

On the 24th November, at Peterborough, I inspected part of the 57th Battalion, which has lately been made a city Regiment, and was satisfied with their appearance and movements, considering the difficulties they have been laboring under. I am sure that a year's work will show a great improvement in this Battalion.

While at Winnipeg I inspected a part of the 90th Regiment, who had paraded in the Drill Shed previous to attending the uncovering and handing over of a handsome monument erected by the Regiment in memory of their comrades who were killed in the late rising. They turned out in a very smart, soldier-like way.

I inspected the Dufferin Rifles, under Lt.-Col. Jones, at Brantford, and was much pleased with their general appearance and drill.

DRILL SHEDS.

I would recommend that more attention be paid to the maintenance of the existing Drill Sheds and to the erection of the new ones now necessary. The present Drill Shed at Toronto is a most unfit one, and the great zeal and progress of the regiments in that city certainly deserve the encouragement they would derive from a good and appropriate Drill Shed. The Drill Shed at Peterboro' is quite unfit for use, and a new one should be built. The Hamilton Shed was unfortunately burnt down, and a new one, I believe, is to be erected.

EQUIPMENT.

I would again urge the necessity of an issue of valise equipment and the gradual introduction of brown leather belts, in lieu of the present buff belts. The question of head covering is still unsettled. I would again recommend the general issue of the helmet, with a fatigue cap, such as recommended in my last report.

A grey light patrol jacket should also be issued, as it is impossible for men to look clean and smart who have to do all sorts of fatigue work in Camp in their one uniform coat—the tunic.

I am still of opinion that the Government should supply the Cavalry with boots and spurs. The expense of this could be easily met by reducing the amount of braid and lace on the tunics, most of which is unnecessary and not suitable for Militia.

With regard to the armament of the force, it is evident that we are a good deal behind the times. There is no doubt that the Snider rifle was quite good enough for our late trouble in the North-West. It is a strong useful weapon, not easily put out of order, and, if held straight, quite accurate enough up to 500 yards; but there is no doubt the Snider would not do to use against the regular forces of any country, and, as I said in my last year's report, I would recommend the issue, for the present, of the Martini-Henry until the weapon of the future is decided upon. We have a certain number in store, and those might be at once issued to the different schools, as I last year suggested, and to the city regiments. A great many of the Sniders now in use are very much out of repair. These should be taken into store, and be thoroughly repaired and re-issued for use, until Martini-Henrys can be procured for the remainder of the Militia, which should be done without delay, as it would be out of the question to take the field with two sorts of rifles requiring different ammunition. There are, I believe, enough Martini-Henry carbines in store to equip the Cavalry and Artillery Schools. I would also remind you that the guns with which our Artillery are armed are all of the old pattern. A good reliable water-bottle should also be decided upon, and a supply obtained.

GENERAL REMARKS.

After another year's experience I beg leave again to urge the absolute necessity of reducing the strength of the Force. It stands now, on paper, (including the