moved out—a voluntary service on the part of 500 men which Her Royal Highness was pleased to acknowledge very cordially.

Halifax Field Battery.

This battery has now been organized over a century, and well maintains its reputation as a handy, reliable corps. I was not present at the annual practice this season, having inspection duties elsewhere, but former years experience has proved the excellence of their practice, with their light Armstrong guns. I should be sorry that these guns should be at any time withdrawn from the battery, the guns having been sent direct from England as a special issue to this battery; but they are unsuitable for manœuvring in the field, and the equipment is that of a mountain rather than a field battery, hence the battery is not in a position to perform the rapid evolutions that are expected, when the guns are horsed in the ordinary manner; the battery as at present equipped is well suited for the duties required of it, which are really those of a battery of position. The question of supplying horses except at a very heavy cost to the men of the battery still remains a matter for serious consideration.

1st and 2nd Halifax Brigades Garrison Artillery.

Most of the training season has very properly been devoted to great gun drill, and this with the annual practice—the rifle practice, and the simple infantry drill necessary for men to stand and move in battalion, absorb so much time that commanders of batteries find it hard to fill their ranks, when the inducements offered to the infantry militiaman are equally great and the training time so much less. Thanks, however, to the painstaking and zeal of the several Commanders, Lieut.-Colonels and Captains, a very creditable degree of efficiency has been attained, and whilst I understand that the Assistant Inspector of Artillery is well satisfied with the gun drill and practice, these corps bear themselves well when parading as infantry.

63rd Rifles.

This battalion, now in the 21st year of its existence, is more than ever animated with *esprit de corps*. Lieut.-Colonel Mackintosh and his officers and men, almost without exception, do not hesitate at any sacrifice which will conduce to the efficiency of this capital corps.

66th Princess Louise Fusiliers.

No effort on Lieut.-Colonel Bremner's part is wanting to bring this battalion up to a high standard, and his exertions are well seconded by many of his officers; closer scrutiny than heretofore is exercised in regard to men joining this corps, and the effect of this is very observable, and if followed up the regiment will take very high place in the Dominion service.

Pictou Battery, Garrison Artillery.

I much regret that a serious attack of illness prevented my attending the inspection of this battery, but Lieut.-Col. Lewes speaks favorably of their appearance and drill—and my experience of this corps and its commander during past years fully bears out his encomiums.

Captain Gordon turned out his battery as a guard of honor in attendance on His Excellency the Governor General when he visited Pictou during the past summer.

This battery also turned out in full strength at two hours' notice, in aid of the civil power, during the strike at the Drummond Mines last February, and performed their duty in a most soldierlike way; the supremacy of the law was thus asserted, the strike was terminated, and work was resumed.

The cordial thanks of the President, on behalf of the company, were officially conveyed to Captain Gordon and his men.

78th Highlanders.

As already reported, this corps, although but one company was placed on the list for drill, having first applied for leave to drill without pay, turned out in full strength and completed more than the regulated amount of annual training; but as the numbers in the corps detailed for drill fell short I recommended that the overplus of pay available be issued to the men of this corps, and on receiving authority from headquarters I carried out this arrangement.

Nos. 1 and 3 Companies were inspected at Truro under Lieut.-Col. Blair, on the 4th November, and worked very creditably both in company and extended order.

No. 4 Company, under Captain Barnhill, was inspected at Shubenacadie on the 5th November, and drilled satisfactorily both in company and extended order.

No. 5 Company fully upheld its well-earned character, at the inspection held at Windsor on the 15th November, as one of the best drilled and disciplined companies in the Province; it speaks volumes for Captain Burgess' tact and capacity as an officer that in a district where the population is constantly moving he has made his company such a thorough institution, and attracted the very best men in the community—and consequently retains them—so that this year he had but one recruit in the ranks; his drill is very thorough and precise. This company turned out as a guard of honor to His Excellency the Governor General on his late visit to this Province.

