

of great advantage to the Cavalry branch of the force. I hope also that you will see your way to forming the second Cavalry School at Toronto, with a detachment at Kingston, where the Battery is very much overtaxed in having to furnish horses for the lessons in equitation of the gentlemen cadets and the officers of the long course.

ARTILLERY.

I visited three Schools of Artillery on the several dates as follows: "A" Battery, at Kingston, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Cotton, 11th May. "B" Quebec, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Montizambert on the 19th May. "C" Battery, at Victoria, B.C., under the command of Lieut.-Col. Holmes on the 1st of October. I found the two first mentioned, as usual, in good order, both officers and men, but am far from satisfied with the present organization, and must reiterate my last recommendation that each School should have four guns fully horsed.

It has been suggested that the Kingston School should only be constituted as Field Artillery, their being only one Garrison Battery in Ontario at present, while the School at the Citadel for Quebec and Maritime Provinces, where Garrison Artillery is predominant, should be organized as two Batteries of Garrison Artillery, but I am not quite prepared to agree with this suggestion. It must be borne in mind that these bodies of Artillery are not only to be considered as School of Instruction, but as nuclei, around which to form an Artillery Force, if, unhappily, such should at any time become necessary; and though Militia Garrison Artillerymen could soon be made efficient enough in an emergency, it is not so easy to make efficient Field Artillerymen, especially drivers, and I hope to have more Garrison Artillery in Ontario.

I therefore would like to see each School consist of two district parts, viz., a Field Battery of four guns fully horsed and a Battery of Garrison Artillery, with a captain for the Field Battery and two subalters for each part, and an adjutant for the School, the Major, as at present, to command the whole, which for interior economy, &c., would be considered as one Battery. If this cannot be carried out I would urge that the Kingston School alone should have four guns fully horsed, the Quebec School remaining as at present.

I found "C" Battery at Victoria, B.C., laboring under very disadvantageous circumstances. Having as yet no regular barrack accommodation, they had been quartered in the Provincial Exhibition building, from which they had, just prior to my arrival, been turned out to make way for an exhibition. I found them encamped in a convenient spot near by, and the camp looked clean and neat. This School is altogether for the purpose of giving instruction in Garrison Artillery, and is formed as such, but as yet has no heavy guns and I saw them on parade simply as an Infantry company. They looked clean and soldier-like; moved well on parade and seemed none the worse for their late trip to the Skeena in aid of the civil power. Happily their services were not required in the field, but I am informed that the news of their being in the harbor with a man-of-war was quickly conveyed up the river to the Indians, on whom it had a remarkably quieting effect. I was also informed that the conduct of the troops during the time was very good. A separate report of this has been already sent in. I hope the barracks for this School will be finished next year, as they are at a great disadvantage at present. I still think that some addition should be granted to the allowance of this Battery, as a special case, the general cost of living in Victoria being greater than in the rest of the Dominion, the addition being in the shape of an allowance to cover increased cost of messing and to be regulated by a sliding scale for the several ranks.

MOUNTED INFANTRY.—I visited this school on the 21st September, and on 22nd inspected the barracks, &c., and found a great improvement in the barrack, but as shown in the yearly report of the Commandant, a great deal remains to be done, which I hope will be done soon; notably a riding school, which is very necessary at a station where the weather is so severe in winter; also I would urge the advisability of having gas put into the stables. It would, I believe, be cheaper, or as cheap as the oil now used, with the advantage of there being less danger of fire. In the afternoon I saw the mounted part of the School on the prairie, and was much pleased with their evident improvement since I saw them last year. One of the important qualifications of a Mounted Infantry man's horse is that he should lead well, as every fourth man of the fours has frequently to lead the horses of the other three men. Their horses have been admirably trained in this respect, the dismounted horses led as above stated, walking trotting and galloping past in a very fair line. On my return from British Columbia, I stopped again at Winnipeg, and finding that Major-General Godfrey Clark, Deputy Adjutant General of the Imperial Army, was there, I was able to show him the Mounted Infantry on the prairie, and he was, I think, surprised and pleased at their movements and field firing. This School Corps, as you are aware, was, on the requisition of three magistrates, according to law, held in readiness in October last to turn out in aid of the civil

power, actually doing so on the 31st October and remaining out until 6th November when they returned to their barracks, luckily not having been required to act physically, though I am given to understand that their presence had a good moral effect, and prevented what might have been serious trouble. In reference to this, I am glad to say, I have received very good reports of the conduct of both officers and men, during what is generally a trying and thankless duty to soldiers. A separate report of this has been sent in.

