

## Annual Report on the State of the Militia for 1875.

(Continued from page 221.)

### APPENDIX No. I.

[A.]

The Halifax Brigade consisting of—  
Halifax Light Battery—Captain Graham.  
1st Halifax Brigade Garrison Artillery—  
Lieut. Col. Mitchell.  
2nd Halifax Brigade Garrison Artillery—  
Lieut. Col. McPherson.  
63rd Battalion Rifles—Lieut. Col. Pallister.  
66th Battalion Infantry—Lieut. Col. Bremner.

performed their annual drill at Brigade head quarters, on the 24th May the Brigade turned out in force to celebrate Her Majesty's birthday; and I placed myself and the brigade under the orders of the officer commanding the garrison at Halifax. The Brigade was formed in division with the regular troops, firing *feu-de-joie* and going through the usual ceremonies of a birthday parade. On the 8th of October I paraded the brigade for a field day and annual inspection; the movements of the field day being based on the supposition that the force was entrenched in the outskirts of the town, and made a vigorous sortie upon the head of the columns of an enemy advancing to the attack of the place. I explained beforehand the general idea of the day's movements to the brigade, and was pleased to see that both officers and men entered much more readily into the spirit of the work to be done.

The Brigade, thanks to the zeal and energy of the commanding and other officers of corps, both turned out and drilled very creditably as usual.

The Light Battery practiced at 1,400 yards range, and the practice was conducted with the usual accuracy; reference to this will be found in the Report of Lieut. Col. Jago, the Assistant Inspector of Artillery, who was present.

The battery for the practice of the Garrison Artillery, not having been armed as was proposed last year, and the guns in the battery from which the practice was conducted last year having been dismounted, I was unable to arrange for the shot and shell practice of the Garrison Artillery.

The rifle target practice of the several corps was, with one exception, performed as usual under the immediate supervision of a Field Officer.

#### DEBERT CAMP.

The rural battalions of the 1st Brigade, consisting of 75th Highlanders, Lieut. Col. Campbell, and the Cumberland Provisional Battalion, Major Harrison, drilled in camp at De Bert, commencing on the 22nd June. Cumberland Battalion not having served previously in camp, found a good deal of novelty in the work, but made the best of everything, and accommodated themselves very readily. The Regimental Staff appointments, which had up to this time been vacant, were mostly filled up by the officers hitherto serving with the companies, and the companies were, with one exception, almost entirely re-officered on the eve of going into camp. Fortunately, the new officers were mostly from the former Nova Scotia organization, and accustomed to command, and picking up the new drill readily, and brought on their men very satisfactorily.

The 78th made a very good appearance,

showed a thorough good will, and did themselves and their officers credit. Some little trouble was experienced, owing to the date of the change of the gauge of the Intercolonial having been altered after the arrangements for this camp were made, but all difficulty as to the transport of troops and stores was obviated by the ready courtesy of the officials connected with the railroad, who did their utmost to meet my wishes, by arranging trains to connect with the branch lines, &c.

The three Pictou companies came to camp much reduced in numbers, the men having been engaged to work on the railroad during the change of gauge. These companies are composed of good reliable men, and have hitherto maintained their strength well; and I trust, will in future as in the past, be complete in numbers.

The ground at De Bert is well suited for encampment, being a dry, sandy barren; the water supply is good. The ground is rough for drill, but affords ample room for field movements, being broken into belts and clumps of wood, and being very extensive, I was enabled to change the ground for manoeuvres each day. In order to give the Brigade an idea of the meaning of the movements performed, I detailed Major Yeomans, the Brigade Musketry Instructor, to take charge of a party of markers, who carried flags and represented a brigade of the enemy; this duty was intelligently and well performed by him, and thus carried out, gave to all ranks far more real interest in the movements, than if they had been simply obeying orders, going through drill without understanding the object.

The proprietor of the property on which the camp was formed, very obligingly gave me full control of the whole ground during the annual drill, and I was thus enabled to prevent the establishment of shanties for the sale of intoxicating liquors, and to this I ascribe much of the comfort that was enjoyed by all ranks, and the good discipline that was maintained during the entire drill.

