

peculiar facilities from the considerable amount of ordnance buildings and properties at present vacant, and which it would be for the interest of the Department to have occupied at least during the winter months. This plan could be carried out for little, if anything, over the amount given for certificates. The cadets could also, in my opinion, be obliged to enrol in the volunteer corps of the localities to which they belong, for a period of three years, so that Government, beside their actual service while attending the Military School, would have the benefit of the service of trained cadets in the military force instead of, as at present, seeing most of the cadets retiring to civil life immediately after they get their certificates and bounty.

I would consider it greatly to the public advantage that Government should give the use of some military buildings, and a certain pecuniary encouragement to further the establishment of a military library, to be mainly supported by subscriptions from the officers of the force, it being one of the first desiderata that officers should have facilities of learning their profession, which they have at present no facilities of doing, beyond the mere elementary knowledge to be derived from attendance at Military School.

With regard to the strength of the different corps as mustered at the last annual drill, I have the honor to report that it seems to me very difficult to maintain the corps at their full strength by volunteer enrolment alone, in this part of the country. There seems to be a feeling with the men that, when they have done one term of service, others should take their place. Several commanding officers have represented to me that it would be advisable to have the assistance of the ballot to fill up their quota, and if brought on gradually and with some discretion, as opportunity occurs, I do not believe it would be distasteful to the country.

The clothing, with the exception of a few corps, being new, of this year's issue, was of course in a first rate condition. The equipment and arms were in fair order, with the exception of the Eboulements Company.

I have the honor to forward herewith, a tabular statement of the quantity and last issue of clothing, and equipment of the different corps in the District.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

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

D.A.G., Commanding,

Military District No. 7.

The Adjutant General of Militia,
Ottawa.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 8.

The militia in this District are under the command of Lieut.-Colonel George Maunsell, Deputy Adjutant General, who reports for my information as follows, upon the state of his command:—

HEAD QUARTERS, FREDERICTON, N. B.,
14th November, 1872.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that the quota of Active Militia required to be furnished from the Military District under my command is 3,264, of all ranks.

The total nominal strength of the force in the District, were the respective corps complete to their established strength as authorized, would be 3,275.

The total actual strength of the force, when mustered at the time of the annual drill for 1872-73, was 2,180. There are 1,095 officers and men wanting to complete.

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

	Officers.	N.-C. O. and Men.
<i>8th Regiment of Cavalry:</i>		
Lieut.-Colonel Saunders—7 troops.....	23	271
<i>Newcastle Field Battery:</i>		
Captain Call.....	3	41
<i>New Brunswick Brigade Garrison Artillery:</i>		
Lieut.-Colonel Foster—6 batteries.....	23	352
<i>New Brunswick Engineers:</i>		
Captain Parks—1 company.....	1	61
<i>62nd "St. John" Battalion of Infantry:</i>		
Lieut.-Colonel McShane—6 companies.....	22	293
<i>67th Battalion, "Carleton Light Infantry":</i>		
Lieut.-Colonel Upton—10 companies.....	28	450
<i>71st York Battalion of Infantry:</i>		
Lieut.-Colonel Marsh—5 companies.....	21	218
<i>73rd Northumberland Battalion of Infantry:</i>		
Lieut.-Colonel Ferguson—4 companies.....	16	102
<i>74th Battalion of Infantry:</i>		
Lieut.-Colonel Beer—4 companies.....	17	165
<i>Bathurst Infantry Company:</i>		
Captain Burns.....	1	15
<i>Dalhousie Infantry Company:</i>		
Captain Barbarie.....	3	53
Total.....	158	2,022

N. B.—Brigade Garrison Artillery, new battery—Captain Beckwith: recommended.
Provisional Battalion—Major McAdam—4 companies: recommended. 71st Battalion—two new companies—Captains Ross and Clayton: recommended.

The annual drill was performed in accordance with the General Orders of 31st May, 1872, in the following manner; and in order to give a full detailed account here, I propose adverting to the force of each Brigade Division, instead of by seniority of corps in the District.

In considering the fact that many corps in this District have performed the annual drill below the established strength, it should be borne in mind that the term of engage-

ment of the majority of the men composing the force had expired about the time selected for assembling in camp, and the recruitment had not then been completed.

However, since that time the enrolment has proceeded so rapidly and satisfactorily that I hope to be in a position at an early date to report the quota for this District completed, and that, too, on members of the force obtaining their discharge, by recruiting from a class of men who would be a credit to any army.

The intention, therefore, of assembling a brigade at Shediac this year was abandoned, such corps as would have joined that camp being allowed, at the request of their Lieut.-Colonels, to perform their annual drill in battalion camps, and there was but one brigade camp of exercise, viz., Woodstock, in the 1st brigade Division, of which Lieut.-Colonel Inches was Brigade Major, composed as follows:

Brigade Staff.—Brigadier Lieut.-Colonel Maunsell; Lieut.-Colonel Inches; Brigade Major Captain T. McKenlie, Supply Officer; Captain Vince, 67th Battalion, Musketry Instructor; Quarter-Master T. Hegg, 71st Battalion, Camp Quarter-Master; Major McAdam, Orderly Officer.

Cavalry.—Detachment of 8th Regiment of Cavalry—Lieutenant Fowler.

Field Artillery.—1 six-pounder field battery—Lieutenant Donnell.

Infantry.—67th Battalion, "Carlton Light Infantry"—Lieut.-Colonel Upton; 71st Battalion, "York"—Lieut.-Colonel Marsh.

Numerically small as this brigade necessarily was, all the routine of the soldier's duty was carried on in accordance with the full and clear instructions conveyed in the General Orders, and with the best results.

The site selected for the camp was all that could be desired—about a mile from Woodstock, on a table-land called the "Pleasure Grounds," beautifully situated in a commanding position, high above the level of the St. John River, which passes through the midst of that fine agricultural county (Carleton), and within an easy march of an excellent rifle range, on the banks of the Meduscuakeag River. Woodstock being the head-quarters of the 71st Battalion, that corps was first on the ground, and did for others that which had been done for it at previous camps, viz.: pitched tents, and made preparations for the arrival of distant corps.

The "Pleasure-Ground" Association guaranteed a plentiful supply of pure water for the troops; and this agreement was faithfully carried out, and it will be remembered that the season was unusually dry and the heat oppressive.

One could not help observing, not only at this camp, but subsequently at battalion camps, how speedily and systematically "our people" settled down to "camp life" and to "camp fare." Work is done alike cheerfully and zealously, not as *mere work*, but as duty combined with pleasure. This may in a great measure be attributed (1) to the improved scale of rations, the increased allowance of tea, and the issue of cheese and barley—there were no complaints as to quantity and quality of rations at any camp in my District—and (2) to better cooking than heretofore.

It soon becomes known from experience—better known, too, than can be learned from any code of "regulations"—that the regularity of the men's messing is of primary importance, and calls for unremitting attention of officers commanding corps as well as company officers.

In each company the man best fitted for the post is appointed cook, the men's meals are thereby properly provided, and the full benefit of the means afforded for varying the diet is secured.

I cannot do better than quote from the report of the medical officer of the first day in camp—Surgeon Gregory, 71st Battalion:—"The cooks seemed to be well up in their duties, and great satisfaction was expressed by the men both as to quantity and quality of rations." He adds:—"It gives me great pleasure to testify to the general feeling of contentment among the men, owing in a great measure to the improvement in the rations and to the good cookery. The latter is more worthy of remark, as, it being the first day of camp, the cooks could scarcely be expected to be as efficient as they will become after a little practice."

A canteen, for the supply of such extra provisions or articles as might be required, was established; but no spirituous liquors were allowed in camp, in accordance with instructions.

There being many recruits in the ranks, it was deemed advisable to devote a few days to company and battalion drill before commencing brigade drill and field manœuvres; but as soon as possible (on the 7th July), in compliance with orders, the brigade was marched from camp in column of route, with a view to defend Woodstock from attack from an imaginary enemy advancing from Houlton by the Medocnuakeag River route. On reaching the open, hilly, undulating country, the advanced guard became a line of skirmishers, and it was reinforced and the reserve deployed, all taking advantage of the nature of the ground to obtain cover. The detachment of cavalry sent forward to reconnoitre brought intelligence of the whereabouts of the enemy, and fire was soon opened by our skirmishers, hitherto concealed, and a rapid advance was made by the reserve to gain the crest of a neighbouring hill commanding the position of the enemy. This effected, such an accurate fire was opened by the brigade that the enemy was compelled to retreat, but not without an attempt to turn our flank. However, a corresponding change of front on our part secured our holding the strong position, and completed the route of the enemy.

