

may aspire to, is calculated, I conceive to strengthen the confidence of the members of the force, and give fresh impetus to their efforts towards efficiency.

Moreover, the recent establishment of the Military College at Kingston cannot fail to surpass the expectations of the most sanguine, as it is "for the purpose of imparting a complete education in all branches of military tactics, fortification, engineering, and general scientific knowledge on subjects connected with, and necessary to, a thorough knowledge of the military profession, and for qualifying officers for command and for staff appointments."

And while this, and more than this, has been accomplished—while the Schools of Gunnery are sending forth trained artillery men to different parts of Canada, and the Maritime Provinces have been placed on the same footing as the rest of the Dominion as regards the appointment of an Inspector of Artillery,—while an important part of the Canadian forces—the North West Mounted Police—has performed a work with credit to itself and advantage to the country, "under many difficulties and in uncertainty of the dangers it would have to encounter;" and, besides, while our "marksmen" have again been successful at Wimbledon, it is gratifying to know that the foundation, so to speak, of the military structure, the development of efficiency in the Active Militia force, has not been overlooked.

Camps of exercise, which now occupy no unimportant position amongst the institutions of the country, are annually becoming more and more successful and attractive—successful, not infrequently, in proportion as they are rendered attractive; conducted with system and regularity, and with no laxity of discipline.

I must add that I consider the General Orders, regulating the system to be observed in conducting these camps, convey full information upon every necessary point, while sufficient discretionary power remains with officers in command. Regulations for "supply," "transport," "payment," "medical regulations" (a more liberally furnished medicine box is still required), "instructions as to the course of drill to be carried out from the squad to the brigade;" all are clearly defined.

I may here state that heretofore, in some instances I conceive our chief fault lay in the desire to become efficient in battalion and brigade drill and field manoeuvres, too little attention being given to preliminary drills squad and company drill. I called attention to this fact in my last report. Of course when the period of training is extremely limited, as in our case, it is difficult to avoid the error of endeavouring to grasp general principles at the expense of necessary details.

In addition to the above satisfactory arrangements for the well being of the Active Militia, with the view to the force of the Dominion, representing different localities, with various interests and pursuits, being bound by no "cast iron rule," in special cases City Corps are now permitted to perform their annual drill at their local headquarters on different days, as may be most convenient, subject to the approval of the Deputy Adjutant General of the District; and certain isolated corps are permitted to perform their drill in camp at Battalion headquarters, under somewhat similar regulations, except as regards rations, to those for Brigade Camps—of course it is desirable that such instances as these should be as few as possible.

To speak, however, most particularly of the work going on in my District, I may

state that here we have but few officers or non commissioned officers of the Imperial Army, or those trained in the "short" and "long" course of the Schools of Gunnery at Kingston and Quebec, to serve as "models" for the recruits, or to assist in the training of the Active Militia; and it can scarcely be expected that the individual soldier with no other advantages than those afforded in twelve (12) days drill per annum, can become thoroughly efficient, though happily (as in the case of many of every grade in my District) he remain many years in the force. And while the "material" of the rank and file of the force is unquestionably as good as can be produced in any country, intelligent, active, hardy men, accustomed to various industrial occupations under varied circumstances,—we have, in the appointment of officers and non commissioned officers, necessarily to depend in a great measure (1) upon those who like no unworthy descendants of the "New Brunswick Loyalists," whose career is now a matter of history. Successful as a rule in their civil vocations, representative men of the country, the acquisition of military knowledge, and the imparting of it to others has been to them a duty easily accomplished, and faithfully carried out whenever opportunity offered. There is also here (2) a fast increasing class past cadets of the Military School, very many of whom have given valuable proofs of their intelligence and ability of communicating instruction.

