

even with the maximum period of 16 days drill a year, yet systematically.

Our present military organization exists since 1868; if it had worked properly we should now have over 100,000 available men, with some knowledge of military duty— whilst; judging from the military returns of 1873, when only 9000 had performed a full term of service instead of a possible 40,000, the number of trained men must be considerably under the 100,000 that could reasonably have been expected.

Moreover the Volunteers having no instructors, the training given has been of a very inferior kind. Military schools were established to supply instructors but gave little satisfaction. Cadets were allowed indiscriminately to join the schools, many of whom after having obtained certificates of qualification, ceased to belong, if they ever did, to volunteer corps and pocketing the government allowance, remained afterwards quietly at home, or left the country.

Judging from the following quotation, of a report to the Adjutant General from one of the District Staff, the course followed in the schools had not the required scope and their organization was inefficient—
“ After the departure of the regulars, the school of Military Instruction at this station (Quebec) was placed in the hands of the Militia Staff
“ I consider the Government bounty for certificates could be applied in a manner more beneficial to the country..... by having cadets..... put in barracks under proper officers..... as if they were enrolled soldiers. This would give them a sound practical knowledge of interior economy and military rule and administration
“ under the present system they can acquire but a very limited and merely theoretical knowledge.” *

Eventually, the military schools were abolished and there are at present, no means of training Cavalry or Infantry Instructors. Volunteer Boards had till the closing of the schools, given certificates concurrently with the latter; they now grant them all except for the Artillery. Little can be said in favor of the Boards, the examinations they carry on are superficial and the Members, not always qualified to test the merits of candidates.

Even with the low standard of efficiency required, a large number of provisionally appointed Volunteer officers † have not qualified; 9 out of 15 combatant officers of the 29th Battalion and 9 out of 16 in the

* Militia Report 1872, page LXXXI.

† Some provisional appointments date from 1868.