It was subsequently ascertained that we had confronted but a portion of the enemy's force, while the rest was advancing upon the north side of Woodstock, hitherto unprotected. The cavalry, therefore, was at once sent in that direction for intelligence, and the brigade followed as quickly as possible.

A somewhat similar advance was made against the enemy's position on the north side as that adverted to on the west, and, suffice it to state, the attack upon Woodstock was successfully defeated.

Subsequently, on the 11th July, during my absence at Apohaqui, at the inspection of the 8th Regiment of Cavalry, the Acting Brigadier, Lieut.-Colonel Inches, exercised the troops at brigade drill and field manœuvres in the country already described.

On another occasion—on the 14th July—having sent out two companies on outpost duty on the heights commanding the camp, and these having reported indications of an enemy advancing from the frontier, in the direction of McKenzie's Corners, the brigade was quickly under arms; skirmishers, with their supports thrown out, and directed to act in concert with the outposts. The reserve followed, all advancing rapidly but steadily to gain the heights; and this effected, a still further advance was made, in order, by sudden rushes over every open space, to check the progress of the enemy at as early a stage of their advance as possible.

The ground here was rough and broken, but soon became interspersed with green-wood trees, and subsequently it was thickly wooded, and some difficulty was at first experienced in keeping the necessary communication by connecting links between "skirmishers," "supports," and "reserve"—in fact, the difficulty, not easily overcome with older soldiers, of keeping one's men well in hand in a wood. However, on the skirmishers opening fire, all speedily regained their places, and the advance was steady and the fire of the skirmishers effective, the enemy retiring disputing every inch of ground.

So effective was the work of "our people," that an attempted change of flank on the part of the enemy proved an abortive effort, and the troops returned to camp.

Several other interesting and instructive "field days" were executed, in all which the force was taught valuable lessons in taking every advantage which the features of the ground afforded in applying the knowledge of drill to "field manœuvres," and in *firing coolly and with correct aim*.

I may add the officers commanding corps were desirous that the suggestion contained in my last Report should be carried out at this camp, viz.: forming two divisions, one side to act on the offensive, the other on the defensive—troops moving off from camp for a march of two or three days—corps to bivouac. However, there were so many recruits in the ranks it was not advisable to adopt this plan at this camp; but I consider it may be carried out with advantage at future camps.

On Saturday afternoon, bathing parade was held—the march to and from the river being in itself a useful drill—and the bath was fully appreciated by all ranks.

On Sundays, the troops assembled on the grounds in front of the camp for Divine service. On the 8th July, the Rev. T. Neals officiated; and on the 14th, no clergyman being available, the Deputy Adjutant General read the service, assisted by Major Raymond, 67th Battalion.

While in my Brigade Orders, at the breaking up of this camp (hereto appended), I took occasion to express my satisfaction with the manner in which all duties had been performed, I consider this Report would by no means be complete were I to omit mentioning the special services of the detachment of cavalry, under command of Lieut. Fowler.

Despite the great distance of the camp from that at Apohaqui, at which the 8th Regiment of Cavalry was then performing its annual drill, Lieut.-Colonel Saunders, ever ready to carry out that which has for its object the good of the service, cheerfully sent this detachment to Woodstock with the view to the three arms being represented; and while this fine regiment won high encomiums for the ease with which last year it performed lengthened marches and its general efficiency, referred to by the Adjutant General and other experienced officers at both sides of the Atlantic, I am proud to state that the detachment were no unworthy representatives of the corps.

The practical way in which every member of the detachment discharged the important duties required of them, shows that Canadians can speedily pick up a knowledge of military duty that requires months of careful training in other countries.

The better to carry out the Adjutant General's instruction, the camp, being in a frontier country, and considered as if in the vicinity of an enemy, I directed the officer commanding the detachment to patrol on the roads leading to the frontier, in the direction of Houlton, and to gain information, and report on the following subjects:—

(1.) As to villages—how situated—their population; (2.) Roads—their general width—from where to where, and the distances; (3.) Rivers their general direction, width, depth, &c.; (4.) Farm houses—if well supplied with forage and provisions; and he was required to convey in his report some general ideas respecting the country.

As no general rule can be laid down as to the mode of conducting these patrols, this was left to the discretion and intelligence of the officer in command.

Lieut. Fowler was required to accompany his report with a sketch of the country.

The task assigned this officer, as may be observed from the sketch hereto appended, was by no means an easy one, the country being a complete network of roads; but from the moment the orders were issued, until the work was completed, both officers and men zealously determined to do their duty, evidently inspired with that same spirit which actuated their brethren of the Imperial army in the performance of still more practical work—"each trooper becoming something other than a component part of a machine. I may add that Lieut. Fowler had no previous knowledge of making a sketch.

GOOD CONDUCT.

It is most desirable at camps such as this, that a hearty emulation should spring up amongst corps; that they should vie, one with the other, in soldierly bearing, in smartness on parade, in cleanliness of the camp and its environs, and—more important still—in the discipline and good conduct pervading the various corps.

To quote from the Field Officer of the day, Major Raymond—5th July—(word that might with justness be extended to the remaining period in camp), that officer being himself a strict disciplinarian as he is a zealous and efficient officer: "Quietness and good order prevailed during the day; and it is a pleasing duty to report that there was a marked improvement in regard to the quietness of the camp at night (as compared with previous camps at night), it being nearly all that could be desired.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

The sanitary condition of the troops was excellent. Surgeon Gregory reports "that there was not more than one quarter as much sickness in this camp as there was at 'Camp Ross' last year." This he "attributed chiefly to the improved diet."

The returns of medical officers in this District, showing medicines given in each case, with a list of such medicines as have been expended, have been transmitted to the principal medical officer at Montreal. Some suggestions are submitted for supplementing the whole of the medicine in the box. Amongst others—I again quote from Surgeon Gregory, who has given some consideration to this point.—

"There should be added to the medicines supplied, the following:—Tartar emetic; tincture of squills; tincture of digitalis or kius; tincture of valecian, spirits of nitrous ether; concentrated solution of acetate of ammonia; quinine; opium or compound camphor liniment; a good supply of mustard; tincture of assafoetida; and a suitable supply of bottles for dispensing."

He adds:—"With these additions, the medicine chest would be nearly equal to that usually carried by country practitioners; and if supplemented by a proper brigade medicine chest, would be sufficient for all emergencies likely to arise during the short period of the camp."

Surgeon Gregory is strongly of opinion, "that in every brigade there should be a general hospital, properly equipped in every respect, so that medical officers should have an opportunity of doing duty in turn, and thereby learn this most necessary and important part of their duty."

I cannot conclude this Report without noticing a gratifying feature connected with this camp, viz: the interest manifested in the welfare of the force by the people of the country in which the camp was held (Carleton). From the princely entertainment of the officers of the brigade by the M. P. of the county, the Hon. C. Connel, to the cordial greeting of the humble citizens, all seemed desirous to do their best to make the stay of the troops in Camp Woodstock as pleasant as possible.

It only remains to offer my highest acknowledgement to the Staff, who contributed so largely to the success of this camp.

The following Brigade Order was issued at the breaking up of the camp:—

"CAMP WOODSTOCK."

Brigade Orders issued by Lieut.-Colonel Maunsell, D. A. G., Brigadier.

Upon the return to their homes of the troops, the D. A. G. commanding returns them his thanks for their uniform good conduct during the period of training.

The system of assembling corps in Brigade Camps of Exercise inaugurated last year has again been successfully carried out in this District.

The "Woodstock Camp," established in the flourishing county of Carleton, cannot fail to produce the best results.