With such officers, and such non commissioned officers and men under my command, at camps of service and at drills at their respective local head quarters, it has invariably been both my duty and my pleasure to report most favorably at the conclusion of the annual training, and the results of the past summer's drill must form no exception to the rule. The full quota, or nearly so, of my District has completed its prescribed drill, the "regulations" and "orders" have, I consider, been satisfactorily carried out; and when required to act in aid of the civil power, as the force has twice of late been called upon to do—both officers and men have performed their duties and obeyed the orders issued to them with promptitude and alacrity, as will appear hereafter in this Report.

It is true that much yet remains to be done to develop the efficiency of the force, cavalry officers require training in Cavalry Schools; artillery officers have, in many instances, to attend the Schools of Gunnery, and a few infantry officers and non commissioned officers still remain untrained (for these last, there is scarcely any excuse, as an Infantry School has been established in their midst for several years) and, besides this, (an important improvement urgently required) the increase of the number of days annual drill from twelve to sixteen.

This has been done with advantage in the case of field artillery. May not the same rule applied to cavalry—for which arm of the service it is very essential—and also to infantry? It is a step looked forward to by all who see that the principal part of the work of defence in the hour of danger, whether from internal or external sources must necessarily fall, not on the few composing a standing army, however efficient, but on the comparative many—the Active Militia of the country and those who have retired from the force on completing their period of service, and would immediately flock to its ranks, should they be required to do so, in any emergency.

I respectfully recommend that the "regulations" for "supply of rations" be applied to all corps in camp, whether in Regimental or Brigade Camp, as while in one

(regimental) case a corps may be able to obtain the authorized rations for the amount allowed (25 cents per man per diem) in another, owing to local circumstances, no such satisfactory arrangements can be made (as in the case of the 73rd Battalion of my District.)

It is hoped too, that in future the full number of three officers per company may be authorized for payment on completion of their annual drills. This, I conceive, is an important matter, as it cannot be expected, especially in country corps, that all the non commissioned officers should be qualified to act as "guides" in company drill duties; they would, in turn, necessarily be called upon to perform under present circumstances.

#### Care of Arms, Accoutrements and Clothing.

The issue of the General Orders of the 14th August, 1874, and 30th April, 1875, with respect to care of arms &c., has already, I consider, produced excellent results. More systematic arrangements than heretofore, for the safe keeping of all the Government property in charge of corps, have been made, and captains of rural companies find it to their own advantage, as well as that of the Department, to enforce the rule requiring every article of clothing and equipment to be returned into their armouries on the completion of the annual drill. I suggest, however, that a supply of these articles of clothing and equipment be available for issue from the District store at reasonable prices, to make good any loss. A captain of a company may thus, by deducting the cost of perhaps a single article of clothing from the drill pay of the man losing it, on its being replaced, become entitled to the full Government allowance for "care of arms," which he otherwise would be precluded from receiving; and, moreover, *uniformity of dress* in camp will be facilitated.

The question of uniform clothing for the force has already received the serious consideration of the Major General and yourself, with the happy result, that a serge frock has been substituted for "the heavy cloth tunic, which has been found too hot for summer drill."

The question as to the "head dress" still remains. *Uniformity* with the present Infantry forage cap, (which is neither useful nor ornamental) is difficult to attain, Companies are allowed to wear "Havelocks," provided at their own cost, but some companies elect not to avail themselves of this rule; hence, in part, the absence of *uniformity*. A solution of this difficulty is looked forward to with eagerness by the force.

Lieut. Col. Jago and myself submitted for favorable consideration, the desirableness of having a supply of boots available for issue to corps of Active Militia at cost price, in a somewhat similar manner to the other stores above adverted to, adducing the following argument: That it is difficult, if not impossible, under present circumstances, fully to carry out the important General Orders (14) of the 31st May, 1872, directing "officers commanding infantry corps to take special care that their men are provided with boots of a proper description, suitable for marching, such boots should be broad soled and low heeled, fitting the wearer easily."

By adopting this system of issue, I am of opinion that the difficulty of men wearing such boots as are required, would be obviated, and the corps, as a body, would be ready for "a day's march," and thus prepared for real service.