

During the past year the regiment has been largely recruited from an excellent class, and so popular is the corps that captains of troops, on completing the quota, had to decline the services of numerous applicants for admission to the ranks.

The Adjutant General formed a very favorable opinion respecting the material and efficiency of this corps at the time of training at "Camp Ross," last year, as conveyed in the "Militia Report;" and so successfully have the recruitment and annual drill been carried out since then, that I consider the present condition of the regiment, both as to material and general efficiency, most satisfactory—even improved in many important particulars.

It must be stated that the brigade Major Lieut. Colonel Otty, who attended this camp, rendered valuable assistance to the Lieut. Colonel of the corps in having the recruits taught from the first step in drill and routine and the old soldiers better instructed in the details of duty. Thus the utmost advantage was taken of the limited time allotted for cavalry training.

The desirability of allowing an additional period for winter drills for this arm has been clearly pointed out by the Adjutant General.

Fifty new sets of saddlery have been issued to the Corps; the rest of their equipment is old and nearly unserviceable.

Spencer carbines have been exchanged for Snider carbines, which were in good condition. The course of target practice was correctly carried out under the supervision of Major Darling.

*New Brunswick Brigade Garrison Artillery—*  
Lieut.-Colonel Foster.

In accordance with General Orders, dated Ottawa, May 31st, 1872, an Artillery camp was formed at St. John on August 22nd, of which I took command, in conjunction with Lieut.-Colonel Foster commanding the Brigade, while Lieut.-Colonel Iago acted in the capacity of superintendent of drill and practice; and that officer's report is so satisfactory that I need only apply his words, referring to his position as superintendent of drills to mine as commandant, viz.: that the duties of commandant "were as easy as they were pleasant." Lieut.-Colonel Iago reports as follows:—

"Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 10 Batteries attended from St. John, and No. 7 sent a strong detachment with two officers from Chatham, whilst No. 5 also sent a small detachment with one officer from Woodstock."

"Without doubt," he adds, "the officers and men derived great benefit from the camp. The continuous drill of never less than five hours per diem did more for the attendants at it than treble the time consumed in a drill room."

"He found the officers fully capable of instructing the men, and the men anxious and willing to profit by their instruction, whilst both endeavored to maintain the credit the corps has enjoyed for good conduct."

His position as Superintendent of drills was, therefore, as easy as it was pleasant. And he had also the satisfaction of superintending some excellent shot practice made by the different batteries, both as regards accuracy and also rapidity of firing, for prizes presented by well-wishers of the brigade."

Lieut. Colonel Iago concludes his report with some excellent remarks, in which I entirely concur, as to the want of a School of Gunnery for the instruction officers and men in this District,—"it being useless to hope to make a really good battery without a certain number of the officers and men being competent to impart instruction in the theory and practice of artillery."

This subject is now under the consideration of the authorities at head quarters; and the Adjutant General is well aware of its "great importance, in connection with the defence of St. John and the coast of New Brunswick generally, to have the militia resident in the maritime portion of the Province trained to artillery exercises," and submit that if it be not practicable at the present moment to establish a "School of Gunnery" at St. John on the same principle as those provided for the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, at Kingston and Quebec," authority he obtained to open such a school at St. John on the 1st December, prox., on the basis of the infantry military schools, with Lieut. Colonel Iago as Commandant, and an efficient assistant, and also an instructor.

It must be added that Lieut. Colonel Saunders has submitted some practical suggestion as to the establishment of a Cavalry School during the winter months, so soon as the larger question of a battery of artillery similar to those at Quebec and Kingston, is arranged. The following is my Brigade Order on the breaking up of the Artillery camp at St. John:—

[BRIGADE ORDER.]

ARTILLERY CAMP,

St. JOHN, N. B.,

30th August, 1873

The Artillery camp will break up to-day; and the Deputy Adjutant General commanding desires to express to the officers, non-commissioned officers and gunners, his satisfaction with the manner in which the duties have been carried out.

Assembled for the first time in camp, and having from the start to learn the routine of a soldier's life in the field during somewhat bad weather, while discipline and good conduct have not been relaxed, the condition of the troops has been most creditable.

Lieut. Col. French, Inspector of Artillery, announces that he was highly pleased with the drill and practice of the batteries. The manner in which the Chatham Battery fired their five rounds in the competition for Mrs. Iago's cup he considered especially creditable.

The Deputy Adjutant General has received his usual energetic support from the Staff (Lieut.-Colonels Otty and Iago), to whom, as well as to Lieut.-Colonel Foster, commanding the Brigade, he tender his sincere thanks.

By order.

(Signed),

ANDREW C. OTTY, Lieut.-Colonel.

Brigade Major.

Engineer Company—Captain Parks.

This corps having become disorganized, owing to delay in completing its re-enrollment, has recently been re-organized, and my remarks as to improvement of material when referring to others may in a special manner be extended to this corps, nor recruited above the established strength from a class of young, active, intelligent men,

who will, I doubt not, by applying their intelligence to their important duties as Military Engineers, render the corps very efficient.

In conjunction with Lieut.-Colonel Iago, I inspected this corps at St. John, on 31st October, on completing its annual drill, and found that a sufficient foundation in the knowledge and practice of infantry drill, had been laid to warrant my expectation as to future efficiency being realized. The Inspector of Artillery proposes placing this corps in charge of certain fortifications and batteries at St. John, with the view to their learning to keep these works in order, and possibly adding to and improving the present system of fortification at that place. The advantage of carrying out this suggestion is obvious—comment is needless.

62nd "St. John" Battalion—Lieut. Colonel Macshane,

Inspected this corps at Camp, St. John on the 9th September, having previously seen it under arms more than once during the period of training.

The camp was formed on the barrack grounds, recently occupied by the camp of the Garrison artillery.

Aware of the difficulty experienced by those officers who zealously undertook the task of re-enrolling this corps (partly owing, I think, to the erroneous idea conceived of the true position of corps of active militia in general, and city corps in particular), it was extremely gratifying to observe at this camp that success had attended their efforts in this respect, and in all that concerned the better efficiency of the corps. The men were carefully drilled both in company and battalion drill—soldierlike in their bearing, orderly in conduct; while the regimental duties appeared to have been systematically carried out and the arms in good condition.

74th Battalion.

I inspected this corps, at Camp Sursox, on the 18th July, although three companies are drawn from the 3rd Brigade Division—and these composed of as fine a body of men as any in my District—the camp was formed at Sussex, the residence of the Lieut. Colonels in the 2nd Brigade Division, which has heretofore furnished the remaining three companies (half battalion.) However, two of these companies (those at Kingston and Elgin) have failed to re-enrol, and will be disbanded. The Lieut.-Colonel is now taking steps to supply their places with others.

The drill, discipline, and conduct of the corps in camp were all that could be desired, the only thing to be regretted being the absence of the two companies adverted to. The Lieut.-Colonel is also desirous to organize a regimental band; and that want supplied, with two new companies, I cannot doubt but that the 74th Battalion will be second to none in the District.

The Brigade Major of this Division, in answer to enquiries as to whether he considers the present strength of the active militia in his Division, can be maintained without resorting to the draft, that, "judging from the returns of the current year of those who have performed their drills in camp, and in view of the zeal and activity that has recently been displayed by the city as well as some of the rural corps, he is led to infer that, at least for some time to come, the system now in force, under judicious management, will furnish the quota required in this Division."

(To be Continued)