

We have only camp equipment complete for about 40,000 men, and blankets for half that number.

Ten years ago we had the complement of our military equipment, ammunition and stores in Quebec only, at one end of this spacious command; now we have military store accommodation with well filled magazines at Halifax, Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, Winnipeg, Victoria; and more recently, in order to have a reserve removed from the frontier, a considerable depot has been established at Ottawa, on Nepean Point.

The Staff may perhaps call for a brief remark. We have twelve Deputy Adjutant-Generals, one for each Military District, and eleven Brigade-Majors. A small reduction in the number of the latter was made two years ago, and the result has been good instead of the reverse. With trifling exception, the Staff as a whole is efficient and some of them as good as could possibly be desired.

My thanks are again due to the unremitting attention of the Adjutant-General who carries on the office detail, which in the regular army is sub-divided among the Adjutant-General, the Quartermaster-General, Medical, Commissariat, Clothing and Transport Officers. In fact, every requirement of the Militia, including Fortifications, Ordnance Lands, etc., etc., in some shape or other, passes through the Military Department whatever its ultimate destination may be. In the event therefore of the sudden calling out of the force for war service, it must not be expected that the machinery would start in very good working trim. A working staff would have to be immediately extemporized, and much anxious responsibility thrown upon the general officer in command, whose mind and attention should at such a time be free and unshackled from the consideration of small Departmental details. While every thing moves on in an every-day routine, I make no objection against requisitions for every article from guns to snow-shovels passing under my signature, in addition to the complex matters which come up from all parts of the country, but it is an unprecedented occupation for a General Officer in chief command and on active service would be impossible. At that time no doubt everyone would think himself both called upon and competent to criticise military arrangements, and great would be the outcry after the event, if any failure occurred; but even with such imperfect means, I make no doubt that both Headquarter and District Staff would accomplish all that might be possible, and that with judgment as circumstances required they would overcome criticism by the result of their labour.

Rifle practice has been carried out as usual at the various ranges; too much practice cannot be given to soldiers in this essential, in which, with the arms of precision of modern days extraordinary skill is required; a knowledge of rifle shooting is therefore of paramount importance, and a skilful use of the rifle an imperative necessity in every trained military force. In a country where the population seem