It is extremely gratifying to know that the Adjutant General reported most favorably with respect to the camp at Fredericton last year; and it is only to be regretted that, owing to his presence being required in British Columbia and Manitoba, Colonel Robertson-Ross is unable again to inspect us this year, as it is observed by all that this camp is even more successful than that at Fredericton. Duties have been performed alike cheerfully and zealously, and a remarkable desire for increased efficiency has been evinced in every corps. Carleton and York have been well represented in this camp. Victoria has also sent its *quota*. Carleton county, besides its field battery, has furnished the strongest battalion, numerically, in the Dominion of Canada, of which corps New Brunswick may justly feel proud; while the 71st battalion, "York," is most efficient in every respect.

The improved scale of rations has given general satisfaction, and the sanitary condition of the troops has been excellent throughout.

The prescribed course of target practice has been correctly carried out, and considering that there are many recruits in the ranks, the figure of merit is fair, and the individual scores of the winners of prizes are high, as shewn by the list appended hereto.

The most convenient time for the majority of officers and men having been selected, they have come without much personal sacrifice, and will return to their various industrial pursuits after a course of training admirably calculated to render them at once well disciplined soldiers and good citizens. To apply the words of a recent English writer respecting our Canadian army:—"If difficulty there was (in our Brigade camps), it has been thoroughly overcome; for insubordination, disorder, and punishment, seem to be words which find no place in the military vocabulary of Canada."

It only remains for the Deputy Adjutant General, while thanking the Brigade Major and other officers commanding corps for the support and assistance invariably afforded him, to congratulate them on the success that has attended their efforts towards securing efficiency in this camp.

By order.

(Signed,) J. A. INCHES, Lieut.-Colonel,
Brigade Major.

The remaining corps in the 1st Brigade Division have undergone a complete re-organization; and while I much regret that the number of batteries of garrison artillery have been diminished by three (3), and more particularly the absence of the St. Andrew's battery—all having failed to re-enrol—I consider this Brigade Division has maintained its reputation as regards numerical strength and general efficiency of its force. The recommendation for the formation of a new provisional battalion, comprising infantry companies of St. Stephen, Deer Island, St. George, and St. James, has recently been submitted. Besides this, the service rolls of two new companies for the 71st battalion have been transmitted.

In respect to the battalion above referred to, Lieut.-Colonel Iago states:—"The two battalions at St. George, the Adjutant General and Inspector of Artillery last year decided could be spared, if the men did not decide to re-enrol; but with regard to the battery at St. Andrew's the case is far different." He adds:—"It is not necessary for him to point out the importance of St. Andrew's, commanding as it does the navigation of the St. Croix River; and it is much to be deplored that there should be no garrison artillerymen at this place. In his opinion, the loss of the battery at St. Stephen is not of more importance than the one at St. George."

I may add that I have hopes that the St. Andrew's Battery will shortly be reorganized without having recourse to the draft.

Lieut.-Colonel Iago inspected No. 5 Battery, at Woodstock, on the 15th July, and he reports that "this battery attended the brigade camp formed at that place as a field battery, they having two (2) 6-pounder guns in their charge, but having no horses properly enrolled and really belonging to the brigade of New Brunswick Garrison Artillery."

Col. Iago adds, that "We saw some creditable shot practice made by them, and the men drilled well at standing gun drill; but he recommended that the battery be either turned into a field battery, and properly armed and horsed (the country about Woodstock offering peculiar advantages for the establishment of a good field battery), or that in future they should perform their annual drill at St. John."

It is necessary to add that the brigade Major has already taken steps to form a field battery of artillery at Woodstock, and with fair prospects of success.

In respect to future camps of exercise in the Brigade Division, I am of the opinion that Charlotte county having now its battalion of infantry, St. Andrew's will afford equal facilities for assembling such camp with Fredericton and Woodstock.

2ND BRIGADE DIVISION—Lieut.-Colonel Otty, Brigade Major.

8th Regiment of Cavalry—Lieut.-Colonel Saunders.

On the 20th June and 12th July, I inspected this fine corps at its camp, at Apohaqui. The camp was beautifully situated on the grounds of the Lieut.-Colonel, on a commanding height overlooking the valley of the Kennebeckasis.

During the past year the regiment has been largely recruited from an excellent class, and so popular is the corps that captains of troops, on completing the quota, had to decline the services of numerous applicants for admission to the ranks.

The Adjutant General formed a very favorable opinion respecting the material and efficiency of this corps at the time of training at "Camp Ross," last year, as conveyed in the "Militia Report;" and so successfully have the recruitment and annual drill been carried out since then, that I consider the present condition of the regiment, both as to material and general efficiency, most satisfactory—even improved in many important particulars.

It must be stated that the Brigade Major, Lieut.-Colonel Otty, who attended this camp, rendered valuable assistance to the Lieut.-Colonel of the corps in having the recruits taught from the first step in drill and routine, and the old soldiers better instructed in the details of duty. Thus the utmost advantage was taken of the limited time allotted for cavalry training.

The desirability of allowing an additional period for winter drills for this arm has been clearly pointed out by the Adjutant General.

Fifty new sets of saddlery have been issued to the corps; the rest of their equipment is old and nearly unserviceable.

Spencer carbines have been exchanged for Snider carbines, which were in good condition. The course of target practice was correctly carried out under the supervision of Major Darling.

New Brunswick Brigade Garrison Artillery—Lieut.-Colonel Foster.

In accordance with General Orders, dated Ottawa, May 31st, 1872, an Artillery camp was formed at St. John, on August 22nd, of which I took command, in conjunction with Lieut.-Colonel Foster commanding the Brigade, while Lieut.-Colonel Iago acted in the capacity of superintendent of drill and practice; and that officer's report is so satisfactory that I need only apply his words, referring to his position as superintendent of drills to mine as commandant, viz.: that the duties of commandant "were as easy as they were pleasant." Lieut.-Colonel Iago reports as follows:—

"Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 10 Batteries attended from St. John, and No. 7 sent a strong detachment with two officers from Chatham, whilst No. 5 also sent a small detachment with one officer from Woodstock."

"Without doubt," he adds, "the officers and men derived great benefit from the camp. The continuous drill of never less than five hours per diem did more for the attendants at it than treble the time consumed in a drill room."

"He found the officers fully capable of instructing the men, and the men anxious and willing to profit by their instruction, whilst both endeavored to maintain the credit the corps has enjoyed for good conduct."

His position as Superintendent of drills was, therefore, as easy as it was pleasant. And he had also the satisfaction of superintending some excellent shot practice made by the different batteries, both as regards accuracy and also rapidity of firing, for prizes presented by well-wishers of the brigade."

Lieut.-Colonel Iago concludes his report with some excellent remarks, in which I entirely concur, as to the want of a School of Gunnery for the instruction of officers and men in this District,—"it being useless to hope to make a really good battery without a certain number of the officers and men being competent to impart instruction in the theory and practice of artillery."

This subject is now under the consideration of the authorities at head-quarters; and the Adjutant General is well aware of its "great importance, in connection with the defence of St. John and the coast of New Brunswick generally, to have the militia resident in the maritime portion of the Province trained to artillery exercises," and submits that, if it be not practicable at the present moment to establish a "School of Gunnery" at St. John on the "same principle as those provided for the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, at Kingston and Quebec," authority be obtained to open such a school at St. John, on the 1st December, prox., on the basis of the infantry military schools, with Lieut.-Colonel Iago as Commandant, and an efficient assistant, and also an instructor.

It must be added that Lieut.-Colonel Saunders has submitted some practical suggestion as to the establishment of a Cavalry School during the winter months, so soon as the larger question of a battery of artillery, similar to those at Quebec and Kingston, is arranged. The following is my Brigade Order on the breaking up of the Artillery camp at St. John:—

[BRIGADE ORDER.]

ARTILLERY CAMP,
ST. JOHN, N. B., 30th August, 1872.

The Artillery camp will break up to-day; and the Deputy Adjutant General commanding desires to express to the officers, non-commissioned officers and gunners, his satisfaction with the manner in which the duties have been carried out.

Assembled for the first time in camp, and having from the start to learn the routine of a soldier's life in the field during somewhat bad weather, while discipline and good have not been relaxed, the conduct of the troops has been most creditable.

Lieut.-Col. French, Inspector of Artillery, announces that he was highly pleased with the drill and practice of the batteries. The manner in which the Chatham Battery fired their five rounds in the competition for Mrs. Iago's cup he considered especially creditable.

The Deputy Adjutant General has received his usual energetic support from the Staff (Lieut.-Colonels Otty and Iago), to whom, as well as to Lieut.-Colonel Foster, commanding the Brigade, he tenders his sincere thanks.

