

forms me that he considers the application of the Ballot necessary to maintain Corps in this District numerically efficient, he states, after having consulted with the officers commanding corps in my District, I have come to the conclusion that the Ballot must be resorted to.

"Several well-to-do persons told me they would willingly shoulder the musket were they obliged so to do, but that their occupations would not allow them to voluntarily neglect their fortunes, forgetting, undoubtedly at that moment, that to contribute to the defence of his country is a sacred debt due by every man, therefore, according to my humble opinion, the only just and legal way to have every one share equally is the Ballot, so by that means every one will acquire, in rotation, the military knowledge necessary now-a-days to every good citizen.

"I will also add, from what I hear from Commanding Officers of Corps, it is my firm belief that two thirds of the men who have served their time, will ask to be discharged."

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 7.

The authorized strength of the Active Militia in this District is 5,022 (officers and men). The number who have performed the Annual Drill for 1871-72, is 3,784 (officers and men), leaving 1,238 (officers and men) wanting to complete. This District is under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Casault, C.M.G., but at the time of the Annual Drill, that officer being absent on special service in the Province of Manitoba, the command devolved on Lieutenant Col. Duchesnay, Brigade Major. The Force in the District consists of.—

- 1 Squadron of Cavalry.
- 1 Battery of Field Artillery.
- 1 Brigade of Garrison Artillery.
- 7 Battalions, and
- 4 Independent Companies of Infantry, with
- 3 Marine Companies, and is composed of the following corps:

Cavalry.

Quebec Squadron—Two Troops.

Field Artillery.

Quebec Battery.

Garrison Artillery.

Quebec Brigade of Garrison Artillery.

Infantry.

- 8th Battalion.
- 9th do
- 17th do
- 23rd do
- 55th do
- 61st do
- 70th do

Provisional Battalions.

- Charlevoix Battalion.
- Dorchester do
- Kamouraska do
- Portneuf do
- Rimouski do
- Tomisconata do
- Quebec County do

Independent Companies.

- Fox River Infantry Company.
- Gaspé do
- Matia do
- Metapédine do

Machine Companies.

- Bonaventure.
- Carleton
- New Carlisle

The 8th Battalion (Stadacona Rifles) commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Reeve, and the detachment of the Quebec Garrison Artillery at "Grosse Isle, performed the Annual Drill, at their own headquarters, completing their course of instruction in 16 days.

The 8th Battalion was inspected by Lieut Colonel Casault, C.M.G., at Quebec, who reports that for proficiency in drill and smart appearance on parade, it is, and has been for some time, the first Corps in the District.

	Officers.	Men.
The Quebec Garrison Artillery.....	12	188
61st Battalion.....	16	229
Charlevoix Battalion..	13	332

formed Battalion Camps for eight days drill, and the whole of the remaining available Corps performed their Annual Drill in a Brigade Camp, formed at Point Levis, opposite Quebec, which was in operation for 16 days.

This Brigade numbered 2,886 of all arms, of whom Lieutenant Colonel Duchesnay reports 2,658 were French speaking Canadians. I inspected the whole of the Corps composing this Brigade. The Squadron of Cavalry (Quebec Hussars) was under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Forsyth. The men of this squadron presented a soldierlike appearance, their arms and accoutrements were in very good order, more so than any other of the Cavalry corps in the Dominion. They were also fairly mounted, and I was glad to remark that amongst both officers and men there was a considerable degree of "esprit de corps."

The Quebec Battery of Artillery, composed entirely of French speaking Canadians, consists of a good body of men, very soldierlike in their bearing, and respectful in their manner towards their officers. I was much pleased with the general condition and efficiency of this Battery, but it was indifferently horsed. The Regimental Inspection of this Battery was made by the Inspector of Artillery, who reports upon it that "It was practised in Gun Drill, Driving Drill, and Field Manœuvres." That the "Gun Drill" and manœuvring was very good, also that "Subaltern Officers are better acquainted with their duties than those of any of the others," but that "The horses are the worst of any battery in the Dominion—several of them mere ponies."

This Battery, in accordance with the Instruction issued for the training of Field Artillery, performed a march of twenty miles (with waggons properly packed, entrenching tools, camp equipage, small arms, &c., strapped in their places,) between the hours of six a.m. and five p.m.

The Infantry Corps in this Camp were like those in the Laprairie Camp as a general rule, composed of good material, but they lacked practice in drill, and in regard to the state of arms and clothing, they were not as smart and clean as the majority of corps inspected by me in other districts, I found in this Camp, however, the only Battalion in the whole Dominion that turned out complete in numbers for the Annual Drill of 1871-72, viz.:—the 23rd (County Beauce) Battalions a "French speaking Canadian Corps." This Battalion is com-

posed of hardy looking young men, belonging to the agricultural population of County Beauce. It is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Duchesnay, and every officer, non-commissioned officer, and private allowed on the strength of the corps was present at his post. In regard to appearance on parade and general efficiency the 55th "Megantic" Battalion was the best in this Camp. I regretted to observe numerous irregularities however, in some of the corps among which I may mention that a few of the officers were naturally unprovided with swords, giving as excuse that they could not obtain them in Canada. If it is the case that officers swords cannot be purchased in Canada, I would recommend that a certain number be purchased in England by the Militia Department, for issue on repayment to such officers as may require them.

The routine of drill and duties observed in this camp was similar to that observed in the other sixteen days camps, and I have every reason to be satisfied with the manner in which Lieutenant Colonel Duchesnay exercised his command.

The position of the camp was well chosen, and the scenery surrounding at that season of the year beautiful. I consider Point Levis as a most suitable and appropriate place for the performance of the Annual Drill by the Active Militia of this District. In order to place the force in this District on a proper footing, I beg to recommend that the Cavalry be increased by four troops, and all the Cavalry Troops then formed into a District Regiment, to be numbered the "7th Regiment of Cavalry," that another battery of Field Artillery be organised in some part of the District south of the River St. Lawrence, that two companies of Engineers be formed, and to point out that if the ranks of the respective corps cannot be completed by voluntary enrolment, the Ballot, can be applied. On this point Lieut. Colonel Duchesnay in his report makes the following observations:—

"The three years having expired for the service of companies in the District, I may state with certainty that the two thirds of the volunteers enrolled in 1868 will claim their discharges; I find by the opinions of the several officers commanding battalions in the District, that they all concur in stating that it will be impossible to fill up the rolls now by the volunteer system only."

(To be continued.)

THE FRENCH NAVY.—Last year no fewer than 33 vessels were struck off the list; among these were eight wooden iron-clads and six armour plated floating batteries, of which latter four were sunk in the Seine during the siege of Paris. On the other hand only four new vessels were added to the effective strength of the service, one of these—the *Marengo*—being a wooden ironclad of the first class. There were, however, during the year 1871, altogether 31 new ships in the course of construction in the dockyards or of being fitted out afloat, and it is expected that 17 more of these will be completed during the present year. If so there will be added to the navy list one wooden ironclad of the first class, one armour-plated wooden corvette, and three armour-plated wooden vessels for coast defence. But it is possible that the completion of the new vessels may be somewhat delayed to the absolute necessity for striking 41 old ones, among which are two iron plated ships of the first class, one of the second class, and two old iron monitors.