

to the best of the corps in the above named provinces.

The Fredericton Camp was well situated and laid out, the rifle range was convenient and all the corps performed their prescribed course of target practice. Lieutenant Colonel Maunsell exercised his command with great judgment, showing much ability in handling troops, and on two or three occasions, having divided the troops into attacking and defending forces, carried out very successfully "sham battles on the same principles observed by the Regular Army at the last autumn manoeuvres, the practice thus afforded proving most interesting and instructive to all engaged.

The corps not assembled at Fredericton and Chatham in camp, performed the Annual Drill at their local head quarters. The force of Garrison Artillery in this District is considerable and composed generally of a very superior body of men. Accompanied by the Inspector of Artillery, I inspected four Batteries of the St. John Garrison Artillery on the 18th July, and was much pleased at their general condition and appearance; with regard to these batteries I have no hesitation in saying that were they embodied for any length of time, and opportunity afforded for the more scientific instruction of the officers, they would soon equal in point of efficiency the best batteries in the regular army.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jago, of the New Brunswick Artillery (who formerly served in the Royal Artillery), has been of great service in imparting instruction to this arm of the service, and as it is of great importance in connection with the defence of St. John and the coast of New Brunswick generally, to have the militia resident in the maritime portion of the province trained to artillery exercises, I would beg to recommend that a "School of Gunnery" be established at St. John, on the same principle as those provided for the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, at Kingston and Quebec; in addition to affording means of instruction, this school of gunnery would act as a guard to certain forts, magazines, batteries, and armament recently handed over by the Imperial to the Dominion Government. As well as inspecting the Corps assembled in camp at Fredericton and St. John, I visited St. Andrews and St. Stephen on the Southern Frontier of the Province, inspecting the Artillery Corps resident at those places.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 9.

(Nova Scotia.)

The present strength of the Active Militia in this District is 4,471 (officers and men), of whom 3,823 have performed the Annual Drill of 1871-72, leaving 648 (officers and men), wanting to complete.

The Force consists of—

1 Battery of Light Artillery (having 6-pdr. Armstrong Rifled Guns, but not armed or equipped properly as a Field Battery, although available to act as such.)

2 Brigades and

3 Batteries of Garrison Artillery.

9 Battalions and

3 Independent Companies of Infantry, and is composed of the following corps:

Halifax Light Battery.

1st and 2nd Brigade Garrison Artillery.

Chester Battery of do do

Lunenburg do do do

63rd Battalion (Infantry.)

66th do do

68th do do

69th do do

72nd do do

75th do do

78th do do

Cumberland Provisional Battalion.

Victoria do do

Two camps were formed in this District for the performance of the Annual Drill, one at Aylesford Plains, of three battalions for sixteen days, (the three corps mustering 1,035 men), the other at Lunenburg, a single battalion camp, in operation only for eight days, the majority of the Force in this district performing the Annual Drill at their own local head quarters.

The details connected with the inspection of the corps assembled and drilled at these camps will be found in the report (see Appendix) of Lieut.-Colonel Sinclair who commands the militia in this District.

On the 21st of July, I inspected a portion of the Active Militia at Halifax (1177 being present on parade), consisting of the Halifax six pounder Armstrong Battery, the two Brigades of Garrison Artillery, with the 63rd and 66th Battalions of Infantry—the men composing these corps presented a soldierlike appearance on parade—their arms were clean and in good order. On the occasion of this inspection, a field day was held at which the Brigade acquitted itself creditably, officers and men evincing much intelligence and desire to learn their military duties. The parade was witnessed by Lieutenant-General Sir Hastings Doyle, Commanding Her Majesty's Troops in British North America, who was pleased to express a very favorable opinion of this Brigade.

With regard to the Halifax Battery of six-pounder Armstrong Guns, the Inspector of Artillery has reported that the men belonging to it are efficient and intelligent, and he recommends that it be supplied with four nine-pounders M.L.R. Field Guns, so soon as the department is in a condition to supply them, (provided efficient horses can be obtained,) and thus convert it into an effective field battery.

