

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF
THE MILITIA FOR 1872.

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TORONTO.

"*Toronto Field Battery.*—Stores generally in good order; some of the carriages had not been properly cleaned."

"*Store Department.*—Armament stores generally required cleaning; 8 inch shells covered with mud and rust. 8 inch guns required lacquering, carriages painting and puttying; several linch pins, and drag washers deficient."

"Percussion caps in main magazine, with the gunpowder and filled cartridges. As this was strictly contrary to the regulations for magazines, I ordered their removal forth with."

"The armament stores have since been taken over from the Store Department, and are now in charge of the Detachment of "A" Battery. The men have been employed in putting the stores in proper order, lacquering the guns, shot and shells, and painting and puttying the carriages."

HAMILTON.

"*Hamilton Field Battery.*—Howitzer dirty in the bore; saddlery badly moth-eaten."

"This battery has in its store one extra small bore ammunition wagon, one small-arm ammunition cart and 80 Enfield rifles in cases. All the above should be returned into store, as they are surplus to the equipment of the battery."

ST. JOHN, N. B.

"*Dorchester Battery.*—32-pr. common shells without plugs; side arm shed lets the water in through the roof; 8 inch bore gun rusty; 2 24 pr. guns not sighted."

"*Mortar Battery.*—Grummet wads require cutting; shed for small arms requiring shingling; 8-inch gun rusty in bore; 8-inch (53 cwt.) so rusted in the bore as to be un-serviceable; 8 inch mortar full of water; 8-inch gun platform and carriage require repairing."

"*Grave Yard Battery.*—32 pr. shells and 8 inch shells require lacquering."

"*Partridge Island.*—Stores in very good order."

Lieut. Colonel T. B. Strange, Inspector of Artillery, reports on the Artillery in the Province of Quebec for my information as follows:—

FIELD ARTILLERY.

This force consists of Four Field Batteries.

"1st. one at Quebec;

"2nd. one at Montreal;

Each armed with four pieces (three 9 pr. and one 24 pr. howitzers.

"3rd. The La Beauce Mountain Battery, armed with four 7 pounder muzzle loading rifle guns. Two of these guns however, with their proportion of ammunition and equipment, were lately sent to Manitoba for service, with a detachment of one officer and non commissioned officers and men, from "B" Battery School of Gunnery."

"4th. The Shefford Field Battery, which has been lately formed, but not yet supplied with guns and equipment."

CAMP LEVIS.

"On the 26th June, 1872, the Quebec Field Battery crossed the St. Lawrence and came into camp under the command of Major Baby."

"The La Beauce Battery of Artillery came up with their horses, a distance of thirty miles under the command of Captain Duchesnay, and received their guns from the Citadel, Quebec. As there was no available saddlery in store for this battery, a proportion was kindly lent for the training by the commanding officer of Cavalry, the harness and pack saddles for the mountain equipment having been sent home to England. Limbers were constructed for those guns, and harness was purchased by the officer commanding the battery, which enabled them to be brought into the field."

"Gun axle seats, of the Royal Artillery pattern, were, also, in accordance with your wishes, fixed on the carriages of the Quebec Field Battery. They were constructed by the ordnance armourer of "B" Battery and gave tactical mobility to these guns, of which you were pleased to express your approval, as well as of the La Beauce equipment."

"In accordance with orders, I exercised a general command, and instructional supervision of the artillery division in Engineer Park, consisting of a dismantled detachment from "B" Battery (the remainder having been left in the Citadel under the command of Master Gunner Donaldson) the Quebec Field Battery and the La Beauce Light Battery with Mounted detachments."

"For the first week, the captains commanding batteries were left to carry out gun and driving drill. Subsequently, these batteries were brigaded together, and worked in conjunction with the whole force, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Casault, C. M. G., Deputy Adjutant General, commanding in camp."

"You were pleased to express approval of the tactical action of the batteries, and the positions they took up when working with the other arms."