By order,
(Signed), ANDREW C. OTTY, Lieut.-Colonel,
Brigade Major.

Engineer Company—Captain Parks.

This corps having become disorganized, owing to delay in completing its re-enrolment, has recently been re-organized, and my remarks as to improvement of material when referring to others may in a special manner be extended to this corps, now recruited above the established strength from a class of young, active, intelligent men, who will, I doubt not, by applying their intelligence to their important duties as Military Engineers, render the corps very efficient.

In conjunction with Lieut.-Colonel Iago, I inspected this corps at St. John, on 31st October, on completing its annual drill, and found that a sufficient foundation in the knowledge and practice of infantry drill had been laid to warrant my expectations as to future efficiency being realized. The Inspector of Artillery proposes placing this corps in charge of certain fortifications and batteries at St. John, with the view to their learning to keep these works in order, and possibly adding to and improving the present system of fortification at that place. The advantage of carrying out this suggestion is obvious—comment is needless.

The News 62nd Am
62nd "St. John" Battalion—Lieut.-Colonel Macshane.

I inspected this corps at Camp, St. John, on the 9th September, having previously seen it under arms more than once during the period of training.

The camp was formed on the barrack grounds, recently occupied by the camp of the garrison artillery.

Aware of the difficulty experienced by those officers who zealously undertook the task of re-enrolling this corps (partly owing, I think, to the erroneous idea conceived of the true position of corps of active militia in general, and city corps in particular), it was extremely gratifying to observe at this camp that success had attended their efforts in this respect, and in all that concerned the better efficiency of the corps. The men were carefully drilled both in company and battalion drill—soldierlike in their bearing, orderly in conduct; while the regimental duties appeared to have been systematically carried out and the arms in good condition.

74th Battalion.

I inspected this corps, at Camp Sussex, on the 18th July. Although three companies are drawn from the 3rd Brigade Division—and these composed of as fine a body of men as any in my District—the camp was formed at Sussex, the residence of the Lieut.-Colonels in the 2nd Brigade Division, which has heretofore furnished the remaining three companies (half battalion.) However, two of these companies (those at Kingston and Elgin) have failed to re-enrol, and will be disbanded. The Lieut.-Colonel is now taking steps to supply their places with others.

The drill, discipline, and conduct of the corps in camp were all that could be desired, the only thing to be regretted being the absence of the two companies adverted to. The Lieut.-Colonel is also desirous to organize a regimental band; and that want supplied, with two new companies, I cannot doubt but that the 74th Battalion will be second to none in the District.

The Brigade Major of this Division, in answer to enquiries as to whether he considers the present strength of the active militia in his Division can be maintained without resorting to the draft, that, "judging from the returns of the current year of those who have performed their drills in camp, and in view of the zeal and activity that has recently been displayed by the city as well as some of the rural corps, he is led to infer that, at least for some time to come, the system now in force, under judicious management, will furnish the quota required in this Division."

3RD BRIGADE DIVISION.—Lieut.-Colonel McCulley, Brigade Major.

In addition to the troop of 8th Regiment of Cavalry, No. 7, and the half battalion 74th, assembled in camp with their respective corps already referred to, 2nd Brigade Division, I inspected the following artillery corps, in conjunction with Lieut.-Col. Iago, acting in his capacity as Inspector of Artillery:

Newcastle Field Battery—Captain Call.

Lieut.-Colonel Iago reports that he "inspected this battery, at Newcastle, on Sept. 30th. This battery turned out for eight days' drill in camp this year. Captain Call appears to have a good deal of difficulty, from local causes, about re-enrolling his men and horses; but he informed him that he had now determined to adhere to the proper system, of enrolling a field battery, and to take no drivers from any but the farming class."

Lieut.-Colonel Iago "had pleasure in reporting favourably upon this battery last year and if Capt. Call adheres to his rule, and uses the energy he has noticed in him, he has great hopes that he will have a thoroughly good battery next summer."

No. 7 Battery, Chatham—Battery Major Gillespie.

Inspected at Chatham on Sept. 28. "As Lieut.-Colonel Iago previously stated, the best part of this battery attended the St. John camp; and though the men here were fairly drilled, they compared badly with their comrades who had accepted the greater advantages of instruction. There are two 24-pounder guns at this place, and a slight expenditure of money would lay down platforms, build a side-arm shed and otherwise provide a proper muster place for the battery—whilst, at the same time, doing much for the defence of Miramichi."

I may add that Major Gillespie has been desired to estimate for this service.

73rd Battalion—Lieut.-Colonel Ferguson.

I inspected this corps in camp, near Chatham, on the 19th August, on completing its eight day's training.

Originally composed of five (5) companies, and one company having failed to re-enrol the battalion assembled in camp below its authorized strength.

However, the Lieut.-Colonel, with his usual energy, is taking such steps as will, I doubt not, ensure the battalion being completed to six (6) efficient companies—mainly composed of farmers (their interest identical)—at an early day.

This corps, I consider, has hitherto had some serious drawbacks to its complete efficiency. Varying interests represented in its ranks—farmers, mechanics, fishermen, and merchants—all loyal and patriotic though they unquestionably were, it was difficult to select such time for the performance of the annual drill as would prove convenient to the majority. Hence, it was necessary to assemble in camp for the shorter period—eight days—without the advantages of pay, of rank, government rations, &c.; and of course the training could neither be as interesting or instructive as that of other corps at Brigade camps under the improved system.

But, as above stated, these difficulties will be shortly overcome; and I must say the result of the inspection was as satisfactory as could possibly be expected. Excellent Staff and good company officers, considering that but few have yet attended the military school; men well drilled and well conducted—on no better foundation could the re-organized battalion be placed.

Bathurst and Dalhousie Infantry Companies—Captains Burns and Barbane.

Inspected these companies, [at their local head quarters, on the 15th and 16th August respectively; but their re-organization not having been completed at that time, the inspection was necessarily imperfect. They were subsequently inspected by the Brigade Major, on the 14th and 15th October, who reports that the former company "mustered strong, and the men seem to be willing to do duty." In the latter company but "few men came to drill"—the captain was absent.

The vitality and stability of our present system have this year been fairly tested in the enrolment and re-enrolment of the force, at a time, too, when the supply and demand in the case of every article of utility are abundant, labourers alone, whether in town or country, being scarce. At such a time, it is gratifying to observe that this institution has been maintained by the *representative men* of the country, not those belonging to the migratory class—mercenary men, who, as a rule, join the ranks of standing armies.

I may here state that it does not always appear to be clearly understood, by "outsiders," that in the "Canadian Army" the word volunteering is only applicable to the act of joining the force, and once enrolment has taken place the term ceases to have any meaning, as "the force should not have in its ranks a man not prepared to make such exertions and sacrifices as the regulations demands."

Happily, the force is now better known as the "Active Militia" than the "Volunteer Militia."

I may add that, whether our force be maintained by voluntary enrolment or compulsory means, as provided in the law, should the former fail, it is satisfactory to know that it is neither the intention nor the desire of the authorities, from the Minister of Militia and Adjutant General downwards, to issue and enforce such arbitrary rules as would render the service the slightest degree distasteful to those taking part in its duties by materially interfering with their industrial pursuits.

On the contrary, it will be shown that no efforts are spared to secure the maximum of efficiency with the minimum of the cost of labour. In the first place it is desired that District Staff Officers, and all others concerned in making arrangements for carrying "the instruction" into effect, will give due consideration to the convenience of the militia generally, in regard to the season of the year which will be most suitable for the performance of the annual drill.

2nd. The Adjutant General's "regulations" provide for the systematic performance of the duties in camps of exercise, so that both officers and men are now expected to know their duty and to do it, on the "principle of carrying individual responsibility downwards within the corps" through its various elements—the same principle that in civil life requires one "always to be most careful in the selection of agents, and then to give the persons chosen one's entire confidence, calling on them to do *the same*, each in his own branch." Leave of absence is thus not necessarily withheld in individual cases where officers and men cannot possibly, without serious personal inconvenience, attend camp—care, of course, to be taken that the occasion of granting such leave is justified by necessity. This, I consider, is but just. Active, busy men are invariably men of weight, influence, and stability, and belong to that class which of all others should be incorporated in the force of the country, not a standing army; while idlers, and they are few, are, as a rule, but of little use in any community.

