

Lower Canada. I have to report upon a law that the Militia Act is better known than that the efforts which have been made to organize Volunteer Corps in the County parts will be more successful in future. At any rate, there is no difficulty whatever in forming more Rifle Companies in Montreal and Quebec, and indeed the Volunteer Force in those Cities has been largely increased from the original contemplated numbers in the Commissioner's Report in consequence of the above named circumstances. However, Montreal, from its position and importance in the Province, at all times requires a large Force to be maintained in it—and that a large force can be raised there needs no argument.

25. I respectfully suggest that the Active Force Class A should be increased from 5000 Officers and Men, the number now authorised by law, to 6000 Officers and Men, in case the Commander in Chief should deem such an increase desirable.—If this was sanctioned, Canada would still have 1000 Volunteers less than the State of Massachusetts. In the event of such an increase, it will be better to leave the formation of the Force into Troops or Companies to the judgment of the Commander-in-Chief.

ARMORIES, &c.

26. All the Arms and Accoutrements issued to the Active Force have been marked with the letter of the Company, the number of the Arm, and the section of the Province to which the Corps belong before their issue.

To keep these valuable Arms and Accoutrements belonging to the Province in a proper condition, it is absolutely necessary that in every locality where Public Buildings are available, that Armories should be established and suitably fitted up to store the Arms when not in use by the Men, and an Armourer or Provincial Storekeeper appointed to take charge of them.

At Montreal and Quebec suitable Buildings are provided. At Quebec some repairs are called for; at Kingston, although application has been made to the Military Authorities, no Public Building can be spared as an Armory for the Active Force there; at Toronto, the only Public Building available is at an inconvenient distance from the Town; at London and at Ottawa, ample accommodation is provided.

27. The allowance of £5 annually granted by the present law to a Captain of a Company to find a suitable Building to store his Arms, is found to be totally inadequate.

In the State of Connecticut 100 Dollars annually is granted for this purpose out of the State Treasury. In Massachusetts, the limit is 300 Dollars annually to any one Company to provide an Armory, keep the Arms in order, and find a suitable Drill Room. I respectfully recommend that £25 a year should be allowed to find an Armory and keep the Arms in good order at localities where only one Company is stationed, and where there is no Public Building available, and at places where more than one Company is quartered, and where no more than once Company is quartered, and where no Public Building is to be had, that each Company should receive £15 annually for these purposes.

If Rifled Musquets are not constantly looked after and kept in good order, they rapidly deteriorate, the grooves get rusted, and the Arm loses its wonderful accuracy. In the end, it will be found to be both economy and wise foresight to take prompt measures to keep these valuable Arms in good order.

28. The Inspecting Field Officers of Militia are by direction have superintended the marking and fitting to the various Corps in the Provinces of all the Arms and Accoutrements, &c., received on record in the Province, in the last date they have been issued by Two Provincial Storekeepers appointed under the Militia Act, viz: one at Montreal and one at Toronto. The Inspecting Field Officer in Montreal, in addition to his other duties, has also received, inspected, taken inventories and forwarded all the Arms, &c., destined for Upper Canada. These Officers have also inspected the several Corps in their localities, and their Reports are generally satisfactory.

29. The Arms purchased for the Service of the Volunteer Force are 2500 Rifle Musquets, and a corresponding number of sets of Accoutrements; 800 Cavalry Swords and Belts complete; 800 Colt's Pistols and Holsters, &c., complete; 250 Rifled Percussion Artillery Carbines and a corresponding number of sets of Accoutrements, &c., &c.

These Arms, &c., are all of the best description and of the newest pattern.

ENCAMPMENTS.

30. The Militia Act authorizes the Commander in Chief to encamp the Active Force during the period of their annual Drill, should he consider such a course advisable—and no doubt the utmost advantage would result if there were means of encamping them.

Isolated Companies can never be practised in Battalion movements, nor be properly taught to act as Light Troops, and the benefit to be derived from encamping Men during periods of Drill, is now so well understood to be questioned.

