

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF  
THE MILITIA FOR 1872.

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"I have no doubt that next year Lieutenant Montizambert, having completed his short course of training with "B" Battery, will raise their efficiency to a very high standard, especially if I am permitted to send to Gross Isle a few stores for instructing in gun mounting &c. They could be spared from those in my charge, and be taken down by the Government steamer next summer without expense."

## T. JOHN'S BATTERY VOLUNTEER GARRISON ARTILLERY

"The St. John's Battery Volunteer Garrison Artillery, commanded by Major Drumm, was embodied at the Island of St. Helen's, where they went into camp."

"All enrolled for three years."

"The training of this battery was in every respect satisfactory, Lieutenant Short and his staff of sergeants acting as Gunnery Instructors. The energy and intelligence of officers, non commissioned officers and men, produced more favourable results than I thought possible in so short a time. They were instructed in foot and arm drill, gun and mortar drill, dismounting ordnance with or without a gun. They attended Lieutenant Short's lectures on ammunition, getting some knowledge on sighting ordnance from the ordnance armourer. "B" Battery who in their presence sighted the guns, with which they subsequently practised with good effect; also mortar practise. The physique and intelligence of the men was good, as their conduct was satisfactory."

"They would I believe, do good service in case of need, by manning the fort at Isle aux Noix, which, if re-armed from guns in store, and a detachment from "B" Battery placed in charge, would be valuable for obvious reasons, besides being a good school of instruction for the St. John's Battery."

"From the pressure of my numerous duties connected with the Gunnery School, and the fact of artillery and engineer corps being simultaneously under training, I did not think it advisable to remain with any one corps during its whole period of drill; very much of the instruction therefore devolved upon Lieutenant Short, who was ably seconded by the officers of the St. John's Battery. With his detachment from "B" Battery, he performed for the Volunteer Artillery services hitherto rendered by the Royal Artillery, viz: examining sighting, and reporting on ordnance, making up ammunition, placing targets, &c."

"I beg strongly to recommend this officer to your notice, for his energy and ability in the performance of duties as a rule entrusted only to Gunnery Instructors and Inspectors of War Stores of the Royal Artillery."

## SHERBROOKE BATTERY VOLUNTEER GARRISON ARTILLERY.

"The Sherbrooke Garrison Battery ordered to the Citadel of Quebec, was not able to turn out. I beg to submit for consideration whether it would not be advisable to change this corps into a field battery, which would be invaluable on the frontier, while the existence of a garrison battery, without works or guns, is somewhat of an anomaly. Lieut. Colonel King, Brigade Major of the District, is favourable to this change, and informed me that Captain Felton, the present commanding officer of this battery, wishes to

retire in favor of Lieutenant Short, the next senior, who to his other qualifications as an artillery officer, with a first class certificate "B" Battery Gunnery School, adds that of an excellent horseman, familiar with the frontier district of which he is a native. He served as a gunner, and subsequently as an officer of the Battery and adjutant during both Fenian raids."

"I need not remind you that the number of field batteries of this Province bears no adequate proportion to the other arms. And I beg to submit for your consideration whether it would not be advisable to follow the precedent of the Imperial service, by making the commanding officers of all field batteries regimental majors, in view of the fact that they command a tactical unit and incur considerable expense and responsibility. The same reasons do not apply to the commanding officers of garrison batteries of militia who only command fifty five men, and have no charge of forts or of armament."

## GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY BRIGADE, PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

"I was not called upon to inspect this Brigade; but Lieut. Colonel Brydges informed me, through his Brigade Major (Major Worsley), that he concurs in the advisability of converting two batteries of the brigade into a heavy battery of position, to be armed for the present with an 18 pounder equipment in store at Montreal."

"The horses belonging to the Grand Trunk Establishment are exceedingly powerful and well suited for artillery."