With respect to the performance of annual drill in camps of exercise in general, and "tactical brigade camps" in particular, I am in a position to report these camps are annually being looked forward to with increased pleasure.

In the case of corps composed mainly of farmers, for whom in winter, whether employed in the woods or on the farm, there is but little leisure, there follows the sudden transition from winter to summer, and the consequent hurry to sow the seed; after this, there is a period of comparative relaxation, and now, as a rule, before the hay harvest succeeds the seed-time, our camps may be formed with advantage.

As to city corps, in my last Report I pointed out the peculiar difficulty in my District of selecting such time as will suit the convenience of both city and rural corps, so as to assemble them in the same camp for the whole period of training.

However, the experience of this year shows that even city corps, by the exercise of forethought on the part of the Staff and officers in command, and moreover, by a proper understanding between employers and employed, can devote a certain portion of time to military duty in camp without much personal inconvenience, and with pleasure and advantage individually and collectively. It is but due to city corps to add, that the prescribed sixteen days is by no means the limit set to their annual drill. In many instances, additional weekly drills are alike voluntarily and cheerfully performed, with the view to secure increased efficiency, and to ensure the corps appearing to greater advantage at camp next season.

In arranging for the annual drill of corps at St. John, accompanied by the Lieut.-Colonel 62nd Battalion (Lieut.-Colonel Macshane), I called upon the principal employers of labour in that city in order to consult their convenience, as far as possible, and to secure their co-operation. All reminded me of the scarcity of labourers; but none, I am glad to state, appeared desirous to place any obstacles in our way. On the contrary, all admitted the necessity of encouraging our local force, and facilitating their attending camp; probably aware that, in the event of war or even of any internal disturbance, the important class to which they belong—the commercial—would derive most advantages if

the country be found in a healthy state of preparation for such emergency; and they, undoubtedly, would be the greatest sufferers if the opposite were the case.

It is obvious that in our camps of exercise the health and comforts of the men are of primary importance. Cheerfulness will follow as a matter of course; and in proportion as these receive attention will success and efficiency be attained.

However, both these points have been seriously and favourably considered by the authorities at head quarters:—(1) A most liberal scale of rations—all that can be desired—has been granted. This has already been adverted to in this Report. The troops are invariably encamped in a healthy locality, with an abundant supply of pure water at their disposal, and with excellent sanitary regulations for their guidance. (2) By following the Adjutant General's "instructions," as to routine of duties and variety of drills, beginning at the A. B. C., so called of military knowledge, with simple company drill, and ending with practical field days and sham battles—three of the service being represented—the relations between tactics and drill being taught. Nor is the necessary course of musketry instruction omitted. Officers and men are thus best instructed in their duties, and their military intelligence becomes greatly developed.

While this training is going on, the men are not over-worked. Ample time is afforded for foot-ball, cricket, and other manly games. A reading-room, too, without expense to the men, can ordinarily be established, supplied with local newspapers and periodicals; and besides all this, by strictly enforcing the orders as to not admitting spirituous liquor, crime will be conspicuous by its absence, and the sojourn in camp will surpass the expectations of the most sanguine.

In order to show that the practical utility of our camps of exercise is being more and more appreciated by the people, I may quote the following from the *St. John Daily Telegraph* of the 8th July last:—

"Leaving out of view the military knowledge gained by the volunteers in camp, it is certainly a great benefit to the men physically. Exercise in the open air, sleep under canvas, life in the fields, change of diet, regular habits—all have an influence for good. The men who leave the routine of office, or study, or workshops, for this, are benefitted to an appreciable degree. They return to their duties refreshed and invigorated—rested mentally and physically.

MILITARY RESOURCES.

An important duty required of the officers commanding a military district, as indeed of all Staff officers, is to make himself thoroughly acquainted with its resources.

Happily, even a careless observer cannot fail to notice the rapid but regular improvement in the resources of this country: emigration yearly increasing the population; agriculture and commerce, with their necessary accompaniments of modern civilization progressing side by side; means of transport made easy; roads, railroads, and steamers, available in every direction. While, therefore, the resources of the country are being developed, it is a subject of congratulation to the patriotic that the efficiency to our local forces is not neglected, as it has been justly stated that "the warlike strength of a country lies not in roads, railroads, steamers, breech loading rifles, and rifled guns, but in the skill and talent of the men that use these things."

"Military schools" are established in our midst; "tactical brigade camps" have become an institution of the country; drill and field manoeuvres are studied with eagerness; and last, not least, the weapon with which the force is armed, with its increased range, accuracy, and rapidity of fire, is now handled with judgment and intelligence, not alone by a few picked "marksmen," but all who attend annual drill have opportunities afforded them—somewhat limited, 'tis true—of learning to use their rifles with effect.

In respect to schools of military instruction—for the first time placed under the immediate control of the Militia Department (heretofore conducted by Her Majesty's troops stationed in the country)—it affords me pleasure to report that the attendance at the military school of instruction at Fredericton, during the six (6) months in operation

from 1st December last, has been good, viz.: 64 cadets, who obtained 2nd class certificates, *versus* an average of 35 during a similar period under the former *regime*. Besides these, three received 1st class certificates.

It too often happens that but few officers of the Active Militia attend these schools, preferring to pass an examination before a Board of Examiners, which examination must necessarily be unsatisfactory; and, if in brigade camp, not unfrequently hurried, through want of sufficient time at the disposal of the officers composing the Board. However, at our school last winter, not only was there a fair proportion of officers, but an excellent class of intelligent young men, students of the University and others, attended,—the President of the University himself seeing the advantage which his students derived from obtaining a military "education," while their ordinary studies were not neglected. I am glad to be in a position to add that we subsequently utilized the services of many of these young gentlemen, who have become useful members of the Active Militia force.

The Adjutant General's orders as to the subjects for 2nd class certificates being supplemented by a short course of musketry instruction, were carried out with good results; and I beg to suggest that such cadets as desire to remain for a lengthened course of musketry instruction, on obtaining 2nd class certificates, together with a prescribed qualification in "musketry," be granted a special certificate, with a view to their services being available to act as musketry instructors to their respective corps.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to offer my best thanks to Lieut.-Colonel Otty, Brigade Major, for the assiduity and zeal with which he performed the duties of Adjutant of the school; also to Captain McKenzie, for his efficient services as Instructor.

TARGET PRACTICE.

As regards target practice, the Military District under my command (New Brunswick) occupies a proud position in the "Dominion army," it being the best shooting district in last year's course: and though, owing to the presence of so many recruits in the ranks, we cannot expect our "figures of merit" to be high this year, the strongest desire to excel has been evinced at our various camps, and I consider the improvement in the "target practice regulations" has ensured more regular firing than heretofore.

Now, the recruit, as well as the trained soldier, besides having to practice individual firing, as in the ranks—standing at 200, kneeling at 400, and is allowed any position at 600 yards—having to fire his five rounds in succession, he is enabled carefully to exercise his judgment and to avoid *hurry*; and while our consecutive firing is, to my mind, infinitely superior to firing single shots in rotation, it still remains a question, I think, whether the following slight alteration may not be adopted with advantage, viz.: "two men in succession to be called to the front by the officer superintending the practice, and fire shot and shot alternately until they have completed their five rounds." This has already been adopted by our Provincial Rifle Association.

A list of the best shots in each Company, Corps, and Battalion, and the District is herewith transmitted.

The best shot in the District is Private E. Phillips, No. 6 Company, 52nd Battalion—49 points.

RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

In addition to increased attention being paid to the prescribed course of target practice, the golden laurels won by our "marksmen" at Wimbledon has tended to give fresh impulse to the efforts of our people in the working of our various Rifle Associations. It is to be hoped that the precedent thus established of sending representative "marksmen from our Active Militia" to compete against the best men Great Britain can produce will become an annual custom, and that not only every branch of her army, but every British colony will be represented at these annual Wimbledon competitions—such matches, as a rule, to be with the weapon with which the force is armed: the Snider

Enfield. From the knowledge and practice of rifle shooting, taught at the individual firing of his company, the "marksman" is now led, by successive steps, through the various prize matches of the "Battalion," "County," and "Provincial" Rifle Associations, until he has reached the "goal," and obtained the highest prize that a Canadian can aspire to—that of being selected to represent this prosperous Dominion at Wimbledon of our "Fatherland."

