

chiefly to what are termed independent companies.

A means might be substituted to raise and maintain the desired numbers on another principle, when permanent Adjutants are appointed, viz:—through the County Wardens and their Reeves at their usual monthly meetings; the quota or proportion to population being observed as now. The Reeves have rolls of townships, and the able bodied men could be noticed on the Adjutant's application to the warden for the number required to replace casualties, or they could have the option of paying a small annual sum for three years in lieu of attendance. This applies to the Province of Ontario, but could of course be carried out in other provinces under their local systems.

In the United Kingdom all militia enrolments are made by Adjutants, and why not so by this means in Canada, the system being, as at present, voluntary service in the militia of the Dominion?

This plan, under regimental staffs, would give the whole force a tone of consistency, and of reliable organization which it hardly presents now; and the country would receive a certain equivalent in trained men for its annual expenditure.

Furthermore, it might be considered desirable to abolish the rule of permitting men to become entitled to discharge upon giving six months' notice, which is said to be abused; and discretionary power might be given to commanding officers to grant discharges to men quitting the district for a change of residence or occupation.

There are 662 companies of Infantry, comprised in ninety three battalions, twelve of which are however provisional, and there are thirty nine independent companies.

Of the latter, three are in Manitoba, and four in British Columbia, as well as eight in New Brunswick; the majority of the remainder, about fifteen in number, might be broken up with advantage.

ARTILLERY AND CAVALRY.

There are seven brigades of Garrison Artillery composed of forty five batteries, and there are sixteen independent batteries; altogether sixty one garrison batteries. I have not yet been able to see but few; but those were good, with one exception.

There are also sixteen field batteries, six of which are already armed with the most approved new rifled field gun. Those I have had the advantage of inspecting were fully equipped with harness, and all in excellent order.

The artillery derive manifest benefit from the admirably conducted Gunnery Schools at Quebec and Kingston, whose commandants, lent from the Royal Artillery, take praiseworthy pains to instruct officers and men. The good result throughout that branch is as apparent, as would be that of the schools of the other arms if similarly organized.

There are three regiments of Cavalry, comprising eighteen troops, and there are three squadrons, viz: at Quebec, Port Hope and Kingston, as well as sixteen independent troops; in all, forty troops of Cavalry.

The arms, clothing and saddlery of those I have seen are excellent, and very carefully preserved. They have the advantage of some very accomplished cavalry officers in their ranks.

The mode of horsing both artillery and cavalry is defective, and a question somewhat difficult of solution; but I hope to have the opportunity of consulting officers of experience in those arms, with a view to its improvement.

As far as I can at present learn, a bonus of ten dollars a year for each horse enrolled and registered for three years, for field batteries, would in some degree lead to satisfactory results.

Cavalry being a very favorite service, I understand there is less difficulty in procuring horses—the property, generally, of the troopers themselves.

I invite your attention to the reports of the Commandants of the Schools of Gunnery; the benefits arising from these institutions, as I have already said, cannot be too highly prized. If it were possible, these batteries should be even upon a larger basis, uniting instruction in both Garrison and Field Artillery, the duties of which are widely different.

Branch Gunnery Schools at Montreal and Toronto, where detachments of these batteries are respectively stationed, would greatly extend their utility by enabling officers and volunteer gunners in those populous cities and rural districts adjoining, to attend for short course studies, which the great distance from Quebec or Kingston frequently prevents.

If the pay of officers attending for short or long course studies was increased from \$1 \$1½ per diem, many more would be induced to take advantage of these schools, who now hesitate to do so, finding the allowance does not meet the obligatory expenses of living.

Moreover, it would be signally advantageous to these schools if each Field battery consisted of four guns, completely horsed, instead of the present insufficient number.

The term Artillery Schools would, I think, be more appropriate than that of "Gunnery" as at present, and more expressive of the instruction derived there.

STAFF.

The country is very judiciously divided into Military Districts, of which there are twelve, viz: four in Ontario, three in Quebec, one each in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, one in Prince Edward Island, and one each in Manitoba and British Columbia; for each of these there is a Deputy Adjutant General, with a Brigade Staff. The whole under a General officer of the Royal Army, with a Deputy Adjutant General at Headquarters. The voluminous correspondence and increased work of the Department has thrown a very undue amount of labor on this Staff Officer, and therefore there should be added as Deputy or Assistant Quarter Master General, a thoroughly trained officer, to whom should be entrusted the increased superintendence of the supply of clothing, as well as the various important other duties which apply to that Department, including a general knowledge of the local resources of the country, with its various lines and modes of communication which in case of active operations could not be dispensed with.

At such times confusion and fatal mistakes would inevitably occur, were an inexperienced officer hastily placed in a position of great responsibility, and in such a comprehensive sphere.

I submit that appointments to the District Staff should be based upon the rule long prevailing in the army: to last for five years but eligible for renewal for competency.

Regimental uniforms have in some instances been permitted to imitate minutely those of the Royal Army in ornaments and face. In the British Militia this is carefully avoided and so the propriety and taste of deviating from that system is open to question.

With regard to military titles, it strikes a stranger on arrival in Canada what a super-

abundance of field officers exist throughout the Dominion.

The rank of Lieutenant Colonel, which in the Royal Army is only reached after twenty years, and often more—passed probably in remote countries and unhealthy climates, with every species of military experience, is in Canada obtained in half that time; the possessor probably having seldom or never held proportionate commands—possibly with little amount of military experience—and having spent the whole, or as much as he chose, of his life comfortably at home.

Consequently, military titles are so common as to be held in light esteem; they lose the weight and distinction accorded to them in Europe, and having been acquired so easily and so early in life, no higher distinction of rank remains to be obtained in reward for good, gallant and faithful services to the state.

This has been caused by a rule bestowing brevet rank, after each period of five years' service, which service probably amount in the aggregate to some ten weeks training, according to its duration, during the five years; a very undue proportion of promotion to superior grades has therefore resulted, and in case of the Canadian Militia acting with the Queen's troops the result would be very inconvenient.

A modification of this rule in the future is desirable. The period of five years carrying as a matter of course, brevet rank under paragraph 56 of the Regulations and Orders for the Militia might be made seven.

No brevet rank to be given to subalterns, in accordance with the rules of the army.

Every officer seeking promotion to have a certificate of professional competency for the superior grade.

Captains and Majors to be eligible at all times for brevet promotion for conspicuous, good or gallant service or other special meritorious conduct.

Regimental promotion to continue as heretofore, the proposed alterations not to be retrospective.

I am afraid this report has assumed larger proportions than I anticipated.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant.

E. SELBY SMYTH,

Major-General.

P.S.—In the foregoing report allusion is made to the staff of the militia in the Military Districts of the Dominion, to the effect that it would prove beneficial in practice if the system were adopted here, similar to that which it was found necessary to introduce into Her Majesty's service several years ago, restricting the duration of staff appointments to five years, but allowing re-appointments for special fitness.

It is only by zealous exertions and constant superintendence that the system of discipline and the reputation and success of any military organization can be maintained, and this especially falls to the duty of Executive staff officers.

Officers selected for employment in such positions should by their previous service as well as by their acquirements and character be considered fully qualified to discharge with advantage the duties of a staff officer.

It is, however, necessary in the interests of the service, that qualifications and competency should not be kept out of view by suffering officers to be placed in such responsible positions through any local or other influence. In such an event, the officer may or may not be professionally qualified, possibly sometimes the latter, and so his duties may be slurred over.