

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE OF THE MILITIA FOR 1870.

[CONTINUED.]

The Honorable Sir George E. Cartier, Bart., Minister of Militia &c. &c.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS OF STORES.

MILITIA DEPARTMENT, STORE BRANCH.

TEAMSTERS

In the latter end of April, I hired at Collingwood 60 teamsters, at the rate of \$22 00 per month and their board, to commence from 1st May. These were engaged by the month, terminable at once on any misconduct or disobedience of orders on their part, or at the close of any month, by the officer commanding the expedition, whenever the exigencies of the service permitted it. To meet the requirements for the additional horses and oxen subsequently ordered, I again proceeded to Collingwood about the middle of May, and hired 44 more on the same terms. Out of the total number that had been hired, two foremen and two assistant foremen were appointed, at a monthly wage, respectively, of \$40 and \$30 each. The teamsters were assembled at Toronto and Collingwood, and proceeded as required, as the different relays of horses and oxen were being shipped.

They had been especially and carefully selected from the rural parts, principally the counties of Grey, Huron, Peel, Simcoe, Waterloo, and Bruce, and were either young farmers, or men who had been accustomed all their lives to farming or lumbering operations. None were engaged who did not produce some sort of testimonial as to fitness, character, and the locality from whence he came.

Whilst these preparations were in progress, for the sustenance of the force, the Dominion quota of it was in rapid process of formation at Toronto, under the directions of the Adjutant General of Militia. So strenuous were his exertions, and those of the Deputy Adjutant General at headquarters, that it was organized and fully equipped and ready to join Her Majesty's troops on the departure of the expedition.

The arms, accoutrements, knapsacks, and ammunition boots, were procured from the Imperial stores. The clothing, blankets, necessaries, and boots (two pairs per man,) were supplied from those of the Dominion.

Hardly had the expedition started on its way before it became necessary to make preparations for the winter supplies required for the Dominion force, that was to remain in garrison at Fort Garry. These were prepared during the summer months, and consisted of another complete outfit of clothing and necessaries, with the addition of fur caps, winter mitts, under flannels, and mufflers. The officers' supplies, under the provisions of the General Order No. 1, of the 30th June last, were collected at the Toronto stores.

On the 1st day of September, the whole, consisting of 212 packages, weighing over 15 tons, were placed in charge of Captain Perry, especially employed on this duty, who proceeded with them to Fort Garry, via St. Paul's, U. S., and delivered them, about the end of October, to Major Peobles, the Dominion Control officer at the former place, himself returning to headquarters about the latter end of November. Captain Perry's duties were performed with a zeal and efficiency that deserve all praise; they were onerous and severe in the extreme, and required the exercise, on his part, of the

greatest tact and judgment towards their successful performance.

RETURNED HORSES.

Early in September I was notified by the Imperial Control Department that a number of horses and oxen were then on their way back to Collingwood. Of these I was requested to take charge, with a view to their ultimate disposal. As the horses, generally, were in poor condition after their severe service, they had to be allowed time to recuperate before they could be offered for public sale. For this purpose I had them placed in the artillery stables at the new Fort, Toronto, under the superintendence of Mr. Bond. Such teamsters as were required being retained, while those not wanted were paid up and discharged.

The first sale took place at the new Fort, Toronto, on the 27th September; at this were sold 55 returned horses. The proceeds of the sale being... \$5,606 00

The second sale, at the same place, occurred on the 1st November, at which were sold 59 horses, realizing... 5,932 00

In this amount is included \$375, received for six yoke of oxen sold at Collingwood, where they had been kept at pasture.

The final sale was on the 22nd November, when the remainder of the horses, 22 in number, were sold, realizing... 2,361 70

The gross proceeds of the three sales, at which 136 were sold, were... 12,919 90

Expenses 2,721 81

Nett proceeds..... \$11,198 09

The expenses were great, but this was unavoidable. The horses were, on arrival, in poor condition, many of them sick, and had to be kept sometime to fit them for sale. Although the stables cost nothing, men's wages, maintenance, farriers work, and other incidental expenses accumulated rapidly where such a large number of horses were coming and going continually for nearly three months.