#### PICTOU.

The Pictou Battery of Garrison Artillery, lately organized to man the battery erected for defence of the harbour, did not receive clothing or arms in time to complete its drill by the present date. Captain Gordon, paraded the battery (in plain clothing) for my inspection, and I was much pleased with its appearance; he has evidently drawn his recruits from the best class of young men in the town of Pictou.

#### AYLESFORD CAMP.

The undermentioned corps, consisting of Kings County Troop of Cavalry, Capt. Ryan; 68th Battalion, Kings County, Lieut. Colonel Chipman; 69th Battalion, Annapolis County, Lieut. Col. Parker, performed their drill in Brigade Camp, at Aylesford, in September.

The improvement in the physique of the men was very marked, the companies were almost without exception at full strength, and with but trifling exceptions the men behaved well, and the commanding and other officers seemed determined to maintain discipline, which was enforced more firmly than heretofore.

Lieut. Col. Starratt, 69th Battalion is, to a large extent, successful in retaining the same men in the ranks from year to year, consequently his battalion shows a marked improvement in drill and turn out. Where the Captains exercise a proper influence over their men and are careful in their selection, I noticed the companies are full, and the more particular the Captain, the better class of recruits he obtains; good men object to

servicing in the same companies as rough characters. I believe the Captain can get whichever class he chooses, but the company must be composed altogether of one or the other.

The Brigade movements, both battalion and skirmishing, were very fairly performed but owing to some misunderstanding, a portion of the ground usually available for drill had been ploughed up, and the space at my command for manoeuvring, was limited. Unless the whole of the ground can be secured, it will be necessary to change the place of encampment and drill. I must again record my satisfaction with the turn out of the Kentville troop; it is unaccustomed work for a well-to-do farmer to clean and keep in good order all the horse appointments, arms and accoutrements of a cavalry soldier, as well as perform his full number of hours drill, and attend to, feed, and clean his horse, and the way in which all this was done, shows that the men whom Captain Ryan commands are not mere holiday soldiers.

#### LUNENBURG.

I was desirous that the 75th Battalion should go into Brigade Camp, at De Bert, in June, but Major Rudolf stated it would be inconvenient for his battalion; so in order to suit the convenience of the men, it was arranged that the battalion should drill at Mahone Bay, on the 5th October. Telegraphic instructions from Ottawa, received 23rd September, directed that all further camp drill should be stopped, accordingly the order for the assembly of the battalion was cancelled.

The Lunenburg and Mahone Bay Batteries Garrison Artillery were to have drilled in camp with the 75th.

#### DIGBY.

The Digby Battery Garrison Artillery drilled at local head quarters. Very little attention had been paid to company or rifle drill. I inspected this battery at Digby on the 28th September. Lieut. Col. Jago witnessed the shot practice from the 32 pounder guns. His report (B) is attached.

#### CAPE BERTON.

The Victoria Provisional Battalion drilled in July, Regimental Camp at Baddeck, under the superintendence of the Brigade Major, Lieut. Col. Read, who inspected the battalion at the conclusion of the training, and reports (C) very favourably of the appearance, behaviour, and general progress made by the men. I much regret that pressing official engagements compelled me, at the last moment, to give up my appointment for inspecting this battalion.

I would again call attention (see [B] of Report, 1874) to the necessity for a proper overhauling of the arms in possession of the several corps throughout this district.

#### Accoutrements.

The matter of accoutrements, (see Report, 1874), although not of pressing importance, deserves consideration as men who cultivate pride in themselves and their appearance, are more likely to take interest in training in time of peace, and therefore to be more useful in the time of war, for which our training is intended as a preparation.

#### Uniform.

A more frequent issue of trousers is very necessary. The serge jacket, though very serviceable and comfortable on actual service, is not smart, and, especially in city corps, is strongly objected to; and I would recommend that the full dress tunic be issued, as heretofore.