

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF
THE MILITIA FOR 1873.

APPENDIX No. I

(Continued from Page, 316)

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 8.

74th Battalion of Infantry.—Lt.-Col. Beer.

Lieut. Colonel Otty, B. M., inspected the Head-Quarters Company at Sussex, on the 30th October, 1873, and he reports as follows: "That this Company is now composed of a large number of recruits, consequently neither company or skirmishing drill was as well performed as on former inspections."

Accompanied by the Lieut.-Colonel, I inspected the three Companies in Westmoreland County, 3rd Brigade Division, on the following dates: Sackville, Captain Baird, 15th July, Baie Verte, Captain Harper, 18th July; Murray Road, Captain Murray, 18th July.

The physical appearance of this half Battalion drew forth high praise from our late Adjutant General, at Camp Ross, 1871, and in that respect it is still second to none in my District, and as regards proficiency, while it appears invidious to make any distinction, I consider the Sackville and Murray Road Companies deserve special mention—the latter Company had assembled for continuous drill, at a picturesque spot on the sea coast, near Shemogue, and they had evidently made good use of the time at their disposal.

I hope soon to be in a position to recommend the acceptance of two new Companies in this Battalion instead of two Companies become non-effective.

3RD BRIGADE DIVISION—Lieutenant.-Colonel McCulley, Brigade Major.

In addition to the troop of 8th Regiment of Cavalry, No. 7, and the half Battalion, 74th Battalion already referred to, 2nd Brigade Division, I inspected the following corps:—

Newcastle Field Battery.—Captain Call.

Lieut.-Colonel Jago and I inspected this Battery, at Newcastle, on August 29th, and that officer reports, "that this battery appears to be still in a transition state, the great difficulty being to provide horses and drivers. Captain Call is an officer who has spared neither time, money, nor trouble in trying to remedy this defect, I regret to say that he has not hitherto met with success. The shot and shell practice made by this Battery was good, and the saddlery, stores, &c., were in good order. The Battery, however, certainly wants the power of mobility, but as it is only armed with the 9 pounder S. B. gun, I question greatly whether the country would be much the gainer if it had it."

While the difficulty about horses and drivers has not yet been overcome, it is, I think, satisfactory to note that Captain Call has lately had a valuable addition to his list of gunners in the transfer of some efficient members of the late No. 1 Company, 73rd Battalion, whom I hope may ere long become trained artillerymen.

At the end of the continuous drill, Capt. Call reported that "that the men returned to their homes delighted with their drill. Not one had a single fault to find."

No. 7 Battery Garrison Artillery.—Brevet Major Gillespie.

Lieut. Colonel Jago and I inspected this Battery at Chatham on the 28th August. That officer reports that "owing to an unfortunate detention arising from a destructive storm; the ammunition for the Battery did not arrive till after our inspection, so that I had no opportunity this year of seeing them at shot practice. The Battery showed a marked improvement in marching drill, and their standing gun drill was fair. I cannot but regret that my recommendation of last year as to platforms being laid on a point at the river bank, where the guns mounted might really assist at the defence of the Miramichi, has not been carried out, as not only would a permanent advantage have been obtained by doing so, but also the Battery would have been able to make much better use of their hours of drill."

Lieut.-Colonel Jago adds: "Major Gillespie is a most efficient and zealous officer, and would, I am convinced, join heartily in the idea of sending a strong detachment annually to St. John; the effect of which on his Battery could not but be beneficial."

73rd Battalion.—Lieut. Colonel Ferguson.

Accompanied by the Brigade Major and the Lieut.-Colonel, I inspected the different companies of this Battalion (except Buctouche Company lately accepted) on the dates below named:

Black Brook, Captain Blake, 23rd July.
Black River, Captain Templeton, 24th July.
Chatham, Captain Fenton, 24th July.
Bay du Vin, Captain Cameron, 24th July.

