

# Militia and Defence.

## PART 2.

### REPORT

OF THE

# MAJOR GENERAL

The Honourable  
Minister of Militia and Defence.

OTTAWA, 31st December, 1896.

I have the honour to submit my first report on the Canadian Militia.

It is dated 31st December, 1896, as, with your approval, we have reverted to the former system of reporting on what has taken place during the year itself.

Of late years it has been the custom to issue these reports in accordance with the financial year, but the disadvantage of this has been that reference was made to proceedings which had long previously taken place: whereas by making a report in each year for the year itself, it will be more readily seen and understood.

#### THE PERMANENT FORCE.

I have been pleased with the general condition of the permanent force: with its discipline and general efficiency. I look upon the permanent corps as absolutely necessary, both in the way of training and example, to the efficiency of the active militia, and I have been pleased to observe in all ranks of the permanent force a keen desire to have a greater use made of them for the benefit of the active militia.

It is my strong hope and intention to avail myself of this desire, and to make larger calls upon them than have been made hitherto. In my opinion, all ranks should be capable of acting as instructors in their several degrees.

To attain this it may be necessary to offer inducements to men to remain in the service, and I propose therefore, before long, to submit to you a scheme whereby inducements to remain, in the shape of some provision on retirement, could be made with no undue cost to the public.

#### SCHOOLS OF MILITARY INSTRUCTION.

As will be seen by my preceding remarks, these schools of instruction are a vital necessity to the militia generally.

On the whole I have been satisfied with the work done; in some places the benefits have been more apparent than in others.

I am satisfied that where members of the active force are able to go for a time into residence at a school, and work there for a certificate, the certificate thus gained is of far more lasting value than one gained at a provisional school.

But as I am also aware that many members of the active force are unable to leave their civil occupations to go to a school at a distance, I have endeavoured to meet this want by bringing the means of instruction within reach by means of provisional schools.

This has been tried with marked success during the past year, in several places, and it is my intention largely to extend this in the future.