

Camps of Exercise as numerously attended at the same time of annual drill in the coming season as in the past, although certain districts and corps may from time to time fail to maintain their full quota.

In creating any system of Military Organization the conditions and necessities of modern warfare should be mainly considered; in former days when nations went to war, a certain limited number of trained soldiers who might be regarded in the light of national champions, were ranged against each other, (as it were for a great duel,) and the defeat of one side decided the war; the great mass of the people themselves were never engaged in war or withdrawn from civil pursuits. This system, however (with territorial powers at least), seems no longer observed; when fighting has to be done, and a country to be defended, judging from recent European events, it is evident it must be done by the whole nation, in one great harmoniously organized and disciplined mass, the services of every man and horse, as well as the whole material resources of the country being rendered for the time required, available for military purposes, turned as it were for the moment from the avocations of civil life into those of war, to return again to the pursuits of industry when the safety of the country is secured. Wars, moreover, in these days occur suddenly, it is a word and a blow, concentration is rapidly effected, and the nation that fails to organize and train for defence in time of peace, so as to be ready to take the field if called on at a short notice, lies at the mercy of any strong and unscrupulous neighbor who may be better prepared, and content with plate conquest. Experience has also shown that nations do not go to war without counting the cost, and that to prevent attack upon any portion of Her Majesty's Dominions nothing has been found so deterrent or efficacious as the power, and the will to resist it; it is an oft-repeated truism, that for any nation to be really free, the strength to maintain such freedom must exist. Union, organization, drill and discipline create strength.

At a time when Military Organization forms one of the most important and difficult questions of the day, it is satisfactory to observe that the Militia System of the Dominion is evidently appreciated. Already there are indications that in the reorganization about to take place in the Reserve Forces of the Mother Country, a system in some respects very similar (although details may differ) will be adopted.

It would appear that the task of reorganizing the Military Forces of Great Britain, has been confided to a committee of which Major-General Macdougall, formerly Adjutant-General of Militia in the Dominion is chairman—that accomplished officer's ability has therefore been fully acknowledged.

The Division or Brigade Camps of exercise established in the various military districts of Canada last year, which were in operation for sixteen days, provides much more effectually for the training of both officers and men of the Active Militia at the time of Annual Drill than the system previously in vogue; many other advantages result therefrom. It was demonstrated last summer that the local force in each Military District could be concentrated in a few hours, mostly in tactical Brigades of the three arms of from 2,000 to 5,000 men; everywhere in sufficient strength to crush any such attempt at Fenian invasion as have of late years occurred. The assembly of these Brigades with such ease and rapidity in many

instances on the immediate frontier, has not only given confidence to the force itself but to the community at large. The very same arrangements which were adopted to concentrate, supply, and maintain the various Brigades for sixteen days, at the time of the Annual Drill would suffice to concentrate them to repel invasion, as rapidly and supply them as well. While it has been shown conclusively that this can be effected readily in every District, it is not too much to say that during the period of the year, field operations are practicable in Canada, should circumstances require it, by bringing Brigades together, a force of about 30,000 men with 32 Field Guns, could be concentrated almost anywhere on the Southern Frontier of Ontario or Quebec in a very few days, without withdrawing a single man or gun from the Province of New Brunswick or Nova Scotia. Among the many other advantages that result from the performance of the Annual Drill in Camps of Exercise, I may mention (1st) Staff Officers are practised in, and regimental officers obtain some knowledge of the mode of moving troops (so as to ensure rapid concentration), transport, and supply duties, (2nd) false musters (an evil judging from History, common to all armies on first formation) can be entirely prevented, no pay being issued except to those officers and men who actually come to camp and are present at the muster parade (the public interests, in this respect, being thus protected), (3rd) whilst every opportunity is afforded in the morning and forenoon for Regimental Drill, at the afternoon parades the different corps may be trained to co operate in tactical Brigades of the three arms, (4th) prescribed course of target practice for the Artillery and Infantry can be carried by corps in rotation under proper supervision, (5th) the officers and men by being brought away from home, and entirely removed from the influence of civil life at the time of Annual Drill, acquire a better knowledge of discipline and a more soldier like tone, and the various Corps are accustomed to work together under the Commanding Officer of the District, (6th) friendly emulation in Drill, discipline, and appearance, between Corps, is created by their being brought together, (7th) officers, non-commissioned officers and men, being paid according to rank, and rationed as if on active service, all just grounds for complaint on this point are removed, and lastly, by making the annual drill for both officers and men of the militia in time of peace, as far as circumstances will admit, a rehearsal of the duties that would devolve upon them in the event of war, it is obvious that the Active Militia thus trained would be better prepared when called on to defend the country.

