

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF
THE MILITIA FOR 1872.

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On Monday 23rd, the regular drills commenced in a school of instruction under the superintendence of a competent officer in each regiment, for the instruction of the non commissioned officers and men, in guard mounting, making out guard reports, and in everything connected with guard duty.

Target practice being the next consideration, was commenced and carried on under Lieut. W. A. Hale, of the Sherbrooke Artillery of Garrison Artillery. During the practice it was found that many of the officers were very deficient in the knowledge of position drill and target practice; consequently, after the whole of the corps had finished, and having time and ammunition to spare, I took upon myself the responsibility of placing a certain number of these officers each day under Lieut. Hale, to be instructed at the rifle range in this essential part of their duty, which was carried on under the superintendence of Brevet Lt. Col. Hanning, 54th Battalion, Acting Brigade Major.

The target range was situated to the north west of the company ground, and but a few minutes walk therefrom. The targets were erected in echelon, in sets of two to each of the three ranges, a butt being erected between each set sufficiently large to admit of the working of these discs for both targets. The firing points were a short distance from each other on rising dry ground. Consequently, the Musketry Instructor had no difficulty in attending to his duty. One sergeant and two markers were in each butt, and a sergeant at each firing point, the whole being selected for that particular work.

Company drill was carried on both morning and evening for the first few days, then company drill in the morning and battalion drill in the evening and on Saturday, the 29th brigade drill was commenced and continued for the remainder of the time in camp. Monday, the 1st July being Dominion day, 10 rounds of blank ammunition were issued to each of the cavalry and infantry to celebrate the day, but during the time the men were on parade the rain came down in such torrents that I ordered the force to be marched to their tents, and although the rain was not very acceptable on such an occasion, and that thousands of spectators received a thorough drenching, still it proved of benefit in shewing the force the necessity of properly trenching their tents and encampment, and as soon as the rain had ceased, they were out with picks and spades, being instructed in this part of their duty.

On the morning of the 3rd, the Brigade was paraded for muster, which was carried out in accordance with General Orders, dated 31st May 1872.

Field days were held on the 4th and 5th of July, and the efficiency attained by the corps was very marked, particularly the cavalry, who went through their movements, including skirmishing mounting and dismounting, and sword exercise in a very steady manner, which was highly creditable to them.

On Saturday the 6th, the officers and men were paid, and the corps returned to their headquarters.

I have great pleasure in stating that the Brigade Staff and officers commanding corps rendered me very valuable assistance in

making the camp really a camp of instruction, and by their example their officers and men vied with each other in the proper performance of their duty.

I have also great pleasure in remarking on the absence of drunkenness or other crime; the rations were all that could be desired both in quality and quantity, there were no complaints, and every one seemed highly pleased with the whole arrangements, myself particularly at the exemplary conduct of the troops.

The place selected for the camp was well adapted for the purpose; it is situated on rising ground with sandy soil. There are two ravines; one to the extreme south of the camp the other between the cavalry and infantry. The water was excellent, being supplied by springs in great quantity; barrels were sunk at certain distances, and connected by spouts. At the extreme end of the barrels, and some distance therefrom, was placed a drinking trough for horses, this trough was about 12 feet long, and was hewn out of a large log. A sentry was posted at each ravine to preserve order.

To ensure a properly organized force for the defence of the country, there should be an efficient staff, and each brigade should be complete within itself. The divisional and Brigade staff should be apart from the regimental officers, a school of instruction should be formed, either independent of, or in connection with the present military schools for the instruction of staff officers, and no officer should be appointed to the staff unless qualified and passed by a board of competent officers. The success of an army, either on service or in camp, depends upon the officers of the staff properly understanding and carrying on their duty, as it is impossible for the officers commanding to attend to the details in all the branches.

The staff except those permanently employed, to receive pay when on active service or in camp of instruction.

Each brigade should consist of a proper proportion of cavalry, field artillery and garrison artillery in garrison towns, engineers, infantry and commissary.

I regret to say that some of the companies mustered very weak, and that No. 4 company, 64th Battalion, was not represented.

The Stanstead and Compton Troops of Cavalry were not supplied with regimental trousers. The clothing of some of the companies was much worn, and the great coats in most cases unfit for service. The latter have been a long time in wear.

I enclose herewith target practice, clothing and inspection returns; also a rough sketch of the camp and the target ranges.

Considering that targets have been issued only to the headquarters of each battalion in this Brigade Division, and the great distance of many of the companies from the battalion headquarters, I would strongly recommend that a suitable number of pieces of target be issued to each of these companies, also to each troop of cavalry, as it would tend to encourage more target practice among the members of the force than there is at present.

I have the honor to be Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

CHAS. KING, Lt. Col.

Brigade Major,

Commanding the Camp.

The Adjutant General of Militia,
Ottawa.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 6.

The Militia in this district are under the command of Lieut. Colonel A. C. De Lobbiniere Harwood, Deputy Adjutant General, who reports as follows for my information on the state of his command:

HEAD QUARTERS, MONTREAL,

20th October, 1872.

Sir,—I have the honor to inform you that the nominal strength of the forces in the District, were the respective corps complete to their established strength as authorized, would be:—Officers, 191; non commissioned officers and men, 2,860; total—3,051. The total actual strength of the force when mustered at the time of the annual drill for 1872, was.—Officers, 166; non commissioned officers and men, 1,018; total—1,184. There are wanted to complete 1,867 of all ranks.

The annual drill was performed in accordance with General orders of 31st May, 1872, and in the following manner:

The officers and men of the 4th Brigade Division, with the exception of four companies—to be mentioned hereafter—assembled in brigade camp, at Beauharnois, under the command of Lieut. Colonel d'Odette d'Orsonnes, Brigade Major, on the 27th June last.

Of the four companies just above mentioned, three—that is the companies of St. Benoit, St. Placide; St. Eustache—were in camp at St. Eustache, under the command of Major Napoleon Lebranche, on the same day, 27th June, 1873. The "Como Rifles" were absent from camp.

The officers and men of the 5th Brigade Division formed a brigade camp at Berthier, under the command of Lieut. Colonel Hanson, Brigade Major. This camp was commenced on the 27th June last.

The officers and men of the 6th Brigade Division also, upon the same date, began their sixteen days drill at Arthabaskaville, under the command of Lieut. Colonel de Bellefeuille, Brigade Major for that Division.

I visited and inspected myself these four camps.

I forward you with this, rough sketches of three of these camps (the three brigade camps), also the annual tabular inspection Returns and the District Target Practice returns.

Here is the order in which I inspected these camps:

On the 4th July I reached the Berthier camp (under the command of Lieut. Colonel Hanson.) After inspecting the camp I reviewed the troops. A few evolutions were begun, but a heavy storm suddenly came, and we were forced to retire.

In Lt. Colonel Hanson's report to me he says:—"I regret to have to report the low points obtained by the non com. officers and men of the Brigade (the 4th Brigade) during the period of their annual drill, the weather accompanied by high winds, during the fourteen days in camp, being unfavourable to target practice."

The following are the names of the best shots in No. 5 Brigade:

• *Joilette Provisional Battalion.*

Co.	Pts.
No. 1, Sgt. N. Martel.....	29
No. 2, Sgt. O. Laroie.....	27
No. 3, Sgt. A. Boucher.....	29