In the United States large Encampments of their Active Militia are annually formed, at one of which last year not less than 2500 unformed Militia were present. The measure is found to be both popular and beneficial in that country; and I am convinced it would be equally so in Canada, if the means of encamping, that is to say, if Tents are provided. As the Circular Tents now used are calculated to accommodate 15 Men, each, 7 or 8 Tents a Company would suffice for Officers and Men, and as in all probability the Batteries will be supplied with Tents by the Imperial Government, 500 Tents would be sufficient to encamp the whole of the Active Force of the Province. The cost of a Circular Tent complete is £1 5s. sterling.

31. The Active Force is well supplied with all Returns, Pay Lists, and other Documents essential to the regularity and discipline of the Force—and each Corps renders a Quarterly Return of its numbers, arms, &c., to me in duplicate.

32. I recommend that the 6th clause of the Militia Act be amended so as to allow the several Troops and Companies of the Active Force to be formed into Battalions, Regiments and Brigades in time of Peace in case his Excellency the Commander in Chief should direct such to be done, and to be placed under the command of such Officers as he may appoint.

If Encampments are formed, such a course becomes absolutely necessary, and in the case of a large Volunteer Force being formed in any one locality, as at Montreal, this organization is not less called for.

ACTIVE FORCE CLASS B.

33. There are no less than Six Troops and Seventeen Companies authorized to be formed under this Class. Of these, one Troop in Quebec and one in Markham; Up-

per Canada, are being uniformed. Five High and Companies are also, either wholly or nearly uniformed, and two or three other Companies of Rifles are taking steps to uniform themselves as at Collingwood and Danville.

34. At present there are no means of arming these Corps except by making use of the Percussion Musquet and Accoutrements in Her Majesty's Ordnance Stores, which are retained for the defence of the Province; but by order of the Minister at War in England, such of these Percussion Musquets as are so used must either be paid for or returned into Store.

It therefore becomes a question for consideration whether a more efficient Arm cannot be purchased at the same or at a slightly advanced price beyond that charged by the Imperial Government for the Percussion Musquets. The price of a Percussion Musquet and Bayonet of the kind now in Her Majesty's Ordnance Stores retained for the defence of Canada, is Two Pounds Six Shillings sterling.

The cost of a Rifled Musquet, pattern 1853, and Bayonet, such as the Volunteer Rifle Companies are armed with, is £3 8s. 4d. sterling.

35. Two Battalions of Sedentary Militia in Montreal, viz: the Montreal Light Infantry and the Montreal Artillery, have requested to be placed under the provisions of Class B, and have been so placed under the condition that the several Companies are gradually to be uniformed and organized; and from the interest and spirit evinced by the Officers of these Corps, I have reason to anticipate a successful result.

36. In closing this Section of my Report, I would respectfully advert to the limited number of days paid Drill allowed for the Active Force generally. That for the Cavalry and Rifles is only ten days in the year: I venture to hope that a further allowance will at no distant period be granted.

37. I transmit a return of the Active Force which embraces all necessary details of the number and Armament, &c.; and when the large armed Force at the disposal of the Government is taken into consideration with the expenses attendant on its formation and continuance, I think it will be granted that a large available Force is maintained at the smallest possible cost. For, if two Battalions, each consisting of 400 Men, with one Field Battery, and one Troop of Cavalry attached to each Battalion of Infantry, were permanently embodied and maintained in Upper and Lower Canada, the cost of such a Force recruited from the people of the Province would not be less than £100,000. currency, annually, at the lowest calculation; for one quarter of this amount four times the same amount of Force is kept up with the advantage of spreading a knowledge of Military matters more generally over the Province, and of the armed Force from its larger numbers being disseminated over a corresponding greater extent of country, giving thereby additional security. It is far from my desire to underrate the value of Regular Troops; but until the Revenues of this Province greatly exceed their present value, no force so efficient as that under the present organization can be kept up at so small an annual outlay.

38. The expenses of the removal to their respective localities of the Guns, Carriages and Stores of the Field Batteries—of the transport of Arms, marking the Arms and Accoutrements, &c.—the conveyance of Ammunition to the different parts of the Province where the various Corps are located, have been greater this year than