It must be added that the success which has attended our marksmen has not been without its good results at both sides the Atlantic; amongst those here may be mentioned that the people who heretofore manifested but little interest in our efforts, have already been convinced that acquisition of skill in rifle shooting is not labour lost, and they have, moreover, given tangible proofs of their willingness to lend us a helping hand. Our Rifle Associations have in consequence this year been more successful than usual, as will be observed from the returns hereto appended. It is to be hoped, therefore, that local aid and local encouragement will no longer be withheld from the mainstay of the force of the country—our Rifle Associations.

The following Associations have held competitions this year:—

1. New Brunswick Artillery Association—recently formed.
2. New Brunswick Provincial Rifle Association.
3. Charlotte County " "
4. St. John " "
5. Carleton " "
6. King's County " "
7. York " "
8. Northumberland " "
9. 62nd Battalion Rifle Club.
10. King's County " "
11. 71st Battalion " "

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

GEORGE MAUNSELL, Lieut.-Colonel,
Deputy Adjutant General, Commanding Mil. Dis. No. 8.

MILITARY DISTRICT No 9.

The Militia in this District are under the command of Lt.-Colonel J. Winburn Lawrie, Deputy Adjutant General, who reports for my information as follows, on the state of his command:—

HEAD QUARTERS,

Halifax, N.S.,

October 24th, 1872.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that the quota of Active Militia required to be furnished from the District under my command, is 4284. The total nominal strength of the force in the district, were the respective corps complete to their established strength, as authorized, would be 308 officers, and 4230 men.

The total actual strength of the force who mustered at the time of the annual drill for 1872-73, was 222 officers, 2,594 men.

There are 76 officers, and 1,636 wanting to complete. The Active Militia in this district, consists of the following corps, which at the time of the annual training turned out as under:—

	Officers.	Men.
Halifax Light Battery	5	74
1st Brigade Halifax Garrison Artillery	24	261
2nd " "	23	251
Lunenburg Battery "	0	0
Chester " "	0	0
Mahone Bay " "	23	287
63rd Rifles (Halifax).....	24	377
66th Battalion Infantry	20	242
68th " "	26	248
69th " "	24	211
72nd " "	3	37
No. 6 Company, 75th Battalion.....	20	234
78th Battalion (Highlanders)	17	180
Victoria Prov. Battalion (Cape Breton).....	13	192
Cumberland Prov. Battalion		

The annual drill was performed in accordance with General Orders No. 14, of 31st May, 1872, as in documents A. B. C. herewith forwarded. Annual inspection reports, and district target practice returns are also enclosed.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. WINBURN LAURIE, Lieut.-Colonel,

D. A. G. Commanding No. 9 District.

The Adjutant General of Militia, Ottawa.

THE HALIFAX BRIGADE.

Consisting of:

Halifax Light Battery.....	Captain Graham,
1st Halifax Garrison Artillery	Lt.-Col. Mitchell,
2nd " "	" Belcher,
63rd " Rifles.....	" Pallister,
66th " Infantry.....	" Bremner,

Performed their annual training at brigade head quarters. The whole brigade attended two brigade field days, at one of which they were formed in division, with a brigade of Her Majesty's regular troops under Lt.-General Sir Hastings Doyle; and the infantry and Light Battery attended two additional brigade drills.

The whole force also attended three evening brigade drills, drilling from 7½ until 10 in the long summer evenings or moonlights; and more evening brigade drills would have been held, but that partly through sickness and partly through press of other engagements, owing to my being left without a Brigade Major for this brigade during the whole training season I was unable to spare the time.

The musketry practice was regularly conducted under the superintendence of a field officer of the corps at practice and under Lt.-Col. Sawyer, the Brigade Musketry Instructor.

Bedford range is inconveniently situate for this purpose, as over three hours is lost in travelling to and from the city, but no more accessible range can be obtained.

The 12 Batteries Garrison Artillery performed their great gun practice from a battery belonging to the Royal Artillery, kindly placed at their disposal by Sir Hastings Doyle.

No man was rated effective or received pay unless he had attended the full prescribed number of brigade drills in addition to the company and battalion training; had

fired his 40 rounds of ammunition at rifle practice, and if an artillery man had also performed his great gun drill unless he had obtained special leave of absence from the commanding officer of the corps.

On the 2nd October I inspected this Brigade. Owing to continuous wet weather for several days previously, the ground was too wet to attempt field manœuvres, I therefore confined the movements to parade drill. The several corps were well handled by their commanders, and the men who are mostly stout, able and well grown, and fit for any service, shewed creditable proficiency in their drill manœuvring; and above all shewed that anxiety to do their best, and to appear to advantage. It is, however, desirable that this Brigade should have some practice in manœuvring over broken and rough ground.

The Light Battery practiced at 1,800 yards range with their 6 pounder Armstrong's, in the presence of Col. Gibbon, C. B., commanding the Royal Artillery at Halifax, who expressed his satisfaction at the good practice and the efficiency of the battery. This fine battery has now been maintained in a thoroughly effective state since 1799 at great expense to the members, and it is felt as a hardship that whilst corps are junior to them have received complete issue of harness, the members of this battery have to bear the expense of hiring harness of an inferior kind on all occasions of parade.

TEVIOTDALE CAMP.

On the 26th June, I went into camp with the 78th Highlanders and Victoria Provisional Battalion at Teviotdale near Truro.

In the 78th Highlanders, several of the companies, many of which had completed their period of service came to camp very much below strength.

The three companies from Picton County came in at nearly full strength, mostly strong, hearty men, and were a credit to the battalion.

The 79th possessesa pipe and drum corps, and the bagpipes bear out the Highland designation of the corps, and in lieu of a band gave life to the camp.

Some difficulty was experienced in handling the Victoria Provisional Battalion in brigade and battalion drill, as a large proportion of the men speak only Gaelic, and do not understand English. Their extreme willingness and obedience to discipline, however, did much to facilitate the duty of instructing them.

Many of the rank and file who came into camp in this battalion were very young lads.

Three additional companies have been raised for this battalion, which is largely composed of men from the western Highlands of Scotland, and they have requested that the regiment may bear the title "91st Argyleshire Highlanders."

As this was the first year of camp training in this portion of the district every exertion was made by the officers, who generally worked most zealously to make it a success; much assistance in working up the interior economy was given by two Sergeants from the line kindly allowed by Col. Gibbon, C. B., the officer commanding the troops at Halifax, to be attached to these two battalions during the training, and I was more than ever impressed with the necessity of having men of army experience employed as Drill Instructors in the force.

The 78th having had previous practice in battalion, drill under the system followed in former years, and having a few trained non-commissioned officers among them progressed in drill more rapidly than the Victoria Provisional Battalion which had not these advantages, making all allowances the brigade manœuvring was fairly performed.

AYLESFORD CAMP.

On the 3rd September the 68th, 69th, 72nd Battalion, and one company of the 75th went into camp at Aylesford under the command of Lt.-Col. Milsom, as through ill health I was prevented assuming the command. On the 16th and 17th September I inspected this brigade. The haying season had been very wet and backward, and at the last

moment commanding officers reported that it would be more convenient to postpone the date of muster until the 10th, but it was then too late to make arrangements; the officers found much difficulty in getting men to attend, and the companies were very weak, numerically. The late harvest was given as a reason for this—but increase of pay was also strongly urged as an inducement to a superior class of men to turn out.

The battalion and brigade drill was fairly performed, thanks to the exertions of Lieut. Col. Milsom and the commanding and other officers who are generally hardworking and well up in their work. The want of trained non-commissioned officers is seriously felt.

No. 6 Company of the 75th Battalion, the captain of which stated that he did not receive orders from his commanding officer to attend at Teviotdale, volunteered to perform training at Aylesford, and were attached for drill and discipline to the 68th Battalion. This company was composed of a sturdy and willing body of men.

CUMBERLAND PROVISIONAL BATTALION.

