

ries at those places—but these sheds are liable to be taken away at a short notice; and if the Government of the Province retains the Batteries at the two places in question, Gun Sheds must be put up, should the Imperial Government demand possession of those sheds which now are only lent.—At Quebec, by means of alterations made in a Building adjacent to the Sewell Property belonging to the Province, room for the Battery has been found, and by this date I have reason to hope that the Guns and Carriages will be under shelter.

At Ottawa, the Commissariat Store has been converted into a very good Gun Shed.

At Toronto, a good shed has been built on the Provincial Property on Bathurst Street.

At London, the Gun Sheds on the Government ground are used for the Battery there, and Hamilton remains therefore the only place in the Province where suitable sheds have still to be built. Preliminary measures have been taken for this purpose, and I hope will soon be perfected. The zeal of the Officer Commanding this Battery has induced him, out of his own private Funds, to provide such shelter as the limited space on his own private property will afford, and I feel myself called upon to notice thus publicly such spirited conduct.

The Officer Commanding the Foot Company of Artillery at Dundas, has also at his own cost, put up a shed to cover the two Guns in his charge, and has not demanded any remuneration on that account. I do not however consider that any Officer should be allowed to bear any such expenses. I mention the fact in order to show the spirit which animates the Militia of the Province.

CAVALRY.

14. Fourteen Troops out of the sixteen allowed by the Militia Act, are uniformed and armed, and the two not yet uniformed, are only awaiting the arrival of uniform from England.

The general appearance of the several Troops of Cavalry is very creditable.

This description of Force has greater difficulties to contend against in obtaining suitable persons as Drill Instructors, than either the Artillery or Rifle Companies—as there are but few discharged Cavalry Soldiers in Canada. No Saddlery has been provided by Government for the Cavalry.

The Officers and Men have consequently to provide their own at a heavy expense.

15. There were eighty sets of Saddlery for Cavalry given to the Province out of the Ordnance Stores in Montreal, and these eighty sets have been given to the two troops in that city. Application was made to the Minister at War in England for 1000 sets for the Active Force, but the reply given was that there was no Saddlery available for such purposes.

Until proper Saddlery is issued the Cavalry cannot attain that proficiency it should arrive at, for, without proper Saddles and Bridles, the Horses will never move as they should do, nor be properly bitted.

16. Several Troops have got their Uniforms from England at a heavy outlay, and I am aware that in some instances the Officer Commanding has had to bear a considerable portion of the cost.

17. The Cavalry are all armed with the new regulation Swords, and each Trooper has also a six shooting Colt's Pistol with a Holster attached to the Man's person and not to the Horse—a manifest advantage.

18. Troops of Cavalry are more successfully formed in the Country than in Towns, and of course it is not so easy to collect a Troop at a short notice as a Rifle Company,

all the members of which reside in one locality, or at any rate a short distance from it. I anticipate that the Cavalry Force of the Province will not be behind any other Arm when fully organized.

RIFLE COMPANIES.

19. There are Thirty-four Rifle Companies already uniformed and armed with the best Arms that England can produce, viz: The Rifled Musquet, pattern 1853, which may well be termed the "Queen of Weapons."

These Companies have generally progressed favourably. Many of them are in a highly creditable state. All however are not equally advanced. There has been a deficiency of cloth for Uniform in the Province, some Corps have had to send for it to England, and the second instalment of Rifled Muskets and Accoutrements did not reach Canada till the arrival of the last steamer of the season this year at Quebec from Liverpool, viz: the Steamship "Canadian;" of course these circumstances have kept some Companies backward in their drill and organization. It would perhaps be invidious to mention those Corps in this early state of the Organization, which are in the best state of discipline; but the several Rifle Companies in Montreal have established their reputation in the Province on such a footing that they may well be proud of the position which the zeal of both Officers and Men have placed them in the estimation of their fellow citizens.—A Rifleman with the present improved Arm is not formed in a few months. It is no easy matter to attain a knowledge of judging distances correctly, without when knowledge however the arm is useless beyond 100 yards distance; this acquirement cannot be gained at once, but is the result of long and careful training, and when once attained, it makes Rifleman the most fatal of all Troops to encounter—and in fact this Arm (the Rifled Musquet) is destined to effect considerable alterations in the armament and disposition in the Field of other Arms of the service.

