

More time, more money, and more supervision is required to form two, than to form one instructional Camp; and, upon grounds of economy, general advantage and expediency, it is not advisable to do so. Under any circumstances, Corps should be annually concentrated by brigades, if possible, for a portion of the time allowed for Annual Drill, at a suitable place of assembly, where a Rifle Range is available for the performance of the Annual Course of Rifle and Target practice, as that is the first and most essential military exercise the men could learn and Rifle ranges are not available at the local Headquarters of every Battalion and corps.

Every credit is due to the officers and men of the Active Militia who were present with their corps, in Camp at the Annual Drill last year, for their patriotic services, and for the zealous and intelligent manner in which they applied themselves to acquiring a knowledge of their Drill and Duties.

Although very many men were either absent or wanted to complete the numerical strength of particular corps at the time of the Annual Drill last year, some corps were complete, and others very nearly so.

One entire Brigade, viz the Grand Trunk Railway Brigade, numbering 2,326 (all ranks) are reported to have performed the Annual Drill of 1872-76 last year for the full period allowed, and many other drills and duties, such as guards of honor, and in aid of the civil power, in addition.

The whole of the men composing this fine Brigade, which is one of the most efficient in the Dominion, have recently enrolled "en masse" to serve in the Active Militia for a further period of three years, a proceeding which reflects much honor on the Brigade, and is mainly due to the excellent and patriotic arrangements of Lieut. Colonel C. J. Brydges, the commandant.

I consider the organization of the Grand Trunk Brigade to be a source of great internal strength and security to the country, for the men are at all times immediately available in support of law and order.

The number of officers and men present at the time of the Annual Drill last year in each particular Corps, in the respective Military District, will be found in the Annual Inspection Return of Corps, and in the Reports of the Deputy Adjutant's General Commanding the Militia in Military Districts embodied in this Report.

Many men it is reported belonging especially to City Corps frequently find it inconvenient or too great a sacrifice to leave their civil avocations even for 16 days to go to Camp with their corps, for the Annual Drill, such men should not voluntarily enrol themselves in any corps of Active Militia, unless prepared to fulfill the Military obligations required.

It is reported that many men who like Military Exercises, are practically prevented from joining Corps of Active Militia by their Civil Employers, who from selfish motives of a pecuniary nature it is said, even threaten to discharge their employees should they enrol themselves in a corps of Active Militia.

It might perhaps be well if such Employers of labor would bear in mind that a recourse to the Ballot might affect them personally.

Although certain particular corps were deficient in numerical strength at the time of the Annual Drill last year, and the total force regularly trained did not exceed 30,144 men, (exclusive of Military School Cadets), it must not be supposed, that this number included

the whole available Force desirous of being trained.

Many more Corps of Cavalry and Infantry (already gazetted), would have gladly turned out for the Annual Training last year, and joined the Brigade Camps of Exercise, had the means of doing so been afforded them, but the present limited extent of the parliamentary votes for drill pay and military equipment, did not admit of training the whole available force that came forward last year.

Frequent applications are made from year to year from all parts of the Dominion to raise corps of Volunteer Militia for the defence of the country, and although owing to the fluctuating movement of the population, and the mode of recruitment, it is difficult for the Captains of Companies of Corps to maintain the numerical strength of existing corps continuously, it by no means follows that a very much larger number of men than is authorized to be trained annually, are not ready to turn out voluntarily if required.

No sooner does one Corps collapse, than another is ready to spring up in the same, or some other locality.

I believe that the full quota of men authorized to be trained Annually for the whole Dominion, viz., 40,000 would readily turn out voluntarily to do so, if the Force is properly encouraged by the country, furnished with necessary equipment, and Parliament votes sufficient drill pay.

The fact that year after year more than 30,000 Canadians annually turn out for sixteen days to train for the defence of the Territories of their Queen, and for the preservation of internal order, for 50 cents a day, when more than twice that amount can be earned in the civil labor market, affords the most conclusive and gratifying proof of the spirit and determination of the men of Canada.

