

Then, in the following year, on the 15th of November, 1880, Colonel Osborne Smith reports :

"On the 6th January last the territorial limits of this district were vastly enlarged by the incorporation of the North-West Territories and the district of Keewatin with the then previously existing area (which consisted solely of the Province of Manitoba), thus extending district No. 10 northerly to the confines of Canada, and easterly and westerly from the boundary between Ontario and Keewatin to the dividing line in the Rocky Mountains, between British Columbia and the North-West Territories. The corps at present existing in the district are as follows (omitting Manitoba):—Two companies mounted rifles, Prince Albert; one company mounted rifles, Duck Lake; one Battleford infantry company; one Prince Albert infantry company."

Then, dealing with the corps in the North-West Territories, the report is as follows:—

"These corps, in consequence of the season, have also received permission to postpone their annual drill until the ensuing spring."

The officer states that the season had been such that the Manitoba corps had received permission to postpone their drill, and the same permission had been given to the corps of the North-West Territories :

"They have been somewhat discouraged in consequence of non-receipt of uniforms. But I ascertain from reports, that they are maintaining their organisation, and in some cases performing voluntary drill. The officer commanding the Battleford company, which the paucity of the population there rendered difficult of formation, reports very encouragingly of his increasing strength and the desire of the company to become proficient. I trust that it will be found practicable, in the early spring, to forward uniforms for these important corps."

Now, you see, so early as the year 1880, the statement made by the Adjutant General that discouragement had already begun in the corps in consequence of there being no uniforms, and a strong expression of the wish that in the ensuing spring of 1880 they might be supplied with uniforms. He goes on :

"Applications for permission to raise corps from 12 different localities have been received and duly forwarded by me to headquarters, and with any prospect of the applications being successful, a number of others could readily be obtained; thus showing that the willingness to bear arms exists in these more recently settled portions of the Dominion as generally as in the older Provinces."

So you see the officer had received and forwarded to headquarters, during 1880, applications from no less than 12 other points in the North-West Territories, that corps should be established at those points, and those applications, so far as we can learn, remained without response. Then, Sir, if you turn to the following years, the report of the Deputy Adjutant-General for 1881 states :

"Corps in the North-West Territories.—The above corps not having been able to perform their drills last year, in consequence of the season, received permission to postpone their annual drill until the spring of the present year; but, so far, only one officer, namely, Captain Scott, of the Battleford company, has reported having acted upon this authority, and forwarded an acquittance roll, wherefrom it appears that 26 of all ranks had so drilled last spring. All the corps in the North-West Territories have been selected for drill this year; but not having received any official communication from them on that subject, I am unable to state what progress they are making. I learn, however, from private resources, that some, if not all of them, have been performing more or less drill this season. I may here again draw attention to the circumstance of these corps not having been as yet provided with uniforms, which is anything but encouraging to young soldiers or their corps."

The whole force in Manitoba and the North-West Territories, with arms, was, at that time, only 536 rank and file, with 39 officers, and the authority to drill the whole force had been given in this early year. Then, in the following year, the officer commanding the militia reports :

"There are two districts also, viz., Manitoba and British Columbia, where, in consequence of the expense of living, the staff officers should receive increased pay, as also should all ranks of the militia in those districts when called out to duty."

Col. Osborne Smith had ceased to be Adjutant-General, and Col. Houghton, the Deputy Adjutant-General, states that while the Manitoba troops had been authorised to drill none of the North-West corps had been authorised to drill—Prince Albert mounted rifles, two companies; Duck Lake mounted rifles, one company; Prince Albert infantry, one company ;

and Battleford infantry, one company; a total of 225 officers and men. So that you will observe, that having been authorised to drill in one year, having substantially performed their drill, it having been stated, in two successive years, that there was increasing discouragement in consequence of the non-receipt of uniforms, in the third year there was no authorisation to drill at all. The detailed report of the officer goes on as follows:—

"The North-West corps, consisting of three mounted infantry and two infantry companies, have never been inspected since their first organisation in October, 1879. In consequence of not having received any uniforms, they were relieved from drill this year, by an order of the Adjutant-General, dated 10th August."

We now find from the Deputy Adjutant-General why these three corps, which it was so important to establish, which special efforts had been made to establish, which were established with such enthusiasm, were refused permission to drill. It was because they were not supplied with uniforms, and for that reason were relieved from drill by the order of the Adjutant-General, dated 10th August.

"A copy of this letter, including reference to the inspection of arms, was forwarded to each officer commanding a company in the North-West on the 1st September; but, up to the present day, replies have only been received from Captain Scott, commanding the Battleford infantry company, and Captain Hughes, commanding the Duck Lake mounted rifle company, both of whom reported the arms, etc., in their charge as complete and in good order."

"In reference to these corps, I may state it is hardly to be expected they will give up much of their valuable time, and supply their own horses for drilling purposes, or even regard themselves in the light of a properly organised body of militia, until after they have been furnished with uniforms of some pattern or denomination."

Then he makes some general remarks, in which he points out the aspect of the North-West :

"Manitoba has so altered since the first organisation of a militia here, that I strongly recommend the reconstruction of the whole force, the necessity for which force cannot but be apparent to all when the immense increase of population of the last three years is taken into consideration."

Then the Major-General commanding makes these observations on that :

"It would seem that of a total established strength of 580—and of 450 authorised to drill—only the strength of the Winnipeg Field Battery, 76, actually drilled. It appears clear to me that this district is in an unsatisfactory condition—but without seeing it for myself, and conversing with the officers and others connected with the militia of the district, I do not feel justified in making recommendations for its improvement."

Then, in the next year, the report for the year 1883, Colonel Houghton, dealing with the North-West corps, gives the almost final order, the penultimate order :

"The North-West corps, consisting of three companies of mounted infantry, were relieved from drill until further orders by instructions received from the Adjutant-General, dated 10th August, 1882."

There you see they were relieved from drill, not for the year only, but until further orders, and that it was on account of their not being supplied with uniforms, for they were not to be expected to drill until the uniforms came, and the uniforms not coming, they were not expected to drill at all :

"Surely this western district has a reasonable right to expect that the Government of Canada will deal liberally with it, and afford young men the opportunity of carrying out their most praiseworthy wishes in this respect. In the same connection, I would beg most respectfully to urge the advisability of the reorganisation or, more properly, the organisation, of the new corps, which, although now more than three years enrolled, and shortly afterwards outfitted with arms, ammunition and saddlery, have never since been assembled for drill, in consequence of no uniform having up to the present time been furnished to them. These corps are still in existence, and could be readily resuscitated by their original commanding officers, were they to receive encouragement to do so."

So you see once again pressed upon the attention of the Government the actual condition of these corps, the fact that they would require to be organised, not to be reorganised, but organised, because they had never been supplied with uniforms, and the statement that they were still in existence and could readily be resuscitated by the commanding officer,