This battalion was ordered to attend at camp, near Truro, on the 26th of June, but owing to the non-completion of the Intercolonial Railroad the men could not be brought by rail, and the allowance of 3 cents per mile for waggon hire was far too inadequate to bring a battalion an average distance of between 80 and 90 miles, and Lieut. Col. Stewart reported it was utterly impossible to hire conveyance at that rate. I therefore reported this to head quarters, and directed the battalion to perform the annual training at company head quarters, and ordered a battalion muster at Amherst, where I inspected three companies on the 9th October. The men were exercised in battalion and high infantry drill, and performed the movements creditably.

The head quarters of the Parrsboro' Company were changed to Tidnish in June, but the new officers were not appointed, and the clothing was not transferred in time for this company to take part in the battalion parade. I therefore inspected the company at its own head quarters.

This battalion is composed of a fine body of men, respectable and well off, who can always be found when wanted, and who are physically able to stand the fatigues of a campaign.

The Lunenburg, Mahone Bay and Chester Batteries of Garrison Artillery were directed to attend training in camp near the Forts at Halifax (as laid down in General Orders No. 14, of 31st May last) on the

The captains reported to me, through the Brigade Major, that they were unable to get their men to attend. These batteries have consequently remained untrained this year.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. LAURIE, Colonel,

Commanding District.

UNIFORMS.

The tunics are generally good, and can well be made to last four years, but the trousers are of poor material, and should be replaced every two years.

The transfer of part worn clothing is a serious difficulty; many respectable men are deterred from joining by being offered part worn clothing which, especially part worn trousers, they naturally object to wear.

If a small money allowance were made annually to men who make their uniform last beyond the regulated period, I am of opinion that the arrangement would be economical for the department, and that much more care would be taken to keep the clothing clean and tidy.

The forage cap is most unsuitable, and men take every opportunity of getting rid of it. Some regiments have provided Glengarries at their own expense, but to men accustomed to wear hats with brims the usual exposure of the face by wearing a cap without a peak is very trying. Officers and men suffered much from this cause at Teviotdale Camp in July, and many had their faces terribly blistered, and there were several cases of erysipelas in consequence. Even at Aylesford Camp in September at least one third of the men wore hats of various patterns, having lost their forage caps. A neat cap with a peak would obviate this difficulty, and would add much to the comfort of the men.

Pipe-claying belts is troublesome, men have so much else to learn in camp, and it is very desirable to substitute brown leather accoutrements, which require less cleaning, and which men can more readily learn to keep in good order.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. LAURIE, Colonel,

Commanding District No. 9.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 10. (MANITOBA.)

The Militia in this District are at present under the command of Lt.-Colonel Osborne Smith, C. M. G., who reports for my information as follows on the state of his command:—

HEAD QUARTERS, MILITARY DISTRICT No. 10,
27th January, 1873.

SIR,—The total nominal strength of the force in this District, were the respective corps complete as authorized, would be 36 officers and 660 non-commissioned officers and men.

The total strength at present raised consists of 18 officers and 330 non-commissioned officers and men.

The Active Militia in the district consists of the following corps:—

- St. Boniface troops of mounted rifles, failed to organize.
- Headingley troops of Mounted Rifles, organized but not uniformed or equipped.
- Field Battery of Artillery, Winnipeg, organized and partially uniformed.
- Lisgar Rifle Company, complete.
- Mapleton, Rifle Company, complete.
- Poplar Point Rifle Company, complete.
- Winnipeg Rifle Company, uniformed but not officially inspected, not armed.
- Portage Laprairie Rifle Company, failed to organize.
- Kildonan Rifle Company, failed to organize.
- St. Charles Rifle Company, failed to organize.
- St. Boniface Rifle Company, failed to organize.
- One company under Captain Larivière, failed to organize.

The corps which have drilled and been inspected, turned out as follows:—

	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.
Winnipeg Field Battery.....	2	34
Lisgar Rifle Company.....	3	54
Mapleton Rifle Company.....	3	35
Poplar Point Rifle Company.....	2	32
Total.....	10	155

The annual drill was performed at Company Head Quarters. The drill included preliminary drill with and without arms and company evolutions. No facilities have as yet been available for carrying out target practice.

CLOTHING.

The issues of arms, equipment and uniform clothing to the local Militia have been as follows:—

WINNIPEG FIELD BATTERY.

Armed with two Mountain Howitzers,—equipment imperfect,—40 forage caps,—40 great coats issued.

LISGAR RIFLE COMPANY.

Arms, uniform and equipment complete except, forage caps.

POPLAR POINT RIFLE COMPANY.

Arms, uniform and equipment complete, except forage caps.

MAPLETON RIFLE COMPANY.

Arms, uniform and equipment complete except forage caps.

WINNIPEG RIFLE COMPANY.

Clothing complete except forage caps.—No arms yet issued. The system of voluntary enlistment will I think work sufficiently well to maintain a force of six companies of foot, two of Mounted Rifles and a Field Battery, which would be a fair quota for the present population.

- In addition to the local Militia included in the foregoing return there are serving here.
- 1st. A detachment of artillery.
- 2nd. A provisional battalion of infantry of following strength.

ARTILLERY DETACHMENT.

Officers, 1; non-commissioned officers and men, 25.

PROVISIONAL BATTALION OF INFANTRY.

	Officers.	Men.
Actual strength.....	16	258
Wanting to complete.....	1	42
Establishment.....	17	300

These corps are fast approaching to a high state of efficiency, more especially the provisional battalion which when it has been for a few months longer embodied will compare favorably in all respects with regiments in H. M. regular service.

With reference to your instructions to report on any matters of interest connected with the state of the forces or defences of the district, my previous special report concerning the passage of the troops last October over the Dawson route is already before you.

Concerning the report previously submitted by me on the defences of the Province and the North West, I have little to add beyond the fact that further experience has confirmed the opinions I have already had the honor to express to you on these points.

In concluding my report, I wish to express to you the satisfaction which the cordial support of Brevet Lt.-Col. Irvine, commanding the provisional battalion, at all times

affords to me ; both by precept and example this officer endeavours to maintain a high standard of character and discipline in his corps.

My thanks also are due to the staff officers attached to the district. Major Peebles, the supply officer is indefatigable in his duties, whilst Captain Arman, late of the Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto, who has for some time been acting as orderly officer, gives every promise of becoming a most efficient staff officer.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. OSBORNE SMITH, Lt.-Col.

D. A. Genl., Commanding Dominion Forces, Manitoba,

The Adjutant General, Ottawa.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY BRIGADE.

This brigade is under the command of Lieut.-Colonel C. J. Brydges. The accompanying Report of the Brigade Major on the state of that Brigade is submitted ; and it will be seen that the whole of the men in this fine brigade have been re-enrolled for a further term of three years, under the excellent and praiseworthy arrangements of the commandant.

BRIGADE OFFICE,

MONTREAL, December 2nd, 1872.

SIR,—Having been ordered to England during the summer months, in charge of the Wimbledon detachment of Canadian militia, I had only one opportunity of seeing the whole of the brigade out for drill since my last report. This was during the month of October and early in November, when I went over the whole line.

The whole of the brigade has been supplied with new uniforms, and therefore present a good appearance on parade ; and, with exceptions named in my inspection report, the whole force is much improved in drill and in the general working of the organization.

I inspected the force in Montreal, company by company, during October and November. Their drill was performed during the summer months, and they seem to have been well grounded in company drill, manual and firing exercise.

On the 10th October, I inspected the force at Brockville. I am unable to report favourably here. A languor exists amongst the superior officers, or they are not up to their work, which is unusual in the organization, and I beg to bring this battalion generally to your notice as being on the whole far inferior to the other four. On the following days I inspected at Kingston, Belleville, and Port Hope. Kingston is an exception to what I have said ; Port Hope is also improving ; but the officers at most of these stations know nothing of their work.

At Toronto, the 2nd Brigade Artillery (Col. Spicer) I inspected on 28th October. You will see by last year's report that this brigade was in an inefficient state. I have no longer to say this : on the contrary, everything has been done to render it in an efficient state. It is as well drilled as it is possible to be in the very short time allowed for drill.

At Stratford, where Nos. 5 and 6 Batteries are now stationed, they are equally good. They have a very improving brass band, and also fife and drum, which they keep up at their own expense. Major Patterson in command here is an enthusiastic as well as an efficient officer, and helps materially to produce this state of affairs.

