

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE OF
THE MILITIA FOR 1870.

[CONTINUED.]

*The Honorable Sir George E. Cartier, Bart.,
Minister of Militia &c., &c.*

It is gratifying to record that full justice has been done to the Militia of Canada, who were at this time employed in defending their country, the following General Order having been issued by Lieut. General the Honorable James Lindsay, commanding in chief Her Majesty's troops in British North America at that time.

HEAD-QUARTERS. }
Montreal, 4th June, 1870. }

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 1

Canada has once more been invaded by a body of Fenians, who are citizens of the United States, and who have again taken advantage of the institutions of that country to move without disguise large numbers of men and warlike stores to the Missisquoi and Huntingdon frontiers, for the purpose of levying war upon a peaceful community.

From both these points the invading forces have been instantly driven with loss and in confusion, throwing away their arms, ammunition, and clothing, and seeking shelter within the United States.

Acting with a scrupulous regard for the inviolability of a neighbouring territory, the troops were ordered to the halt, even though in pursuit, upon the border.

The result of the whole affair is mainly due to the promptitude with which the Militia responded to the call to arms, and to the rapidity with which their movements to the front were carried out, and the self-reliance and steadiness shown by this force, as well as by the armed inhabitants on the frontier.

The regular troops were kept in support, except on the Huntingdon frontier, where one company took part in the skirmish.

The proclamation of the President, and the arrival of the Federal troops at St. Alban's and Malone, were too late to prevent the collection and transport of warlike stores, or an incursion into Canada.

The reproach of invaded British territory, and the dread of insult and robbery, have thus been removed by a handful of Canadians, and the Lieut. General does not doubt that such services will receive the recognition of the Imperial Government.

The Lieut. General congratulates the Militia upon this exhibition of their promptness, discipline, and training, and in dismissing the men to their homes, he bids them carry with them the assurance that their manly spirit is a guarantee for the defence of Canada.

By order,

J. E. THACKWELL, D. A. G.

And, in consideration of their services at Eccles Hill and on the Huntingdon frontier, Her Majesty the Queen was graciously pleased to bestow the order of St. Michael and St. George (3rd Class,) upon the following officers:—

Lieut. Col. Osborne Smith, D. A. G. Commanding, Military District No. 5.

Lieut. Col. Fletcher, Brigade Major, 2nd Brigade, Military District No. 5.

Lieut. Col. Brown Chamberlin, commanding 60th (Missisquoi) Battalion.

Lieut. Col. McEachern, commanding 50th or Huntingdon Battalion.

Lieut. Col. J. McPherson, now at headquarters, acted as Assistant Adjutant-General of Militia to Lieut. General Lindsay during these operations, and is an officer of great merit.

It will be seen from the above events, that, not only is the Active Militia of Canada ready at a moment's notice to turn out in strength in defence of their country, and well able to repel any such invasion, but, in the event of a great national struggle, the ranks of the Active Militia of the Dominion could be readily reinforced and increased from the Reserve until its numbers became very formidable; and with a sufficient supply of arms and military stores for its equipment, in each District, supported, as it would be, in the event of foreign war, by the Fleet and Army of Great Britain, with Quebec, Montreal, and a few other strategic points properly fortified aided by this powerful ally, a Canadian winter, and above all, relying upon the courage of its people, the conquest of Canada, would probably prove again (if ever attempted) as it has done before, beyond the power of its enemies.

ORGANIZATION.

At the present moment, when most nations (and notably so, the Mother Country) are from force of circumstances compelled to turn their serious attention to the proper organization of their military forces, it may not be amiss (for general information) here briefly to describe the character and nature of the Canadian organization.

This organization is based upon the principle that every man owes it to his country to serve in its defence against its enemies. All the male inhabitants of the Dominion, between the ages of 18 and 60, not exempted or disqualified by law, and who are British subjects by birth or naturalization, are liable to serve.

