

### Annual Report on the State of the Militia for 1874.

(Continued from Page 233.)

APPENDIX NO. 1.

MILITARY DISTRICT, NO. 11.

HEADQUARTERS, VICTORIA, B.C.

December 24th, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward herewith my report of the annual inspection of the corps in this Military District, from which you will perceive that I commenced with the inspection of the corps at New Westminster on the 30th of November.

This company was five short of its establishment through men having left the district recently, but Captain Edmonds reported that there would be no difficulty in replacing them, which I have requested him to do without delay.

The arms, clothing, and accoutrements were in good order, and the men presented a very smart and soldier-like appearance on parade.

The weather being most unfavourable I was obliged to hold my inspection in the drill shed, which being small, afforded me but slight opportunity of judging of their improvement in company's drill since my last inspection, and prevented me from seeing them skirmish. This I much regretted, as I am given to understand they have been chiefly practised in this drill during the past season. Such movements as were practicable, however were well performed, and I was much pleased with the progress they had made in the manual and firing exercises which reflected a good deal of credit both on the men and officers, by whom they were instructed.

I was unable to get back from New Westminster so as to hold my inspection of the Victoria corps at an earlier date than the 5th of December, the steamer having ceased to make semi weekly trips, thereby necessitating a delay of an entire week at that place.

This is always the case during the winter months, and may be urged as an additional reason for the expediency of altering the inspection season in this Province, as recommended in my letter of the 12th October last on this subject.

On the 15th December, I paraded the two Victoria companies on Beacon Hill, on which occasion, His Honor the Lieutenant Governor was present and having accompanied me through my inspection, expressed himself highly pleased with the appearance of the men, and the manner in which the various movements were subsequently executed.

The clothing and accoutrements were in good order, and the arms (with a few slight exceptions to which attention was called) were clean and well taken care of.

After having marched past His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, which was very creditably performed, the two companies were put through the manual and firing exercises by Capt. Pooley, and subsequently drilled as a battalion by Captain Roscoe, in both of which the officers and men acquitted themselves most satisfactorily.

No. 1 company then skirmished with No. 2 in support, and after executing several movements in a highly creditable manner and expending ten rounds of blank ammunition per man, they retired on the supports and were marched home to the drill shed by

the senior officer, Captain Roscoe, presented a very soldier like appearance while marching through the city, headed by their band of ten performers, who have also made considerable progress since last inspection.

On the 8th December, I proceeded to Nanaimo and held my inspection there on the 10th instant.

The weather being also unfavourable there for an open air parade, I was obliged to assemble them in the Mechanic's Hall, which was kindly lent for the occasion, and has in fact been temporarily placed at their service as a drill hall pending other arrangements.

This company had only had the advantage of an instructor's service for six weeks previous to the inspection, and I was agreeably surprised at the state of efficiency to which they had attained in so short a period.

Their arms, clothing and accoutrements were in excellent order, and they presented quite a smart appearance on parade.

I had them sized, told off and proved by Ensign Harvey, and the arms piled and unpiled, which was very well done.

They were then put through the manual and firing exercises by Captain Bryden, and the bayonet exercise by Lieutenant Prior, all of which were well executed.

The hall being very small I was unable to see much marching or company drill performed by them.

What little was done however gave me much satisfaction under the circumstances.

The instructor—Gunner's Mate Samuel Gill, of Her Majesty's Ship *Mymsidon*,—was not present, he having been obliged to return to his ship a week previous to my arrival at Nanaimo, but I have much pleasure in testifying to his ability as a drill instructor, and the pains, I am warranted by the result in concluding, he must have bestowed on the company to have brought them so quickly to such efficiency.

It also shows that great attention must have been bestowed by both the officers and men of this corps for which I must accord them their full share of credit.

This company is as yet provided with no rifle range beyond two hundred yards, so, although many of them have completed their annual practice by firing forty rounds at this distance, I have not thought it necessary to send in their practice returns or show their figure of merit.

They have an admirable site for a six hundred yard range which only requires some clearing, and I have requested Captain Bryden to make an estimate of the cost, which when completed will be forwarded for your information, and the sanction of the Hon. Minister of Militia and Defence.

I would also strongly and respectfully recommend that a sum of money be granted to this corps for assistance in the matter of the erection of a suitable drill shed, the Mechanic's Hall being entirely too small for the purpose, even were it possible to obtain the use of it at all times.

The board and wages of the drill instructor, Gill, amounted to somewhat more than I anticipated, but as his services were only available six weeks instead of two months as anticipated in my letter of the 13th June, it still comes within the sum therein recommended by me or the full drill allowance as sanctioned by a letter from the Acting Adjutant General, dated Ottawa, June 1st, 1874.

I state the amount (cost of drill instruction at Nanaimo:—Instructor's pay at \$5 per month; board at \$27 per month 1½ month's pay \$37.50; 1½ month's board \$40.50: Total \$78) for your information, and beg to recommend that he be again employ-

ed for at least a month in the ensuing summer in order that the corps may have an opportunity of learning skirmishing drill which Gunner's Mate Gill had not time to teach them in so short a period as the term of his last engagement. This will of course require an additional appropriation, as the entire drill instruction pay for the current year has already been all but expended.

The number of men who mustered for inspection in the different localities was necessarily very small, owing to the inconvenient season selected for this purpose, to which I drew attention in my letter of the 12th October, before referred to, and for the same reason a considerable proportion of the men have been unable to complete their annual drill or firing practice for the current year, as they were absent from their company's head quarters the greater portion of the time.

The drill shed at Victoria will, I expect, be completed by the end of this month, and I shall remove my office into it as soon as possible and have the stores which are now in possession of the Hudson Bay Company and Messrs. Sprout & Co., also transferred there immediately, so as to save the expense of rent and storage, and enable the storekeeper to make the proper returns, which up to the present has been quite impracticable, as a great portion of them are inaccessible without the expenditure of an immense amount of labor, which will be unnecessary once they are in the new building.

I look with much interest, however, for a reply to my letter of the 20th November on the subject of stoves and fuel for the building, as I think they will be most essential to the stores and armories particularly, the climate here, in winter, being exceedingly damp.

I regret that the letter from the Deputy Adjutant General at headquarters, dated the 14th November, authorizing me to proceed with the organization and enrolment of the Seymour Artillery at New Westminster, did not reach me until after my return from making my annual inspection there, as it will now necessitate by making another trip for that special purpose.

This however I intend doing next steamer and have notified Lieut. Scott to that effect.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. F. HOUGHTON, Lt. Col.

Deputy Adjutant General,

Military District, No. 11.

The Deputy Adjutant General,  
Headquarters, Ottawa.

### REPORT OF THE ARTILLERY OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

KINGSTON ONTARIO,

December, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with instructions received, I inspected the following Batteries of Artillery in this Province, viz:

Hamilton Field Battery	
Welland Canal	
Ottawa	
Kingston	
Durham	
Wellington	
Gananoque	
London	
Toronto	
Napanee Garrison Battery	
Toronto	
Cobourg	

My inspection had special reference to the actual efficiency of the batteries, their nu-