

Some trifling addition to the present estimate will be incurred by the adoption of such alterations as appear to the Commissioners to be absolutely necessary in the pattern accoutrements furnished by Messrs. Hebbert & Co., viz.:—to add a Shoulder Belt to the Infantry Pouch, to increase the capacity of the Pouch so as to hold 60 Rounds of Ball Cartridge, to supply a stronger description of leather for the Pouch, and to assimilate the Bayonet Scabbard and its method of attachment to the Waist-belt to that adopted in Her Majesty's Forces; but these alterations will entail but a very small addition to the original estimate.

The Sedentary Militia.

(1.) This Force is the main source of the defence of the Province; and its successful organization is a point of the highest importance.

The proposed Volunteer Corps are the Auxiliary Forces of the three Arms of Cavalry, Field Artillery and Riflemen, who having attained a certain degree of efficiency, as regards drill and knowledge of their respective arms, will thereby be enabled to render the greater service to the Sedentary Militia, when actually embodied for service; but, as before stated, it is upon the Sedentary Militia that the Province must depend in times of danger for its effectual defence.

In proposing to Your Excellency such means as appear to be required for an efficient organization of this Force, the Commissioners have been guided by the principle that an organization which will enable the Sedentary Militia to take the field at the shortest possible notice, armed and equipped, is for many obvious reasons, far preferable to any partial attempts to drill this force generally, and they therefore beg to express their opinion to Your Excellency, that unless there appears to be an evident necessity, the Sedentary Militia should not be required to assemble at all, (with the exception of one annual muster of each Regiment, that for Canada East to be held on the 29th June, and that in Canada West on the Queen's Birthday), but that every means should be taken beforehand to render them efficient as regards organization and armament, so that whenever such necessity shall arise, and the whole or any portion of this Force be called into active service, and embodied, they may be able to turn out in a satisfactory manner.

(2.) The Commissioners are of opinion that no alteration is requisite regarding the present division of the Sedentary Militia into classes for service according to age, that is to say, that the male population from 18 to 40 years of age should be the class from which the several Battalions in the Province are to be formed, and that the male population from 41 to 59 years of age inclusive, should neither be enrolled nor called upon to serve, except in case of war or insurrection.

(3.) They have carefully abstained in their recommendations from interfering with the existing limits of Battalions; but they recommend that each Battalion of Militia consisting of the male population within its limits from 18 to 40 years of age inclusive, be divided into two Divisions; the men of the first Division to be called the Service Men, and to consist of all unmarried men and widowers without children, from the ages of 18 to 40 years; and the men of the Second Division to be called the Reserve Men, to consist of all married men and widowers with children, between the same ages, within the limits of such Battalion.

(4.) The Service Men of each Battalion to be the first for service; the Reserve Men could only be required under extraordinary circumstances, as it appears there are in Canada East 72,927 Bachelors, between the ages of 18 and 40 years, and in Canada West 117,332 Bachelors of the same ages from as near an approximation as can be made from the Census Returns of 1851-2.

(5.) They recommend that the Province be divided into 18 Military Districts, viz.: 9 in Canada East and 9 in Canada West, agreeably to the map which accompanies this Report and to Schedule E. attached thereto, which likewise shows the approximate numbers of the male population in each Military District between the ages of 18 and 40 years, the number of Bachelors of the same age, and the number of Battalions of Militia in each District.

(6.) They recommend that a Field Officer of Militia, to hold the rank of Colonel, be nominated to command the Militia in each Military District, and that an Assistant Adjutant-General of Militia and an Assistant Quartermaster-General of Militia be appointed to each District, with the rank of Majors of Militia, to act under the orders of the Colonel commanding the District; the Assistant Adjutant-General of Militia to be held responsible for the due transmission of all Returns of the Militia in the District which are required to be