

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE OF  
THE MILITIA FOR 1870.

[CONTINUED.]

*The Honorable Sir George E. Cartier, Bart.,  
Minister of Militia &c., &c.*REPORT OF INSPECTOR OF ARTILLERY AND WAR-  
LIKE STORES.OFFICE OF INSPECTOR OF ARTILLERY AND W-  
LIKE STORES.

Ottawa, 1st January, 1870.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward herewith reports on the state of the stores in possession of the field batteries in Ontario and Quebec; also suggestions by the officers commanding those batteries. In doing so, I think it advisable to lay before you a statement of certain facts, which, I think, deserves most serious consideration.

The batteries have only one line of waggons attached to them, and I believe that there is no second line of waggons in store in this country; consequently, a battery could only bring into the field 128 rounds for each 9 pounder, and 84 for the howitzer, instead of 224 and 144 respectively.

The present guns in charge of the field batteries are very much behind the time, owing to the recent advances in artillery science. All field artillery now use rifled field guns, and their main projectiles are cannon and Shrapnel shell. The 9 pounder fires no common shell, only 15½ per cent. of Shrapnel, 72 per cent. being the old common round shot, and yet it is heavier than a rifled gun which would throw a fifteen pound shell. The bronze of which these 9 pounders are made being very valuable, the whole of the field batteries could be armed with a first rate rifled field gun, at comparatively little expense. The 24-pounder howitzers could be brought together as separate batteries, if considered advisable.

There are no small arm ammunition waggons attached to the batteries; the supply of ammunition to the infantry in the field is, in the English service, a part of the duty of the officer commanding the artillery with which they are brigaded. Other arrangements may be considered advisable in Canada; but as I am not aware of any regulations on the subject (except par. 318, regulations for Active Militia, which merely relates to the regimental reserve,) I think it advisable to submit the matter for consideration.

The grant of \$200 "for the instructor of each field battery of artillery, who will also act as care taker of the battery stores" (as laid down in par. 178, regulations for Active Militia,) is not always properly applied. I think, in several cases the officer commanding keeps this money himself, and instructs, to some extent, personally, occasionally hiring men to clean harness, &c. I do not believe that this was contemplated by the framers of the above regulations. There should be a resident care taker (paid by Government,) for each battery: in most cases this man could attend to other Government work. At those places where there were resident care takers the stores were in first rate order. I think that no part of the above grant should be taken by the captain, but a contingent of \$100 annually should be paid to each officer commanding a battery, to cover small expenses breakages, &c.

With regard to the officering of the batteries, I would recommend the following establishment: one major, one captain, and three lieutenants. The command of a field

battery is a much greater responsibility than that of a company of infantry or troop of cavalry, and the batteries not being in battalions there is no chance of promotion to the substantive rank of major or lieutenant-colonel under the present *regime*. A captain would be necessary to assist the officer commanding, and to take his place in his absence, otherwise a very important command might devolve on an inexperienced lieutenant at a critical time. In the Royal Artillery there is a second captain attached to all batteries, field or garrison. I cannot let the enclosed reports go forward without endeavoring to represent, as strongly as possible, the absolute necessity of raising, permanently, a few batteries of garrison artillery; some men must be kept as a protection for the various forts, magazines, and large quantities of valuable stores, now the property of the Dominion (this duty is at present performed by three companies of riflemen.) It appears reasonable to suggest that the proper men would be artillerymen, who, in addition to guarding the above properties, would also be able to keep the guns, carriages, ammunitions, &c., in proper order, to act as storemen, care takers of field battery stores, instructors of artillery, &c., &c. On the strength of these batteries might be armourers, for examining and keeping in repair all infantry arms, foremen, artificers, &c., and when the militia artillery were brought into the nearest forts for their annual drill and practice (as recommended,) they would really be in the position they would occupy in case of war, viz: a nucleus of regulars to have all the stores in their proper places for each nature of gun and mortar, and to work with and instruct the large force of partly trained militia associated with them. I enclose an estimate for two batteries, making a total of 210 officers, non-commissioned officers and men. The cost for these batteries, need not exceed \$65,000 annually, and from this may be deducted a large amount now paid for care-takers, drill instructors, foremen, &c., &c. In connection with the foregoing subject, I may point out the very great importance of having experienced persons to act as foremen at all stations where stores are issued (this is not the case at present at one station I visited) a wrong issue in case of actual service might be attended with most disastrous consequences, as, for instance, forwarding to a battery in the field, ammunition unsuitable for their guns, wrong fuses, &c. I would point out also the very serious responsibility entailed on Government by allowing the appointment to such posts of persons who do not appreciate the necessity of taking the most stringent precautions when dealing with combustible stores, gunpowder, &c., the more particularly, as quantities of cartridges (heretofore bought ready filled from the Imperial Government,) will have to be made up annually at all stations west of Quebec.

