

It treated, he stated, of the militia organization generally; of the regimental finances; of the volunteers; of the distribution of arms; and of the casualties that have happened them. A large number had been damaged, being defective in the first instance, and these would be doubtless replaced from the ordnance stores. Still it was a matter of some importance to the inhabitants that care should be taken not to distribute arms which would be liable to cause casualties, among those who made use of them. It appeared from the report that in the beginning of this year, that the whole of the militia of the first class, for actual service, numbered 56,111 men. The number that were called out on Militia duty were 41,811, leaving 14,240 that did not attend—the majority of them consisted of fishermen, and seamen absent temporarily from their homes. There are in the province 110 regiments of Militia, beside a militia artillery brigade. There are 110 Lieut. Cols.; 146 Majors; 620 Captains; 653 First Lieuts.; 410 Second Lieuts.; 3 Sergeants Majors; 861 Sergeants. The whole number of militia enrolled in 1863 was 48,677, and in 1864, 56,111, showing an increase of 7436. In 1863 there were drilled 34,878, and in '64, 41,871, or an increase of 6993. In 1862 the number of volunteers was 1893; in 1863, 2010; and 1864, 829; the number of companies disbanded last year was 38 in all.

The report having been read,

Mr. McLELAN said that there was one paragraph of the Adjutant General's report which contained rather a reflection upon the character of the province and should not be allowed to go abroad uncontradicted. He referred to that part which spoke of the difficulty of obtaining proper Rifle Ranges, owing to the undulating nature of the country and to its being so densely wooded. The impression which would be conveyed would be that no suitable range could be obtained in the country whereas he was not aware that the difficulty had ever been experienced.

Mr. PRYOR thought that the Adjutant General had reference to the county ranges, and the difficulty of finding a proper range in each district.

Mr. BLANCHARD said that a stranger would naturally infer that the country was so densely wooded as to render it impossible to find room for a rifle range.

Mr. ALLISON said that it would be found to be a fact that in most counties, great difficulties would be experienced in getting proper ranges.

Mr. BLACKWOOD said that there was no difficulty in his part of the country. They could fire across the beach out to sea.

Hon. ATTY. GEN. said every part of the country is not so favourably situated. He thought the Adjutant General had only stated the real fact. It was well known that although there were plenty of places suited in other respects, yet from their exposed and public position they could not be used for rifle practice. It was only unfrequented places that would do, and these were not so easily to be found. In Antigonish County the difficulty had been experienced.

Mr. COLIN CAMPBELL had something to say in reference to another paragraph which referred to the disbandment of the Weymouth Rifles, which company he had had the honor to command. The Adjutant General says that

"this company was in good order two years ago, but has since fallen away and been disbanded." He would like the house and the county to know the reason why this had happened. They had taken some of the best men of the company and made militia officers of them—some of his privates had been promoted over his head—and this was the reason why the numbers had diminished. He did not think the volunteers had ever been treated fairly. It was too evident that there was a disposition to break them down in every possible way. He was informed that in some cases if the returns were not in up to the very day, they were immediately disbanded without further notice. This was not the way to treat men who had sacrificed so much time and money as the volunteers of Nova Scotia. The late Governor, the Marquis of Normandy, congratulated himself upon the fact that when he left the country, he left 5000 efficient volunteers to defend it, the best blood of the province—men who were trained and disciplined to the use of arms, and who, when danger threatened, would be found to the fore. He would ask where are they now, and whose fault was it that their numbers had decreased? He thought that the volunteers had been shamefully used, and he spoke from personal experience—as one of them. They had to go to all sorts of expense and sacrifice their time and comfort in making themselves efficient, and then received no sort of consideration whatever from those whose duty it should be to foster and encourage them in every possible way.

Mr. ARCHIBALD held in his hand a communication from an officer connected with the Rothsay Blues Rifle Corps at Truro, which disclosed great hardship to which he would like to draw the attention of the government. It appears that the gentlemen connected with that company, not only had to incur the usual expenses which had to be borne in common with their brother volunteers, but they had to put their hands in their pockets and contribute something like \$600 for the erection of a drill shed, and now that the company has been disbanded through no fault of theirs, it is proposed to hand their property over to the government. There was still a debt upon the building, from which, at all events these gentlemen should be relieved.

Hon. ATTY. GENL. said that by referring to the report of the last inspection of the Rothsay Blues it would be found that they only mustered upon parade—1 Captain, one 1st and one 2nd Lieuts, 3 Sergeants and 29 men so that they did not come up to the strength required by law. There was no doubt that the Volunteers were the best qualified to receive Militia Commissions, and it was probably owing to the fact that a large number of these had gone into the Militia service, that so many volunteer companies had been disbanded for want of sufficient men.

Mr. ARCHIBALD again expressed his opinion as to the hardship of the case.

Mr. BLANCHARD said it was evident that the small number of men in attendance could not have been the reason for disbandment, because on looking at the list it would be found that several other companies had a less number of men and yet were not disbanded.

Mr. COLIN CAMPBELL said that although his company had only turned out one less