

shot or shells among the miscreants then invading the Dominion, but who seemingly would not approach near enough the troops to be reached by any other description of fire. The Inspector of Artillery in his report further remarks that "the same battery could only turn out for four days at Laprairie, this year (1871), the officer commanding having to promise the people who supplied him with horses, that they were to be returned within that time: such a state of affairs is highly objectionable, and I would again urgently recommend the enrolment of draught horses for Field Batteries."

The cavalry consisting of two squadrons, was formed into a provisional regiment during the period the camp was in operation under the command of the senior cavalry officer, Major Burwash, of the St. Andrew's troop. One of the squadrons, from the Eastern townships marched by road to join the camp from their homes a distance of 110 miles in three days, returning in the same manner. The men in these two squadrons, were mounted on good serviceable horses, their arms and accoutrements were in good order but their uniform clothing much worn these men were very handy at camp life, and although encamped with the rest of the troops on an open plain, in a very short time, with such material as the ground afforded, or they could find at hand, they erected camp stables for their horses of a suitable description, where the animals were comfortably secured, and "stampeding" rendered impossible. In this important part of the duty of Cavalry they showed superiority to the corps of that arm assembled at the camps in the Province of Ontario. The infantry consisted of no less than nineteen battalions, most of whom, however, were numerically very weak indeed, some corps were virtually little more than two companies strong in point of appearance—the whole force, however, when on divisional parade, and deployed in one, with the regulated intervals between corps, presented an imposing appearance, covering an extent of about one mile and a half of ground. On mustering the force, I found nearly the whole of the 3rd Brigade to be composed of French speaking Canadians, and in the two other brigades, although the great majority of the men were English speaking, being struck with the number of French Canadian names while calling the rolls of the different companies, I obtained an accurate return of the number of French speaking Canadians in the camp, and they exceeded 2,000 in number.

The appearance and condition of the majority of the infantry corps in this camp, in respect to drill, condition of arms, accoutrements, and soldierlike bearing, was inferior on the whole to the majority of the infantry corps assembled in the Province of Ontario, although there were exceptions; but the men, although generally speaking not so tall, looked at least quite as hardy and robust, indeed some of the rural companies, of both French and British descent looked fit to undergo great hardship, and the adaptability of all to camp life was most striking, indeed in this very important part of military instruction, not only have both French and English speaking Canadians little to learn from any army, but they could teach a lesson to many.

Lieutenant-Colonel Osborne Smith reports that "the general conduct of the troops was excellent," and that he believes "so large a number of men was never assembled for the time with such an entire absence of crime, and so little irregularity," and there was no

serious case of sickness; two fatal accidents, have, however, to be regretted, one arising from drowning while bathing, the other from careless handling of a rifle. The target practice was carried out as far as possible. This camp was visited also by Lieutenant General Sir Hastings Doyle, Commanding Her Majesty's Regular Troops in British North America. The Honorable the Minister of Militia and Defence witnessed a parade of the division, and afterwards inspected the camp, a levee on the occasion being held which was attended by the whole of the officers in camp.

In order to afford practice in moving troops, it was arranged to bring the whole force to Montreal on the 8th July, and after effecting a junction with certain corps there resident, to hold a review. Having left 400 men in camp as a guard, the Division moved from Laprairie during the night of the 7th or early on the morning of the 8th July, upon Montreal, the men carrying one day's provisions, the Cavalry and Artillery marching to St. Lambert's there crossed the river St. Lawrence, the Infantry proceeding by road, rail and steamboat. On arriving at Montreal a junction was effected with the Montreal Garrison Artillery Corps, and two batteries of the Grand Trunk Railway Brigade, by 11 a.m., a force of 6,170 men was massed in Logan's Farm. The weather was very fine, and a large number of spectators witnessed with pride the concentration of this portion of the Canadian Army. The field day proved very successful, and the appearance of the troops when on parade as well as when marching, subsequently (as a division) through the principal streets of Montreal, was very creditable. The troops from Laprairie returned to camp the same day without accident to man or horse after marching an average of sixteen miles, and twice effecting the passage of the river St. Lawrence the whole of the arrangements connected with this march was planned by and carried out under the orders of Lieut. Colonel Osborne Smith, C. M. G., that officer having shown much ability on the occasion.

