



The Volunteer Review

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REPORT OF THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL.

Sir,—In submitting the Annual Report on the state of the Militia, I have the honour to inform you, that many measures have been introduced during the past year, calculated to increase the efficiency of the Active Militia, and the Military Organization of the Dominion;—much remains yet to be done, but the progress already attained, has been as satisfactory, as could reasonably be expected, under the circumstances of the country, the limited period of time allowed for drill and the means at command.

Among the most prominent of the measures adopted, may be mentioned:—

1st. The inauguration of a uniform and systematic mode of carrying out the Annual Drill of the Active Militia in "Camps of Exercise," more in accordance with the requirements of modern warfare; the great majority of the troops assembled at these camps being concentrated with rapidity, paid and supplied as if on actual service, and placed in every district under the command of those officers appointed for the purpose.

2nd. Many Batteries of Garrison Artillery, (hitherto practised mostly in Infantry exercises) have, at the time of the Annual Training last year, gone through a short course of instruction in "Gun Drill" at various Forts and Batteries, firing credibly at Target Practice the annual allowance of shot and shell, the better inspection, and instruction more over of both Field and Garrison Batteries, being effected by, or under the orders of the Inspector of Artillery and Warlike Stores.

3rd. The establishment of two Schools of Artillery: one at Kingston, the other at Quebec, under the command of specially trained officers of the Royal Artillery; these Schools acting also as Batteries, serve to Garrison and guard certain Forts, Barracks, Magazines and Military Stores in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, in addition to affording means for the complete training in Artillery Exercises, of such officers and men, of Artillery corps, as are attached thereto.

4th. The performance, by nearly the whole of the Infantry, at the Annual training of a prescribed course of target practice with the Snider Rifle, under revised regulations, 584 Government money prizes, with appropriate badges, being awarded to the successful competitors.

During the past year the second periodical enrolment of the Reserve Militia has been taken, showing a large increase in the number of men available for the defence of the country; two other military Districts

consequent upon the Provinces of "Manitoba" and "British Columbia," having been admitted into the Dominion were added to the Militia system, which now extends through British Territory from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

A Military Expedition to Manitoba, to assist Her Majesty's subjects resident in that Province, in repelling Fenian Invasion, was carried out, in a manner reflecting great credit not only on the Commander, Brevet Lieut.-Colonel F. Scott, a Major in the 42nd Battalion, (at present serving as Captain in the Manitoba Provisional Battalion,) and the officers and men composing the force, but on the character of the Canadian Militia generally.

This expedition, suddenly required—undertaken at an advanced and most trying season of the year, was organized, equipped and dispatched, with marked promptitude, and the force, without the loss of a man, arrived at its destination in a very short period of time, in face of unusual hardships and difficulties, incidental to the early setting in of a Northern American winter.

Proof has thus been conclusively afforded of the practicability of the "Dawson Route" for the passage of troops from Thunder Bay to Fort Garry, at almost any season of the year, contrary to the somewhat hasty predictions of inexperienced men.

1871 has witnessed the departure of the Regular Troops, from Quebec, that famous Fortress, having been garrisoned for more than a century by a portion of Her Majesty's Regular Army, is now (like the Forts at Kingston,) handed over to the Dominion Government.

The British flag that floats over those strongholds is as vigilantly guarded, and the morning gun, as regularly fired, by the Dominion Militia Artillery Corps, who have replaced the Regular Troops at those stations for Garrison duty.

With the exception of two Infantry Battalions, and some Artillery and Engineers stationed at Halifax, Nova Scotia, there are no Regular Troops at present in the Dominion, the Military charge, therefore of nearly the whole country, devolves on the Militia.

ACTIVE MILITIA.

The accompanying return (marked No. 1) shows in a condensed form the strength and organization of the Active Militia on 31st December last, giving a total including all ranks of 43,174 officers and men. Out of this number 34,414 (officers and men) have performed the Annual Drill for the Military year 1871-72, of which 22,544 (officers and men,) with 1,996 horses, were assembled at Divisional or Brigade Camps of exercise, for

sixteen days continuous drill, paid, supplied, and maintained as if on actual service. 5,210 (officers and men) with 319 horses, were assembled in camps which were only in operation for eight days, under the ordinary regulations relative to pay and supply; the remainder of the Active Militia, numbering 8,760 (officers and men), performed their Annual Drill either at the Head Quarters of Corps, or, as in the case of many Batteries of Garrison Artillery, at certain Forts where instruction in gunnery could be more advantageously afforded, and shot and shell practice properly carried out.

Three Batteries of Garrison Artillery in the Province of Ontario embarked in succession on board the Gun boat "Prince Alfred" for eight days, and were practised at "Gun Drill," firing shot and shell, the vessel during the period cruising on Lakes "Erie" and "Huron."

1,189 Cavalry and the whole of the Field Artillery, (ten Batteries with 42 Field Guns,) have performed their drill for 1871-72 in the different Camps of Exercise.

RESERVE MILITIA.

The following return, (No. 2) shows the result of the Enrolment of 1871, of the Reserve Militia, in the Nine Military Districts, comprising the four Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia,—from which it will be seen; that in these, four Provinces alone, there are nearly 700,000 men, within the fighting ages, liable by law to military service in defence of the Dominion; thus proving that there is in the country itself at least an ample supply of the most important element of defence viz: men. By this Return, it will be seen that there is a total increase of 37,942 men in the Reserve Militia since the first enrolment under the present law, a period of only two years.

ANNUAL INSPECTION OF ACTIVE MILITIA.

Military District No. 1.

The present authorized strength of the Active Militia, in this district, (which is under the command of Lieut. Colonel Taylor D. A. G.), is limited, to 318 officers, 4,770 non commissioned officers and men. The actual number who have performed the annual drill of 1871-72, amounts to 311 officers, 3,952 non-commissioned officers and men, leaving a deficiency of 825 wanting to complete the ranks of the respective corps. The force in the district comprises:

Nominal Strength.	
Officers.	N. C. O. and Men.
14	135
10	140
6	110
288	4,385
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318	4,770