I was at Brantford on the 26th October, and inspected there and elsewhere, this battalion—the 3rd Battalion (Col. P. J. Stevenson.) The drill and general working of the force is good ; the officers take a great interest in their work ; and all the force from Brantford to Sarnia is in good working order. The band at Brantford is improved, and

the fife and drum at Sarnia is a credit to them at that point. Inspected the companies of the 1st Battalion (Lieut.-Colonel Bailey). They are in good order.

Boards of Examination having assembled, according to my suggestion, at Montreal, Toronto, and Brantford, last winter, nearly all of the officers of the Grand Trunk Railway Brigade availed themselves of them, and now almost all the officers in the force have certificates. I should suggest the same annually, as it has worked well.

An excellent order of the commandant has helped very much to keep up an interest, and at the same time it helps the Government officer in his work. The adjutants of each battalion receive a stipend of \$50 per annum. It encourages them, and makes the post to be sought after, and is of assistance to the commanding officer.

The whole force is now sworn in for a further term of three years. The service rolls are in my possession.

The annual target practice has been regularly done throughout the brigade—a great improvement on last year. The best shots have received their prizes, and this method has given much satisfaction.

I enclose full details of the shooting strength and distribution of the brigade.

And, in conclusion, I must add that my duties are made light in consequence of the assistance I receive from the commandant, Lieut.-Col. C. J. Brydges.

The Grand Trunk Railway Brigade, under the command of Lieut.-Col. C. J. Brydges, numbers 2,326 officers and men. The following return shews the present strength and distribution of corps in this brigade :—

Battalions.	Commanding Officers.	Staff and Field Officers.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	N. C. Officers and Men.
1st Battalion Rifles.....	Lieut.-Col. Bailey.....	7	7	7	6	455
2nd do	„ Shedden.....	5	8	8	8	523
3rd do	„ Stevenson.....	7	7	7	7	385
1st Brigade Artillery.....	„ Dickson.....	6	7	7	5	435
2nd do	„ Spicer.....	6	7	7	5	490
Total strength.....	32	36	36	31	2,191

DISTRIBUTION.

Montreal,	{ 1st Brigade Artillery, 1st Battalion Rifles, } Headquarters.....	14 Companies.
	{ 2nd Battalion Rifles, }	
Point Levis,	1st Battalion Rifles, Detachment.....	1 „
Richmond,	„ „	1 „
Sherbrooke,	„ „	1 „
Brockville,	2nd „ „	1 „
Kingston,	„ „	1 „
Belleville,	„ „	1 „
Port Hope,	„ „	1 „
Toronto,	2nd Brigade Artillery, Headquarters.....	4 „
Stratford,	„ Detachments	4 „
Brantford,	3rd Battalion Rifles, Headquarters	2 „
Stratford,	„ Detachments	1 „

The accompanying return shews the actual numerical strength of the Reserve Militia in the four Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario, according to the last enrolment made and reported to headquarters.

From this return it will be seen that in these four Provinces alone six hundred and ninety-four thousand and eight men between the ages of eighteen and sixty have been actually enrolled under the law for the defence of the Dominion.

In accordance with the Militia law of the Dominion, this enrolment has to be taken every second year in the various regimental and company divisions by the officers of the Reserve Militia.

Only two enrolments of the Reserve Militia have been made since the Confederation of the British North American Provinces into the Dominion of Canada.

According to the first enrolment made in 1869 the numerical strength of the Reserve Militia was six hundred and fifty-six thousand and sixty-six men; the increase to the strength of the reserve in two years was therefore thirty-seven thousand nine hundred and forty-two men.

There is no doubt but that the third enrolment for the Reserve Militia now being made in these four Eastern Provinces of the Dominion will show a corresponding increase to a reserve in these four Provinces alone, already numerically far more powerful than that of some European nations. It is expected that the enrolment now being taken will prove that the strength of the reserve in the above four Provinces is considerably more than seven hundred thousand men.

Circumstances have not as yet admitted of any enrolment being taken in the Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia.

It may be necessary to explain that the most valuable feature in the Canadian military system is the reserve organisation of the force. Strangers and those unacquainted with the Militia law might suppose that officers of the Reserve Militia may be intended under certain circumstances to command corps or battalions in the field in the event of hostilities, or to train them to military exercises in time of peace.

Such a supposition, however, would be very erroneous, for these officers are appointed for different, although quite as important duties in connection with military organisation.

In the event of war, it would be the duty of the officers of the Reserve Militia to act as recruiting agents for the active force in the field in their respective company, regimental and brigade territorial divisions, so soon as it became necessary to apply the ballot for recruiting purposes. In time of peace this duty would also devolve upon them in the event of an insufficient number of men coming forward voluntarily to fill the ranks of corps required to train annually for the defence of the country, and every second year it is their duty to make an enrolment of all the militia within their respective territorial limits, entering the names of the men enrolled for the reserve, according to age, &c., in one or other of the four classes of the reserve, and to transmit these rolls through the proper channel to the Adjutant General at headquarters.

In time of war, therefore, their services would be most valuable and indispensable as recruiting agents. In time of peace by acting as military census takers periodically, not only is the actual numerical strength and resources of the country in men made known at headquarters, but the military machinery required for the ballot is kept in working order, and in addition it is found that the periodical enrolment of the Reserve Militia made by the officers of the reserve affords the most reliable proof of the accuracy or inaccuracy of the census of population taken periodically for the whole Dominion.

The value of such a reserve organization which has so frequently called forth the approval of eminent statesmen and soldiers is self apparent.

RECONNAISSANCE OF THE NORTH WEST PROVINCES AND INDIAN TERRITORIES OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA, AND NARRATIVE OF JOURNEY ACROSS THE CONTINENT THROUGH CANADIAN TERRITORY TO BRITISH COLUMBIA AND VANCOUVER ISLAND.

On the termination of the annual training of the Militia in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, I proceeded, in the first instance, *via* Lake Superior and the "Dawson Route" to Manitoba, and in accordance with instructions, subsequently crossed the Continent through Canadian Territory to the Pacific Coast and Vancouver Island, travelling nearly the whole distance from Fort Garry on horseback.

Leaving Collingwood on the 16th July, in the steamboat for Thunder Bay, (Lake Superior,) the vessel reached her destination early in the morning of the 22nd, stopping, *en route*, at the settlements of Owen Sound, Leith and Killarney, on the shores of Lake Huron, and at Gargantua Bay, Michipicoton Island and Neepigon, on Lake Superior.

Neepigon Bay is a good and safe harbour, and the place itself is probably destined to be of great importance in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway.

On arrival at Prince Arthur's Landing, I found that a considerable and apparently thriving settlement had already sprung up at that place.

The population now numbers about 500; many good houses have been erected, and Municipal Government has been established.

Thunder Bay is one of the best and safest harbours on the north shore of Lake Superior, and the surrounding scenery is very beautiful.

For want of a proper wharf, considerable inconvenience is experienced, but as the one now in course of construction will be completed shortly, the landing facilities will then be greatly improved, and be all that is likely to be required for some time to come.

Owing to the great mineral resources, and valuable silver and copper mines which exist in this neighbourhood, and from the excellence of its harbour, it may reasonably be expected that a wealthy and important settlement will, ere long, be established at Thunder Bay.

From Prince Arthur's Landing, I proceeded on the 22nd July, by waggon, in one day, to Lake Shebandowan, a distance of about forty-five miles, by what may now be fairly considered a good road.

All the streams have been bridged, and a very substantial structure is erected across the Matawan.

When this road shall have been gravelled throughout its entire length, which will probably be effected this summer, it will be as good a one as can be desired.

The country through which the road passes from Lake Superior to Shebandowan is well wooded and much better suited for settlement than is generally supposed. Although the soil in the immediate neighborhood of Prince Arthur's Landing is somewhat sandy, the greater part of the country passed through is perfectly well suited for farming and agriculture.

At the Matawan River farming operations had commenced; very fine timothy hay had already been raised at that place, and the growth of the vegetables and cereals which had been but a short time before planted, gave excellent promises.

From Lake Shebandowan I proceeded by canoe to the north-west angle of the Lake of the Woods in seven days, a distance of three hundred and ten miles, through the chain of inland waters known as the "Dawson Route," towed part of the way by tug steamers.

Considerable progress has been made in opening up and improving this line of communication through the Dominion to the vast and important territories of the North