

steadiness, no preliminary drill; they got through a few company formations in a perfunctory fashion, but it seemed to me that if they had to be made use of, confusion would have resulted. I gave the officer gladly, much credit for his well intentioned efforts, and if he had spent six months at a disciplined training school, his company would have been very different. Here, too, I noticed the absence of proper means for protecting the Government arms and clothing; hardly one tunic was complete in buttons; the trousers were of various patterns and material; boots with high heels and narrow toes that would have lamed the men in a few miles over a muddy road; the arms but tolerable, and some of the locks out of order; there were no slings, no snap caps, and I think I missed some ramrods; the sights of these rifles if examined, would I am sure, have been found defective. But this is the fault of the existing system not of this particular officer, and I believe only could be possible in an independent company. Regimental armouries and clothing stores under a permanent regimental staff, would be a saving to the Militia Department in the end; but from long habit I do not think captains of companies would be *persuaded* into the necessity for this—it must be by regulation and a regimental order. Rural companies as a rule, prefer keeping their own stores and the result is very bad, except when they have good drill sheds and armouries attached.

5. That a contingent allowance as in the army, should be paid to each captain of a company to cover losses, holding him responsible to keep the arms, &c., in repair, with power to recover penalties from any volunteer losing or damaging public property. This, I consider, might prevent the improper use of arms, which occasionally occurs and the glaring impropriety of wearing Government great coats, which I am told is of frequent occurrence.

I think the present system of payment for drill instruction is faulty; some officers are incapable of properly imparting drill, which cannot be acquired by inspiration but by long application and practice.

6. I before suggested that the Brigade Staff should be paid a consolidated allowance proportioned to the amount they now receive, instead of being paid eight dollars per annum for each efficient company. It is hardly to be expected from the most conscientious officer that he will willingly bring to notice and recommend the disbandment of an efficient company at the price of reducing his own income. I am aware the present system has this result—which has a bad effect and deters officers from independent action.

7. The batteries constituting the Gunnery or Artillery Schools should have their four field guns horsed. This would require at least 20 horses for each battery, but as I am afraid that addition may not be immediately authorized, I suggest an increase from eight, to ten horses, in order that the No. 1 of each of the two guns be mounted, as without a horse he cannot do his duty.