

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF  
THE MILITIA FOR 1873.

## APPENDIX No. 4.

(Continued from Page 435.)

## Durham Field Battery.

PORT HORE, Nov. 24th, 1873.

SIR,—I have the honor to state, in reply to the letter of the Deputy-Adjutant General commanding this District, of 19th Nov. inst. in reference to the present mode of horsing the battery under my command, that it is very far from satisfactory.

I should suggest that the horses be enrolled in the battery to serve for three years, and an allowance of at least one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) per diem be granted for each horse when on service. And as a further inducement I would suggest that a bonus be given the owner of each horse enrolled in the battery, upon the completion of the three years' service.

I take this opportunity of stating that I have not enough officers in my battery nor sufficient men, and I beg to express the hope that the recommendation of the late Adjutant General, and of Lieut. Col. French be adopted before the next annual drill, viz. of increasing the field batteries to a hundred men, and making them, as in the Imperial Artillery, a Major's Command.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. SEYMOUR, Captain,

Commanding D. F. B.

The Brigade Major,  
Cobourg.

## MILITARY DISTRICT, NO. 4.

## Ottawa Field Battery.

OTTAWA, Dec. 8th, 1873.

SIR,—Your favor of the 20th ult. is to hand, and in reply I have the honor to state for your consideration, that in order to increase and maintain the efficiency of Field Artillery, owners of horses of not less than 14½ hands high nor under 1,050 lbs. weight, actually enrolled for Field Battery purposes, should receive for every such horse, together with drill allowance, a sum of at least ten dollars, and all extra heavy horses twelve dollars, per annum. Such premiums to be paid as soon after drill as may seem fit; but should drill be omitted for one or more years at the discretion of the Militia Department, then the said premium to be paid at whatever time of the year the Department might see fit.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN STEWART, Capt.

Ottawa Field Battery.

Lt.-Col. W. H. Jackson,  
Brigade Major, Brockville.

## Gananoque Field Battery.

GANANOQUE, 24th Nov., 1873.

SIR,—In reply to yours of 20th instant, having reference to the question of horses required for Field Batteries. The present system works very well here, as I have all the horses required for my Battery, and could very soon have as many more, as there is not a week passes but I have an application from parties wishing to join the Battery as drivers, and bring their teams.

The best suggestions I have seen are those of Col. Shanly's contained in the

Militia Report of 1870, on pages 81 and 82.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. McKENZIE, Captain.

Commander G. F. B.

Lt.-Col. W. H. Jackson, B. M.,  
Brockville.

## MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 5.

## Montreal Field Battery.

MONTREAL, Jan. 13th, 1874.

SIR,—In reply to your communication relative to obtaining horses for Field Batteries, I have to say that in Montreal it is extremely difficult to carry out the present system, as the amount allowed for a single drill, 75 cents, is much below the value of three hours' work of a horse suitable for a Field Battery, and therefore owners of such animals are reluctant to enter them unless on the understanding that they are not to be compelled to furnish them at times when it would be a serious inconvenience to their business to do so. If the present system is to be continued, the rate ought to be increased, as the only way it can be done at present, is by putting in six or eight hours' drill, and making it two days. The law should give Commanding Officers the right to take horses, under certain restrictions, when they cannot otherwise be obtained. This is absolutely necessary in cases of emergency, such as the Fenian Raid, or when Batteries are called out in aid of the civil power.

In my opinion, the responsibility of providing horses for Batteries might with great propriety be placed upon the Municipal Government of cities where Field Batteries are established, the Commanding Officer making requisition upon the Mayor, and the payment to be made direct to the City Treasurer by the Militia Department. This would be only a modification of the present system, but I am informed that it has been tried in some cities of the United States, and that it works well there.

In 1866, a few of my friends subscribed about \$2,000, for the purpose of purchasing horses, to be kept permanently for the service of the Battery; but I did not then see my way clear to maintain them, without considerable expense to myself, and therefore the amounts were not collected. At that time, and for some years subsequently, the Imperial and Provincial Governments were paying far more for cartage than would have been sufficient to maintain these, but no reply was ever given to my application to be permitted to do that work at the same rates as were then being paid to parties who would not contribute a dollar to the defence of the country, either in horse flesh or in any other way. It is not yet too late, if the Government, through the Militia Department, is disposed to assist in the way indicated, as I presume there must still be a large cartage bill incurred here, which might just as well be expended in such a way as would contribute to efficiency of the force. If any arrangement could be made in this way for the maintenance of the horses, I presume there would be no difficulty in rising the amounts above referred to, or even more, and the men who work the horses would act as drivers in the Battery, thus rendering it for practical purposes, equal to any regular Artillery Corps. I am perfectly aware that such a plan as this could not possibly be carried out in all the places where Batteries are organized, but there will be difficulty in carrying out any uniform plan, where horses are concerned, and so long as it is not more expensive than the present sys-

tem, I cannot see any insuperable obstacle to its being carried out. At any rate it would answer well here, and that is enough to warrant me in urging its adoption; and I do this the more readily, as those same horses could be made available, if an Artillery School, or a branch of the Quebec ops, should be opened in this city, as undoubtably there will be, at no very distant day.

I have the honor to remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. A. STEVENSON,

Lt.-Col. Comd. M. F. B. of A.

Lieut.-Col. Thomas Bacon,

Acting D. A. G. Mil. Montreal.

## Shefford Field Battery.

GRANBY, Dec. 3rd, 1873.

SIR,—In compliance with the desire expressed in your communication of the 15th ultimo, I have the honor to submit my opinion on the most efficient mode of horsing the Battery under my command.

The horses of my Battery are all regularly enrolled; and I have adopted the rule not to take any horse unless such horse is the bona fide property of some regularly enrolled member of the Battery, and so I can depend upon the full number of horses any time they may be required.

I find no difficulty whatever in getting all the horses I want; the difficulty is rather in finding horses of proper size.

This section of the country is periodically invaded by swarms of American horse dealers, who by up and take away the best horses. Farmers finding good prices, generally sell their best stock, and content themselves with a few brood mares and some inferior horses for farm work.

Some means should be devised to encourage them to raise good horses, and also to keep a good class for their work, so that the Battery could have a better stock to select from.

I would suggest that an annual premium of ten dollars (\$10) or such like sum be granted to every regularly enrolled horse in the Battery which has performed the annual drill, and complied with the following rules:

Every horse to be entitled to the annual prize.

1st—To be regularly enrolled in the Battery for three years.

2nd—To be the bona fide property of some regularly enrolled member of the Battery.

3rd—To have, as well as the owner, performed the annual drill.

4th—To be in good flesh and condition, and free from any blemish that would unfit such horse for service.

5th—To be at least one thousand pounds weight.

6th—To have passed an inspection every three months before the Commanding Officer of the Battery, in reference to rule No. 4.

These prizes should be given upon the report of the Inspector of Artillery, who would inspect the horses, and receive the report of the Commanding Officer.

I consider 1,000 lbs. weight heavy enough for a minimum, horses of that weight are much more active than much heavier horses; and the new muzzle-loader 9 pounder rifle gun, adopted for our service, is quite light.

I am convinced that if the above system of prizes, or any other similar be adopted, farmers would strive to produce good horses, and would be encouraged to keep some of them, with a view to enrol them in the Bat-