

Annual Report on the State of the Militia
for 1875.

(Continued from page 197.)

APPENDIX No. I.

1ST BRIGADE DIVISION.—Brigade Major, Lieut.
Colonel Inches.

Camp Tilley, St. Andrews.

It is a subject of congratulation, both to the Brigade Major and the officers and men of the Division, that every corps of the Brigade assembled in this camp its full numerical strength.

In again selecting St. Andrews as the point of concentration for corps of this brigade, many reasons, from the experience of last year, may be assigned, amongst which are the following:—1st. An excellent site for the camp. 2nd. An abundant supply of water. 3rd. Extensive grounds for drill and field manoeuvres; and last, not least, the cool, healthy climate of St. Andrews during the summer months, when the heat is great in the interior of the Province, and a time when it is more convenient than any other for corps to perform their annual drill.

The following corps, with Brigade Staff, assembled in camp:—Brigadier, Lieut. Col. Maunsell, Deputy Adjutant General; Lieut. Colonel Inches, Brigade Major; Captain and Adjutant A. G. Beckwith, 71st Battalion, Supply Officer; T. H. Hogg, Esq., 71st Battalion, Musketry Instructor; Quartermaster H. Emery, 67th Battalion, Camp Quartermaster; Lieut. J. R. Tompkins, 67th Battalion, Orderly Officer.

The camp occupied the same ground as that occupied last year, except that the situation of the camp of the field battery was in front, where the trees afforded shelter for the horses. The routine of camp duties was carried out in a somewhat similar manner to that prescribed for Camp St. Andrews last year, as shown in my report, and it is now only necessary to add that where officers and men then evinced zeal and activity in the discharge of their duties, there was in this camp no falling off in these soldierlike qualities, and where a corps then displayed efficiency through the continued exertions of the component parts thereof, there was here no want of energy in its members.

The weather was all that could be desired, and unquestionably the troops fully availed themselves of it for improvement in drill.

The course of drill indicated in General Orders was closely followed, and, in the words of my last report, officers commanding corps said that their men were "exercised as much as possible in squad and company drill, preparatory to brigade drill and field manoeuvres."

On the 8th July I accompanied His Honor the Lieutenant Governor to Apohaqui, to inspect the 8th Regiment of Cavalry, then in camp, and the command of the brigade devolved upon the Brigade Major, Lieut. Colonel Inches. On my return, on the 10th July, I found that sufficient progress had been made in battalion drill to commence brigade drill on the 12th. This was followed by field manoeuvres on the 13th, the ground in the vicinity of the camp affording every facility for outpost duty, skirmishing, and charges of front of the brigade.

The field day of the 14th in presence of His Honor the Lieut. Governor was most successful in every particular, and I have no hesitation in saying after ten years experience in connection with the militia of New Brunswick, that on no previous occasion had I witnessed so satisfactory a state of profici-

ency in the force as that here displayed.—In the rapid transition from drill to field manoeuvres it seemed to require no "teaching" to impress upon the minds of officers and men that "hurry, or forced rate of marching is to be prevented (except in re-inforcing skirmishers or seizing a position under fire. Frequent changes of front were made, fresh skirmishers thrown out without hurry. I must add, however, that while there appears as a rule no difficulty in instructing the men at manoeuvres to avoid hurry in marching, there is unquestionably some difficulty in inculcating the necessity for the most economical use of ammunition, not to fire hurriedly, or without an object. Hence the necessity for a more extended period of annual drill.

Having on previous occasions, both last year and during this period of training, employed the Brigade in acting on the defensive, in different directions in the neighborhood of the encampment—supposing St. Andrews to be attacked by an invading force—on the 16th I marched the brigade in column of route through St. Andrews, and took up a position at "Katey's Cove," where we were supposed to have disembarked in the early morning, with the view of making an attack upon Fort Tipperary, and thus securing the key to the town.

A strong line of skirmishers, with their supports, was concealed between the cove and the fort, while the main body was drawn up in line near the water's edge, with a half battery of artillery on each flank, occupying advantageous positions, with the object of shelling the fort and town on the signal being given to attack.

