



# The Volunteer Review

## AND MILITARY, AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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### REPORT OF THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL.

(Continued from Page 231.)

As with the brigade at Goderich the most glaring and serious defect in the equipment of the infantry was the want of a suitable description of boot for marching. The majority of the men wearing high heeled, narrow soled boots, somewhat similar to those used by the citizens of the United States, and which are quite unsuitable for marching in; many of the men too appeared in white summer boots, such as are used by women. In this respect the infantry corps were lamentably deficient.

The appearance of the whole division, however, when assembled on parade under arms was creditable, most of the corps drilled fairly, among which I may mention, in particular, the "Queen's Own," under command of Lieut.-Col. Gilmor.

The Division parades were witnessed by numerous spectators, and the field days by several professional officers: belonging to the regular army of the neighboring republic, who expressed their surprise and approbation at the general appearance, and degree of efficiency attained by this portion of the "Active Militia." As you were enabled personally to visit the Niagara Camp, an opportunity was presented to you under favorable circumstances of seeing the corps there assembled, and it affords me pleasure to state that the remarks you thought proper to make, and the thanks you then, on behalf of the Government and the country, conveyed to the officers and men present, appeared to have an excellent effect, and seemed fully appreciated.

I have to convey my best thanks to Lieut.-Colonel Macpherson now employed in the Financial Branch of the department, Lieut. Colonel Brunel, late of the 10th "Royals," and Major F. Ross of the Ottawa Brigade of Garrison Artillery for the services these officers rendered me in connection with my inspection of this camp; Major Algier, the district paymaster was also present during the whole time the camp was in operation and attended most carefully to the discharge of his important duties.

Lieut.-Colonel Durio reports that out of the 14 battalions in the district, the average muster of nine was fifty men per company. The 33rd Battalion mustered strongest in the district, wanting only five men to complete to its full establishment, but there are no less than sixty eight officers and 1,333 men wanting to complete corps in this district to the proper strength.

The majority of the officers commanding corps in Military District No. 2, appear to consider it necessary and desirable to fill up the ranks of corps by means of the Ballot.

With reference to this important matter, I would beg to recall to your memory that the first occasion on which the necessity for applying the Ballot system was brought prominently and officially to your notice, occurred at the Niagara Camp, at the levee held on the 16th June, 1871, which was attended by nearly the whole of the officers of the militia in camp, and many other gentlemen. On that occasion several of the commanding officers of corps men of local experience and influence, stated that, in their opinion, the time had arrived, when for strength, and socially to equalize the pressure of military service on the community at large, it was necessary and desirable to apply the Ballot, as provided for by law; subsequently, on the occasion of the levee held at the La prairie Camp, which was also attended by a great number of officers, similar representations as to the propriety of applying the ballot were made to you by Lieut.-Colonel Lord Aylmer, commanding the 53rd Battalion, speaking on behalf of the whole body of the officers and men of the Active Militia in that district.

Lieut.-Colonel Durio considers that a reliance on the system of voluntary enlistment alone, will fail to maintain existing Corps of Active Militia continuously at their proper strength.

The camp at Niagara for sixteen days continuous drill, with the system of target practice introduced, and prizes awarded, proved of much benefit to the force in this District and gave much satisfaction; Lieut.-Colonel Durio recommends that the whole of the Active Militia in his district be assembled next June at Niagara in camp for a similar period of drill; he suggests the amalgamation of the different Cavalry troops into a district regiment, and the addition of two or four companies in the County of Wentworth, so that every county in the district would then have its own battalion.

The annual inspection returns of all corps in this district will be found in the Appendix; As already stated, "the 20th, 31st and 35th battalions were not present at the Niagara Camp, and I regretted much their absence. The Toronto Garrison Battery at Toronto, and the St. Catharines and Col lingswood Batteries embarked for eight days' gun drill on board the gunboat "Prince Alfred."

The 31st Battalion (County Grey), made the highest average shooting figure of merit in the district at the annual drill, scoring 1678 points. No. 6 company, 31st Battalion was the best shooting company in the district, figure of merit 2381 points, and private John Parks, No. 6 Company 31st Battalion, the best shot in the district.

Private John Parks was also reported the

best shot in the Active Militia of the Dominion for the year 1871-72, scoring at the 600 yards range 18 points, at the 400 yards range 18 points, and at 200 yards range 15 points, total 51 points out of a possible figure of 60; thus winning in addition to the company prize of \$5, with badge, the battalion prize of \$10, with badge, and the district prize of \$15, the Adjutant-General's prize of \$50, with a silver medal.

The great majority of the men who performed the annual drill in Military District No. 2, were *bona fide* enrolled men; it is difficult to obtain any reliable information as to the numbers of men likely to claim their discharge prior to the next annual drill, but as a rule, all battalions lose numbers, about one fourth or fifth may be taken as an average.

With a view to increasing the efficiency of the force in this district, I beg to recommend that the Queenstown and Barrie Mounted Corps be changed to Cavalry, that another troop of Cavalry be raised in the County of Welland, and that all the cavalry troops, be then formed into a district regiment, to be numbered "2nd Regiment of Cavalry." (the Governor General's Body Guard Troop, however, which does not wish to join a district corps, but desires to retain its distinctive appellation, to be excepted); that three companies of engineers be formed, one in each of the brigade divisions; also to point out that if it be found impossible to fill and maintain the ranks of existing corps in this district at their proper strength by voluntary enrolment alone, the number of men required to complete them can be obtained by means of the Ballot as provided for in the law.

### MILITARY DISTRICT No. 3.

The authorized strength of the Active Militia in this district is 4,326 (officers and men)—3,349 (officers and men,) were actually present at the muster and performed the Annual Drill for 1871-72—leaving a deficiency of 477 (officers and men) wanting to complete corps to their proper strength. The Force in the District consists of two Squadrons and one troop of Cavalry, Field Artillery one Battery, Garrison Artillery four Batteries, Infantry ten Battalions, forming the following corps:—

Two Camps of exercise were formed in this district under the command of the late Lieut.-Col. Alex. Patterson (who, in the absence of Lieut.-Col. Jarvis, was in command, of the Militia in this District) at which the whole of the Cavalry, Field Artillery and Infantry corps assembled, for the performance of the Annual Drill. Four Batteries of Garrison Artillery, being brought to Kingston for Gun Drill, under the Inspector of