

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE MILITIA FOR 1872.

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Although the Kingston School of Gunnery (A Battery) has only been in operation for about 16 months, and the maximum authorized strength, namely time limited to 4 officers and 131 non-commissioned officers and men, the Commandant reports that 12 officers and 223 non-commissioned officers and men have joined that school since its formation, and about 30 more are at this date (17th March, 1873) waiting for admission.

8 officers have obtained first class certificates and two officers a second class certificate; 7 first class and 8 second class certificates have been given to non-commissioned officers and men; no certificates have as yet been given to any of the men at present at the school, but they will of course, be entitled to receive certificates according to professional merit on passing the necessary examination in artillery science before they leave the school.

The Commandants of the Gunnery Schools have been very particular in granting certificates. It is indispensable that an officer in any arm of the military service should have some education, and no certificate should be given to any one who cannot write correctly from dictation, and show a reasonable knowledge of arithmetic.

On the conclusion of the first year, on the 26th October, 1872, a proportion of non-commissioned officers and men who had completed 12 months' course of instruction and who were desirous of readmission for a further period, being *good characters and desirable men in other particulars*, were readmitted. This system is being continued, and, if carried out systematically and with judgment, will have the effect of securing eventually, to the service of the Dominion, a picked body of first class artillerymen either for duty or instructional purposes.

Lt. Colonel F. B. Strange, the Commandant of the Quebec School of Gunnery, "B" Battery, reports for my information as follows:

"The examination papers submitted—marked A, B, C, D, E, G, H, I, J, K—and published in appendix show that the practical and theoretical course of instruction of the officers, and the small number of sergeants who were able to avail themselves of it, has been of an advanced character, including the following subjects:

"Artillery drills and exercises, garrison and field-gunnery.

"Artillery material, including the examination and sighting of ordnance, laboratory, &c.

"Minor tactics and military history.

"Fortifications and sieges.

"Rough military surveying with pocket compass and sextant.

"I beg to suggest an artillery certificate, applicable to the higher course of study, in addition to the present gunnery certificate.

"I have much pleasure in expressing my entire satisfaction with the intelligence and application, as well as with the natural military qualities shewn by the officers who have passed through my hands."

"The duties of all ranks have been performed with entire satisfaction, and the absence of actual crime, with the exception of drunkenness, which, however, has greatly decreased, is encouraging.

"I am much indebted to Major Montzambert, Captain Duchesnay, and Lieut. Short, who have each in their turn acted as Adjutant.

"To enable me to carry out the duties of instruction and inspection, I have of late left much of the detail of battery interior economy to Major Montzambert, who has shown himself thoroughly competent, and set the best possible example of cheerful energy and good feeling, which has been followed by all ranks.

"The most obviously advantageous method of utilizing scientifically trained officers during peace, is that adopted by the United States, where a large proportion of those educated at West Point are employed on Public Works.

"The gigantic railroad, canal and boundary surveys undertaken by the Canadian Government give ample scope for the employment of assistant military surveyors and engineers, who would thus form the nucleus of a practically scientific staff corps, whose intimate knowledge of their own country, and the maps they would construct, would be of incalculable value in the event of war and useful in peace. These services are at present, in some instances done for us (and I have no doubt with great ability) by foreign engineers, whose knowledge of our country might not always be to our advantage.

"It would be very desirable that a party from the Gunnery School should be attached as assistants to the Royal Engineers on the Boundary survey. When the latter return to England, their Canadian assistants would have acquired sufficient skill to become the nucleus of a Canadian staff corps of engineer surveyors.

"Royal Artillery and engineer officers are educated together, and their training now covers the whole ground of important subjects taught at the Staff College, Sandhurst; artillery, infantry, and riding drills are already taught at the gunnery schools as well as rough military surveying.

"A few months after the formation of a School of Gunnery a considerable portion of the fortress of Quebec was re-armed, by the men attending it during a severe winter; only one rifled gun having been mounted by the Royal Artillery before their departure, while a considerable number of the old guns had been dismounted by the Royal Engineers to repair the platforms; this while affording necessary and valuable practical instruction to officers and men, carried out an important public service.

"On the 5th August, the services of the battery was rendered on the requisition of the Mayor and Sheriff (who both attended in person) during the elections at Quebec. The battery was formed as infantry, with a mounted detachment as troopers, to clear the streets.

"I reported the circumstance to the Deputy Adjutant General commanding No. 7, Military district, from whom I had received an order to turn out. I was subsequently directed to send a detachment to Montreal for the same purpose; and in the month of September, 1872 to send an officer, and twenty-five (25) non-commissioned officers, gunners and drivers, with two 7 pound muzzle loading rifle guns and their equipment, for service in the Province of Manitoba. Thirty nine (39) volunteered; the surplus were taken as infantry. They were a remarkable fine body of intelligent and trained soldiers including many artificers.

"The number of horses—eight (8)—is inadequate for instruction in field artillery movements. Forty (40) horses would be sufficient for a permanent instructional field battery and riding establishment, especially if officers going through courses were given forage for their own horses, as allowed last year for the cavalry school, such horses be-

ing available for gun draught. The artillery horses might, under these circumstances, be able to perform the transport and fatigue duties for the store and supply department, driving waggons being almost as good practice as driving guns. A considerable saving of money would be the result, combined with efficient instruction, and a field battery always ready for service, which, during annual training at camp, or on emergencies, might be distributed among the field batteries, to whom the addition of a few well trained wheel and lead drivers, with their horses, would be invaluable.

"The gun practice of "B" Battery was carried on from King's Bastion, Citadel, at a target on the ice. Artillery marksmen having been selected in accordance with the system submitted for your approval, the results were published in general orders, and shew a high figure of merit, combined with quickness in laying heavy guns. Mortar practice was carried on from the Lewis curtain.

"With regard to the military schools of Canada I think it will be generally admitted that the time had arrived to establish such schools on a more efficient basis, and this, it will be seen, has been done very effectually as regards the artillery; to afford as effectual means of instruction to the other arms, schools on a somewhat similar system should be adopted.

With a view therefore to promote increased general efficiency in the Militia of the Dominion it is desirable to re-organize the Military School system generally, I recommend that the number of Military Schools be limited in future to one in each Province, based upon the principle of tactical brigade organization, at which Regimental Instruction can be imparted to a certain number of officers, non-commissioned officers and men of Cavalry and Infantry Corps, as thoroughly as is now being carried on for Artillery officers, non-commissioned officers and men in the Gunnery Schools at Kingston and Quebec.

It is an acknowledged principle in the Military service that the best professional school for a Military man, next to the school of actual war, is service with a Regular Army, it follows therefore, that a proper military school should be organized as regularly as a military body can be organized, for the theory, without the practice of Military duties is not of much avail.

I recommend that three brigade schools be established—one at Kingston, for the Province of Ontario, one at Quebec for the Province of Quebec, and one either at Fredericton or St. John, N.B.; as may be most convenient for the Province of N. B., the instruction required for the Militia in Nova Scotia to be obtained as at present from Her Majesty's Regular Troops, stationed at Halifax.

To establish suitable brigade schools at Kingston and Quebec, all that is necessary would be to place on duty one company of infantry, and one Troop of 25 Cavalry, in connection, and co-operation with the present schools of Gunnery; and for the Province of New Brunswick to establish a Brigade School of somewhat less numerical strength.

At these Brigade Schools whilst the Regimental training and command according to the respective arms would be with the Regimental Commanders, The Chief command of the Brigade School itself, would rest with the D. A. G. of the District, who is the responsible commander of all the Militia in the Districts.

I am induced to recommend the adoption