

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF
THE MILITIA FOR 1873.

APPENDIX No. I

(Continued from Page. 279)

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 6.

MONTREAL, 18th Dec. 1873.

SIR,—In conformity with your instructions I have the honor of forwarding you my annual report for 1873 74.

This report is short; the greatest part of the corps in Military District Number Six not having as yet performed their annual drill; some intending to do so during this winter, others in the spring.

None of the corps in the 4th Brigade Division, under the command of Lieut. Col. D'Orsonnens, Brigade Major, have as yet begun the annual drill, except the "Mont Royal" battalion, which is now doing so at head-quarters, Montreal.

In the 5th Brigade Division under the command of Lieut.-Col. Hanson, Brigade Major, two companies only have performed their annual drill—they are number two Three Rivers Provisional Battalion, Captain Lambert, and number four Three Rivers Provisional Battalion, Captain Bouvier.

Number two company was inspected at Riviere du Loup en Haut on the 19th July last. There were present on parade; officers, non-commissioned officers and men, 49.

The state of drill was very satisfactory—well up in skirmishing. The state of arms was good, with trifling exception.

Number four company was inspected at St. Gabriel de Brandon, on the 17th July last.

Present on parade—officers, non commissioned officers and men, 54.

The clothing is quite unserviceable.

The other corps in this Division will perform their annual drill during winter or in the spring.

The target practice return for this Division will be forwarded to you in a few days.

In the 6th Brigade Division, under the command of Lieut.-Col. de Bellefeuille, Brigade Major, the 55th Megantic, Lieut. Colonel Barwiss in command, went into camp, and were inspected on the 9th July last.

There were in camp on said date of inspection—officers, non commissioned officers and men, 274.

The independent companies of Sts. Gertrude, Victoriaville, Gentilly, Sorel, St. Simon, St. Pie, St. Gregoire, Becancour, Nicolet, Arthabaska, St. Hyacinthe, Wotton, Wolfestown, St. Norbert, Bulstrode, will drill sometime during this winter, others during the coming spring.

I have offered the government two troops of cavalry, a battery of sixty-seven men at Nicolet, and a battalion of foot artillery under Major Labranche at Montreal; that is to say, "they are all ready to enlist and go to work," but, as it seems, they are not wanted.

In the 4th Brigade Division, the three companies of the North—St. Placide, St. Benoit and St. Eustache—are getting rather disorganized; the men have served their three years. I think it would be desirable for the benefit of the service that they be replaced by a "field battery," under the command of (Doctor) Captain Marsil, of St. Eustache, a man who has done a great deal for the service, and a man who has made a special study of artillery, &c., &c., &c.

In some of my former reports I have taken the liberty of drawing the attention of the Department upon a few other subjects. I shall not repeat that in this, but will be as short as possible, and pray to be considered.

Yours Truly,

A. C. DELOMNIERE HARWOOD,

Lieutenant-Colonel,

Deputy Adjutant General,

Military District No. 6.

The Adjt. Gen. of Militia,

Ottawa.

MILITARY DISTRICT, NO 7.

QUEBEC, 7th November, 1873.

SIR,—In pursuance to the instructions contained in your circular memorandum dated Ottawa, October 24th, 1873, I have the honor to forward (enclosed) an inspection report of the corps of Active Militia in this district who have performed the annual drill for 1873 74; also a list of such corps as had not been inspected on the 1st November 1873.

I also forward herewith a detailed statement of the nominal strength of such corps as have put in their drill, and one of their actual strength on parade inspection, which will show that the average attendance has so far been very good. The total nominal strength of all ranks for all the corps who have been inspected up to date being 2,066, and the total actual strength 1,976. This great improvement on the attendance of last year can, I believe, be partly accounted for by the fact of companies and corps being allowed to select their own time and place of drill, which of course facilitates attendance and interferes least with private avocations. I am happy to state also that in most corps I noticed a considerable change for the better in proficiency at drill and attendance to their duties.

I also forward herewith a return of target practice of such corps as have performed their drill for this year. The country corps of this district, through want of targets, had been unable to give much attention to firing until last year. The large per centage of recruits in the different companies has made the average rather low. I would in this connection respectfully submit the advisability of not having untrained men firing so many rounds during one period of training, as the short time they must necessarily devote to it has a tendency to their hurrying their firing or leave a part of it undone. Unskilled men require more time in aiming than practiced soldiers, and tolerably quick firing with them means nothing but waste of ammunition. Most Battalions have only one six hundred yards target, and if all the men of five or six companies are to fire forty rounds in eight days, having to travel sometimes a considerable distance to their range, it seem obvious that the men must either be hurried through their firing or have little time left for anything else. Two of the battalions inspected this year have found it impossible to complete the prescribed course.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

L. A. CASULT, Lieut. Colonel,

D. A. G., Commanding,

Military District, No. 7

Lt.-Col. W. POWELL,

Acting Adjt. General,

Ottawa.

(To be continued.)

EXPEDITION TO THE NORTH-WEST.

THE ENEMY TO BE DEALT WITH.

(From the Toronto Mail June 5th.)

When Sir John Macdonald first proposed to establish a Mounted Police Force in the North-West Territories some of his political opponents thought proper to impugn the motives which suggested the step, and to insinuate that such an organization would prove an onerous and altogether unnecessary burden upon the country. Further information has, as usual, in due course justified the action of the late Minister of Justice, and borne ample testimony to the foresight by which his statesmanship provided for coping with an evil of somewhat alarming magnitude. Those who have imagined that the establishment of the Mounted Police was not required will no doubt change their opinion upon learning the object of the expedition which is to start for the far West in the course of a few days.

From information received by the Government some time ago it was learned that a band of desperadoes from the United States had entered upon British territory, where, well-knowing that no force existed capable of punishing their misdoings, they have been pursuing a lawless career of so aggravated a nature that it became absolutely necessary for the Canadian Government to assert its authority and mete out a full measure of justice and retribution. Intelligence received from time to time through officers of the Hudson Bay Company, as well as from agents of the United States Government, has supplied a certain amount of trustworthy information respecting the whereabouts of these ruffians and their numerical strength. From what has been gathered from various sources it would appear that outlaws to the number of about five hundred have established themselves upon British soil at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, where they have built a fort and made ample provision for defence against either Government forces or the Indian tribes. They have established an illicit still, the product of which forms the principal commodity bartered with the natives for furs. The unfortunate red man, yielding to the temptations offered, purchases the fatal fire water, and in the frequent *meles* which results from the orgies follow many an Indian has been murdered. Whatever article of utility the native hunter may exchange the trophies of the chase for is almost certain very shortly afterwards to find its way back to the outlaws' fort in traffic for whiskey. The ruffians carrying on this nefarious trade are for the most part living with Indian women obtained from the various tribes either by purchase or violence, and the crime, immorality, and sacrifice of life resulting from the existing state of affairs demand immediate and stern action by the Government. It might be supposed that at the advance of the expedition about to be sent by the Dominion to suppress these disorders the guilty parties would disperse and flee from justice; but it appears highly probable, from a full consideration of their situation and numerical strength, that they will defy the authorities and offer a desperate resistance to the officers of the law. The outlaws are men accustomed to border warfare, and who have for years been used to encounter the dangers and hardships attending residence beyond the limits of civilization and in the midst of hostile Indian tribes. Many of them are deserters from the United States army, while others are men who have had to flee from justice, and who dare not show themselves again.