

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 3.

KINGSTON, July 12th, 1869.

SIR,—I have the honor to report to you, that I inspected the 16th "Prince Edward" Battalion of Volunteer Militia, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Walter Ross, at Picton, on Friday, the 9th inst., at 5 P.M., and the 15th battalion, under Lieutenant-Colonel A. Campbell, at a place two miles from Belleville, on Saturday, the 10th inst., at 9 A.M., in their respective camps, which had been formed since the previous Monday morning.

These corps maintain their character for discipline and general good conduct, as well as for cleanliness, and care of clothing, accoutrements and arms.

The parade-states were not prepared when the inspection took place: but when they are furnished they will be forwarded.

The new Militia Law has been the means of bringing many recruits to the ranks of these corps, who, having never before been subject to drill, the execution of battalion manoeuvres could not be expected to equal the performance of the same battalions, in this respect, on former occasions, when composed of experienced volunteers.

The camps were regularly formed, according to the rules of the service, and both the Lieutenant-Colonels reported to me that the men had remained in camp the whole week, day and night.

The arrangements for cooking, and supplying the messes, were good. It was believed that 25 cents a head would cover all the cost of their commissariat.

The 16th battalion encamped within the ground of the Agricultural Society, at Picton, enclosed by a high board fence. They had erected a long shed for kitchens, and the shed was partitioned off for each company. Each partition was provided with a cooking-stove, and a rough deal table. Water was supplied by a water cart from a spring in the neighbourhood: 400 pails of water, per diem, being sufficient for the wants of the camp.

The 15th Battalion encamped about two miles from Belleville, on the shore of the Bay of Quinté, and built their kitchens on the ground.

Great care had been taken of the Government tents and blankets, which would be returned into store at Kingston, on the breaking up of the camps.

Some of the tent poles were reported as too weak for the weight of the tents, and several of them were broken in consequence.

This first attempt at encamping Volunteer Corps for annual drill, has been successful, and appears to have given general satisfaction to all concerned.

If the country could depend upon the same men remaining, continuously, the six days, after they were once well drilled, would be sufficient to keep up their efficiency, but as the rank and file are constantly liable to change, I am of opinion that six days, once a year, is not nearly sufficient to get the men into proper form; and, in fact amounts to little more than a muster parade, which, in former times, took place on one day in each year, at a trifling cost comparatively, to the public. If, however, one fourth