

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF
THE MILITIA FOR 1873.

APPENDIX No. I

(Continued from Page. 339)

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 10.

FORT GARRY, January 2nd, 1873.

Sir,—In forwarding to you my report for the past year on the state of the Militia in this Province, I have, so far as the local corps are concerned, little or no change to note.

The nominal and actual strengths remain as reported by me in January last, viz :

Corps authorized, 36 officers and 660 non-commissioned officers and men.

Corps actually raised, 18 officers and 330 non-commissioned officers and men. Of these the "Headingley" Troop of mounted Rifles is organized, but not yet equipped or uniformed.

The "Field Battery" of Winnipeg is organized, and partially uniformed, and equipped for purposes of drill, with two 7 pounder mountain howitzers.

The "Winnipeg Rifle Company" is uniformed, but not yet officially inspected, and is not armed.

The "Lisgar" Rifle Company, the "Mapleton" Rifle Company, and "Poplar Point" Rifle Company are complete in organization, uniform and equipment. These companies, with the exception of the "Mapleton Company" which has gone through a portion of it, have not as yet performed the drill for the year ending June 30th 1874; but since my last report performed and were inspected for the annual drill of 1872-73, and with the following strengths.

	Officers.	N. C. O.	& Men.
"Lisgar" Rifle Co.....	3		55
"Mapleton" ".....	2		30
"Poplar Point" ".....	2		44

These three are fine companies, and give promise of great efficiency.

The Winnipeg Field Battery consists of a superior class of young men, and if fully equipped, and that arrangements for horsing the Battery were made, would be a useful corps.

Circumstances have delayed the complete organization and equipment of the Winnipeg Rifle Company; but from a late communication with the commanding officer I am led to believe that it will soon be on a satisfactory footing.

With regard to the various other corps authorized in 1871, in the Province, none have organized, and can be considered, but paper companies. My special report called for from the Adjutant General's office, on the 18th of June last, will have fully informed you on this subject; and in connection with my various previous reports, have placed you in possession of my views as to a more satisfactory organization of the militia in this Province, than has as yet been found practicable.

I would, however, respectfully suggest, that instead of the desultory system of drill as at present authorized, that the annual drills be consecutive, and, when practicable without any considerable expense, that the local companies should perform such drill in camp attached to the Provisional Battalion on service here, in such manner as may be deemed advisable.

By this means the force on service here, in addition to its other duties, may be utilized as a valuable training school for local corps.

I have also respectfully to recommend that a School of Instruction, at which officers of the Local Active Force may be enabled to obtain certificates in this Province, may be established.

In the Dominion Forces serving here, there has been a considerable change in organization since my last report, the Department of Artillery having been increased to the strength and constitution of a Battery; and the Provisional Battalion proportionately reduced, in order that the Force may come within the prescribed strength, which at the present date is returned as follows :

	Officers	N. C. O.	& Men.
Battery of Artillery.....	3		80
Provisional Battalion of Infantry—including in Regimental Staff the Surgeon and Paymaster, acting for both corps.....	17		244

The duties and discipline of those corps are carried on as in H. M. Regular Service.

A considerable amount of extra duty has fallen on these corps during the past year in consequence of requisitions in aid of the civil power. The principal occasions on which such services were given, being, first in March last, when at the time of the prorogation of the Provincial Legislature, it was considered necessary to maintain an officers' guard in the Parliament Buildings, as well as strong inlying pickets in barracks. Again, on the 2nd of July last, a detachment of fifty men had to be despatched by night to White Horse Plains, to repress riots, and to aid in effecting the capture of rioters, a duty which was satisfactorily accomplished.

Immediately after this occurrence, the services of the troops were required for a special guard, which was maintained for some time over the building in Fort Garry used as a prison, in which a party of men from the United States were confined, awaiting trial on a serious criminal charge.

Subsequently, fresh requisitions occasioned extra guards and a strong inlying picket in aid of the civil power, whilst one Lepine was in custody on charge of murder.

On all those occasions, proper legal requisitions were required, and obtained by me from the proper authorities; and the use of the troops was strictly confined to such purposes as are prescribed in the militia and Defence Act.

In accordance with our orders, a company of the provisional Battalion of Infantry was detached to the North West Angle of the Lake of the Woods, as an escort and guard for His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, during the negotiations for a treaty with the Ojibbawa Indians. This duty, which occupied about three weeks, was satisfactorily performed; the party returning to headquarters on the 9th October.

On the night of the 3rd of December, a fire which totally destroyed the Legislative Buildings, occurred in the Town of Winnipeg. The exertions of a strong party of Infantry and Artillery, who I thought it proper to employ for the purpose, mainly prevented the fire spreading to adjacent buildings, where large quantities of powder and coal oil were stored, and which, if ignited, would have caused the destruction of the greater portion of the town.

As already specially reported to you, the services of the troops on this occasion procured them the thanks, by Minute of Council, of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, and the Provincial Government.

The general health of the troops has been good, although the sick returns have been greater than in previous years; this may be in a great measure attributed to the fact that of the drafts from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, numbering one hundred men, who replaced the time expired men, were growing lads whose physique was not sufficiently established to fit them for hardships which service in this country necessarily entails. It is right, however, that I should add, that in the soldierlike qualities of zeal for service, and amenability to discipline which distinguished our Dominion Forces, these young levies from the Maritime Provinces are in no wise inferior to the troops that they have replaced.

I would respectfully suggest that, unless under exceptional circumstances, no men should be engaged for service in the North West under twenty years of age.

It is with satisfaction that I am enabled to report to you that the whole of the troops are comfortably quartered in the new barrack huts, lately erected, and of which full reports, plans, &c., will be forwarded to you by an early mail.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. OSBORNE SMITH, Lt. Col.

D. A. G., Commanding,

Military District, No. 10.

The Acting Adjt. General,
Ottawa.

REPORT ON THE ARTILLERY OF THE PROVINCE
OF ONTARIO.

Kingston, November, 1873.

Sir,—The following batteries of Field Artillery have performed their drill for the year 1873-74, and have been inspected by me viz :—

The Ottawa Field Battery; Kingston Field Battery; Toronto Field Battery; Hamilton Field Battery; and Wellington Field Battery.

The London Field Battery will probably carry on its annual drill in the month of June next; the Welland Canal Field Battery in March or April next, and the Durham and Gananoque Field Batteries, being still without the guns or equipment, it is difficult to say when they are likely to turn out.

The Ottawa Field Battery performed its annual training in eight consecutive days in September, being encamped at Ottawa. The weather was very unfavourable, and the rain greatly injured the harness and saddlery. I think it would be well for the future to issue to each battery going into camp a couple of extra tents for harness; as, not alone is it very annoying to the men having so much extra work thrown on them by having to remove daily a quantity of rust from the iron work of the harness, but the policy of allowing harness worth \$2,000 to be injured rather than issue a couple of extra tents, worth about \$20 apiece, is very questionable.

Notwithstanding the difficulties this battery had to encounter, both as regards the weather and being short of officers, I am happy to inform you that the non-commissioned officers and gunners were efficient at gun drill, and the drivers at driving.

Captain Stewart can instruct well at gun drill and field manoeuvres.