Nos. 6, 7 and 8 Companies paraded, under Lieut.-Col. Blair's command, at West River, on the 5th November. Solid, reliable men, and well officered; handled quietly and steadily, and in manœuvring over rough country show great aptitude for utilising cover and making the most of ground in attack and defence.

Cumberland Provisional Battalion.

No. 1 Company was trained by the adjutant in the absence, on leave, of its captain, and is composed of young men quick and active and the best of material for soldiers, and both in close and extended order showed a decided improvement on former years; it was inspected at Amherst on the 28th October.

No. 5 Company was placed on the list for drill and reported that preliminary drill would be completed by the middle of October, but when the inspection was ordered the captain reported that, in consequence of clothing not having been supplied, he had not trained the company, consequently it was passed over this season.

*2ND BRIGADE.**King's Troop of Cavalry*

Paraded with four companies of the 68th Battalion, the whole under the command of Lieut.-Col. Chipman, 68th Battalion, at Billtown, on the 20th September.

The cavalry pushed forward, and with dismounted skirmishers occupied a ravine in advance of the position until the infantry were able to occupy it, and when driven out and retiring across the open by alternate companies in extended order, the cavalry in half troops on each flank delivered a series of very creditable charges to check the pursuers, and finally, after a steady and well delivered charge by the infantry, the cavalry followed up with the pursuing practice; the whole evolutions were creditable and steadily performed, and the 68th showed marked progress.

69th Battalion.

Nos. 3 and 4 Companies of the 69th were inspected at Bridgetown on the 23rd September, under Lieut.-Col. Starratt, and drilled in close and extended order very steadily, showing a decided improvement on the last year. Owing to an accident on the railroad I was delayed till nearly dark, and hence the inspection was very

brief. Accompanied by Lieut.-Col. Starratt, I, on the 24th September, proceeded to Bear River to inspect Nos. 8 and 9 Companies; these were well turned out and manœuvred very fairly.

72nd Battalion.

Nos. 2 and 3 Companies paraded under Lieut.-Col. Parker at Middleton, on the 23rd September. From year to year I notice decided improvement in this battalion, officers and men taking increased pride in their appearance and the smartness of their drill. Lieut.-Col. Parker and his Adjutant are both zealous, and, if they continue as at present, will make this a smart and efficient battalion.

75th Battalion.

Nos. 5 and 6 Companies of this battalion were inspected by Lieut.-Col. Milsom, who reports as follows: "In compliance with your instructions, I inspected two companies of the 75th Battalion; No. 5 Company at Martin's River on the 7th of October, and No. 6 Company at New Ross on the 30th September, 1880: Both these companies are composed of a fine body of young men, well armed, and equipped, and only require the services of a competent instructor to make them an efficient corps." Lieut.-Col. Kaulbach has been newly appointed to this battalion. As an Adjutant in our former organization he was very energetic; and as I trust he will display the same qualities now, with the splendid material of which this battalion is composed, he cannot fail to work up a regiment fit for any service.

Lunenburg Battery, Garrison Artillery.

Lieut.-Col. Lewes inspected this battery on the 14th October, and reports physique excellent, appearance smart and soldier-like, and company drill very fair; they know no artillery drill, having no appliances, but he has recommended an issue to be made.

Liverpool Battery, Garrison Artillery.

Lieut.-Col. Lewes visited Liverpool to inspect the battery which was selected and duly notified to drill. He reports the Lieutenant commanding had taken no steps towards completing his strength, or calling it out for drill; and, as it appears there is little prospect of establishing an efficient corps here, I would support his recommendation that the corps be disbanded.

Yarmouth Battery, Garrison Artillery.

