

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF
THE MILITIA FOR 1872.

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"They remained the whole sixteen days at St. Helen's, where they also carried out their field gun practice. Though it is their first training, it is highly creditable to them that they gained so much artillery knowledge in so short a time."

"I think it advisable that the numerical strength of each field battery should be increased to one hundred rank and file and seventy horses, there being at present no margin for casualties, sick, lame, or galled horses. As there are no horse artillery in this country, I think that the greatest amount of mobility consistent with economy should be given with the field batteries, and recommend that two mounted gunners, with breast harness, exclusive of the mounted sergeant, should be given to each gun. They should not attempt to drill as horse artillery with a separate mounted detachment, but ride in rear of the sergeant on the near side of the centre and wheel driver respectively; the drivers holding their horses when the gunners dismount to work their guns, into which they could be hooked, on emergency, with the breast harness they carry. This would give a powerful team of nine horses three abreast, requiring no greater width of roadway than is at present necessary when the sergeant rides in line with the leading driver. I believe that this system prevails in the Swedish artillery. It gives an effective detachment of seven, including four gunners on the limbers and gun-axle seats; thus bringing a minimum of men and horses under fire, and dispensing with superfluous horse holders. The wagons as is necessary in these days of improved weapons, being left well to the rear, or under cover, cannot be depended upon to bring up the gun detachments. The drill would also be much simplified. I would further suggest that in all future demands breast harness should be asked for, for all lead horses, collars being retained only for the wheel, the reason being the extreme difficulty of fitting collars to the horses of volunteer field batteries, always liable to change, while breast harness will fit any horse. I would recommend the retention of collars for wheel horses, to give better support to the pole, which I consider more suitable to the small sized Canadian horses, who are, moreover, accustomed to its use. The retention of a proportion of collars gives a facility for interchanging horses (when galled) to breast harness, and *vice versa*."

"Under any circumstances, I trust that in future demands for harness, the newest pattern, viz., that of a saddle on the off horse in lieu of a pad, be asked for, as it gave facilities for mounting gunners on the off horses when a rapid advance for a short distance is necessary."

"This was the system of the Bengal Horse Artillery, and saddles have been supplied to field batteries in the English service, with a view to their occasional use on emergency."

The Garrison Artillery of this province consists of—

"1st. The Montreal Brigade, six batteries commanded by Lieutenant Colonel McKay."

"2nd The Quebec Brigade, four batteries, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel T. H. Grant."

"3rd. The St. John's Battery, commanded by Major Drumm."

"4th. The Sherbrooke battery, commanded by Capt. Felton"

"5th. The Grand Trunk Railway Brigade, six batteries."

MONTREAL GARRISON ARTILLERY.

"On the 9th August, 1872, I inspected the Montreal Brigade Garrison Artillery, at the Quebec Gate Barracks, which they occupied during the period of training. The men were clean and soldierlike, and went through gun and gyn drill with credit, considering that the attention of this brigade has been hitherto principally directed to infantry movements, and that they acted as such at the Trout River affair, under the present commanding officer."

"Their barrack rooms were clean, and arranged as in the Imperial service. Lieut. Colonel McKay informs me that the discipline and conduct of the Brigade was good, and speaks very favourably of the Adjutant, Captain Collins, who, with Lieutenant Short acting as Gunnery Instructor, and Sergeant Clifford, "B" Battery, Assistant, carried out the training of this corps under his supervision."

"The brigade was furnished with the standing orders of the Royal Artillery, which were as far as practicable carried out. The whole of the batteries, except Captain Hall's. No. 5, carried out their gun and mortar practice at St. Helen's Island, the guns being examined according to regulation, by Lieutenant Short after every fifty rounds."

"Twenty non commissioned officers and men of "B" Battery, enrolled in the Montreal Garrison Artillery, joined it during the period of training; but I am of opinion that this dispersion of the men of "B" Battery was in this instance, prejudicial to discipline, there being no officers of the Montreal Brigade Garrison Artillery attached to the School of Gunnery that could be sent with them. A large proportion of the men attached to the brigade have completed their term of service, and decline to re enrol. I am of opinion that it is not advisable to attempt the training of garrison artillery during the short and busy summer season in the large shipping cities like Quebec and Montreal."

"Garrison artillery, you are aware, differs from all other arms in the wide range of information to be acquired, necessitating more or less application throughout the year."

"Intelligent mechanics, of good physique are the best material for the rank and file of this service, restricting it to cities where alone it is required."

"Judging from the instruction of the volunteer artillery of Great Britain, I beg respectfully to state my opinion, that evening drills, especially during the winter season, together with a capitation grant for efficiency instead of daily pay, is the most suitable system for volunteer garrison artillery. But volunteers in Canada do not meet with the same encouragement from the employers of labour as in the old country."

"The excitement of threatened or actual invasion seems to be essential to the existence of volunteers in Canada; but it should be remembered that no amount of excitement will create artillery officers and non-commissioned officers."

"The Quebec Brigade, commanded by Lt. Colonel T. H. Grant, did not train last summer."

"The only portion of this corps which has finished its annual training is a detachment under Lieutenant F. Montizambert. It is composed of employees of the Quarantine establishment, at Grosse Isle. With the ex-

ception of four men, too old for efficient service, they are physically fit, intelligent, and well trained, every man being enrolled in the militia for three years."

"On the 8th October, 1872, I inspected them in heavy marching order, company drill and arm drill. They wore clean and soldierlike. I subsequently saw them at gun drill and gun practice. They worked the heavy guns with quickness, and fired with remarkable accuracy. Great credit is due to Lieutenant Montizambert, who carried out their whole training without assistance. He has gone through a short course of instruction at the Gunnery School Quebec, and is a very promising officer. From the circumstance that the whole detachment are Government employees, and in a department of which he is the head, they have apparently a spirit and discipline very nearly approaching that of regular troops."

[To be Continued.]

THE SPECIALIZATION OF SHIPS OF
WAR.(Translated from the Russian in the *Revue Coloniale et Maritime* for April, 1873.)

The question "of what types of vessels should a fleet or squadron be composed" immediately involves another:

On what particular service is the fleet or squadron to be employed? On this point the question of the description of vessel entering into its composition is absolutely dependent.

For instance, let us compare the fleet of a first class naval power, like England, with the fleet of some other Power of secondary maritime rank. The problem to be solved in the case of the English fleet is—to secure the command of the seas, with full power to attack the enemies' coast and shore defences, as well as to guard her own. Regarded from this point of view, the English fleet evidently should include vessels of every type of construction. She must have powerful armored cruisers, because in time of war one of the chief duties of her navy would be the pursuit and destruction of the enemy's cruisers. She must have a powerful fleet of ironclad, capable of bearing down before it an enemy's fleet that might appear on the face of the seas; lastly, all her ships should be as perfect as possible in their seagoing qualities, as they would often have to act upon the ocean or upon the enemy's coasts.

To a second rate maritime power the solution of these problems would not be a necessity. She must restrict herself to a more limited sphere of action, more especially if, owing to the disproportion between her land and sea forces, she were likely to be pitted against an opponent of superior naval power. In the latter case, the problems requiring solution may be stated thus:—

To have a sufficient number of fast cruisers to do as much damage as possible to the enemy's commerce; and to provide for the protection of her own coasts and shore defences, so as to render a complete and effectual blockade of the same impracticable. A second rate power will be in a position to solve these problems, and will solve them, if, in the construction of ships composing its navy the special types necessary to the attainment of these ends have been kept in view, and if the building of vessels has been limited to these particular types. Let us next see what are these types.

The cruisers are designed for the interruption of the enemy's commerce, and *not* for