

APPENDIX No. 15.

SCHEME FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF AN ENGINEER AND INFANTRY
SCHOOL AT TORONTO.

TORONTO, January, 1879.

SIR,—In view of the possibility of the establishment of Military Schools, in extension of the system now pursued in the Schools of Gunnery, I have the honour to recommend that at least one of these schools should be formed upon the basis of an Engineer Company. The formation of a small body, educated and practised in the scientific and difficult parts of the profession of military engineering, would serve as the *cadre* or framework of this most necessary arm of the service, and would be capable of extension to meet the requirements of the service in case of war. An acquaintance with cavalry, artillery and infantry duties is not the only professional knowledge required in war. In the practical operations of an army in the field, rivers are to be crossed, bridges suddenly erected and destroyed, fieldworks planned and constructed, field telegraphs maintained, and the scientific appliances of modern warfare utilized. Have our Active Militia any knowledge of these things, or have they the implements and other necessities in order to accomplish them? The sister branch of the service, Artillery, is well provided for in the Schools of Gunnery, which have already trained upwards of 900 officers and men in the most efficient knowledge of their duties as artillerists. We have on the strength of the Militia upwards of 4,000 Artillerymen, while we have only 232 Engineers, although the proportion should be two-thirds the number of Artillery. Both of these arms require special training, and each is equally indispensable in time of war. Should we not therefore provide a military establishment for a body of men to be instructed and practised in this branch of military art, and rendered capable of imparting to an army the instruction necessary for such service? The cost would be little more than that of Infantry, and, while equally capable of instructing in Infantry drill, they would be able to add that instruction in field engineering which is now imperatively necessary to all officers who desire to shine in their profession. Moreover, the men enlisted, being skilled artisans, would be available for keeping in repair the fortifications under the charge of the Canadian Government, and for constructing such additional works as might be considered necessary to add to our military strength.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS A. SCOBLE, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Commanding 2nd Military District Engineers.Lieutenant-General Sir E. Selby Smyth, K.C.M.G.,
Commanding the Militia.