Accompanied by Lieut.-Col. Lewes, I visited Yarmouth, and inspected this corps on the 27th October; the turn-out was wretchedly small, but the men who did appear were the right sort for artillery; their infantry drill, such as was attempted, was fairly done, and considering the service of the battery, the practice was also fair. Captain Jolly is a smart and painstaking officer; I have great hopes that he will complete his establishment and make this a very efficient battery. On the late visit of His Excellency the Governor-General, this battery, which is supplied with the new pattern helmet, furnished a guard of honor both at His Excellency's arrival and departure.

Digby Battery, Garrison Artillery.

Was inspected by Lieut.-Col. Lewes on the 26th June, who states there was a very marked improvement over the appearance and drill at former inspections. This battery fired a salute for His Excellency the Governor General on his arrival at Digby during the past summer, and mounted a guard and furnished sentries over the hotel during his residence.

3RD BRIGADE.

Victoria Provisional Battalion, "Argyle Highlanders."

Nos. 3 and 4 Companies of this battalion paraded under Lieut.-Col. Bingham, on the 12th October, at Baddeck; a quiet, steady body of men, very willing and obedient, and much gratified at the bestowal of the title "Argyle Highlanders," as most of them or their ancestors came from the Duke of Argyle's estates. They moved very fairly in close and extended order, and with more continuous drill will make a splendid fighting regiment.

J. WIMBURN LAURIE, Colonel,
Deputy Adjutant-General,
Military District No. 9.

B.

TRAINING.

Infantry.

The present arrangement for relieving a large portion of the force annually from training, has a decidedly injurious effect, an element of uncertainty is introduced into the requirements of the service, and the obligations assumed by the militiaman are undefined; but the force, even in its present state, is of such value to the country, that I should regret to see it reduced a single man. Trained or untrained, as the rank and file composing it may be, the organization exists, a support to the civil power, and a nucleus on which a large force could speedily be gathered in the event of hostilities; the officers have mostly been trained in military schools, and in every company, a certain number of old drilled men are to be found, who would soon impart steadiness to the recruits.

Officers.

It would, however, be a decided advantage if officers were required to pass an examination at each step of promotion they obtain; this would tend to make them keep up their drill; most of them do read and keep efficient, but there are cases where a man has passed his examination at some military school, perhaps fifteen years ago, and is thereby entitled to his promotion now, up to the rank of captain, although he may not have devoted any attention to drill since that time.

Non-Commissioned Officers.

In the country companies in particular, the non-commissioned officers are a very weak point in the organization; they receive no preliminary drill, pass no examination, and when the company turns out for drill, they stand behind it, unable to give the captain any assistance, and yet not even learning their drill as privates in the ranks.

Recruits.

Again, if the men of a company had really been drilled and taught their work—ten or twelve drills would keep them in tolerable practice, provided their officers and sergeants know their work; but where one-third to one-half the company is composed of recruits, the drilled men are kept back plodding through the rudiments of drill, so necessary to recruits.

Preliminary Training.

If, however, the officers and non-commissioned officers could have a period of training preliminary to the regular annual drill, the force would become increasingly

effective, and the drilled men would be encouraged to further progress. It is, in my opinion, very desirable that the officers should, where practicable, receive their training in their own neighborhood, and should not be brought away from home to any central school for any considerable period; the men most suited for officers cannot spare the time to go away from their business, and those who do attend, generally show little inclination to settle down at home after a lengthened absence at such school; hence I fear that the proposed establishment of permanent bodies of infantry as schools of instruction would not have the desired effect of producing the most suitable and efficient men as officers and non-commissioned officers of militia.

ARMAMENTS OF GARRISON BATTERIES.