INFANTRY.—I visited the different Schools of Infantry as follows: July 13th, "A" School at Fredericton, N.B., Lieut.-Col. Mansell, Commandant; July 25th "B" School at St. John's, P.Q., Lieut.-Col. D'Orrsonens, Commandant; September 11th, "C" School at Toronto, Ont., Lieut.-Col. Otter, Commandant; September 14th, "D" School, London, Ont., Lieut.-Col. Smith, Commandant. As before stated I was satisfied with my inspections. I found the interior economy well carried out, the men well set up and drilled, and the officers acquainted with their drill and able to command the parade for batallion movements. "D" School, as you know, has only been organized a year and this was my first inspection of it, and I feel bound to say that new as its organization is, it was not one whit behind the other schools, which I consider principally attributable to the untiring zeal and military knowledge of its Commandant, Lieut.-Col. Smith, formerly Captain of "C" Company.

REMARKS.—I have little to add to my general remarks and recommendations on the schools of instruction in my last year's report, but beg to draw particular attention to the following points:

Increase of combatant officers for purposes of discipline and efficiency—each corps to have a quartermaster, as some have already, and a riding master for the Cavalry School.

Supply of Hospital clothing.

Increased amount of ammunition and small grants of money for marksmen pay, &c.

Arrangements for gymnastic instruction.

Issue of Martini Henry rifles, sufficient sniders being retained for the instruction of attached officers and men.

I regret to be obliged to draw attention to the number of desertions during the past year, as being greater than usual. I have endeavored to ascertain the causes of this and am afraid the chief one is the demand and high wages given for labor. As was the case with the Imperial forces, the desertion is more rife when the station is near the frontier. I am also inclined to think that owing, to the smallness of the force, the work at the schools is of a nature to try the men a good deal. The constant drilling for the purpose of instructing others must be wearisome to a soldier who knows his drill perfectly, and in the case of the artillery school at Kingston, the work is particularly hard for the reasons I have already given. Altogether it seems worthy of consideration as to whether the number of courses in the year should not be reduced to 2 instead of 3.

As far as I can see everything is done by the Commandants and Officers of the different schools to make the men comfortable in their barracks and afford them amusement for their leisure hours, which ought to tend to decrease desertion. I would also recommend that a ration should be allowed to the wives and children of men married with leave, not exceeding the number allowed by regulation. I also consider it advisable that the rank of Color Sergeant should be recognized in the Permanent Corps, with the same status as in the Imperial service. Good Drill Sheds are much required for the use of "B" and "D" schools and the Corps in their locality, also targets and ranges. More ammunition and Morris tubes should also be allowed for each school; our small force of permanent troops should at least be all good shots.

Captains Freer and Sears of the South Staffordshire Regiment, Imperial Army, have just completed their 5 years' service, for which they were lent by the Imperial Government, with Infantry School Corps. These officers are, as you know, both Canadians and Graduates of the Royal Military College, and I cannot refrain from saying that they do both their country and the College credit. Their knowledge gained in the Imperial service and their conduct and example have all been of infinite service to the schools they were attached to, and they leave universally respected and regretted by their brother officers and all with whom they have been brought into contact.

REGIMENTAL INSPECTIONS.

I inspected the following City Corps:—Princess Louise Dragoon Guards, June 30, Ottawa; Prince of Wales Own Rifles, July 2, Ottawa; Dufferin Rifles, November 1, Brantford. These Corps were all in a very creditable state and went through the Troop and Batallion movements very well. The officers seemed zealous and very correctly dressed, and the men clean and smart looking, but I do not consider the mere parade movements a sufficient test of the worth of a regiment for active service, and as I have before said I should