"The self contained character of the Grand Trunk Brigade, and its high "esprit" render it advisable that it should be self supporting in the matter of field artillery. A complete force could then be transported at short notice to occupy any important position on the line of railway. Some stations might be selected as desirable to strengthen with earthworks."

"This service could perhaps be effectively and at very little expense, executed by the engineer companies of the Grand Trunk Brigade, who would also, doubtless, be very efficient in breaking up or restoring interrupted communication on their own line."

"I have had no opportunity of inspecting the engineer companies of the Grand Trunk Brigade."

## ENGINEERS.

"The Engineers of this Province consists besides the Grand Trunk, of two companies at Montreal—No. 2 Company under the command of Major Kennedy, No. 1 Company being under the command of Lieut. Devine, who is at present undergoing a short course of military engineering, &c., at the Gunnery School, Quebec."

"Both companies are very weak; but their training was satisfactorily carried out by the officers who are all intelligent and zealous. They were encamped on the Island of St. Helen's for sixteen days. Their company and arm drill was very good; but the dispositions made to blow up a stockade did not meet with my approval, which was perhaps scarcely to be expected, as their attention had not been directed to this important subject. Gabions and fascines, which they made from brushwood cut on the island, were perfectly serviceable, and they repaired the pontoons subsequently used in the construction of a raft, by a detachment of "B" Battery, for the transport of guns across the St. Lawrence for the use of the Shefford Battery. I had intended that the construction of the raft should form part of

the engineer training, but the delay incident to the necessary requisitions frustrated my plans."

"Their rifle practice was carried out on the island under their own officers. The conduct of the non commissioned officers and men was good. They have in their ranks many skilled mechanics, but they were not sufficiently numerous to construct a half sunk battery on a plan which I gave to the commanding officer. A model room for their use, in connection with an enlarged Gunnery School at Montreal, would largely contribute to the efficiency of the sister corps, the subjects of study being common to both."

"The construction of field works and batteries in snow, with the aid of gabions made in summer, would be a beneficial and inexpensive military exercise, which could be carried out, if the Gunnery School at Montreal had sufficient numerical strength to do the greater part of the labor for which the volunteer engineers could not spare time."

"The island of St. Helen's is peculiarly adapted for an artillery and engineer school, especially for pontooning and rafting. The discipline is good from the absence of temptation, and the difficulty of leaving the Island."

"The military stores are safe. The earth batteries thrown up in the course of instruction would remain as valuable defences, and would not impair the natural beauty of the Island. There is a considerable growth of brushwood exactly suited to making gabions and fascines, and the necessary entrenching tools are probably in store."

"I have in my possession plans of the Royal Engineers for some proposed defences and as the river would be a comparative safeguard against a *coup de main*, masonry escarpments would not be necessary."

"I do not anticipate much expense beyond the wood necessary for laying gun platforms, and timber for expense magazines and shell rooms."

"I need scarcely remind you that the armoury store buildings and large powder magazines on this Island are of great value to the Dominion Government."

"Their protection is essential, and the British Government proposed to arm such works if erected by the Dominion."

## FORTS.

"The Citadel of Quebec and the forts at Point Levis are in good order, with the exception of the walls surrounding the "A" magazine, Citadel, one of the magazines at Point Levis, and some of the unoccupied casements which suffer from damp during the spring and autumn, especially at the latter time, and the subsequent frost has a tendency to burst the casemated arches. I would recommend that a Royal Engineer sergeant, qualified as foreman of works, be asked for from the Imperial Government to superintend a certain amount of annual petty repairs and pointing masonry, which the extremes of climate render necessary. It would in the end prove an economical preventive to rapid and general decay. During the greater part of the year, especially in winter when mason's work is impracticable, he could be utilized as an assistant instructor of field works (using snow as a medium of instruction). The masonry of the lines from the Citadel to the Artillery barracks is in very bad order; but it would not be advisable to repair it, as the proximity of the suburbs has in a great measure destroyed its military value as a line of defence, except to close the gorge of the river front against a *coup de main*. It