

Annual Report on the State of the Militia for 1875.

(Continued from page 172.)

APPENDIX No. I.

MILITARY DISTRICT, NO. 5.

Head Quarters,

Montreal, 4th Dec., 1875.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the report and tabular return, of the annual drill for 1875-76 of the Corps in Military District No. 5. All the corps, with the exception of the few companies named below, performed the annual drill.

All the rural corps drilled in Brigade Camps. Four camps were held.

The first camp was held at Franklin, County of Huntington, and the command of the Deputy General, and was composed of the Montreal Troop of Cavalry from the 1st Brigade Division, the Huntington Troop of Cavalry and the 50th and 51st Battalions of Infantry from the 2nd Brigade Division.

The strength of the camp was as follows:

Staff, officers 5, non commissioned officers and men 4, horses 4.

Montreal Cavalry, officers 2, non commissioned officers and men 22, horses 24.

Huntington Cavalry, officers 2, non commissioned officers and men 35, horses 37.

50th Battalion, officers 24, non commissioned officers and men 198, horses 3.

51st Battalion, officers 24, non commissioned officers and men 316, horses 4.

Total, officers 57, non commissioned officers and men 575, officers 74.

The corps marched into camp on the 21st June and drilled 12 days. The camp was pitched on a fine piece of ground belonging to Cantwell who liberally gave the use of it free of charge. The conduct of the men was good, the rations supplied gave good satisfaction. The corps made good progress in drill and target practice. Divine service was held on Sunday in camp, morning and afternoon by the Reverends Messrs. Fulton and Livingstone, good order was kept, and strict attention paid by the men at these services. The Roman Catholics marched to the nearest Parish church. Two Brigade Field days were held, the last on Dominion Day, when a *feu de joie* was fired and three hearty loyal cheers were given for our Queen and our Dominion. The manoeuvres consisted of movements in column, deployments and skirmishing, firing in line, square and skirmishing, all of which were well done. The last review was witnessed by over 4,000 spectators, many of them from the other side of the line, and all expressed themselves highly pleased with the appearance and efficiency of the Canadian Army.

The second camp was held at Bellevue, Carillon, under the command of Lieut. Col. Bacon, Brigade Major, commencing on the 28th June and drilled 12 days, and was composed of the St. Andrews Troop of Cavalry, 7 Companies of the 11th Battalion, (No 8 Company did not muster) and the Eardley Independent Company, Capt. Lawlor. The camp was well pitched on a fine field belonging to R. W. Sheppard, Esq., who kindly gave the use of the ground gratis to the Force, the thanks of officers and men are hereby tendered to him for his liberality. An allowance in lieu of rations was given to this camp, the officers contracted for the rations which cost 25 cents per man. The camp was inspected on the 7th July by the Deputy Adjutant General, the corps presented a fine appearance on parade, the men

were clean and soldierlike, all able bodied and active, the troop horses seemed well fitted for Cavalry service, parade and field movements were gone through with, blank firing, skirmishing, advancing, and retiring, and in line, all shewed that great attention had been paid to the efficient instruction of the officer commanding the camp. The men were put through a course of target practice, at 200, 300, and 400 yards, 5 rounds at each, a longer range than 400 could not be obtained. There were no complaints. The strength of the camp was as follows:—

Staff, officers 2, horses 1.

Cavalry, officers 2, non commissioned officers and men 39, horses 41.

11th Battalion, officers 20, non commissioned officers and men 266, horses 3.

Eardley Company, officers 1, non commissioned officers and men 17.

Total, officers 25, non commissioned officers and men 322, horses 45.

The third camp was held at Granby, County of Shefford, under the command of the Deputy Adjutant General. The camp commenced on the 6th September, and was composed of the Missisquoi and Brome Troops of Cavalry, the Shefford Field Battery, 21st Battalion 3 Companies, 52nd Battalion 5 Companies, 60th and 79th Battalions. The strength was as follows:—

Staff, officers 4, horses 4.

Missisquoi Troop, officers 2, non commissioned officers and men 35, horses 37.

Brome Troop, officers 1, non commissioned officers and men 35, horses 36.

Shefford Field Battery, officers 6, non commissioned officers and men 71, horses 58.

21st Battalion, officers 9, non commissioned officers and men 122, horses 2.

52nd Battalion, officers 17, non commissioned officers and men 193, horses 3.

