

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF  
THE MILITIA FOR 1873.

APPENDIX No. I

(Continued from Page 351)

REPORT ON THE ARTILLERY OF THE PROVINCE  
OF QUEBEC.

CITADEL, QUEBEC,

31st December, 1873.

SIR, I have the honor to submit my annual report, under the following heads.—

Field Artillery,  
Garrison Artillery,  
Engineers,  
Gunnery School,  
Forts;  
Armament and Warlike Stores.

FIELD ARTILLERY.

The tabular statement marked (A 1 and 2), on form supplied shows that, of the four Field Batteries comprising this force, two only have guns, viz., the Quebec and Montreal Field Batteries, and I cannot report satisfactorily of the training.

The Quebec Field Battery, under Major Baby, whose report of drill and practice I enclose, marked (B), and the Sheffield Battery, under Major Amyrauld, only turned out, the latter having no guns, his men were instructed in foot drill and riding drill.

In physique and intelligence they are the finest battery I have seen.

It is unfortunate they have had the discouragement of being two years without guns.

Their period of enrolment expires next year.

The Beauce Field Battery has only two seven-pounder muzzle loading mountain guns, the other two with their equipment having been sent to Manitoba, as shown in last year's Militia Report, page 35.

The Officer commanding proposed to postpone his training until the end of the current year, with the hope of having a complete equipment by that time, and performing the two years' drill consecutively for 32 days.

As regards Field Artillery equipment, I beg to refer to the opinion expressed last year in my report, embodied in that of the late Adjutant General of Militia, Colonel Robertson-Ross, page 23. There are no Artillery or Engineers in Military District No. 6, and no Engineers in No. 7.

The proportion of the scientific arms (which require the longest training) is much below that supposed necessary to accompany the best Infantry.

The inadequate training of at least a large proportion of the Canadian militia might warrant a proportionate support from good field artillery, if such was procurable, indifferent field artillery being worse than an encumbrance.

I recommend a field battery being kept for permanent duty at each of the Gunnery Schools, to which detachments from the Militia batteries could be attached as supernumeraries for short courses. It is impossible to train field artillery properly with the eight (8) horses supplied.

The Quebec Gunnery School has not been supplied with field guns, the only one in my possession having no carriage. There are four (4) muzzle loading rifle field guns

completely equipped in the store at the foot of the Citadel Hill, but I have not been successful in obtaining the use of them for instructional purposes, as they form the equipment of the Quebec Field Battery, some of whose men have joined "B" battery for a "short course" of instruction, which it is difficult to give with out the guns.

GARRISON ARTILLERY.

I see no reason to alter the recommendation made in last year's Militia report on this arm, to the Adjutant General, (Par. 24, 25, 26, & 27.)

The tabular statement (A) shows the Grosse Isle detachment Quebec Garrison Artillery under Lieutenant Frederick Montizambert, and the St. John's battery under Major Drumm, are the only portion of the Active Militia Garrison Artillery who have completed their training as yet.

I have not been given an opportunity of inspecting the Grand Trunk Railway Brigade of Artillery, since my appointment as Inspector, though I have more than once expressed my wish to inspect them. I cannot, therefore, report on their state of efficiency.

ENGINEERS.

There are no adequate means of instructing the Engineer Companies. Lieut. Devine, Montreal Engineers, is the only officer of this arm who has gone through a "Long Course" of instruction at the Gunnery School, Quebec.

He has forty (40) of all ranks regularly enrolled in his Company, No. 1, but not having received uniforms, to which I am informed the Company was entitled two years ago, the number attending drill was limited to the amount of old clothing available.

No. 2 Company, commanded by Major Kennedy has not trained this year.

Captain Clarke, Montreal Grand Trunk Railway Engineer Company, is the only officer of the Brigade who has passed an examination by me previous to promotion, in accordance with General Order (12), No 1 paragraphs 1 and 2, dated Head-quarters Ottawa, 10th May, 1870.

His examination was satisfactory.

ST. HELEN'S ISLAND, MONTREAL.

The absence of a winter drill room is a drawback to the instruction of the detachment from "B" Battery at St. Helen's Island. I beg to refer to page 28 of last year's Militia report, and to my letter of the 17th December, 1873, on this subject, in which I recommended a portion of the store shed being partitioned off for this purpose. Last summer the prevalence of picnic parties on the island was a source of danger, the long grass on the island caught fire and the Government boat-house was burnt; further damage was prevented by the detachment "B" Battery using the fire engine in charge of the storekeeper, who, however, objected to its use, the sergeant in charge having taken it without orders (*vide* correspondence transmitted to Head quarters, 20th August, 1873.)

If picnic parties are to be allowed the privilege of using the island, the strength of the detachment should be increased to 50 to allow of sentries on the powder magazine and armoury, as well as patrols (*vide* letter 12th November, 1873.

The fire engines should be placed in charge of the officer in command of the detachment, which should be practised with it periodically.

I need not comment on this serious consequence of fire where there is a magazine of powder and a valuable store of arms. I beg to refer to my letters on this subject.

The same remarks apply to the Citadel of Quebec, where there is no fire engine, since the departure of the Imperial troops, (*vide* letter dated 17th September, 1872.) though a considerable amount of gunpowder and valuable arms are stored in the Citadel. An incipient fire in the quarters of His Excellency, which, for the want of a fire engine might have been productive of serious results, was fortunately extinguished at night by the officer on duty, going his rounds.

The services of the Battery have been freely rendered at large fires in the city, but the want of a fire engine made their assistance of much less value than it might have been.

FORTS.

I beg to refer to page 28, Militia Report for last year, and regret to add that the ruinous condition of the unoccupied casemates has exceeded my worst anticipations, of the probable effects of this climate. Those casemates that have been constantly occupied have not suffered, but the rear walls of five casemates in Dalhousie, and four in Richmond bastions are separated from the arches, and falling outwards. An expenditure of \$6 for timber supports was authorized for those in the latter bastion, (*vide* letter dated 21st April, 1873.)

The wooden covering of the water tank in the diamond ditch, was reported on the 14th May, 1872, as having fallen in, and being in a dangerous condition.

The masonry of the cavalier at the King's bastion was partially painted by the workmen employed under the Board of Works.

I would recommend that a subaltern officer of Royal Engineers, with rank and pay as a Captain, a sergeant-foreman of works and twenty-five enlisted artificers, receiving the same rate of working pay as in the Royal Engineers, should be maintained in the Citadel, as part of the establishment of the Gunnery school. The officer could also be employed as Instructor in military surveying and fortification. Such an arrangement would, in my opinion, be found the most efficient and economical method of preventing the ruin of the works, for want of the annual petty repairs, which are good economy in the end.

The forts at point Levis and Engineer Park, are still in good order, having been looked after by non-commissioned officers as caretakers, who have been allowed fuel.

Hope and Palace Gates, which could not be said to have any military value, have been destroyed, also the guard houses, and the upper part of the walls of the town lines between those gates lowered to about two feet.

The emplacements for guns are not to be interfered with. The Grand Battery is on a natural escarpment of rock, and offers a most favourable position for guns, as does also the whole extent of the lines from the Legislative buildings to the Artillery barracks, commanding the river St. Charles and the opposite shore, which is open and easily swept by the fire of the rifled guns. I think it imperative that the rights of Federal Government in this locality should not be further interfered with.

I beg respectfully to submit that the ordnance lands and buildings have been given over by the Imperial Government for the purposes of defence, moneys resulting from