

# Militia and Defence.

## PART I

### REPORT

OF THE

## DEPUTY MINISTER

DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE,  
OTTAWA, 6th March, 1897.

The Honourable F. W. BORDEN,  
Minister of Militia and Defence.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the usual annual report of the officers of the Department of Militia and Defence, containing information of what has taken place during the twelve months ending on the 31st December last. It will be seen that according to your instructions this report has been brought down to the 31st December, 1896, thus reverting to the system in operation up to 1892, and not limiting the report to the end of the fiscal year, this last system having been found to work to great disadvantage. The financial part of the report can of course be computed only to the end of the fiscal year, 30th June.

Considerable changes have been effected since last year in the armament of the force. The old Snider rifles are being gradually returned into store and replaced by the new Lee-Enfield. The new rifle has now been issued to the whole of the permanent force and they are being given gradually to the city battalions.

With the new artillery guns, which are expected shortly to arrive, and the Maxim guns which we have received, our force from this date will present a very creditable appearance.

The report of the General Officer Commanding the militia will be found very interesting, and it is gratifying to learn that although he has not had an opportunity as yet of inspecting the whole of our force, still he declares himself satisfied with what he has seen, and I have no doubt that our militia under the direction of this distinguished officer will continue to increase in efficiency.

The report of the Director of Stores gives the details about clothing, arms and equipment issued to the force during the year. The result of the permanent employment during the year of a well qualified saddler tends to show that workshops at certain stations would prove economical, and the establishment of two permanent workshops for repairs to harness and saddlery and general equipment of the force is strongly recommended.

The amount of \$7,155.24 received up to 30th June last for rent of properties which are not at present required for militia purposes has been deposited to the credit of the Receiver General.

A military store building is much needed in Ottawa. The present arrangement is very unsatisfactory. A railway ticket office, a restaurant and waiting room open to the public at all hours during day and night, and a large amount of classified military stores of a value of over \$200,000, are all under the same roof with no insurance on the public property in case of fire.