60th Battalion, officers 18, non commissioned officers and men 229, officers 4.

79th Battalion, officers 22, non commissioned officers 235, horses 4.

Total, officers 79, non commissioned officers and men 920, horses 148.

The camp was formed on a piece of high ground belonging to Mr. Roberts, who was paid for the use of it by the village Council of Granby, who very liberally voted money for that purpose. There was a splendid drill ground attached, the ranges were on Mr. Mock's Farm who kindly gave the use of it free for target practice. The rations and water supply gave good satisfaction. The camp duties were carried on regularly, and the corps made good progress in drill. The weather was fair until the last two days of the Infantry Camp, when heavy rain set in, which interfered with the packing of tents; a party from each corps had to be detailed to remain behind to pack tents when the weather cleared up. The Field Battery having to remain for four days longer for 16 days drill, had to complete their target practice in the rain, which they did cheerfully and efficiently.

On Sunday the Troops marched to Divine Service in the village, each denomination to its own church. The Brigade was inspected by the Deputy Adjutant General on the 15th Sept. After inspection a Field day was held, the movements were in column and line, forming squares, skirmishing, firing, advancing and returning, all of which were creditably performed. As at Franklin, the spectators numbered some four thousand, they all seemed gratified with the appearance of the Border Soldiers and the manner in which they acquitted themselves on the field. The manifest interest taken in the volunteers, by the attendance of so many of their friends and well wishers, some of whom came thirty miles to be present at the Re-

view,—was gratifying and encouraging to Officers and men, and will have the effect of keeping up the popularity of the service throughout the Border Counties. The Field Battery was inspected on the 17th Sept., by Lieut. Colonel Irvine, Assistant Inspector of Dominion Artillery, who expressed his satisfaction with the efficient state of the Battery. The old heavy smooth bores in possession of this corps, should be exchanged for rifled guns, if it could possibly be done, as their lightness would increase the mobility of the battery in the event of active service, on marching a distance to camp.

The fourth camp was held at about three miles from the Town of Sherbrooke, commencing on the 20th September under the command of the Deputy Adjutant General, and was formed of the following corps, viz: The Provisional Regiment of Cavalry, consisting of the Cookshire, Sherbrooke, Stanstead and Compton Troops, 53rd Battalion, 2 companies of the 51st Battalion with the Drummondville Independent Company attached, and 9 companies of the 58th Battalion, all from the 3rd Brigade Division. The strength was as follows:—

Staff, officers 4, horses 4.

Provisional Regiment Cavalry, officers 11, non commissioned officers and men 147, horses 158.

53rd Battalion, officers 17, non commissioned officers and men 220, horses 3.

54th Battalion Drummondville Company, officers 7, non commissioned officers and men 111, horses 2.

58th Battalion, officers 23, non commissioned officers and men 351, horses 4.

Total, officers 67, non commissioned officers and men 829, horses 171.

The camp was formed on ground belonging to Mr. Chamberlin of Sherbrooke, who kindly gave it gratis. The place would have been well fitted for camp purposes in dry weather, but the weather having been wet for several days before the camp, and after the camp was formed, caused the tents to be pitched in rather an irregular line, wet spots had to be avoided. The weather was unfavorable throughout the 12 days, (the latter end of September is too late for camping) but no complaints were heard, officers and men stood it well. The cavalry erected shelter shed for the horses which answered the purpose well. The rations gave good satisfaction. Drill, target practice, and camp duties, were attended to regularly.

On Sunday, Divine Service was held on the ground, at 8 a.m., for Catholics by the R. C. clergyman of the Parish, and at 11 a.m. for Episcopalians by the Revd. Mr. Brook, both services were very impressive, judging from the good order and attention of the men. The Wesleyans marched to church in town in the evening.

The Deputy Adjutant General inspected the Brigade on the 29th September; after inspection, the troops went through a number of field movements, firing in line, in square, echelon, and skirmishing, all of which were done well, considering the short time the corps had been together, and the state of the weather while in camp. At this inspection, as at those at the other camps, a large number of spectators were present, shewing the interest and sympathy the people of the townships have for the volunteers.

At each of the camps at Granby and Sherbrooke, a board of officers held an examination of 1st and 2nd class Infantry certificates of qualification, a number of officers at both camps passed for both classes.

The Brigade camps in the District this year, have been a success. The officers of rural corps are all in favour of drilling in brigade, as they find by experience, that it