In maintaining the efficiency of the militia in this District great assistance has been afforded by Lieutenant-General Hastings Doyle. The Military School for the infantry is formed on one of the regiments of Her Majesty's Regular Army (the 61st, under Colonel Redmond, as commandant,) I would beg to recommend that a School of Gunnery be formed also at Halifax, and that the military instruction of all Militia Artillery Corps be as much as possible confined to artillery exercises.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sinclair recommends the formation of a field battery in Kings County, with a troop of horse attached, which recommendation I also beg to support.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 10.

(Manitoba.)

In the months of May and June, 1871, a reduction of the Force on duty in this Province took place; the great majority of the officers and men belonging to the two corps who had been, in 1870, sent on service to Manitoba, were released from duty, a considerable number being brought back to their homes, in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, via the "Dawson Route," most of the men, however, remaining to settle in Manitoba. Two companies were retained for a further period of service, and stationed at Upper Fort Garry. The return journey of the men to the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec was accomplished (without accidents or any striking incidents occurring) in one one-third of the time occupied in going to Fort Garry the previous year; the 2nd Battalion (Quebec Rifles) left the Stone Fort on the 7th June, in two Brigades of five boats each, with thirty days' rations, arriving in Toronto on the 10th July; the 1st

Battalion (Ontario Rifles) on the 10th June, in two Brigades of four boats each, also carrying thirty days' provisions, and arrived at Toronto on the 14th July, but it would appear from the Report of Mr. Dawson that the toil and difficulties overcome in returning were greater than those experienced in going. Mr. Dawson in his Report referring to this journey says "The volunteers, officers, and men, deserve the highest credit for the manner in which the journey was accomplished. In ascending the Winnipeg they had a much more arduous task to perform than fell to the lot of the force composing the Red River Expedition of 1870 in going down it. The Winnipeg is a river as large or larger than the Ottawa, carrying like the latter the drainage of a vast region, and the volunteers had to face it in its angriest mood, when the floods of spring were in full volume, and every eddy white with foam, very different was its condition when the Expeditionary Force passed downwards in 1870, the water was then extremely low, and with ordinary care, there was no more danger than in a duck pond, not only on the return march had the volunteers to pass round by the Winnipeg and make the detour of the Pinawa, but they had to open new "portages."

In the beginning of October last, this Province (Manitoba) was disturbed by Fenian invasion; when in response to the Lieutenant Governor's Proclamation, the people rallied as one man in defence of that portion of Her Majesty's Empire.

A. G. IRVINE, Major,
Commanding Dominion Troops,
Manitoba.

Fort Garry, 21st October, 1871.

The details connected with this Fenian outrage, as well as an account of the military measures adopted, will be found in the Appendix in Major Irvine's report, as well as in the report of Capt J. Royal, commanding the St. Boniface troop of Cavalry, who with a mounted force of French speaking Metis, acting as scouts, proceeded to the actual frontier line.

Simultaneously with the adoption of this action by the local authorities, it was determined by the Government at Ottawa, to despatch a military expedition via the "Dawson Route," to Fort Garry, as a reinforcement to the small garrison there retained on duty, and as an illustration of the working of the Canadian militia system on a sudden emergency, it may be interesting to detail the measures adopted and the course pursued. On the evening of the 12th October, I received instructions by an Order in Council to organize a military expedition, and despatch the same without any delay to Fort Garry.

At the same time I received instructions to direct Lieut.-Colonel Osborne Smith, C. M. G., Dep. Adj. Gen, Militia, Commanding Military District No. 5, to proceed to Manitoba, via Pembina, U. S., in advance of the expedition, there to report himself to the Lieut.-Governor of Manitoba, and to take command of the militia in that Province.

Lieut. Colonel Osborne Smith was also to be instructed to arrange for the despatch of transport to the north west angle of the Lake of the Woods, to meet the expedition (which proceeded via the "Dawson route") on arrival at that point.

Immediately on receipt of these instructions, orders were sent by telegraph to the Deputy Adjutants General of Militia, Commanding Military Districts in the Provinces