

privation and the hazards of the forest and the flood, binds them together in a spirit of manly brotherhood, similar to what prevails among the ranks of veteran regiments and bodies of troops serving together in the field.

Were I to confine myself to merely referring to my three previous annual reports and recommendations, and submit for detailed information this year the reports of the various staff officers which I subjoin, perhaps it would be sufficient; but my sense of duty and desire to leave no appeal untried for the material improvement and consolidation of the strong right arm of national defence which I have the honour temporarily to command, impels me again earnestly to advocate the cause of the high spirited and admirable body of officers and men who compose the Militia of Canada.

When I arrived in this country upwards of three years ago, I confess that coming almost immediately from the command of regular troops, and all their complete attendant military establishments, I was struck with some disappointment on my first tour throughout the country, which I immediately undertook to make myself acquainted with the nature and character of the organization with which I had to deal. Many defects and deficiencies presented themselves to my mind, and as soon as possible I brought them to notice, but with all these shortcomings in the important details of a military organization I was immeasurably surprised and pleased, when a few months afterwards I inspected the Montreal Brigade and the various camps assembled for their annual drill in Ontario. Strong, able and hardy men composed the rank and file; zealous, intelligent officers commanded, and willing obedient young gentlemen officered the companies.

A powerful force of all arms, Cavalry, Artillery, Engineers and Infantry; defective only in details and requirements over which they had no control, some of which have since received attention, and others I have more than once pointed out. I may again rehearse some of them, viz. :—

1. Too short a period allowed for drill, which should, if possible not be less than twenty-eight days, seven of which at Battalion headquarters if practicable, and the remainder in Brigade or Divisional camps of exercise.

2. Three model training schools for Cavalry and Infantry, by embodying three companies permanently on the basis and with similar objects to the two Gunnery Schools. From these, year by year, many officers and men qualified and capable of instructing in drill, discipline, interior economy, the management of bodies of men, rifle instructors, and every essential for the consolidation of regiments, would be annually sent forth.

3. A paid and permanent Adjutant and Sergeant Major, to act as Regimental Storekeeper besides, for each corps. In the Militia of the United Kingdom the per-