I believe that the Militia of Canada will at all times be ready to do their duty to the best of their ability in the future, as they have done in the past.

On this point I may perhaps be permitted to bear testimony and speak with some authority, having an intimate knowledge of the Force, and commanded it for the last four years, inspecting Corps repeatedly in every Military District, and having travelled through Canadian Territory, from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast.

In time of danger the ranks of the Militia of Canada have always been filled with men, but untrained men and undisciplined valour does not constitute Military strength or national security; I would therefore as the officer responsible for the military command and training of the Militia, beg to point out the advantage and propriety, from a military point of view, of obtaining such a Parliamentary vote as will admit of training annually and providing with proper equipment not merely a portion, but the whole of the authorized quota for the full period allowed by law.

Experience proves that to maintain the Militia of Canada based on its present organization of 40,000 men for the whole Dominion training that number for 16 days, providing for the acquisition and maintenance of the necessary reserves of arms, ammunition, clothing, equipment, military stores, &c., and for the establishment of suitable military Schools, a total vote of \$1,500,000 would be required annually. Considering the great extent and recent immense territorial development of the Dominion of Canada, I do not believe that any Military man of experience acquainted with the

country and its military wants, would be prepared to say that to train any less number of men for the whole Dominion than 40,000 for 16 days would provide for an adequate and reasonable organization. Although happily there seems every prospect at present that the peace of the world may not be disturbed, yet with the acquisition of the great North West come new responsibilities, new and unforeseen military demands may therefore have to be met, and at all times the Force should be made as efficient as possible, and held available to turn out at short notice in support of internal law and order.

[To be Continued.]

English army officers are just now advocating the establishment of a corps of mounted riflemen. An officer writing to the *London Times* takes exception to a statement made by Sir Henry Havelock that General Sheridan's cavalry during the late war were Mounted Riflemen. In doing so, he prefaces his remarks by saying that he served with General Sheridan during the last year of our war, and then proceeds as follows: "If being armed as far as possible, with Spencer carbines made them Mounted Riflemen, well and good; but in every respect they were essentially Cavalry, and if not the best to look at, were perhaps the most effective the world ever saw. This cavalry could line a 'stone wall' dismounted as well as annoy the flanks of an army, as at the battle of Winchester, or, when the time came, capture artillery, as at Cedar Creek, in the Shenandoah valley, a month afterwards. The Division about 10,000 strong were commanded by young men of great dash. Merritt, Custer, etc., were boys of 24 years of age, but West Point graduates and giants in the theory if not the practice of the art of war. Comparisons are odious and imitations undesirable, but I would venture to hint to our economical Government that by uniting Woolwich and Sandhurst they would establish a national military school which could well vie with, if it would not excel, the celebrated establishment on the banks of the Hudson."

The *London Iron* thinks that "the present system of placing the scientifically educated naval architect in servile subordination to a naval officer, knowing scarcely anything beyond the mere practical duties of his profession, ought not to be tolerated. Those acquainted with the history of our navy," it says, "are well aware that this system is the growth of late years, and that it is not so very long since nearly every office which Mr. Goschen considers so essential should be occupied by naval men, was filled, and filled with credit, by civilians. We have recently had many changes, but every change appears only to have led from bad to worse; and unless some steps are taken to give more responsible positions to the scientific servants of the Admiralty, it is vain to expect any diminution in the present wasteful expenditure, or to hope for any improvement in the frightful mismanagement which now prevails."

Two courses of instruction for naval officers in electricity and torpedo management will take place this year on board of Her Majesty's ship *Vernon*, at Portsmouth, England, the first course to commence on April 1, and the second on July 25, and each course will last about two months.

The Brazilian government have published a decree intimating the necessity for erecting fortifications on the River Amazon, near the frontiers of Peru.