

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Lieutenant Governor.

Downing Street, 10th December, 1864.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, marked Separate, of the 21st of November last, furnishing me with a Report on the past and present condition of the Militia and Volunteers of New Brunswick.

It is with great satisfaction that I perceive that this important subject has occupied, and continues to occupy so much of your care and thought, and that the condition of the Local forces has so much improved since your assumption of the Government of the Province.

Although the difficulties with which you have had to contend in the organization and discipline of the Militia, no doubt, exist as fully as you have represented them, till it must be borne in mind that self defence is the first duty of every free people.

I shall await with interest the new scheme for the training of the Militia, which you inform me it is your immediate intention to propose to your advisers.

I have, &c. (Signed) EDWARD CARDWELL.

The Lieutenant Governor to the Secretary of State.

Fredericton, 12th January, 1865.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose for your information copies of Resolutions which have been agreed to at a Commission assembled by me to consider the changes which it may be desirable to make in the Militia Law, on the expiration of the existing Act in the Spring of the present year.

2. The discussions of this Commission were conducted with a temper and in a spirit in the highest degree creditable to the Officers of whom it was composed, and the decisions at which they arrived were adopted with almost unqualified unanimity.

3. The main feature of the scheme is the proposal to establish an annual Camp of Instruction; and if this proposal be adopted, I have no fear but that the result will be most satisfactory.

4. It is my intention to press this scheme earnestly on the consideration of my advisers at the next meeting of Council, and I shall soon be able to inform you whether it is or is not approved by them.

5. There are some details contained in these Resolutions which I could wish to see altered; but, as a whole, they meet with my warm and cordial concurrence.

I have, &c. (Signed) ARTHUR H. GORDON.

[Enclosure.]

At a Meeting summoned by direction of His Excellency the Commander in Chief, and held at Government House, Fredericton, on the 3rd January 1865, and continued upon the 4th and 5th January, at which the following Officers of the New Brunswick Militia were present—

His Excellency the Commander in Chief.

Lieut. Colonel Thurgar, Saint John City Rifles.

" Hon. J. H. Gray, Queen's New Brunswick Rangers.

" Hon. John Robertson, Saint John City Light Infantry.

" Hon. L. A. Wilmot, First Battalion York County Militia.

" Foster, New Brunswick Regiment of Artillery.

" Baird, D. Q. M. G., First Battalion Carleton County Militia.

" Otty, Third Battalion King's County Militia.

" D. Wetmore, Second Battalion Charlotte County Militia.

" R. W. Crookshank, Saint John Volunteer Battalion.

Captain Simonds, First Battalion York County Militia.

" Saunders, New Brunswick Yeomanry Cavalry.

The Adjutant General of Militia.