

Annual Report on the State of the Militia for 1874.

(Continued from Page 216.)

APPENDIX NO. 1.

MILITARY DISTRICT, NO. 8.

"CAMP DUFFERIN," ST. JOHN.

A brigade composed as follows assembled in camp at St. John, on the 23rd July:—

Brigadier Lieut. Col. Maunsell, Deputy Adjutant General; Lieut. Col. Otty, Brigade Major; Ensign Smith, 62nd Battalion, Supply Officer.

New Brunswick Brigade Garrison Artillery Lieut. Col. Foster; 62nd Battalion Infantry, Lieut. Col. MacShane.

The authorities at head quarters are well aware of the difficulties attending the performance of the annual drill of city corps in general, and those of St. John in particular; they are clearly pointed out by the Acting Adjutant General in the Report for 1873, page 8—and it is there stated, besides, that a "preference is shown for drill on different days during the year as circumstances may permit." However, to carry this out successfully the erection of a suitable drill shed is the needful thing, and the question of a site therefor in a central locality has to be decided. It is the more necessary, moreover, at the present time, as the premises in the Custom House at St. John; heretofore at the disposal of the Active Militia, being required by the Customs Department, have to be delivered over to the Collector of Customs at an early date. I may add that Captain Perley, New Brunswick Engineers, has recently submitted a valuable plan for the erection of a drill shed at St. John, and memorandum relating thereto, all of which may, I hope, be favorably considered by the authorities at head quarters, and terminate in a satisfactory solution of the matter.

The camp of the Brigade of Garrison Artillery, formed on the barrack grounds at St. John in 1872, (having proved most satisfactory in every particular, on general orders for the annual drill this year being published, the officers commanding both artillery and infantry grasped the opportunity to assemble at the same place, and the 23rd July was decided upon as the time of assembly. In compliance with orders issued, the respective corps assembled on that date, and drill was duly commenced.

Being unwilling to withdraw the garrison artillery from their legitimate duties—shot and shell practice—and the infantry having, necessarily, to occupy much time at rifle practice, the range being about four miles from camp, there were but few opportunities for brigade drill. On one of these occasions, (on the 30th July) His Honor the Lieutenant Governor was present.

After inspection in line troops marched past in quick time, in column and quarter column, and afterwards in quarter column at the double.

Some simple brigade movements were then performed, as satisfactorily as could be expected under the circumstances. The artillery subsequently proceeded to shot practice, and the infantry to battalion drill, with all of which the Lieutenant Governor expressed himself much pleased.

On the 1st August the brigade marched from camp, in column of route a distance of three or four miles, rain preventing a longer march. The different denominations of the brigade were marched to their respective places of worship, on the 25th July, and 1st August, respectively, the Church of England

party attending divine service at St. Paul's Church on the former date, and Trinity on the latter.

Lieut. Col. Foster, in his report hereto appended, referring to the manner in which duties were performed in the artillery, &c., in which I concur, states: "During the whole period of its existence the objects for which the camp was formed were carried out in the most systematic manner, and I believe with highly satisfactory results.

"The shot and shell practice extended over a period of six days, and, as the accompanying report will show, as highly creditable to the corps.

"Several handsome prizes for the annual competition were presented, a list of which, with the names of the donors, is annexed:

Colonel Foster adds: "from the commencement of the camp to its close, every officer, non commissioned officer and gunner did his duty."

The following is the Brigade Order on the breaking up of the camp:

"CAMP DUFFERIN."
ST. JOHN, 2nd Aug. 1874

Brigade Orders by Lt. Col. Maunsell, Deputy Adjutant General Commanding.

(No. 1.)—The St. John Brigade Camp will break up to-morrow, at the conclusion of annual drill and target practice of the different corps.

The Deputy Adjutant General Commanding desires to express his satisfaction with the manner in which duties have been performed, and discipline has been maintained, as well as with the steadiness on parade of the troops, considering the brief period allotted for drill.

