

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE OF  
THE MILITIA FOR 1870

[CONTINUED]

*The Honourable Sir George F. Colvile, Bart.,  
Minister of Militia &c., &c.*

## REPORT OF DIRECTORS OF STORES.

## MILITIA DEPARTMENT, STORE BRANCH.

Ottawa, January 20th, 1871.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit, for your information, the following statement of the operations of the Branch under my direction during the past year—a year in which the service has been rendered exceptionally severe from various causes. More notably from those occasioned by the Fenian Raid, the equipment of the Red River Expeditionary Force, and the providing supplies for its maintenance "en route," taking over the forts and their armaments, and the lands therewith transferred to the Dominion Government by the Imperial authorities; and, finally, the reception of the Reserve Stores and ammunition.

Notwithstanding these extraneous services, I am happy to be able to report, that owing to the cheerful and willing assistance rendered me at all times by the staff of the Branch, the duties entrusted to me have been successfully performed without a hitch or complaint—a fact which merits favorable consideration, when it is understood that the operations of this Branch extend from Halifax in the East to Fort Garry in the West. Each district over that large extent of territory, having its Storekeeper, making his monthly returns to me at head quarters, and in almost daily communication, thus involving a large amount of correspondence, and a continued administrative supervision.

To save delay, and the expense of re-transportation from Ottawa to Halifax, arrangements were made with the English contractors, to ship by the Inman steamers to the latter place, the following articles of clothing, viz:

Artillery.	Cloth Tunics.....	500
	Serge Trowsers, pairs..	1,000
	Forage Caps.....	500
Infantry.	Cloth Tunics.....	3,000
	Serge Trowsers, pairs..	1,500
	Forage Caps.....	2,000

From this consignment the Storekeeper at Halifax was enabled to supply the larger portion of the Active Militia in Military District No. 9, leaving a small residue in store there. There were also forwarded to Halifax from Ottawa, for the service of the Naval Brigade:

500	Naval Serge Frocks.
500	do Trowsers, pairs.
500	do Cloth Caps.
500	do White Drill Frocks.

These, however, have not been required. The Halifax Naval Brigade having changed its organization, is now constituted the 2nd Brigade of Halifax Garrison Artillery. The clothing consequently has not been issued, and remains in store at Halifax.

## OFFICERS CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENTS.

Of these we have but a very small quantity remaining in store, and it is not the intention of the Department to re-stock. In 1862, when the Volunteer system became more largely developed, for the sake of uniformity and efficiency, it was considered advisable to obtain these supplies for the officers of the force, to whom they were sold at cost price, with a few departmental charges

added to cover expenses. This system worked well, and proved a great boon to the officers concerned. But the ends intended having been attained, this mode of supply will now cease, and the Officers henceforth must depend upon the trade of the country for such articles of clothing and equipments as they may need.

## AMMUNITION.

The ammunition in the different district magazines, at the close of 1869, is detailed in the following statement, which also shews the receipts and issues for the past year, and the remains at its close. During the year all the old Enfield or muzzle loading ammunition, excepting a small quantity which still remains at St. John and Halifax, was sent to Montreal, there broken up, and made into cannon cartridges for practice and salutes. The lead and percussion caps were sold, the latter having been previously destroyed.

It having been considered unnecessary to maintain store establishments at Hamilton and Prescott, in addition to those at Toronto and Ottawa, in such close proximity, both the former establishments were broken up in the early part of the year, and their stores transferred respectfully to the latter places. By this arrangement, a storekeeper being no longer required at Hamilton, his services were dispensed with. At Prescott, there had only been a caretaker in charge, who still remains in charge of the Militia property at that place.

During the year just elapsed, 195,400 rounds of Snider ball ammunition have been sold, for which the Department has received \$4,783 05, considerable increase over the sales of 1869, which only reached 166,100 rounds, yielding a sum of \$3986 40. The gross amount received during the year for stores sold is \$19,983 43, as shewn in the statement underneath. It will be observed that there is a slight discrepancy between the two amounts as shewn for ammunition, but this is explained by the fact, that the payments for ammunition sold at Halifax in December, did not reach head-quarters in time to be included in the subjoined statement. There are also some surpluses in the amounts transmitted in excess of the regulated price.