In regard to the Garrison Batteries of Artillery scattered along the coast, they have, as a rule, been organized at places where it is strategically desired that a battery should exist; and in most cases they have a certain number of smooth-bore 32-pr guns in position for the defence of these harbors; the coast is, however, generally bold, and hostile vessels could generally place themselves where they could destroy the battery, without being in range, i.e., within possible line of fire of the guns. These guns, carriages, and platforms, exposed to the weather all the year round, quickly deteriorate and cost heavily for repairs and maintenance. I would, therefore, repeat a suggestion I have made more than once; that, in lieu of 32-pr. guns on established and fixed positions, it would be most desirable that each of these corps should be supplied with a moveable gun, say, a 40-pr. Armstrong, on a travelling carriage, which might be moved anywhere by a pair of oxen, and could be brought to bear on a vessel or on a hostile landing party, and could be withdrawn from position to position, and so saved from capture by superior force, whilst the fifty men of the battery, armed with rifles, could either work it or form an efficient escort; when not in use, it could be kept under cover, and thus protected from weather or malicious injury, and would be far less expensive in the long run. If the guns at present supplied for the protection of these various harbors are to be placed where they would really be of service for defence, they must be moved, in every case, a considerable distance from where they are now placed; they will then be so far from oversight that they will require a paid caretaker to protect them from injury, and they will be at a very inconvenient distance from the residence of the men of the corps, so that on an emergency the guns would be captured before the men could reach the battery; my proposition would obviate this expense and this risk. Very great advantage was obtained this season by the employment of Captain and Adjutant Bland, of the 1st Halifax Garrison Artillery, to assist at the instruction of the detached Batteries of Garrison Artillery on the coast. All ranks were stimulated by this excellent officer's zeal, and benefitted by his thorough knowledge of his work, and I strongly recommend that the arrangement be continued next summer, as there was no expense to the public beyond the actual travelling expenses. During the past winter, ably assisted by Lieut.-Col. Milsom as Adjutant, and Lieut.-Col. Lewes in Artillery subjects, I established a school of military instruction at Halifax. This was carried on under precisely the same regulations as the military school organized in former years, with the exception, however, that neither staff, instructors, nor cadets attending received any remuneration. The Adjutants of the two artillery brigades took charge of the artillery instruction; the Sergeants Major of the two infantry battalions acting as infantry instructors; fifty cadets in all attended the school; several already holding second-class certificates and being desirous of obtaining first-class; a number of privates desirous of obtaining non-commissioned rank likewise attended; and although I was not permitted to issue military school certificates to those who passed examination, they have since received Board certificates. My thanks are due to the whole of the staff, who, without any remuneration, carried on the school for nearly three months.

RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS.

The Rifle Associations are still doing good work, encouraging recruiting and keeping up good *esprit-de-corps* by team matches. Eleven Rifle Associations exist in this District, and all hold their annual meetings, thus stimulating the men to efficiency in the most important part of their duty, the proper use of their weapons. I had the satisfaction of taking thirty-seven competitors from the Active force of this District to take part in the annual matches of the Dominion Rifle Association at Ottawa, in September, and they did themselves credit by their discipline and soldierly conduct and appearance, as well as marksmanship.

J. WIMBURN LAURIE, Colonel,
Deputy Adjutant-General,
Military District No. 9.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 10.

HEADQUARTERS,
FORT OSBORNE, WINNIPEG,
15th November, 1880.

SIR,—The inspections of corps which have completed their course of annual training in this District, having been concluded, I have the honor to report, for the information of the Major-General commanding, on the state of the Militia in the District under my command, and to transmit herewith forms of inspection reports, &c., for the current year.

On the 6th January last, the territorial limits of this District were vastly enlarged by the incorporation of the North-West Territories, and the district of Keewatin, with the then previously existing area (which consisted solely of the Province of Manitoba), thus extending District No. 10 northerly to the confines of Canada, and easterly and westerly from the boundary between Ontario and Keewatin, to the dividing line in the Rocky Mountains, between British Columbia and the North-West Territories.

The Corps at present existing in the District are as follows:—

Cavalry and Mounted Rifles.

- 1 Troop Hussars, "Winnipeg."
- 2 Companies Mounted Rifles, "Prince Albert," North-West Territories.
- 1 Company " " "Duck Lake," " "

Artillery.

- 1 Field Battery, 4 guns, 9-pr. M.L.R., "Winnipeg."