The population of the country is upwards of four millions, and the number liable to serve in the Militia about six hundred and seventy-five thousand, and divided into four classes:—

First class, ages 18 to 30, unmarried men, or widowers without children.

Second class, ages 30 to 45, unmarried men, or widowers without children.

Third class, ages 18 to 45, married men or widowers without children.

Fourth class, 45 to 60.

And the above is the order, in which the male population is liable to be called upon to serve.

The following persons only, between the ages of 18 and 60 years, are exempt from enrolment, and from actual service at any time:—

The Judges of all the Courts of Law or Equity in the Dominion of Canada;

The clergy and ministers of all religious denominations;

The professors in any college or university, and all teachers in religious orders;

The warden, keepers and guards of the penitentiaries, and the officers, keepers and guards of all public Lunatic Asylums;

Persons disabled by bodily infirmity;

The only son of a widow, being her only support;

And the following, though enrolled, shall be exempt from actual service at any time except in case of war, invasion or insurrection:—

Half-pay and retired officers of Her Majesty's army and navy;

Seafaring men and sailors actually employed in their calling;

Pilots and apprentice pilots during the season of navigation;

Masters of public and common schools actually engaged in teaching.

The enrolment is held to be an embodiment of all the militia men enrolled, and renders them liable to serve unless exempt by law.

In order that the enrolment may be correctly taken, and the Militia organization perfected for purposes of command, the whole country is divided into Military Districts, sub-divided into Brigade Divisions, again into Regimental Divisions, and, lastly, into Company Divisions; each regimental division has appointed to it one Lieut. Col. and two Majors, and each company division one Captain and two sub-officers of Reserve Militia, who must be resident therein. The Captain is charged with the duty of keeping at all times a correct roll of the whole of the Militia within his division, and, when called upon, is required to furnish for active service, such numbers of men, either as volunteers, or through the operation of the ballot, as may be necessary to make good his proportion of any quota required from the regimental division, of which his company division forms a part.

To interfere as little as possible with ordinary routine, the limits of these regimental and company divisions are made, as nearly as practicable, identical with the limits of the territorial divisions, for electoral and municipal purposes, and through this means the men are not called upon to remember any other territorial divisions for militia purposes than those within which they, or those representing the property within the company division, exercise their elective franchise.

To the several regimental divisions grouped into a brigade division, a Brigade Major is attached, and for the brigade divisions which comprise a military district, a Deputy Adjutant General is appointed, who resides within the district, and who has the command of the militia in his district, while the Adjutant-General, who resides at headquarters, Ottawa, is charged, under the orders of Her Majesty, with the military command and discipline of the whole of the Militia in the Dominion.

Under the Militia Law now in force, the active or that portion of the militia to be annually drilled is 40,000, a number slightly exceeding one in every 100 of the population; the actual nominal strength of the Active Militia at present however, is 44,415, or equal to 1 in 15 of all the men in the Dominion liable to serve. The men are raised in the several regimental divisions in proportion to the strength of the enrolled militia constituting the reserve in each; the period of service for purposes of drill in time of peace is three years for the Volunteer Militia, but if the ballot has to be put in operation the period of service for men drawn by this means is two years, and the men who have thus completed such a period of drill return to the reserve, and are not liable to be again taken for drill and training until all the other men in the same company division have volunteered or been balloted to serve.

The officers of the Reserve Militia being appointed principally for purposes of enrolment and ballot, their being resident within their respective divisions, which is insisted on, enables them to become personally acquainted with the men liable for service, and tends to secure fairness in all the details of the ballot whenever the necessity for supplementing the active force through that means may arise, and thus, in the event of war, these officers would form a numerous and effective recruiting staff, through whose instrumentality the men required to reinforce those in the field could be readily obtained and forwarded.

This simple and admirable arrangement (based upon territorial distribution) is well suited to the institutions of the country, and in a military point of view of the great