

FIRST BRIGADE.

| | Officers and Men. | Horses |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Cavalry..... | 73 | 73 |
| Artillery..... | 282 | 4 |
| Engineers..... | 42 | 00 |
| Rifles and Infantry..... | 955 | 16 |
| Total..... | 1,352 | 93 |

SECOND BRIGADE.

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------|------------|
| Cavalry..... | 114 | 114 |
| Artillery..... | 108 | 56 |
| Infantry..... | 1,273 | 21 |
| Total..... | 1,495 | 197 |

THIRD BRIGADE.

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|------------|
| Cavalry..... | 166 | 166 |
| Infantry..... | 554 | 7 |
| Total..... | 720 | 173 |

TOTAL DRILLED IN THE DISTRICT.

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Cavalry..... | 353 | 353 |
| Artillery..... | 390 | 60 |
| Engineers..... | 42 | 00 |
| Rifles and Infantry..... | 2,782 | 50 |
| Total..... | 3,567 | 463 |

List of companies that were not allowed to drill by the General Order of the 2nd June, 1874:—

- No. 4 Company, 11th Battalion.
- Nos. 2 and 5 Companies, 50th Battalion.
- Nos. 1 and 2 do 54th Battalion.
- Drummondville Company.
- Eardley Company,

seven in all.

The following companies were permitted to drill; but failed to muster for annual drill:—

- Sherbrooke Battery Garrison Artillery.
- No. 2 Company, Engineers, Montreal.
- No. 8 do 11th Battalion.
- Nos. 3 and 4 Companies, 21st Battalion.
- No. 8 Company, 50th Battalion.
- Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 Companies, 53rd Batt.
- No. 3 Company, 54th Battalion.
- No. 8 do 58th do

13 Companies in all.

The reasons given for the non attendance of the rural companies at camp, are that the late harvest prevented the men from mustering for drill; but no excuse can be given for the failure to drill of the Sherbrooke Battalion and No. 2 Company, Engineers, Montreal.

GENERAL REMARKS.

State of the Arms, Accoutrements and Clothing.

The arms and accoutrements are in a fair state, and serviceable order, with the exception of a few rifles in each of the country corps that need repairing. The most economical way of getting them repaired would be to send an armorer through the District, and have the work done at the armouries. If battalion sheds and armouries were erected at the head quarters of battalions, and the arms and stores placed there under the charge of a paid officer, the arms would be better kept than they possibly can be scattered about as they are in the company armouries. A paid adjutant or instructor to such country battalions would be a benefit to the force: such an officer could take the responsibility of looking after the arms and stores, and make the system of drill more uniform and efficient through the battalions.

Clothing.

The serge trousers issued now are supposed to last three years, but it is found by experience that they will not last over two years' service in camp; the consequence is, that in the third year men are without military trousers. Another cause of complaint is, that new men joining a corps will not take an old pair of trousers; no objection is made to wearing an old great coat or tunic. Serge trousers would be required to be renewed every two years to corps that perform their annual drill in camp. The serge cap in use is not liked, it is unshapely and gives no protection to the eyes. The best head dress, if it was not too expensive, would be a light helmet, it would last longer than the forage cap.

It is noticed in some of the corps, that newly appointed officers are often dilatory in procuring their uniforms, swords and belts; it would be well if an order was issued defining a time after their appointment to provide themselves with their proper equipment.

Drill Sheds.

The corps in Montreal suffer at present for want of a drill shed. The corps have had to drill in such rooms and places as their commanding officers were fortunate enough to get their corps into; in many cases at a distance from the armouries, obliging the men to go a long way for their arms, march to their drill rooms, and then back again to the armoury with their arms. Notwithstanding these discouragements, the city corps have maintained their organization with spirit, and performed their drill efficiently and with increased strength. A cheap form of roof, with a double row of supports could be put on the drill shed, but so far the corporation have not shown and disposition to re-roof the building. It is to be hoped that a proper shed or sheds will be erected, to enable the corps to perform their drill for 1875.