Infantry.

- "Kildonan" Infantry Company (Manitoba.)
- "Emerson" " " "
- "Winnipeg" " " "
- "St. Jean Baptiste" " " "
- "Battleford" " " (North-West Territories.)
- "Prince Albert" " " "
- "St. Boniface" " " (Manitoba)

making a total force of thirty-nine officers and five hundred and fifty six men, of whom twelve officers and one hundred and sixty-eight men are mounted, the remainder field battery and infantry corps.

The short summer season in this more northerly portion of Canada, makes it very desirable that the period between seed time and hay-harvesting should be that utilized for drill; but as the latter portion of June cannot in consequence of regulations relative to drill, consequent on the financial year, be taken advantage of, July is the month most advisable for the purpose. This year, however, excessive rains greatly interfered with drill, and when corps postponed to perform the annual training until after harvest time; the unprecedented continuance of the rainy season, and early closing in of the autumn, still interfered; consequently, in a number of cases, it has been found advisable to obtain permission for corps to postpone the annual drill until next spring—the small number of corps which have gone through the training in this District is thus accounted for.

The quota, 400, allowed for this District enabled me, deducting a fair proportion of strength for corps not drilling up to establishment, to select for drill all but three corps of the District; of those selected the following have put in their full course of annual training, and been inspected.

"Kildonan" Infantry Company.

This corps trained continuously at its headquarters, and was inspected by me on the 17th of July. The term of the original enlistment of the men of this company had expired in the previous year, and although the service roll was again full, a large number of the men were recruits; the drill, therefore, was indifferent, though the general appearance of the corps was good. The captain of this company now resides at a considerable distance from the company limits, and will have to retire in consequence.

"Winnipeg" Infantry Company.

This corps was inspected on the 24th August, and the several movements detailed in the inspection report were very fairly performed, showing that, in addition to the prescribed annual training, a large amount of voluntary drill must have been undertaken.

The "St. Jean Baptiste" Company.

This company, raised last year, performed their first annual training at company headquarters, and were inspected on the 11th instant. In consequence of a severe attack of temporary indisposition, I was unable to leave my quarters for the date fixed for inspection; Capt. Street, acting orderly officer, therefore proceeded to St. Jean Baptiste, and inspected for me. He reports very favorably of the company, movements very fairly performed, arms and equipment in good order, officers and men all taking pride in their corps.

This is exclusively a French-speaking company.
The above corps have alone completed their annual drill.

Winnipeg Troop of Cavalry.

This corps was one of those selected to drill; the officer commanding, however, on the grounds of the compensation for forage not sufficing to cover cost, and other reasons, has requested exemption from annual training for the current financial year.

Winnipeg Field Battery.

This corps, in consequence of want of uniforms, has not yet performed the annual training; the officer commanding having received special authority to postpone the training until next spring. Very little voluntary drill has been performed by this battery, and a considerable amount of reorganization is requisite before it is again brought into efficient condition.

Emerson Infantry Company.

The term of enlistment of this corps expired last year; I am happy to say, however, that the officer commanding, Captain Nash, reports to me that he now has the service rolls again filled, and that when he is able to obtain uniforms, that he will be in a position to commence a series of voluntary drill. This corps is situated in a most important frontier position, and it is very desirable that it should continue to be well and efficiently maintained.

"St. Boniface" Infantry Company.

This company, which was organized during the year, has not as yet received uniform; it has every promise of becoming an efficient corps.

Corps in North-West Territories.

These corps, in consequence of the season, have also received permission to postpone their annual drill until the ensuing spring. They have been somewhat discouraged in consequence of non-receipt of uniforms, but I ascertain from reports that they are maintaining their organization, and in some cases performing voluntary drill. The officer commanding the "Battleford" company, which the paucity of the population there rendered difficult of formation, reports very encouragingly of his increasing strength and the desire of the company to become proficient.

