

MEMORANDUM.

"Lieutenant Colonel Wiley having concluded his inspection of the Active Force of the Province and completed his reports upon it, the Governor General wishes to lay before the Ministers of the Crown the considerations which have been suggested to his mind by a careful perusal of Lieut. Col. Wiley's report, as well as his views on the general organization of the Provincial Militia.

"The Governor General desires in the first place to express his satisfaction at the excellent spirit displayed generally by the officers and men constituting the Active Force, and at the large proportion of the nominal strength of the force which turned out for inspection by Lieut. Col. Wiley at very short notice.

"The total strength, on the rolls, of the force inspected by Lieut. Col. Wiley was 684 officers and 9526 non-commissioned officers and men. Of this number, 476 officers and 7207 non-commissioned officers and men turned out for inspection.

"The Governor General does not intend to enter into the question of the efficiency in drill or discipline of the several corps constituting the Active Force, although Lieut. Col. Wiley has in every case reported a deficiency, and in many cases favourably on these points, because the period is so recent at which any sufficient means of instruction has been placed within reach of the members of the Active Force, that it would be most unwise to censure them for any shortcomings in this respect, and the Governor General feels certain that they will generally and with diligence avail themselves of the opportunities now offered to them to perfect themselves in military training.

"The Governor General desires most especially to guard himself against the supposition that it is his wish to say one word in disparagement of the conduct of the Active Force. On the contrary he considers the members of that body worthy of the highest praise. They have voluntarily come forward with very scant encouragement from the authorities, have in a large measure contributed their money, and given, what in many instances was even more valuable, their time, in order to qualify themselves for the defence of their country if the necessity for defending it should ever arise.

"But there is a great and evident difference between discussing the *conduct* of the Volunteer Force, for which the members of that body are responsible, and the *system* under which they are embodied, for which they are not and cannot be held accountable.

"The conviction has been forced on the mind of the Governor General by all the facts which have come to his knowledge during his residence in the Province, and has been confirmed by the contents of Lieut. Col. Wiley's reports that the present Active Force organization, however valuable as a supplement, can never be made effective or sufficient for the purpose to which it is now applied as the *sole* organization for defence.

"This is shown more particularly in the composition of the force as detailed in Lieut. Col. Wiley's reports.

"At the time of Lieut. Col. Wiley's inspection the nominal rolls included, as already stated, 684 officers and 9526 non-commissioned officers and men, of this number 495 officers and 7705 non-commissioned officers and men belonged to the seven cities of Quebec, Montreal, Kingston, Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton and London, leaving 189 officers and 1821 men the contribution of the remainder of Canada towards the number of the force.