

ever, undergone any diminution, as there has been an increase in the towns. I do not regret this result, for the rural Companies generally cost more than they were worth. You are aware of the great difficulty that is experienced even in England in keeping alive Volunteer Companies in purely rural districts, and of course this difficulty is much more strongly felt in a Country where population is so widely scattered, and where attendance at Drill would frequently necessitate miles of toilsome journeying over tracks of deep soft mud or through storm and snow drifts. Practically, the rural Companies did not meet. I was forced to admit that it was unreasonable to expect them to meet; and consequently the time of the Drill Instructors and the money of the Provincial grant appeared to me to be better employed in quarters where there was a promise of more satisfactory results.

12. My first anxiety was to introduce some system of uniformity and subordination among the different Companies, which had been accustomed to do wholly what is right in their own eyes. I introduced gradually regulations which when once introduced were not relaxed; but took care not to press novelties upon them too hastily. With the new Companies I had of course less difficulty, and I may say that now something of regularity and discipline has been introduced—some method in keeping accounts and making returns has been effected. The Volunteers have been uniformed in one Provincial uniform (scarlet), the cloth for which has been gratuitously furnished by Government, and made up at a cheap rate for Companies applying for it. Each Company receives moreover from the Government gratuitously its Drill Instruction and sixty rounds of Ammunition per man. In money each Company receives \$80 for care of arms and drill room; a sum which, as the Companies are rarely above forty strong, amounts on an average to ten shillings currency per head. I own this appears to me, with the addition of iron targets when wanted, to be quite as much assistance as the Government are called upon to render to Companies of *Volunteers*, and it is not on this head I should wish further expenditure to be incurred by the Province. I have inspected every Volunteer Company in the Province—most of them more than once, and can testify to their great improvement in appearance, and efficiency, and I can at all events safely assert that, though the result may appear trifling, it has not been obtained without a most incommensurate amount of labour and care; and here I cannot refrain from bearing testimony to the skill and patience displayed by my late Adjutant General, (Lieutenant Colonel Crowder), in reducing to order the elements with which he was called upon to deal.

13. I cannot quite concur in your remark as to the smallness of the number of Volunteers in New Brunswick, ("only 1,738"). Roughly speaking, that number forms one in 25 of the whole male population between the ages of 18 and 45, and I cannot consider it a very small proportion, especially when the circumstances to which I have alluded, of the impossibility of assembling Volunteers in the rural districts, is taken into account; which, of course, considerably augments the proportion of Volunteers in more settled districts.

14. With respect to the Militia at large, as opposed to the Volunteers, a good deal more has been done than at first sight appears to be the case. No list of officers of Militia had been published since 1851, and that list was not official or correct. Since that time, though occasional appointments and promotions had been made, there was no authentic record of the numerous resignations, removals, or deaths.

In many Battalions it was impossible to say who was the Commanding Officer; in others, the Senior Officer was opposed to any revival of the Militia; in almost all there were few remaining Company Officers, and of these few, a great proportion were from age and infirmity incapable of performing the duties of their posts. Before any thing else could be done, it was necessary to find Commanding Officers and Adjutants. There are 38 Battalions of Militia in the Province: to 18 of these I have appointed new and efficient Lieutenant Colonels since the close of 1862. Of the remaining twenty, fourteen were already commanded by Officers more or less efficient—some very much so. The other six are as yet, with one exception, vacant, owing to my inability to find any persons within the respective districts, both able and willing to undertake the duties of the post.

The revision of the list of Officers, and the verification of the different Battalion and Company districts took a great deal of time and labor, and until it was accomplished it was idle to think of calling out a Battalion even for one day's muster. The task was, however, at last accomplished, and last year the Battalions were generally called out for