

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE MILITIA FOR 1872.

(Concluded from Page 375.)

UNIFORMS.

The tunics are generally good, and can well be made to last four years, but the trousers are of poor material, and should be replaced every two years.

The transfer of part worn clothing is a serious difficulty; many respectable men are deterred from joining by being offered part worn clothing which, especially part worn trousers they naturally object to wear.

If a small money allowance were made annually to men who make their uniform last beyond the regulated period, I am of opinion that the arrangement would be economical for the department, and that much more care would be taken to keep the clothing clean and tidy.

The forage cap is most unsuitable, and men take every opportunity of getting rid of it. Some regiments have provided Glen-garries at their own expense, but to men accustomed to wear hats with brims the usual exposure of the face by wearing a cap without a peak is very trying. Officers and men suffered much from this cause at Teviotdale Camp in July, and many had their faces terribly blistered, and there were several cases of erysipelas in consequence. Even at Aylesford camp in September at least one third of the men wore hats of various patterns, having lost their forage caps. A neat cap with a peak would obviate this difficulty and would add much to the comfort of the men.

Pipe claying belts is troublesome, men have so much else to learn in camp, and it is very desirable to substitute brown leather accoutrements which require less training, and which men can more readily learn to keep in good order.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
J. W. LAURIE, Colonel,
Commanding District No. 9.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 10. (MANITOBA.)

The militia in this District are at present under the command of Lieut. Colonel Osborne Smith, C.M.G., who reports for my information as follows, on the state of his command:

HEAD QUARTERS,
M. D. No. 10.
27th January, 1873.

Sir:—The total nominal strength of the force in this District, were the respective corps complete as authorized, would be 36 officers, and 660 non commissioned officers and men.

The total strength at present raised consists of 15 officers and 330 non.com. officers and men.

The active militia in the district consists of the following corps:—

St. Boniface troops of mounted rifles, failed to organize.

Headingley troops of Mounted Rifles, organized, but not uniformed nor equipped.

Field Battery of Artillery, Winnipeg, organized and partially equipped.

Lisgar Rifle Company, complete.

Mapleton Rifle Company complete.

Winnipeg Rifle Company, uniformed but not officially inspected, not armed.

Portage La Prairie Rifle Company, failed to organize.

Kildonan Rifle Company, failed to organize.

St. Charles Rifle Company, failed to organize.

St. Boniface Rifle Company, failed to organize.

One company under Capt. Lavigne, failed to organize.

The annual drill was performed at Company headquarters.

The drill included preliminary drill with or without arms or company evolutions.

No facilities have, as yet been available for carrying out target practice.

CLOTHING.

The issues of arms, equipment and uniform clothing to the local militia, have been as follows:

WINNIPEG FIELD BATTERY.

Armed with two Mountain Howitzers—equipment imperfect—40 forage caps—40 great coats issued.

LISGAR RIFLE COMPANY.

Arms, uniform and equipment complete except forage caps.

POPULAR POINT RIFLE COMPANY.

Arms, uniform and equipment complete, except forage caps.

MAPLETON RIFLE COMPANY.

Arms, uniform and equipment complete, except forage caps.

WINNIPEG RIFLE COMPANY.

Clothing complete except forage caps—No arms yet issued.

The system of voluntary enlistment will, I think, work sufficiently well to maintain a force of six companies of foot, two of Mounted Rifles and a Field Battery, which would be a fair quo a for the present population.

In addition to the local Militia included in the foregoing return there are serving here:

- 1st. A detachment of artillery.
- 2nd. A provisional battalion of infantry of following strength.

ARTILLERY DEPARTMENT.

Officers 1; non commissioned officers and men, 25.

PROVISIONAL BATTALION OF INFANTRY.

	Officers.	Men.
Actual strength	16	258
Wanting to complete	1	42
Establishment	17	300

These corps are fast approaching to a high state of efficiency, more especially the provisional battalion which, when it has been for a few months longer embodied will compare favorably with the regiments in H. M. regular service.

With reference to your instructions to report on any matters of interest connected with the state of the forces or defence of the district, my previous special report concerning the passage of the troops last October over the Dawson route is already before you.

Concerning the report previously submitted to me on the defences of the Provinces and the North West, I have little to add beyond the fact that further experience has confirmed the opinions I have already had the honor to express to you on these points.

In concluding my report, I wish to express to you the satisfaction which the cordial support of Brevet Lt. Colonel Irvine, command-

ing the provisional battalion, at all times affords to me; both by precept and example this officer endeavors to obtain a high standard of character and discipline in his corps.

My thanks are also due to the Staff officers attached to the district. Major, Peebles, the supply officer, is indefatigable in his duties, whilst Captain Arman, Jago of the Queen's Own Rifles, Toronto, who has for some time been acting as orderly officer, gives a very promise of becoming a most efficient staff officer.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
W. OSBORNE SMITH, Lt. Col.
D. A. G.

Commanding Dominion Forces, Manitoba,
The Adjutant General of Militia,
Ottawa.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY BRIGADE.

This brigade is under the command of Lieut. Colonel C.J. Brydges. The accompanying report of the state of that Brigade is submitted; and it will be seen that the whole of the men in this fine brigade have been enrolled for a further term of three years, under the excellent and praiseworthy arrangements of the commandant.

BRIGADE OFFICE,
Montreal, Dec. 2nd, 1872.

Sir,—Having been ordered to England during the summer months, in charge of the Wimbledon detachment of Canadian militia I had only one opportunity of seeing the whole of the brigade out for drill since my last report. This was during the month of October and early in November, when I went over the whole line.

The whole of the brigade has been supplied with new uniforms, and therefore present a good appearance on parade; and with exceptions named in the inspection report, the whole force is much improved in drill and in the general working of the organization.

I inspected the force in Montreal, company by company, during October and November. Their drill was performed during the summer months, and they seem to have been well grounded in company drill, manual and firing exercise.

On the 10th October, I inspected the force at Brockville. I am unable to report favorably here. A languor exists amongst the superior officers, or they are not up to their work, which is unusual in the organization, and I beg to bring this battalion generally to your notice as being on the whole far inferior to the other four. On the following days I inspected at Kingston, Belleville, and Port Hope. Kingston is an exception to what I have said; Port Hope is also improving; but the officers at most of these stations know nothing of their own work.

At Toronto, the the 2nd Brigade Artillery (Col. Spicer) I inspected on 28th October. You will see by last year's report that this brigade was in an inefficient state. I have no longer to say this: on the contrary, everything has been done to render it in an efficient state. It is as well drilled as it is possible to be in the very short time allowed for drill.

At Stratford, where Nos. 5 and 6 Batteries are now stationed, they are equally good. They have a very improving brass band, and also fife and drum, which they keep up at their own expense. Major Patterson in command here is an enthusiastic as well to an efficient officer and helps materially to produce this state of affairs.