

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF  
THE MILITIA FOR 1873.

## APPENDIX No. 4.

(Continued from Page. 423.)

## ON THE QUESTION OF HORSEING FIELD BATTERIES

Opinions of Officers commanding Field Batteries of Artillery, forwarded in reply to Circular Memorandum dated 13th November, 1873, from the Acting Adjutant General of Militia, calling for information through the Deputy Adjutants-General of Military Districts Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8, as to whether the present system of supply of Horses for Field Batteries works satisfactorily.

## MILITARY DISTRICT, NO. 1.

## London and Wellington Field Batteries.

## HEAD QUARTERS,

WELLINGTON, F. B., Nov. 27th, 1873.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your memo, enclosing one of the Acting Adjutant-General, bearing date 13th Nov., 1873, relating to the supply of horses for the Field Artillery.

With regard to the working of the present system of supply, the system adopted, so far as I am aware, is to allow each Commanding Officer to make his own arrangements, for the supply of fifty horses authorized, each year. The owners of horses are paid a sum for each horse, which varies according to the terms of the order for annual drill each year.

There have been no regulations made under the provisions of which I shall speak, and Commanding Officers have only the pay and small advantages given by the 37th section of the Act, to offer as inducements to enrol. I do not think that there is even power for a Commanding Officer to enrol horses for a number of years, except by personal contract.—That is the plan which I have adopted, and I believe the only legal plan.

Owners here, frequently refuse to let me have their horses for more than one year, and often withdraw them, as they say the inconvenience to them is so great that the pay—though large enough in my opinion—each day's pay, does not reimburse them for their trouble and loss in having their horses away from home.

The effect here has been that the best horses have not been obtained, and that even in the two years I have had the battery, many of them have been changed, and I cannot be certain that if the battery were called out in a hurry, that I could get those even which were out this year.

Now what is wanted, is a sufficient supply of the best horses enrolled for a number of years, marked, and available at all times.

By 31 Vic., Cap. 40, 18, s. a. 2, it is provided that regulations may be made for the enrolment of horses, &c., and by ss. 96 and 97, it is provided that regulations made under the Act shall be law.

The Orders of 12th March, 1870, contain no such regulations, and, I believe none have ever been made under that Act.

I would therefore suggest, that in making such regulations the following points be considered, premising that if any such provisions be made, the present pay will not be sufficient to recompense owners for having their horses so tied up:—

1. Horses to be enrolled for a period of not less than 3 years.

2. To be owned by the person enrolling.—To be free from all liens and mortgages.

3. To be marked on enrolment, with the battery letter and their number, and a corresponding register, to be kept by the Commanding Officer enrolling.

4. The owners to be entitled to the same exemption as if members of the force. The horses to be exempt from seizure, distress, tolls, and municipal or other license charges.

5. The owners to receive a certificate from the Commanding Officer, which shall protect them and the horses—to be cancelled at the end of the term.

6. To be paid, upon enrolment, the sum of say \$12, for each horse, and the same amount annually, at the end of each year; after the first allowance, to be increased if a team is re-enrolled after the first three years.

7. Owners to be liable to fine or imprisonment for selling, or in any way disposing of enrolled horses without the written permission of the Commanding Officer.

8. Such permit not to have the effect of avoiding the enrolment.

9. No sale without it to pass the property to purchaser.

10. Power to the Commanding Officer to take enrolled horses wherever they may be found when required for service.

11. Horses to be subject to inspection and rejection at any time they may be found unfit for service.

12. The present rates of pay for service should be continued. The forage should always be supplied.

13. Some provision should be made to reimburse owners for losses caused by horses being returned lame, or injured.

I think that all the above provisions can be made under the sections of the Act respecting Militia and Defence above referred to.

Hoping that what I suggest may be of some assistance to you,

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. H. MACDONALD, Capt.,

Commanding W. F. B.

The Deputy Adjt. General,  
at London.

## MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 2

## Hamilton Field Battery.

HAMILTON, Dec. 17th, 1873.

SIR,—In reference to the best system for procuring horses for the annual drill of Field Batteries, I beg to state that I consider the present system gives good satisfaction, with the exception, that the pay is not sufficient for horses. I would suggest that it would be \$1 per diem for three hours' drill, and when in camp, that it would be \$1 per diem and rations.

I beg leave to suggest another plan that, if introduced, would work to the best advantage with Field Batteries; that is, that horses sufficient to turn out the batteries, be purchased by Government, and those horses when not on drill, or active service, to be placed with responsible parties to keep and use, and to be handed over to the batteries when required, in the same condition as when received.

By this system, batteries could be turned out on the shortest notice, without loss of time or trouble, with the same horses from year to year, which would please the bat-

teries in a much more efficient state than they at present are.

Hoping the above will meet with your approval,

I remain your humble servant,  
Geo. B. SMITH, Capt.,  
Commanding H. V. F. B.  
To Lt.-Col. Villiers,  
Brigade Major.

## Welland Canal Field Battery.

PORT ROBINSON, Nov. 24th, 1873.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 18th inst. asking "whether the present regulation of obtaining horses whenever required works satisfactorily; also if I have any suggestion to offer, &c." In reply I beg to state that the present regulations do not work as satisfactorily as I would wish; under it, inferior animals are offered and easily obtained, but to horse the battery with the superior class of horses I have always endeavoured to procure, depends on the personal influence and exertion of the officers, and not unattended with a large private expense.

I would suggest enrolling horses somewhat similar to the present plan of enrolling men, and for a like term of years, subject to half-yearly inspection by a Veterinary Surgeon, exempting them by law from seizure for debt, and paying the owners a bonus in addition to the annual drill pay.

Thereby ensuring a supply of sound, serviceable, and partially drilled animals at the shortest notice. At the same time lessening the risk of horses dying on service, and the consequent expense of paying for them.

Trusting the above suggestion may meet with your approval.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obed't servant,

R. S. KING, Major.

Lt.-Col. Durie,  
Brigade Office, Toronto.

## Toronto Field Battery.

TORONTO, Dec. 1873.

SIR,—In reply to your enquiry referring to the supply of horses for the Volunteer Field Artillery, I would state, that I still hold the opinion formerly expressed by me on this subject, that is, to purchase say sixteen horses, and give them to some public carrier who would enter into bonds to produce them, or others equally good, whenever required, for which the parties would receive no pay—the public to supply forage during drill. At the end of, say eight years, the horses to be the property of the parties who had charge of them. I have talked this matter over with several responsible persons who are willing to carry out my suggestions. On counting cost, a saving would be the result:

Sixteen days' drill, sixteen horses,  
at one dollar per day. . . . . \$2 018  
To purchasing sixteen horses. . . . . 1 600

Saving in 8 years. . . . . \$ 448

A saving in my battery would accrue for extra duty at opening and closing of the Provincial Legislature, two days in each year, amounting to \$256. Total \$704, saved in eight years—not counting what is of far more consequence, increased efficiency. The horses could be utilized for the removal of Provincial stores in Toronto, for which I believe, a large amount is paid annually. In fact, if the contractor for the removal of Provincial stores was compelled to supply a number of horses, it would be of great advantage to the battery: at present, the parties say, *if don't pay*.