With respect to the 14 horses that are unaccounted for of the original 150 purchased, I am informed that several died during the progress of the expedition, and that others were sold by the Imperial Control Department, both at Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie. As a corroboration of the opinion previously expressed, with regard to the artillery horses, I may here mention this fact. The 66 Canadian horses that were sold, brought an average each of \$115, while the 70 artillery horses that were sold, only reached \$92 each.

A surplus of oats and bags that remained over unexpectedly at Owen Sound, were sold in October, and realized the following prices:

291 bushels of oats 39 cents.....\$113 73

252 bags for 13 cents. 32 76

\$146 49

A large sale of returned stores, under the auspices of the Imperial Control Department, took place at Collingwood, on the last days of October. Respecting this sale I have no information.

FORTS, ARMAMENTS, AND LANDS.

In the beginning of July, in accordance with the provisions of the despatch of February, 1870, I received your instructions to

place myself in communication with Colonel Hamilton, commanding Royal Engineers, for the purpose of receiving over from him the above.

On the 15th July, I met Colonel Hamilton by appointment at Toronto, and received over from him the new Fort, barracks, and fixtures, and adjoining buildings. It was not, however, until the 26th September, that the final transfer was completed, by my receiving over the old Fort and buildings, with the lands. The armament of the Forts consists of seven 8 inch and two 32-pounder guns. With these I received side-arms, and the usual service supply of ammunition and ordnance stores.

The lands transferred at Toronto, contain 191 acres, 2 roods, and 8 perches. The land is leased to one tenant, Sinnott, who pays a yearly rental of \$60.

With reference to the Toronto lands under my charge, previously transferred to the Militia Department, by the Order in Council, of the 16th November, 1869, I have here to report that 72 acres, a triangular piece situated between the Great Western and Northern Railways and the western town line, has been disposed of to the Ontario Government for the sum of \$21,000.

On the 1st August I received over Isle aux-Noix and its armament. The latter consisting of seven 31 pounder and five 24 pounder, guns, with side-arms, and the usual complement of ordnance stores and service ammunition. In addition to these I also received two 12-pounder bronze field guns, a free gift, with carriages and limbers complete. The area of the island is 150 acres, which, with a piece of land situated on the eastern bank, between the Richelieu, and South Rivers, of 135 acres 2 rood and 5 perches, will give a total of 285 acres 2 roods and 5 perches.

On the 25th August I received your instructions to dismantle Fort Lennox, on the island, and to remove the armament and all other stores to Montreal. This was accomplished under the directions of Mr. Pope, the Montreal storekeeper, by a working party of one non-commissioned officer and nine gunners of the St. John's Garrison Artillery. On the 10th October it was reported to me that this duty had been satisfactorily performed, and that all the stores had reached Montreal and were stored at St. Helen's Island. Isle aux-Noix is now untenanted, excepting by the caretaker, C. O'Hara, who is also a tenant, at a yearly rent of \$4, for one of the small tenements outside the fort.

On the following day, at Montreal, the transfer of the Sorel property was effected. The lands so transferred comprise 993 acres, 0 roods, and 9 perches, and are occupied by 35 tenants, at a yearly rental of \$1007 35.

On the 19th July I received over the Artillery Park Barracks at Kingston, but it was not until the 14th October that the transfer of the whole of the Kingston property was perfected, by handing over to me the Tête du Pont Barracks. I had, during the intermediate period, in August and September, received over the forts and their armament with the usual service ordnance stores and ammunition.

In addition to the armament, I also received over, as a free gift, two 18 pounder field batteries, with waggons, limbers, service stores, and ammunition complete. One other battery of this description has been received over also at Montreal, and there remains still another to be given over at Quebec, making 16 guns in all.

The lands transferred at Kingston comprise 1110 acres, 2 roods, 1 perch, and 90