The following correct account of the "attack" is taken from the *Telegraph* news paper, of the 17th July:—

"On the signal to 'attack' being given, it was at first found somewhat difficult to bring a half battery into the desired position but aided by the infantry in support, and with much perseverance on the part of both officers and men, the difficulty was overcome. When the attack was commenced, a rapid fire was opened by the skirmishers, meanwhile the artillery on both flanks poured in shot and shell. It was soon found desirable to advance, and subsequently to reinforce the skirmishers, the 2nd Company of the 71st Battalion coming to the front in good style. The advance was steady, and every advantage was taken of the feature of the ground, and where possible, on a halt being sounded, or when a better opportunity offered for shelling the fort and town, the artillery came into action. Afterwards by short rushes on the part of the skirmishers, over every available open ground, the advance was directly upon the fort. The skirmishers had been so strongly reinforced they presented more the appearance of a battalion in line than that of skirmishers, with much interval.

So soon as the artillery and infantry had done their work with field gun and rifle, a steady and direct bayonet charge was made upon the enemy remaining in the fort. The fort gained, the town surrounded, and thus was obtained possession of one of the strongest positions in the country! The "assembly" was then sounded, and the brigade formed into line of quartered columns, officers and colours were called to the front."

The following brigade orders on the breaking up of the camp were then read, the best shots of battalions and companies were called to the front, and His Honor the Lieut. Governor addressed the troops, referring in terms of high commendation to the good conduct of the men, both in camp and in

town—commendation well deserved, as, with the exception of one man, who misconducted himself on the line of march, and was punished and dismissed the force, there was not a single instance of crime, and no breach of discipline even was reported. This may be accounted for as follows:—

(1.) As the object for which the force is organized and maintained becomes better known (it being the only force upon which the country has to rely in the hour of danger) company officers can recruit from a better class of men than heretofore.

(2.) Having carried out the suggestions contained in my report for 1873-74, as to not having a canteen for the sale even of beer or ale on the grounds, I found that where "tippling" in camp was prevented, there was, as a result, no drunkenness in the neighbouring town on the part of the troops.

The Field Officers of the day fully bear me out in my statements as above, with respect to good conduct and discipline. I need only add that the reports of the Medical Officers of the day, as regards the sanitary condition of the troops, are as satisfactory as those of the Field Officers are with respect to discipline.

The target practice was conducted in the usual careful manner by my efficient Musketry Instructor of two years' experience, the late T. H. Hogg, Esq., 71st Battalion, who, took no small pride in the shooting, and in comparing the "figure of merit" from year to year.

With deep regret I have to record the death of this officer, accidentally shot but a few days ago by his own hand, though himself the most competent and painstaking in instructing others in the proper use of the gun and rifle.

In his death the force has lost the services of a zealous and useful officer, and the community one who was ever ready to advocate and uphold the institutions of the country.

I also regret to have to record the death, during this camp, of another excellent officer of the brigade, Captain H. Hutton, who, but for his excessive zeal for the service, should not, in his physically unfit state of health, have assembled in this camp with his fine company.

I cannot conclude this report concerning Camp Tilley without expressing my acknowledgments to His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, for the interest manifested by him here, and at all times, in the welfare of the Active Militia force. My best thanks are also due to the Honorable the Surveyor General for again securing for the troops the use of the grounds at Joe's Point; as well as to H. Osborne, Esq., for his excellent transport arrangements; and, besides, to the High Sheriff, Dr. Grove, Capt. Polleys, S. S. Magee, Esq., and the citizens generally, who left nothing undone, as regards hospitality towards the officers and kindness towards the men, to make our stay enjoyable.

Camp Tilley.—2nd.

ST ANDREWS, N.B., 15th July, 1875.

Brigade Orders by Lieut. Colonel Maunsell,
D.A.G.M., Brigadier.

No. 5.—At the conclusion of another Brigade Camp, one of a series of camps assembled from time to time in this District which have produced varied successful results, the Brigadier has again an opportunity to offer his best thanks to all officers, non-commissioned officers and men for the satisfactory manner in which duties have been performed, and order and discipline have been maintained; and, particularly, are thanks due to the Brigade Staff, and to officers command-