

as having aided considerably in organizing, and perfecting all arrangements. A special has been brought into the building, and an operator detailed which is a very convenient arrangement for those at camp.

A rather amusing incident occurred on the arrival of the Mount Royal Rifles at the wharf. One of their number accidentally let his rifle fall into the water about 10 feet deep; he instantly drew off his boots, doffed his coat and shako, and plunging in brought it up amidst the cheers of his comrades. It was certainly a very courageous act.

I must not omit to make mention of Capt. Muir, and No. 1 Troop of Cavalry, who rode from Longueuil in dashing style, Capt. Muir, in command with Col. Lovelace.

I fear I have already too far encroached on your space, so will reserve further details of the camp till next week.

Montreal, June 29th, 1871.

B.

Without wearying your many readers with a long, dry account of the daily doings in camp, routine, etc., which has been so elaborately detailed in the Dominion papers, I will merely touch upon general facts, which may be interesting, particularly to the Review.

Taking the whole camp in all it has undoubtedly been a success, so far as management and system are concerned; it has also been of incalculable benefit in posting the Volunteers in the routine and discipline of camp life, and many things they could not have learned otherwise. The officers and men have thoroughly settled down to their work, and the whole feeling is one of contentment and satisfaction.

On Saturday the Adjutant-General arrived and has taken the reins into his own hands during his stay in camp. On his arrival the whole force was turned out and had a march past, with several other manoeuvres calculated to test to what degree of proficiency the officers and men had attained. The Adjutant-General expressed himself very well pleased with what he had witnessed, and calling the commanding officers around him in quite a nice little speech—a good, plain, honest speech, without hard words and ambiguous expressions—gave them good advice in many ways, showing defects, planning future operations, and otherwise giving them valuable information. The Adjutant-General is just the sort of man to make himself popular. He has a pleasing manner of speech, simple in words, sensible in reasoning and argument. There is no haughtiness or that stiff, formal constraint so peculiar to a soldier, and one feels as perfectly at home, while conversing with him whether a private or an officer.

A very painstaking officer is Col. Bacon, and a most important part of the service devolves upon him as musketry instructor. The shooting thus far has been about the average, not anything very extraordinary. This may be accounted for by the high breeze that has generally prevailed.

On Monday we were favored with a visit from Lieut.-General Sir Hastings Doyle, and his A.D.C., Captain Black, Sir G. E. Cartier, Hon. Joseph Howe, Mayor Coursol, Major-General Wilcox, U.S.A., and several ladies. On the arrival of General Doyle he was received with a general salute. He and his party then having taken up their stand at the saluting base, the line broke into open column of companies and marched past at the shoulder to music from the several bands all playing together. The battalions then countermarched by ranks and marched past again at quarter distance at the trail. After the review a levee was held at the divisional headquarters, when every officer was presented to Sir George E. Cartier.

The party was then entertained at lunch, after which the Adjutant-General said that Lord Aylmer would take advantage of Sir George Cartier's presence to address him:

Lord Aylmer, commanding the 54th Batt. said that on behalf of the different officers commanding battalions in camp he would express his views to the Minister of Militia in relation to one or two points affecting the volunteer system. He thought that one of the important things concerning the force was the establishment of military camps. Nothing, in his opinion, would forward volunteering so much as a campaign, such as they were there going through. It worked admirably; the men were perfectly satisfied and were abundantly provided for. There was one thing to be found in his volunteer experience, and that was the difficulty of keeping up a country battalion in its proper strength. This resulted from the officers being compelled to take recruits from among farm servants a class of men who were here to day and away to-morrow, men who were not permanent residents in the country. The men of the counties, he found would not volunteer unless compelled to do so. They would at once come forward if there was any necessity, but they would not do so in a time of peace to learn, at the very time they should be learning how to meet the foe. He experienced the difficulties in his county in the way of getting out his men at this season, as a great many of them were engaged in what is called the "bark business," which is very brisk at this particular time or the year. This would also make the getting out of farmers more difficult, and after all the farmers were the men whom he wanted in the ranks. He hoped to see a camp of instruction established every year. These camps would help to fill up the battalions very much. If the battalions were only once filled the present volunteer system would be perfect, (Loud cheers.)

The Adjutant-General said that he had consulted during last year and the year before numerous commanding officers from one end of the country to the other and they did not think the military force could be kept up unless some permanent forcible order was issued compelling men to serve. They thought it would be wise to enforce the ballot system (Cheers) and in that way fill up the vacancies in the battalions. He with the officers he had consulted with, did not think the ballot would be unpopular among the men. (Loud cheers.)

Sir George E. Cartier, Minister of Militia was received with loud cheers. He said he was glad to have the opportunity of replying to the observations made by Lord Aylmer, supported by the remarks of the

Adjutant-General. However, before doing so he must congratulate them on the result of their gathering in camp. It was the largest camp that had been formed this year in any part of Canada. He did not forget that the number of men present was in a great measure due to the exertions of the officers commanding corps. The system of forming men into camps was not generally adopted until this year. The Adjutant-General in a late report suggested that district camps should be formed. He (Sir George Cartier) had thought the suggestion a good one and had induced Parliament to give a grant of \$75,000 for the purpose of paying the expense of these camps. (Cheers.) Already a portion of this money had been expended in the formation of a camp in the sister province of Ontario, where officers and men had responded to the call to duty with a willingness and in numbers illustrative of their loyalty and military spirit, (prolonged cheering,) and he was glad to see among their number Colonel Gilmore, commanding one of the most efficient regiments in the volunteer service, and he was glad by his presence there to have an opportunity of passing an eulogy on the camp at Niagara. (Loud cheers.) Parliament had granted the money for the establishment of the camp this year, and he hoped the result would be such as to induce Parliament to grant a sum which would enable them to get twenty-thousand men together next year. (Loud cheers.) It is that felicitous expenditure of money that does good, and he hoped Parliament would give him a grant to go on with the system of camp formation. (Cheers.) The number estimated as likely to come to the present camp was thirty-six hundred, but he found that the number that actually came into the camp exceeded five thousand men. He was happy to learn that in Quebec the number that would turn out was greater than the estimate that had been made; in Ontario also the number largely exceeded the estimate made.

He mentioned Ontario so often with the object of creating between the Provinces a healthy rivalry. He had stated to the officers at Niagara, they did well; if they were excelled in Quebec or New Brunswick, he was sure they would be happy to hear of such being the case, and this remark was well received. (Loud cheers.) The object of bringing the battalions together was the same that he had in mentioning the military spirit in Ontario, viz., to create emulation. In regard to the remarks made by Lord Aylmer, he would say that when at Niagara he had a free conversation with the officers, and they without reserve represented to him their grievances, in which they stated that, in order keep up the strength of each battalion, they would have to resort to some other means than volunteering, and they all mentioned the ballot (cheers) as the means of keeping up the number of battalions. He had also the benefit of Colonel Gilmore's experience, and although that officer had stated that, as far as regarded his battalion, he had preferred the volunteer system, all the other officers had expressed a preference for the ballot. (Loud cheering.) He stated at that time that the law met what Colonel Gilmore preferred, and also provided for the ballot. (Prolonged cheering.) What the officers ought to do would be to represent to the Adjutant-General that they wanted the ballot, (Loud cheers,) and he, the Adjutant-General, would be able to deal with their requirements. The law embraced three modes of raising a militia: first, volunteering as practised now, and if by this means it was found the proper number of men could not be had, then they had, second, the