In conclusion, I may point out the existence of a singular anomaly with regard to the armament of the works. This is actually in charge of the *civil* branch of the Militia Department, and I conclude it must remain so for the present, as there are no officers of artillery to take charge of the armament and stores connected therewith. This anomaly would of course be at an end if any garrison batteries were permanently raised.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,

G. A. FRENCH, Lieut.-Colonel.

Inspector of Artillery and Warlike Stores.  
The Adjt.-Gen. of Militia, Ottawa.SUGGESTIONS RELATING TO THE FIELD BATTERIES  
IN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

1. The officer commanding the Ottawa battery, wishes his battery augmented to six guns. He states he can obtain the necessary men and horses.

The change would not be advisable unless carried out with all the batteries. I would not recommend the change at present.

2. Drilling and manœuvring with waggons is condemned by nearly all the officers commanding batteries. They do not see, however, any other method by which the men can be brought up when rapid movements are required on service.

Suggestions for obviating this very objectionable feature in field artillery exercises are at present being considered in England. The new muzzle-loading rifled field guns will be fitted with "axle-tree" carriage. This alteration could not be applied to the carriages at present in charge of the militia batteries.

They all agree that the drill would be greatly simplified by manœuvring without waggons.

When men have so little time for drill annually, it is important that no time should be lost in learning useless and complicated manœuvres.

3. All officers commanding agree that for active service a pistol would be preferable to a sword. Major King and Lieut.-Col. Shanly would like both to be issued; they say the men feel rather proud of their swords.

The batteries are all supplied with swords. For active service, pistols should, I think, be issued. I hold that the equipment should be designed solely with a view to "active service."

4. The batteries at Ottawa, Kingston, Welland and Quebec have no difficulty in obtaining horses, the three former being horsed mainly by country teams. The officers commanding batteries at London, Hamilton, Toronto and Montreal complain of the very great difficulty of horsing their batteries, and the very great expense they are put to, frequently having to hire horses from livery stables at their own expense, (the Government allowance being about half of what it costs them.)

Lieut. Col. Pacon, Brigade Major, at Montreal, informed me that nearly a whole day was lost in obtaining horses for the Battery there, on the occasion of being ordered out to Trout River. To obviate these difficulties three distinct suggestions have been offered.

Lieut. Col. Shanly suggests "enrolling horses," the owners to get \$20 annually per pair for efficient horses; the money to be paid annually in arrear on the certificate of the officer commanding, and Inspector of Artillery. He thinks the above measure would insure his battery being properly horsed, and no time would be lost finding horses and fitting harness, &c.

This would cost annually (for the gun and waggon horses,) about \$400. These advantages are obvious. The idea is, I think a good one, and it has the advantage of simplicity in its working as compared with the present or any other proposed system.

Capt. Gray, of the Toronto battery, suggests buying a certain number of horses, say 16, to be kept and worked by carriers, who would be bound to supply those horses when wanted, and one half as many more, the extra ones to be paid for.

First cost, about \$1600, or say an annual cost of \$160. There would be a saving of the amount paid for the annual drill of 16