When last inspected, one company had become non-effective, one company was nearly so, and the Battalion was in consequence below its authorized strength. This want, I am glad to state, has since been supplied, and I was entirely satisfied at the proficiency attained, more particularly in the Black River, Bay du Vin, and Black Rock Companies.

By a somewhat long march on the part of the last named company, I was enabled to witness some battalion drill at Bay du Vin, which, considering the many recruits in the ranks, was well executed.

Lieut. Colonel Ferguson may justly feel satisfied at the successful result of his efforts to re-organize the Battalion.

Dalhousie Infantry Company.—Captain Barberie.

I inspected this company at Dalhousie on the 26th July, and as it was inspected by the Brigade Major last year, and there was some error in the printing of that officer's report, I had formed an incorrect idea of the Company's efficiency. I found at this inspection, however, that besides being composed of as a fine a body of men as any in the Province, a very fair degree of efficiency had been attained, and it only requires the attendance of the Captain, who is a very intelligent officer, and his subalterns at the military school to raise the corps to a most efficient state.

VISIT OF H. E. THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

In the month of August last, during my temporary absence from Fredericton, being out of reach of telegraph communication, His Excellency the Governor General unexpectedly visited New Brunswick. Lieut.-Colonel Otty, backed by Lieut. Col. Inchos, at once assumed command of the Militia, and ordered the assembly of the necessary guards of honor; and while I take this op-

portunity of thanking the officers for their energetic actions in the matter, I must record the promptitude and alacrity with which guards of honor were formed at the following places by the corps named:

St. John, Brigade of Artillery and 62nd Battalion.
Fredericton, Battery of Artillery, and 71st Battalion.
Woodstock Battery of Artillery, 67th Battalion.
Chatham, Battery of Artillery, 73rd Battalion.
Grand Falls, Captain Bosse's Company.
Dalhousie, Barberie's Company.

I regret extremely to have to report that a fatal accident occurred at Chatham, while the salute in honor of the Governor General was being fired, by which two gunners (J. Murray and R. Steel) were killed.

I lost no time in convening a court of enquiry to investigate the cause of this accident. The proceedings have been transmitted to head-quarters.

Lieut. Colonel Jago's remarks on the proceedings of the court he states "that it appears to him that the premature discharge of the gun was an unavoidable accident, such as will sometimes occur. All human precautions to avert accidents seem to have been taken. The detachment was complete in number, and perfectly sober," &c.

VOLUNTEERS FOR MANITOBA.

On the 21st May last, I received orders to enrol fifty (50) men for service in the North West. I at once called for a quota from the Active Militia Force in each Brigade Division. The men assembled at Fredericton, were medically examined and attested, and on the 10th June they proceeded in charge of Lieut. Colonel Otty to Manitoba, and it is due to that officer to say that he performed this somewhat onerous duty in the most satisfactory manner.

Subsequently, on the September, 25 mounted police, also for service in the North West, were enrolled in this Province, and proceeded in charge of Captain Carrell.

OFFER OF SERVICES.—ASHANTEE EXPEDITION.

On the return from Manitoba of Lieut. Colonel Otty, both he and Lieut.-Colonel Saunders offered their services to join Sir Garnet Wolseley's staff in the British expedition to the Gold Coast of Africa against the Ashantees. Although I should deeply regret the loss to my district of these two officers of much experience in the organization of our local forces, I fully expected that their services would have been accepted, on the ground that the active militia—the "Advance Guard" of the Dominion—is now an important part of the auxiliary forces of Great Britain, and that Sir Garnet Wolseley, knowing well by experience the many valuable qualities of the Canadian soldiery, would desire to have our force represented on his staff. There is, however, no immediate prospect of their being so employed.

RIFLE ASSOCIATIONS.

New Brunswickers may well be gratified at the selection made in placing Lieut.-Colonel B. L. Peters in command of the team sent to Wimbledon this year to represent the Dominion.

On retiring from the Presidency of our Provincial Rifle Association, and on appointment as one of its patrons, the mantle of Lt.-Colonel Peters has fallen on a worthy