Whilst very general satisfaction was expressed with regard to the special Camps of Exercise which were in operation for sixteen days such was not the case with those for only 8 days, the rates of pay and allowances being different, and the time allowed altogether insufficient. Seeing, therefore the advantages, and that much more practice afforded in sixteen days as compared with eight, I beg to recommend that the system of eight days camps be entirely abolished, and that for the performance of the annual drill for 1872-73, the whole of the Cavalry, Infantry and Field Artillery Corps, be assembled in Divisional or Brigade Camps of Exercise for sixteen days continuous drill, under the command of the officers appointed to command the Militia, in the respective Military Districts; that the various batteries of Garrison Artillery should perform sixteen

days Artillery drill consecutively either at their own local head-quarters, or at such Forts and Batteries as may be convenient, under the instruction and orders of the Inspectors of Artillery. It is further recommended that the same daily rates of pay, rations and allowances authorized for actual service be allowed to the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, of the Active Militia present at Camps of Exercise for the performance of the Annual Drill.

The additional expense of the Brigade Camps which were in operation for sixteen days was trifling, when the increased amount of efficiency attainable, is considered. In the eight-day camps of last year, the cost to Government for pay, which included subsistence, was \$2 per officer and \$1 per non-commissioned officer and man per day, — the commanding officer making his own local arrangements for rations for his corps, or taking the average sized Battalion, say seven companies, having a strength of fifty-six non-commissioned officers and men per company, as an illustration the total cost for pay and subsistence would be as under for the battalion, viz:

29 Battalion officers, at \$2 per day for 8 days.....	\$164 00
392 Non com. officers and men at \$1 per day for 8 days, 3,136 00	
Total.....	\$3,600 00

Under the system carried out in the sixteen days Brigade Camp, where the officers non-commissioned officers, and men received the pay of their respective ranks, as if on actual service, with free rations issued under Government control, the cost of the rations, consisting of 1½ lb. of bread, 1 lb. of meat, 1 lb. potatoes, one-third oz. of coffee, one-sixth oz. of tea, 2 oz. of sugar, ½ oz. of salt and one thirty-six oz. of pepper per officer and man per day, and forage for horses, including hay, oats, and straw, was in—

	Rations for Men.	Forage for Horses
Milit'y Dis. No. 1, Camp at Joderich:	20cts.	36cts
do No. 2, Camp at Niagara..	17½	38
do No. 3, Camp at Kingston.	15	32½
do No. 4, Camp at Prescott.	14½	35
do No. 5 & 6, Camp at Laprairie.	15½	24
do No. 7, Camp at Lewis....	13½	34
do No. 8, Camp at Fred'cton	17½	48
do No. 9, Camp at Aylcsf'd Plains	21½	30

Or say an average for all the Districts of 1 cents per officer and man per day, and 6 34½ cents per horse per day. The average cost for pay and subsistence of the same sized Battalion, consisting of seven companies of fifty-six non-commissioned officers and men, each may be therefore stated as follows:—

	Per day	Total
1 Lieut.-Colonel .....	\$4 87	\$4 87
2 Majors.....	3 00	7 87
7 Captains.....	2 82	19 74
7 Lieutenants .....	1 58	11 00
7 Ensigns .....	1 28	8 98
1 Adjutant .....	2 44	24 42
1 Paymaster.....	3 05	30 47
1 Surgeon .....	3 65	36 12
1 Assistant Surgeon....	2 43	41 55
1 Quarter-Master .....	1 94	43 49
29 Total for Officers.....		65 94