That the Active Militia of St. John should assemble in camp but little below its full numerical strength (in one instance, that of the artillery, the full strength is present) at this busy season is proof of the desire existing, on the part of the members of the force, for information in the knowledge and practice, not of drill alone, but of those various camp duties, the correct performance of which is of the greatest importance to the soldier in the field.

The target practice of the 62nd Battalion has been carried out by captains of companies with good results; that of the artillery, at all times remarkable for its accuracy, has been excellent, and it is only to be regretted that Lieut. Colonel Jago, who has done much for the efficiency of the brigade, is prevented from witnessing it.

It is due to that officer to say that, so strong was his desire to attend this camp, he expressed his willingness to forego his leave of absence, at no small personal sacrifice to enable him to do so.

In conclusion, Lieut. Colonel Maunsell offers his cordial thanks to Lieut. Colonels Foster and MacShane, for the way in which they have discharged the responsible duties of their respective commands, and to the staff, particularly to the Brigade Major, Lt. Colonel Otty, for a continuance of his valuable assistance and support.

By Order.
A. C. OTTY, Lieut. Col.
Brigade Major.

I cannot close this report without stating my conviction that the barrack field at St. John, being so near the worst part of the city (morally) is not a desirable place for the assembly of a camp. It was, however, as already shown, impracticable this year to form a camp for the St. John corps at any other place.

But, as a general rule, it is of great adv

antage troops to be encamped at some distance from a city or large town; at such places commanding officers are not troubled with applications for "passes" from parades or roll calls, and crime is conspicuous by its absence.

New Brunswick Engineer Corps.—Captain Perley.

Inspected by Lieut. Colonel Otty, Brigade Major, on the 13th November, during my temporary absence on leave. That officer reports favorably respecting the efficiency of this corps. The manual and firing exercises and company drill executed fairly."

On the retirement of Major Parks, who has done much for the efficiency of this corps, Captain Perley has succeeded to the command. A practical engineer by profession, energetic in whatever he takes in hand, qualified for the post in other respects, the Engineers, will, I trust, continue to improve under this officer:

3RD BRIGADE DIVISION.—Brigade Major, Lt. Colonel McCulley.

"CAMP TEDDERS."

Newcastle Field Battery of Artillery.—Brevet Major Call.

This battery was inspected by Lieut. Col. Foster and myself on the 21st August, and is referred to in the following terms, by that officer:—

"As this was the first time he had seen the battery, and having been informed that a large number of its present members were recruits, and that nearly all the horses were new at the guns, he was quite unprepared for such an exhibition of proficiency in drill as he saw presented. The various field movements were executed in splendid style, and would have been highly creditable to officers and men of much greater experience."

Lieut. Colonel Foster states, in which I entirely concur, that "Major Call is an excellent officer, and with the aid of such competent subalterns as Lieutenants Mitchell, Smith and Ramsay, with Surgeon Benson, and such a superior class of non commissioned officers and men, the battery must hold a high position in the Active Militia of the Dominion."

"Accompanied by Brigade Major McCulley he attended the shot and shell practice at a point about two miles above Newcastle. The practice was very good, as will be seen by the accompanying report. Several handsome prizes given by the officers and friends of the battery were competed for, and the Brigade Major and himself were permitted to add to the list."

"He made a careful inspection of the guns, limbers, wagons, and stores, and found all in sound condition; but the gun carriages, limbers and wagons, are in want of two good coats of paint."

Lieut. Colonel Foster in conclusion, offers some excellent suggestions with respect to the erection of a drill shed at Newcastle, &c., all of which I beg to support.

It affords me great pleasure to add my testimony to that of Lieut. Col. Foster in stating that I consider this was the most satisfactory inspection of this battery since its first organization.

Besides having a zealous and efficient officer at its head, and being fortunate in securing the services of the senior captain of the 3rd (on his retirement from the battalion) as a subaltern officer. The non commissioned officers of this corps belong to a superior class, and, as a result, discipline is maintained, and the drills are systematically performed.