With regard to the Active Militia in this district, not only are all corps more or less incomplete in men, but the proportion of Cavalry and Field Artillery, very insufficient, the district (comprising three Brigade Divisions) is an exposed one, a large portion of it being to the South of the River St. Lawrence, covering the wealthiest, most populous, and important city in the Dominion, (Montreal.) and it is moreover very open to attack in case of an invasion on the Southern frontier.

In order to complete the ranks of corps to their proper strength, Lieutenant-Colonel Osborne Smith advocates the ballot, but there are some commanding officers who still think that they will be able to maintain their corps by voluntary enrolment: the commanders of the Cavalry, Field Battery, one battalion, and two independent companies of infantry are of this opinion. But Lieut. Colonel McKay, commanding the Garrison Artillery who expects to lose about 100 men on completing their period of service; Major Kennedy, commanding the Engineers 50 men; Lieutenant Colonel Bond commanding 1st Battalion. 160 men; Major Martin, commanding 6th Battalion, 65 men; Lieutenant Eathorne commanding, Thurso Infantry Company, 25 men; Captain Gates, Wakefield Infantry Company, 15 men; all consider that the Ballot should now be applied, and Lieutenant Colonel Bothune, commanding the 3rd Battalion (Victoria

Rifles), who expects that nearly the whole of his men will claim their discharge on the termination of their period of service, applies for authority to fill the ranks of his Battalion by means of the Ballot.

It seems that, although very many men in the City Corps of Montreal are desirous of joining or re-enrolling in the respective Corps, they are practically prevented from doing so in many instances by the action of the employers of labor, who from selfish motives require those they employ to claim their discharge from the Active Militia, before engaging them for civil service.

I beg to recommend that the Cavalry in this district be increased by six troops, to be formed out of the agricultural population in the frontier counties of Huntingdon, Missisquoi, Shefford, Bromes, Stanstead and Compton, and all the troops of Cavalry then formed into one district regiment to be numbered the "5th Regiment of Cavalry," that two additional batteries of Field Artillery be formed in that portion of the district south of the River St. Lawrence, the head quarters of one to be at Granby, of the other at Sherbrooke, that two additional Companies of Engineers be formed, and if the respective corps of all arms cannot be completed by voluntary enrolment, as provided for in the laws, that the Ballot be put into operation, in order to obtain the required number of men.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 6.

The authorized strength of the Active Militia in this District, (which is under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Harwood,) is 3,228, but the actual number available, and who performed the annual drill of 1871-72, is 1,512, leaving 1,716 wanting to complete. The Force in this District consists of the 4th Battalion, under the command of Major Labranche, which at the time of the Annual Drill, only mustered four officers and 46 men, (being actually below the strength of one company). The 64th Battalion under Lieutenant Colonel Rodier, 23 officers, 184 men; the 65th Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Baudry, 17 officers, 158 men; the Three Rivers Provisional Battalion, 12 officers, 106 men; the Joliette Provisional Battalion, 17 officers, 154 men; the St. Hyacinthe Provisional Battalion, eleven officers, 145 men; and seventeen independent companies of Infantry, viz. —

| | | |
|------------------------|------------|--------|
| The Como Rifle Company | 3 officers | 30 men |
| St. Jean Baptiste | " 2 | " 32 " |
| St. Eustache | " 3 | " 34 " |
| St. Benoit | " 3 | " 30 " |
| St. Placide | " 3 | " 43 " |
| Ste. Martine | " 3 | " 30 " |
| Beauharnois | " 3 | " 32 " |
| Nicolet | " 3 | " 37 " |
| Gentilly | " 2 | " 30 " |
| Becancour | " 3 | " 20 " |
| St. Gertrude | " 3 | " 42 " |
| Victoriaville | " 3 | " 25 " |
| St. Robert | " 3 | " 26 " |
| St. Gregoire | " 3 | " 25 " |
| Wolfestown | " 3 | " 48 " |
| No. 1 Company, Rawdon | 3 | " 45 " |
| No. 2 Company, Rawdon | 3 | " 47 " |

The corps were assembled at the Laprairie Camp, for their Annual Drill, four companies, viz., the Arthabaskaville, Three Rivers, St. Valere de Bulstrode, and Wotton Company, were allowed to perform drill at their own head quarters. Lieutenant-Col. Harwood (who was unfortunately absent from the Annual Drill at the Laprairie Camp), in