I trust that it will be found practicable in the early spring to forward uniforms for these important corps.

Applications for permission to raise corps from twelve different localities have been received and duly forwarded by me to headquarters; and with any prospect of the applications being successful, a number of others could readily be obtained; thus showing that the willingness to bear arms exists in these more recently settled portions of the Dominion, as generally as in the older Provinces.

I request again to be allowed to draw attention to the several reports I have from time to time made as to the advisability of making some exceptional provision, as in some other places of the Dominion, for a drill shed for Winnipeg—the want is severely felt, and precludes the thorough efficiency which could be desired.

The want of a magazine at Fort Osborne, and the danger of leaving explosives stored as at present, I have constantly reported on. I now again beg to advert to the subject, as the extension of the city, and the erection of residences near the place where the powder is stored, renders the question of even more immediate importance than previously.

The success of the annual meeting of the Provincial Rifle Association was somewhat marred by bad weather.

A noticeable feature, however, was the presence of a squad of officers and men of the U. S. troops, quartered at Fort Pembina, Dakota, who took part in several of the matches.

In July last, General Sherman, Commanding in Chief U. S. army, paid this station a visit; the cordial co-operation of the officers of the force enabled me to provide him with the proper honors of salute, escorts, guards, &c.

The regulation relative to pay-lists, G. O. (9) of 5th May last, was duly complied with, and no discrepancies were found to exist.

The arms, armouries, and equipment of corps in the District, with the exception of those in the North-West Territories, have been duly inspected, and found in good and fair order. It is, however, very much to be desired that an armourer should be sent here, thoroughly to overhaul and repair all arms (where required), both of the reserve stores and those in charge of officers of companies.

As I have already specially reported on the stores of the Winnipeg Field Battery, as well as on the reserve stores at Fort Osborne, and the buildings there, I need not, I presume, further advert to them in this report.

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

W. OSBORNE SMITH, Lieut.-Colonel,
Deputy Adjutant-General,
Military District No. 10.

To the Adjutant-General,
&c., &c., &c.,
Ottawa.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 11.

HEADQUARTERS, VICTORIA, B.C.,
December 2nd, 1880.

SIR,—In obedience to instructions contained in General Orders of the 5th May last, I have the honor to submit, for the information of the Major-General commanding, accompanying Inspection Report of the Active Militia in the Military District under my command, for the year 1880–81.

The present authorized strength of the Militia in this District, is; officers 17, non-commissioned officers and men, 275; total, 292.

VICTORIA.

Victoria Rifles.

Having been unable to obtain permission to perform their drill in camp with the Garrison Artillery, nevertheless, formed an independent voluntary encampment on Beacon Hill on the 28th July last, the two companies mustering altogether, 3 officers and 43 non-commissioned officers and men under the command of Captain Fletcher of No. 2 Company.

Being without any assistance from the Government other than the loan of a few blankets and tents, which I took the responsibility of ordering to be issued to them—reporting the same to headquarters immediately—they laboured under such disadvantages, that although in camp at the same time, and in close proximity to the Victoria Battery Garrison Artillery, it was deemed advisable that the corps should occupy separate encampments entirely distinct and independent of one another, in consequence of the different circumstances under which each was situated.

This I much regretted, considering it a great drawback to both corps, as a joint encampment would, no doubt, have been more instructive, and attended with greater benefit to each.

I am happy to say, however, that perfect harmony existed between the two camps, and that by mutual desire they combined their forces on a few occasions for battalion drill and skirmishing practice.

I inspected the two companies of Rifles on the 3rd August, the day previous to the breaking up of their encampment, and found their arms, accoutrements and clothing in good order. I also inspected their camp, which was regular and well pitched, and provided with a proper guard and sentries.

They performed several company movements in a very creditable manner, and their skirmishing was fairly executed. The manual and firing exercise was also satisfactory, and proved that even this short encampment had been attended with beneficial results.