

Dominion, that inducements and advantages are held out to them such as cannot fail to come up to their expectation, I entertained no doubt as to the ultimate successful results. I have now much satisfaction in stating that the progress attained during the past year is all that could be desired. The required quota has been completed; and, far from the task being a difficult one, the numerous offers of service on the part of officers and men to form additional corps, received subsequently to the quota being filled, though of course it is impossible to accept them, fully proves that the volunteer movement is being daily more appreciated and held in estimation. It is true that more advancement in this respect has been made at some places than at others.

Lieut.-Colonel Otty, in a recent report, states that the little interest manifested by the people of St. John in the Volunteer organization is a serious obstacle to be overcome, this is more to be regretted as the citizens of St. John have every reason to be proud of their Volunteers. The Brigade of Artillery possesses as fine a body of men, as regards physique and general training, as any in the Dominion. The 62nd Battalion, and New Brunswick Engineers, too, are well drilled and efficient corps. The lack of interest is also apparent at other places, happily but few, and I sincerely hope that the community generally will ere long become fully sensible of the fact that as the Imperial troops are being withdrawn the Local Force becomes the standing army of Canada, ready and willing to repel invasion, or aid the civil power and maintain peace within our borders, and surely it is not too much to ask for support and encouragement from the people. I may, perhaps, be allowed, on behalf of the force of New Brunswick, to express my acknowledgments to the Lieutenant Governor, the Hon. L. A. Wilmot, himself a volunteer of some standing, not only for his presence on any opportunity which offers to advance the interests of the force, but his Honor, too, is ever ready with his voice to instil fresh ardour and love for the service. Thanks are also due for the valuable assistance which the Press has invariably afforded all those who have the welfare of the Force at heart. I propose to embody in my inspection reports some brief extracts from the local newspapers, indicating the high opinion formed of the Force, and as a contrast to the statements regarding the lack of interest manifested at some places. And here I may quote part of a letter published in the "Daily Telegraph" from the pen of an old Militia Captain, dated Bathurst, November 24th, 1869:—"Having referred to the highly creditable degree of proficiency attained by the Bathurst Volunteers, as well as the attention paid to their welfare by Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. John Ferguson and others he adds, "By untiring zeal and efficient aid liberally supplied most of those obstacles which are always found in the way of any new movement, have already disappeared. The public are now regarding the Volunteer movement, apart from consideration of a mere military character. The organising of a band of steady, active and loyal young men, clothed in the scarlet livery of our Queen, with her arms on their shoulders, and her love in their hearts, is a sunny spot in this remote corner of the British Empire; and it is refreshing to perceive that the old taunt, 'playing at soldiers,' has become an obsolete expression, and that all classes of the community appear now to be fully alive to the value and vital importance of 'Volunteer movements.'"