No moneys are received by this Branch, the whole of the payments being made through the Receiver-General, by deposit receipts from the purchaser, through the Bank of Montreal, the draft for the Department, after being entered in the store books, is then transferred to the Account Branch.

The Department of Marine and Fisheries have been supplied from the Dominion stores to the amount of \$4976 00, not included in the above statement, with Spencer rifles, Colt's revolvers, accoutrements, and ammunition, for the service of the vessels employed in the protection of the fisheries. The guns and ordnance stores required for this service were obtained from Her Majesty's Control Department.

## CAMP EQUIPAGE.

Was issued during the usual drill season, on the requisitions of the District Staff Officers, and under the regulations in force. If it is intended, as contemplated, to form brigade camps in each District, the supply of blankets should be increased for this service. I was unable to supply the two brigade camps, formed respectively at Sarnia and Prescott, without borrowing blankets from Toronto for Sarnia, and from Montreal for Prescott, thus adding to the cost of transport, as the borrowed blankets had to be returned to whence they came, on the

breaking up of the camps. One blanket per man, to which our present supply is limited, is altogether insufficient for camping purposes, and for the health and comfort of the men.

The annual wear and tear and loss of camp equipment is considerable, and requires the strictest supervision to reduce it to its minimum. If the regulations on this head are only strictly enforced, and all loss and wilful damage charged against the defaulters, the moneys so recovered would be sufficient to cover such loss and damage. These being made good under the supervision of the different storekeepers, after the camp equipment is returned into store at the close of the season's operations. The camp damages recovered and paid to the Department, amounted in 1869 to \$157 33; the amount recovered last year, was \$131 48.

The tent poles of ash, manufactured in this country, have answered as well as if they had been made of red pine, which at the time the Department was unable to procure. Gradually, however, as deficiencies occur, and are made good, they are being replaced by the better material, which is exclusively used in the camp equipments of the Imperial authorities.

Tents and appurtenances, with grey blankets, were issued in 1869 to the different districts, in the following proportions:—

	Tents.	Blankets
London, M. D., No. 1....	300	1500
Toronto, " No. 2....	300	1500
Kingston, " No. 3....	200	1000
Montreal, " Nos. 5 & 6....	300	1500
Quebec, " No. 7....	200	1000
St. John, N.B., " No. 8....	100	500
Halifax, N. S., " No. 9....	100	500
Ottawa in reserve & No. 4....	500	2132
Total.....	2000	10,132

After the great fires, by which the neighbourhood of Ottawa was so much devastated during the season of 1870, I received your instructions to issue to the Fire Relief Committee of this city, fifty tents and appurtenances for the use of the sufferers. Twenty-five of these have been since returned into store, the remaining twenty-five are still out, and in possession of the committee.

## ARMS AND ACCOUTREMENTS.

Of these, at the close of the year, there remained in store:

Cavalry Swords and Belts.....	261
Short Sniders.....	412
Long Sniders.....	996
Spencer Carbines.....	369
Starr Carbines.....	232
Spencer Muskets.....	1913
Peabody Rifles.....	2970
Infantry Accoutrements, about.....	\$000
Rifle Accoutrements, about.....	2000
Infantry Knapsacks.....	4299
Rifle Knapsacks.....	2000
Infantry Great Coat Straps.....	\$242
Rifle Great Coat Straps.....	3628
Water Bottles.....	2171

It is impossible, in a report like this, to give in detail all the stores in charge, the above are given as part only, and the most important, and have no reference whatever to the reserve stores, which will be spoken of further on.

## SOLDIERS' KITS.

Of these we had in store, at the close of 1869, 5000 complete. From this stock was supplied the outfit for the Red River Force, as also the additional supply forwarded to Fort Garry in September, to replace wear, tear, and loss. There still remain in store 3000 kits available for further use.