

The intention of the Government to create a Military College at Kingston must be productive of future advantage. The course of study proposed for cadets at that college will, however, be of a higher and more scientific order, and their attainments will qualify them for a wider sphere than the more mechanical instruction of cavalry and infantry in the minutiae of discipline, drill and interior economy, which is immediately wanted. No doubt the future staff of the Dominion will find room for many talented and intelligent young men, who will commence their career at this College.

ARMS.

The information acquired in my late journey, as well as from experienced officers convinces me that in many instances the rifles are badly cared for. In my casual inspections, I invariably found the arms in good order and well looked after at the headquarters of battalions of infantry; in all cases so with cavalry; but in some country companies of infantry and one small battery of artillery, the reverse—for instance, arms badly oiled or greased, placed in stands for the winter at full cock, with open breech blocks, or leaning against walls, injuriously to the adjustment of the foresight.

As there are about 370 detached companies, besides 39 independent companies of infantry—and in my rapid journey I saw but few—I can hardly think those I did find irregular can be the only exceptions.

Moreover, there is little doubt that men are not prevented from using their arms for sporting purposes, and, therefore, possibly, in other ways. I am even informed that the foresight is sometimes removed from the rifle.

Discipline, good order and efficiency, can be little observed when such gross irregularities are even possible.

The cause arises from arms of country companies being retained at company headquarters, nominally in charge of the captain who receives a contingent of \$40 a year.

The captain, being usually a gentleman with private or professional occupations, deputes a caretaker, in some cases conspicuous for neglect or ignorance.

In one place I went all over a company's store house, containing several hundred pounds worth of Government property, with out the caretaker being aware I was in the town till afterwards.

All this is subversive of efficiency and requires remedy.

The remedy possibly, touches delicate ground. I am told—you remove the company arms and stores and you dissolve the company; their pride is, to be seen and to use their arms and military clothing among their friends and associates; also, it is presumed advantageous to have arms available for the practice of the men when so disposed. Granted; but better remove the arms and stores to battalion headquarters than countenance known irregular practices, attended with injury and loss of public property.

I submit, therefore, that as some commanding officers coincide in the opinion, each officer commanding a battalion should be directed to use his discretion in removing as soon as may be convenient, to battalion headquarters, the arms, clothing and stores of rural companies. The several caretakers annual allowance of \$40 each would be saved, as the duty would fall upon the permanent staff, and the saving could be applied on improving regimental armouries, drill sheds and store rooms, with lockers for the men's uniforms, in which the clothing of each man could be kept separately, and marked.

MILITARY STORES.

I have inspected the military store depots at London, Toronto, Kingston, Montreal and Quebec; I found them in thoroughly good order.

A searching inspection will in future, be made in each January, of all works, forts, magazines, arms, powder, ammunition and Government stores of every description, throughout the Dominion, by boards of officers of which the Inspectors of Warlike Stores will be members.

These boards will, among other duties, report the number of obsolete guns, carriages, mortars and other sort of ordnance, mounted and dismounted, with a view to their being sold and replaced by modern rifled cannon.

RESERVE OF RIFLES.

In addition to several other descriptions of arms, there are about 60,000 Snider Enfield rifles in the country. I recommend that the War Department be requested to retain for the Dominion at least 60,000 more, to be bought year after year as funds may be provided. The price of these rifles is £2 10s. each, while the Martini Henry costs about £4. The former excellent weapon may be considered well adapted for this service.

It is necessary that one skilled armourer, at least, should be attached to each military store depot, not only to keep in order the spare arms, but also to repair the regimental arms, many of which are, and some have been a long time, unserviceable in every infantry battalion and company in the Dominion; there should be not less than four additional armourers provided as soon as possible, and the arms put in thorough repair.

AMMUNITION.

There is at present in Canada, an insufficient number of rounds of Snider ball cartridge per rifle for the establishment of active militia; this will be augmented shortly, but there should not be less than 400 rounds per rifle, and, when possible, a reserve of double that quantity. The amount of powder in store is 200,000 pounds, besides the service ammunition in charge of "A. and B." batteries.

CLOTHING.

The care of clothing calls for immediate attention, as well as the care of arms.

I find it not infrequently occurs, that men are permitted to take their clothing to their abodes, and the result is, that clothing is often abused or lost, and the great coat frequently used for common wear. The captain is nominally, and by law actually responsible; but the law is not enforced, and public property is often wasted.

Therefore, all stores should, I consider, be concentrated at battalion headquarters under the responsible permanent Adjutants.

The heavy cloth tunic has been found too hot for summer drills; a serge frock, to last for three years, made of excellent material manufactured in Canada, will be substituted; a saving will thus be effected.

TRAINING.

The annexed reports from the Deputy Adjutants General of the Military Districts give full details of the training of the past season.

In consequence of the sum appropriated for training the Militia being only sufficient for 30,000 officers and men this year, a very simple method was adopted: to apply the amount in equitable proportion to the population of the Military Districts.

The population of the whole Dominion by last census was 3,609,782 souls; it is now approximately 4,000,000

The following table will show the numbers trained this year in each Province, corresponding with the population, viz. :—

	Population.	Quota trained.
Ontario.....	1,620,851	12,457
Quebec.....	1,191,516	9,992
New Brunswick...	285,594	2,376
Nova Scotia.....	387,800	3,225
Manitoba.....	15,000	126
British Columbia.	15,000	126
Prince E. Island..	94,021	788

(provisionally) quota trained amounting to about 1 per cent.

The Active Militia enrolled, (including this year, Prince Edward Island,) is 43,000, being 1.1-5 per cent, of the population, to which must be added the Grand Trunk Railway Brigade of 2,128, very efficient men.

The Reserve Militia, divided into three classes, amounts to 655,000, making a total of 700,000 men between the ages of 18 and 60, liable by law to be called out in defence of their country.

It is a matter of vast importance that the rolls of the Active Militia should be kept complete to the full number provided by the Statutes, even if the sum voted only admits of a portion being annually called out for training; the remainder being available for muster, if only for one day in each year at battalion headquarters, taking by turn to come out for training consecutively.

By these means combined, the advanced guard of the main Canadian Army, or regular Militia, would be kept complete, and capable of being rapidly made effective for the field.

RECRUITING.

The Reserve Militia is enrolled by officers duly appointed, only once in four years; but it would be desirable that the officers and sergeants should be annually trained, either by attaching them to regiments of the Active Militia, temporarily for that purpose or preferably, at convenient times, by the permanent staff of these regiments when appointed.

The Active Militia is raised by voluntary enlistment for three years, and in the country generally there appears no want of men to volunteer for its ranks, so much so that this year, in some districts, disappointment was expressed when the strength of the companies was reduced from 55 to 42, in order to fit the number into the amount of money disposable.

Of course in Canada generally, comprising, in some parts, a floating population, conditions as to voluntary service vary according to circumstances in different provinces, districts and cities.

I am not sufficiently experienced in the country to express any strong opinion upon the most effective mode of recruiting, but it is apparent that it admits of improvement in times of peace.

In the event of alarm or danger affecting the Dominion, few who could carry arms would be found absent from their post, and the hardy, manly life to which the bold emigrant during people of Canada are accustomed from boyhood; would render them a very formidable army when properly disciplined.

It appears that under the present system, in rural districts recruiting depends much on the popularity of the captains, by whose exertion and influence the company is formed and kept together.

Manifestly this is wrong in principle, because a popular gentleman may be an incompetent officer; but notwithstanding incompetency he is retained, being popular with the company, which it is assumed would disperse were he removed.

I conclude this applies only to rural, and