20. If the Officers, non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the Active Force generally had confined their attendance at drill to the days for which they are paid, the progress made would have amounted to very little; but I am bound to state that instead of this being the case, the Officers and Men of the Force have voluntarily drilled constantly. Justice demands that I should bear testimony to the zealous endeavours of the Active Force as a body to advance in a knowledge of their duties. I do not say that every Corps in the Province has always shewn the same zeal in these particulars, such indeed could not be expected from a variety of considerations, but I maintain that the present efficient state of the Force as a body is due to the zeal of the Officers in Command of Corps, seconded as they have been by the readiness of the other Officers, non-Commissioned Officers and Men to learn their duties—and it only requires a continuance of such exertions to bring the Force to the highest state of efficiency which is compatible with its constitution as a Volunteer Body. And I may mention one very creditable fact, viz: that in no single instance has any complaint been made by any Man of the Force against the Officer Commanding his Company for any arrears of pay or other matter, and I am justified in saying, that every payment made to the Captains of Companies has been honorably and promptly handed over to the Officers, non-Commissioned Officers and Men of their Companies.

The Inspecting Field Officers are directed to enquire whether any Man has any complaint to make at their Periodical Inspection of Corps.

21. The late Commander in Chief of Her Majesty's Army, liberally placed at my disposal 180 copies of the Book, intitled, "Instruction of Musquetry," a complete summary of all information on the Science of Musquetry and of the Arms at present in use, a copy of which has been given to every Officer in Command of a Rifle Company under Class A. Four Books of Instruction in Drill, compiled by me from the regulations in use in the Queen's Service, have been also issued to every Company of Rifles, and suitable Locks in like number have been distributed amongst the Officers of the other Arms of the service.

22. The Right Honourable the Minister at War in England, has sent 1,000 new pattern Knapsacks, and 4,000 Great Coats of excellent quality to Canada, for the use of the Volunteer Force, to be issued at half cost, viz: the Knapsacks at 6s 6d sterling, each—the Great Coats at 6s 3d sterling, each. 2,000 Great Coats have been issued on these terms to the Force to be deducted from the next issue of their pay; but I venture to hope that two such essential articles as Great Coats and Knapsacks will be made a free gift by the liberality of the Legislature of the Volunteer Force—for the cost of Uniform has pressed heavily on the Force last year, and in fact it will require the pay of 1857 to cover the first expenses of their Uniform.

As the matter of Uniform stands at present, it is the property of each individual as soon as paid for. Now experience has proved in many cases, that when a Volunteer leaves his place of residence and removes to another, he generally takes his Uniform with him, and refuses to tell it to his successor in the Company. The Captain is often unable for some time to get a new Uniform made, and in Cavalry and other Corps which have got their Uniforms from England, this inconvenience is greatly increased. In short, I may justly say that the only obstacle to obtaining any number of Men to serve in Volunteer Corps in the Province, is the cost of Uniform, and many a good Man has been prevented from joining by this cause.

23. Several Rifle Companies on various occasions have been called out in aid of the Civil Power, either to quell Riots or to protect Property at Fires, &c., and have performed those duties to the entire satisfaction of the Magistrate.

At Guelph and at Collingwood essential services were performed in the cause of order by the Volunteer Companies located at Guelph and at Barrie, and the existence of these Volunteer Companies located at Guelph and at Barrie, and the existence of these Volunteer Companies in the Province may have an important bearing in the maintenance of a Police Force in the Rural parts, and generally on the question of their being made available for such duties.

24. The number of Field Batteries, Foot Companies of Artillery and Troops of Cavalry formed in Lower Canada, are those recommended for that Section of the Province in the Report of the Commissioners for the defence of the Province.

The number of Rifle Companies formed in Lower Canada is not yet up to that recommended in the Report. There are, however, still ten Rifle Companies wanting to complete the number up to fifty, which is the maximum allowed by law. I therefore suggest that I should be authorized to form some additional Rifle Companies in