

MILITARY DISTRICT, No. 7.

HEAD QUARTERS,
QUEBEC, 7th January, 1870.

SIR,—I have the honor to report that twelve battalions, and four independent companies of the active force in this district have now performed the thirteen day's drill, authorised for the year ending 30th June, 1870. I beg to forward, herewith, an abstract of inspection for the same. The rural Battalions drilled in camp, according to orders, and the Quebec Garrison Artillery, and 9th Rifles, have also been authorised to perform their annual drill in camp. In two instances, one company of the Battalion has been allowed to put in the yearly paid drill time at its own company head quarters. These are the Matane Company, distant sixty miles from the battalion head quarters at Rimouski, and the Township Langevin Company about as far distant, and which had to come through an unsettled District, and by such roads as are next to impassable. These companies, in the abstract annexed, are entered with the independent companies, thereby reducing by so much the strength of their respective battalions.

Nearly the whole of this force is composed of new levies, there being, with the exception of Quebec and Levis, only three Volunteer companies in the whole district, previous to the coming into operation of the Militia Act of 1868. The Quebec Garrison Artillery, 9th Rifles, 17th and 55th Battalions, and St. Sylvester companies re-enrolled under the law, although having a considerable number of recruits, are old corps, already reported on favorably in former years. They appear not only to have maintained their former efficiency, but to have considerably improved. The zeal and alacrity with which officers of all ranks perform their duty is deserving of all praise, and is the chief cause of the efficiency attained. As an instance of the earnestness and liberality of officers for the good of the service, I may mention that Lieutenant-Colonel Bowen, and the officers of the Quebec Garrison Artillery, finding that their men could get no great gun-practice elsewhere than at the Island of Orleans, actually took their brigade, with its heavy material, camping equipage, &c., at their own expense, to the range at that island, and remained there during the whole time of their annual training. The charges for transport of the men, material of all sorts, and daily rations were very considerable, and I think it can hardly be expected that officers should every year be put to such unusual and heavy expense for the good of the public. I would, therefore, respectfully recommend that, in future, the Quebec Garrison Artillery be given the transport allowance allowed to rural corps. This would enable them to have some great-gun practice every year, without which Artillery, however well disciplined and drilled, cannot be considered efficient. While on this subject, I would beg leave, respectfully, to submit that Artillery, having, besides infantry drill to learn, also the working and practice of its own arm, should be allowed more time for training every year than is given to Infantry. Sixteen days a year being already much too short a time for Infantry, becomes altogether insufficient for Artillery, with more than twice the amount of drill and training to go through. The same remark applies to Cavalry having equitation sword drill, and mounted and dis-