

Annual Report on the State of the Militia for 1875.

(Continued from page 141.)

The trouble and expense of training and managing unwilling recruits, forced into the service by the ballot would be more than our present Militia Law, which was framed for a purely volunteer force, would enable us to accomplish, without the aid of a body of police to arrest the malcontents and an army of magistrates to administer justice upon them, and even then we should lose a large proportion of them.

In time of trouble, if volunteers were not forthcoming, Martial Law would probably prevail, and then military power would be put in active operation with the Ballot. A few summary examples of enforcing discipline by the Provost-Martial might be a powerful incentive to obedience and order, and under such conditions the ballot might supersede the present Volunteer system, with a probability of success.

The greatest want observable in the arrangements made for the Annual Drill was the absence of qualified Battalion Drill Instructors. Some of the Battalions were better off in this respect than others, but none of them had a really good one.

The post of Sergeant-Major is a most difficult place to fill in this country, where all the experienced non-commissioned officers, whose former training in the army once qualified them for such duties with the Militia, are now behindhand in knowledge of Drill as at present practised, and whose habits and manners have undergone a considerable change by constant intercourse with civilians.

In the case of the Kingston Field Battery, the superior setting up, and soldier-like appearance in dress, as well as in behaviour, of the men, was remarkable and this could only be accounted for by the the example and tuition of Sergeant Clarke of "A" Battery, from the Royal Artillery, who was attached to this Field Battery as an Instructor by permission of the Commandant of the School of Gunnery at Kingston.

The Field Batteries were furnished with service ammunition for great gun practice. This practice was superintended by the Assistant Inspector of Artillery for Ontario, who also made his official inspection and manoeuvring of this arm, in company with the Major General commanding the Militia, at both Camps.

The Major General, accompanied by his personal Staff, inspected the Camps on the 24th June at Cobourg, and on the 25th June at Kingston.

The following sums were paid this year for efficient Bands in this District:

3rd Regiment of Cavalry, Cobourg.....	\$ 75
14th Battalion, Kingston.....	100
15th do Belleville.....	100
40th do Cobourg.....	100
45th do Bowmanville.....	100
46th do Port Hope.....	100
47th do Kingston.....	100
48th do Napanee.....	100
49th do Belleville.....	100
57th do Peterborough.....	100
"A" Battery, Kingston.....	75
	\$1050

The above sums were gratuities given by the Militia Department in aid of the expenses incurred by the several Battalions in maintaining their Bands.

The instruments, except those of "A" Battery, are the property of the Corps men-

tioned, and paid for by subscriptions raised amongst themselves.

The Band of the 3rd Cavalry is mounted. The Rifle Associations of the District were also aided by money grants, as follows:

6th Brigade Association, Cobourg.....	\$75
Kingston Association, Kingston.....	75
Hastings Association, Belleville.....	75
Lennox and Addington Association, Napanee.....	75
Cobourg Association, Cobourg.....	75
	\$350

The above associations are all affiliated with the Dominion Rifle Association, or with the Ontario Rifle Association, and every year are increasing in numbers and improving in the use of the rifle.

In conclusion, I have to express my thanks to the commanding officers of Corps and to the force generally, and also to Lieut. Wilson of "A" Battery, who performed the duties of orderly officer on my Staff, for their assistance and personal exertions in carrying out the orders issued for the guidance of the force when under arms.

And with reference to the question lately alluded to in the Major General's Report as to the employment of qualified army Drill Instructors, I think the following logical reasoning of the former Adjutant General MacDougall, written in 1868, corroborates the Major General's opinion on this point:-

"A division or Brigade of the regular army is a comparatively perfect machine, of which the parts, always in working order, require but little regulation. A militia force, on the other hand, resembles a machine, of which the bearings are constantly heating, and the several parts require constant regulation.

"Of the two denominations, supposing both to take the field against the enemy, it will hardly be disputed that the militia would require better Staff Officers, to make it an efficient force than the regulars.

"If a country should maintain, in time of peace, the military establishment only which is required in time of peace, it would keep up no military force at all. A military force is maintained in time of peace as a preparation against a possible war, and it is an admitted axiom that the most effective preparation against such an emergency is to maintain in peace the skeleton of an army which can be filled in and augmented when the occasion arrives. A skeleton force representing a large army is far more valuable as a precautionary measure in peace, and at the same time far less costly, than a small army complete in all its parts would be. Of such a skeleton army the general Staff and the officers, form at once the most-essential and the least costly parts. Hence at the termination of a war, the reduction of expenditure is achieved principally by the reduction of the rank and file; in a very small degree only by the reduction of the Staff and officers.

"If then any military force is to be maintained at all, a certain number of instructed Staff Officers is indispensable"

The above quoted remarks clearly define the want which is now experienced by every corps of the Active Militia, the want of "instructed Staff Officers." It is not possible that the individuals composing the Staff of the Adjutant General's Department can become instructors of Company and Battalion drill for every corps. Their duties are manifold and their whole time is devoted to the maintenance of the force as a military organization, and in carrying on the necessary correspondence on official matters with

the Head Quarters of the militia in Ottawa. Except in command of large bodies of men assembled for annual drill, when as commanding officers of the camps of instruction, their duty is to look after the general management, and manoeuvre the troops in Brigade, rather than in performing the duties of Adjutants to Battalions as Drill Instructors.

The Major General's Report dated February, 1875, recommends that permanent Adjutants and Sergeant Majors should be appointed to each Battalion of Infantry, and a Cavalry Inspector to each Province. And that Infantry Schools would supply the Adjutants and Sergeant Majors as well as drilled instructors in abundance.

These Adjutants and Sergeant Majors would furnish the required number of instructed Staff Officers provided by General MacDougall so long ago as 1868, as indispensable to the maintenance of a Military Force.

But until these Military Schools have been established, and thoroughly instructed Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers turned out from them, it is difficult to imagine how qualified instructors are to be obtained, except from the Regular Army. And in order to establish the proposed schools in the first instance, the services of such men must be engaged until others belonging to the country have been made perfect in all the duties and habits of trained soldiers.

S. P. JARVIS, Colonel,

Deputy Adjutant General,
Military District No. 3.

The Adjutant General
of Militia, Ottawa.

[A.]

Head-Quarters of 6th Brigade Division.

Cobourg, June 24, 1876.

Sir,—I have the honor of reporting to you that this day the troops of this Division finished their annual Brigade Camp muster and marched out in good order and excellent health.

The various corps of each branch of the service, Cavalry Artillery and Infantry, were complete in numbers as authorized of effective men.

According to the report of the chief medical officer, "The sanitary condition of the camp was all that could be desired."

The camp was conducted throughout in accordance with rules and regulations for the discipline of the camp.

There was a zealous attention to drill and duty on the part of officers and men of all grades.

The camping ground was well selected. Owing to a limited accommodation the Cavalry were unable to fire off their target rounds of ball ammunition.

I feel grateful to the Brigade staff, the Commanding officers, officers and men for their ready co-operation and support, and cheerful obedience to orders.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
D. E. BOYDTON,
Lt. Col. 3rd Regt. Cavalry,
Commanding the Camp.

Lieut. Col. Jarvis,
Deputy Adjutant General,
Military District No. 3.