A gun and drill shed is required at Granby for the Sheffield Field Battery and head quarters of the 79th Battalion. The village corporation have offered willingly to do their share of the work and expense of building the shed; they are waiting now the action of the Department of Militia and Defence on their application for a grant of money.

Rifle Associations.

There are ten Rifle Associations carried on efficiently in the District. These Associations have been proved by twelve year's experience to be one of the best means of keeping alive the volunteer movement, and of teaching the men the value of the excellent weapon placed in their hands. A large proportion of the competitors at the Quebec Provincial Matches are from the 5th District, and some of the most successful at the Dominion Matches at Ottawa were from the border men of the District. One of them, Eusigo Wright, of the 50th "Huntingdon Borderers," carried off the Dominion prize; and Lieutenant Whitman, 60th Battalion, Missisquoi Infantry, took the Governor General's medal.

I take the opportunity of reporting, for your favourable consideration, the very able and cordial support received by me from the Staff Officers of the District, and to express my heartfelt thanks to them for their efficient aid in carrying on the work of the District: Lt. Col. King, Brigade Major; Lt. Col. Bacon, Brigade Major; Major Hon. A. Aylmer, Brigade Major, and Major Amysaud, District Paymaster.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. FLETCHER, Lt. Col.

Deputy Adj. General, Com. Mil. Dis. No. 5.

MILITARY DISTRICT, NO. 6.

MONTREAL, 11th Dec, 1874.

Sir,—In forwarding you my report for the present year, on the state of the Militia in Military District No. 6, under my command, I have little or no change of importance to note.

In the 4th Brigade Division, the battalion of Beauharnois, under Lieutenant Colonel Rodier; the Beauharnois Company (Independent), Captain Beaudry; the St. Jean Baptiste Independent Company, Captain Simpson, have not performed their drill for this year.

The 65th Battalion "Voltigeurs de mont Royal," under Lieut. Col. Beaudry, have performed their annual drill at their own head quarters. They were inspected by me on the 24th November last. There were present at inspection—236 non commissioned officers and men, and 10 officers. Many of the men wanted part of their uniforms.

The movements gone through at inspection were,—the general salute, marching past, manual and firing, breaking into column and wheeling into line, closing column on the right, and opening column from the right company.

These movements would have been better performed had the volunteers in Montreal a good drill shed. This battalion was forced to drill in a small room of the old barracks, and the day I inspected it we took possession, for the occasion, of the large hall on the Bonsecours Market. Without this change of locality it would have been impossible for the Battalion ever to have formed into line in the small room of the old barracks.

It is a great pity that a great city like Montreal should be without a drill shed.

The old drill shed was the point de ralliement of the volunteers in the bye days. There they met every evening, either for drill, hearing of the bands, or for other purposes—but still, there they met. Then the "uniform" could be seen every evening. In those days one could feel that there existed such a thing as a Volunteer Force in Montreal. Since the fall of the drill shed the spirit of "Volunteerism" seems to have been crushed with it. The use and advantage of the drill shed were never so well understood as now that it is no more.

On the 16th July last, the 76th Battalion, Lieut. Col. Rodier, was inspected at Ste. Martine. They performed their drill in camp. There were present at inspection—189 non commissioned officers and men, and 17 officers. General movement; drill fair.

On the 30th November last the Independent Infantry Company of Laprairie, Captain Broseau, was inspected. Present at inspection—41 non commissioned officers and men, and three officers. This company is very efficient and well drilled.

The nature of the movements at inspection were,—General salute, manual and firing—proving and inspecting a company, counter marching, company square, forming right and left, wheelings. This company is certainly a credit to the force.

The volunteer spirit is still alive within the hearts of the inhabitants of the flourishing village of Laprairie, for offers are made for immediately raising a whole battalion, and also a "troop of cavalry," if the Government will consent; I strongly recommend Government to accept these offers, and I feel assured that one of the finest and most efficient battalions and "troop of cavalry" can be raised in that section of the country.

The Joliette Provisional Battalion of four companies, under command of Major Shep-