

Section 34, Militia Act, but it appears desirable that the responsibility for recovery, now laid by that section on the Commanding Officer of the troops called out, should be assumed by the Government.

This incident has likewise illustrated the necessity for the legislature to consider and determine the position that shall be occupied by civil servants in respect to Militia service. The Companies employed at Hull included in their ranks numerous employés of the Government departments at Ottawa. These gentlemen have been placed in a most painful dilemma. Had they failed to obey the order summoning them to Militia duty they would have been liable to heavy penalties under the Militia Act. Having sacrificed personal comfort to fulfil their Militia duty, they have been deprived, under the Civil Service Act, of their salaries for the days they were absent on that duty. It is not necessary for me to enlarge upon the evident injury that such an anomaly must cause to the Militia.

I feel bound to add that, undeterred by pecuniary loss, these gentlemen all maintained the reputation of the Canadian Militia, by their prompt response to the call of duty, and by the admirable manner in which that duty was performed.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion it only remains for me to add that I have in this report directed the criticism, it is my duty to make, chiefly upon organization. It is a common error to confuse drill with organization, and to suppose that because a certain number of men, each year, are given twelve days' elementary instruction in military exercise, therefore a military organization exists. There can be no greater or more fatal misapprehension. The men thus drilled are but the elements, from which a defensive military force may be created. In the event of national emergency, these elements must be rapidly brought together and given the cohesion which is indispensable for success in military operations. Every officer and man must know the place he is required to take, and to feel confident that at least arms and ammunition (not to enter into further details) can be readily placed in his hand, to enable him to defend his country. A chain of responsibility, maintained by competent staff officers, must exist, in order that the motive power, of one controlling will, shall reach all ranks. This can only be accomplished by organization and a sound administrative system. These are factors as necessary to the efficiency of a Militia force, as they are to the success of any commercial or industrial undertaking.

Powerful in physique, intelligent and eager to learn, the Militia at present contains the unorganized elements of a strong national force. Moreover, in the

men of the Rural Militia, there exists that capacity for adapting themselves to circumstances, and "handiness," engendered by practical acquaintance with camp life, in their ordinary avocations, which is a most valuable quality for a soldier in the field. What is required is system and organization in every department.

I attach to this report the annual reports of the Inspectors of Artillery and Engineers, that of the Commandant of the Royal Military College, and those of the Officers Commanding Military Districts Nos. 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12, which I recommend to your consideration.

IVOR HERBERT,
Major-General,
Commanding Canadian Militia.

THE ENGINEERS.

The following is the annual report upon the condition of the Engineer corps made by Inspector Mayne :—

From what I have seen and from the information I have gathered concerning the Engineer arm of the militia is of but little practical value.

The changes I would suggest are as follows :

1. The present companies of 43 officers and men are far too small to be of much use. They should be at least double their present size (*i.e.* from 80 to 90 men, and officered by a major, a captain and four subalterns) to ensure any adequate training as Engineers. It is impossible to execute any really practical work of any size with a few men only.

2. It is very important that all the Engineer companies should be assembled together in camp every year. Were this carried out, as well as doubling the size of the companies, then each year there would be four companies (two from Montreal, one from Charlottetown, and one from Brighton under present arrangements), amounting to about 300 men in camp together, and with such a body of men really practical works of various kinds could be undertaken, and the officers and men become as fully instructed as is possible. Engineers cannot be properly trained until they fully appreciate the difficulties of full-sized works. The playing at field engineering in model sheds, useful and even essential in its proper place, is of no real value for giving any idea of the labour and time involved in the construction of full-sized works.

Both the Montreal and Charlottetown Engineers (*i.e.* the city companies) are in great want of convenient grounds to work on and dig in. And as city men are not willing as a rule to dig after their day's work, and it is not convenient to dig in the evening when it is dusk or dark, the only solution is to take such Engineer companies into camp every year. If this is not done then there can be no real use

in keeping up such companies. Both the city companies have expressed their willingness to go into camp, if such a camp can be held late in August.

Another important reason for the assembling of all the Engineer companies into one camp is that it is the only way in which a fair comparison can be made between the various companies in the annual competition for the Gzowski prize. At present the different companies compete under widely differing circumstances and conditions. The conditions and surroundings of the Montreal Engineer company are so unfavourable as to have nearly always prevented it from taking part in this competition. The Gzowski Engineer competition is an admirable institution, or would be so under favourable conditions; but at present it is rendered ineffectual by the defects of the present organization and working system of the Canadian Militia Engineers.

3. It is very important that each of the Engineer companies should be sufficiently provided with the entrenching tools and other engineering stores necessary for their ordinary training as Engineers. The Montreal and Brighton companies have practically no stores. The Charlottetown company is the only one which is fairly well provided with engineer equipment. The Brighton Engineers provide *their own* tools, saws, axes, hammers, etc., when they go into camp. Ten years ago this Brighton company received 24 shovels, 24 picks, 6 axes, and 6 gabion knives from the N.B. Engineers, when the latter were converted into rifles. But these tools were not new when handed over, and are now old and useless. It is impossible for men to be trained as military engineers without the necessary tools and materials for the purpose:—for the skilful employment of these is their very *raison d'être*. In fact, the only *raison d'être* of an Engineer company is that it shall consist of men trained to execute skilfully, rapidly, and intelligently such military engineering works as may be required in the field; otherwise it is a sham. Engineers cannot be extemporized.

4. There should be an adequate supply of proper text books for each company. I would suggest that a copy of the "Manual of Elementary Field Engineering" be provided by Government for every two men in each company.

5. Assuming that the companies are collected yearly together in camp, in July or August, then one or more Royal Engineer officers and non-commissioned officers should be sent from the Royal Military College to superintend and direct the practical engineering instruction carried out while in camp. These officers would not have anything to do with the ordinary discipline of the camp.

In accordance with the reasons given in the foregoing on the subject, the