

I may with truth add that the Force of New Brunswick is justly entitled to the support of the community, I feel proud of the honor of commanding it.

It is composed of excellent material, every section of the Province is well represented; we have the hardy North-shore men, the merchants and mechanics of St. John, and other cities, and, last not least, the wealthy farmers of the River St. John, and the frontier counties.

In speaking of the excellent material of the force, I am proud to know that his Excellency the Governor General and the Hon. the Minister of Militia and Defence formed high opinions of the soldierly bearing of the officers and men composing the guards of honor at the various places visited during their recent tour in New Brunswick.

H.R.H. Prince Arthur, too, was pleased to express himself in terms of praise at the general appearance of the Force.

It is hardly necessary to revert to the manner in which the members of the Force of my District, and of Canada generally, I believe responded to the order to hold themselves in readiness to proceed on active service on short notice. An order such as that "tests the metal," so to speak, of the Force, and to its credit, be it stated, in less than (24) twenty-four hours after the issue of the order, every man was as ready as willing, to meet any enemy whose object was to disturb the country's peace. And at that time, whether travelling by rail or in steamboat, one not unfrequently heard such expressions as this, "No lack of Volunteers now-a-days." Indeed if required the "Reserve" Militia would speedily send a valuable "support" to our volunteers or "advance guards."

During the past year steps have been taken in order to secure the division of the Force into battalions, as far as practicable, under the command of competent officers.

The Force is now divided into corps as follows:—

One (1) Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry.

Seven (7) Troops.

One (1) Brigade of Artillery.

Ten (10) Battalions.

One (1) Field Battery of Artillery.

Three (3) Battalions of Infantry.

Six (6) Companies each (an additional Battalion has lately been recommended.

Isolated companies remain.

Some of these last named may yet be formed into battalions, and it is to be hoped that all, or nearly so, may be drilled in battalions.

A return recently submitted, served to shew how effectively concentration of corps can be carried out in the event of invasion, or internal disturbance at any point, and doubtless this concentration of corps will be facilitated yearly, in proportion as improvement in the efficiency of the entire force is effected and as the means of communication are made easy.

It is a subject of congratulation to all that the Hon. The Minister of Militia and Defence has this important object in view, and I earnestly hope that the formation of Brigade Camps for Rural Corps may shortly be authorized.