"The horses were serviceable animals, generally the property of the drivers. Gun and driving drill of this battery was good. The carriages and equipment were in excellent order, the harness well fitted. The horses were picketed and the stable duties carried out as nearly as possible in accordance with the system of the Royal Artillery. Sergeant T. Clifford, "B" Battery, was attached as Assistant Gunnery Instructor."

"The commanding officer Major Baby, obtained a first class certificate in "B" Battery Gunnery School, and has shown himself zealous and thoroughly competent to command a volunteer field battery."

"He reports very favourably of his senior subaltern, Lieutenant Crawford Lindsay. This officer has six years service in the field battery."

"The conduct of the Battery was very good. Twenty three non commissioned officers and gunners, who are under instructions in the Gunnery school, were attached as supernumeraries."

"The gun practice was carried out partly on the 18 mile march to Beaumont, where they were ordered into position, and, without notice or measurement of range, commenced practice which was good considering the conditions. The remainder of practice was carried out at the Island of Orleans, guns and horses being ferried across. At the close of the camp, they recrossed the St. Lawrence without accident. I was agreeably surprised at the ease and rapidity with which this battery on four occasions, embarked guns, horses and equipment."

"I recommend that this battery be armed with 9 pounder muzzle loading rifle guns."

"The Beauce Battery are armed with light 7-pounder muzzle loading rifle guns. The detachments were mounted as horse artillery. The horses being the property of the gunners and drivers, were well cared for, and the conduct of the battery was very good."

"Both men and horses are light, active, and hardy. The men ride well though not with the dragoon seat, and they picked up the drill very quickly under the instruction of their commanding officer, who, with two lieutenants, the sergeant major, four sergeants, and thirteen rank and file, have gone through a course in "B" Battery School of Gunnery."

"There was not time to instruct the remainder of the battery either in gunnery or ammunition. This being their first training the whole sixteen days were occupied with drill; but when brigaded with the rest of the force, they showed skill in getting rapidly into position over very difficult ground."

"The axle trees being very short, the guns are in unstable equilibrium, but are very quickly righted when upset. Two only of the carriages were experimentally strengthened with iron at the close of the first Red River expedition; the unstrengthened carriages shewed cracks after firing five rounds. The practice was discontinued in consequence."

"The only percussion fuzes with this equipment are not suitable for it—the two serviceable carriages having been sent to Red River, last September. I recommend that this frontier battery be armed with the 9-pounder muzzle loading rifle gun and equipment. The bad roads of La Beauce district would preclude the advantageous use of heavier guns than 8 cwt., while the better roads about Quebec would permit of the utilization of a battery of four 24-pounder howitzers, collected from other smooth bore batteries, and kept in reserve at Quebec. There being, according to the returns, 3,144 rounds of 24 pr. smooth bore common and shrapnel shells in the reserve stores at Quebec, which would be an additional reason for this course a failure of suitable ammunition need not therefore be apprehended."

"The Quebec and Beauce Batteries marched out nine miles to Beaumont, and returned the same day, subsequently crossing to Orleans Island for their gun practice."

"The dismantled portion of "B" Battery was under the command of Major Montzambert, who also acted as Adj. to the artillery division. The main guard of the artillery camp was taken by "B" Battery, who also acted as escorts to the field batteries when brigaded with the other troops."

"The only accident during the training occurred in the streets of Quebec. A horse of Major Baby's Battery had to be destroyed, getting a leg broken by a kick from the horse of Sergeant Assistant Instructor Clifford. A board of officers exonerated him and the driver from blame, and awarded compensation to the owner of the horse."

AT THE CAMP LA PRAIRIE.

"On the 2nd July, 1872, I inspected the Montreal Field Battery, commanded by Lt. Col. Stevenson."

"The physique of the men is good, as also their general intelligence, but the majority have served for a number of years and decline to re enrol. The horses were much superior to those I saw on my last inspection but are not the property of the driver except in a few cases, and Lieut. Colonel Ste-