

could get no officer to take charge. This has been fully reported, and as an effort has been made to secure a change of Officers without avail, no doubt the company will have to be disbanded.

The five companies mustered fairly, but like the generally of corps were largely composed of recruits. The physique however, was, so far as I could judge, better than last year. This may be said of all corps in camp. The drill, as detailed in tabular return was very fair and general improvement satisfactory. There was an efficient Band attached.

**42nd Battalion, Brockville Infantry (7 companies)**—Lieut. Col. Buell.

Five companies of this corps joined the camp, Nos. 1 and 4 Companies failing to do so. These last two companies have however, been reorganized, and there is every reason to believe that in future they will be present when required.

This battalion was likewise largely composed of recruits, but maintained its former reputation for cleanliness and soldierly appearance. No. 7 Company (Pembroke) deserves special mention for their general appearance and efficiency. The drill, as detailed in tabular return, was fair, and general efficiency satisfactory. There was a good band attached.

**43rd Battalion, County Carleton Infantry, (6 companies)**—Lieut. Col. Bearman.

Only Nos. 3 and 6 Companies joined the camp. The remaining companies were relieved from performing the present year's drill by general orders. These two companies were attached to the 42nd Battalion for drill and discipline, and united with the two companies of the 18th Battalion for rations. The men are not clean or soldierly in their habits, and there appears to be a want of esprit de corps. I fear the officers do not sufficiently inculcate (by advice and example) discipline and implicit obedience to orders. The improvement in drill, however, was much more satisfactory than on some former occasions. There was an efficient band with these companies.

**56th Battalion, County Grenville, "Lisgar Rifles," (7 companies)**—Lt. Col. Jessup.

Nos. 1, 2, 4 and 7 Companies joined the camp, Nos. 3, 5 and 6 Companies were relieved by general orders from performing the present year's drill.

The interior economy of this Battalion is good, and although composed like all other corps, of many recruits, a certain amount of esprit de corps is always maintained. The drill as detailed in tabular return, was fairly executed. No. 7 Co. (Spencer's) was particularly good. No band was present this year.

**59th Battalion, Stormont and Glengarry Infantry. (7 companies)**—Lt. Col. Bérgin.

This corps turned out with every company full, but were composed principally of recruits. The progress in drill was steady and fair, and through the energy of the officers the men improved very much in cleanliness and soldierly appearance. The drills as detailed in tabular return, was fairly executed. There was an efficient band attached.

The whole force attended divine service on the Sunday in camp. His Lordship the Bishop of Ontario, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Jones, kindly held a special military service in the field for all Protestants, at which time the Rev. Dr. Jones distributed gratuitously to the men, about seven or eight hundred hymns and responses.

The Rev. Father Pullier held a special

service in St. Joseph's Church, for the Roman Catholics.

The duties in camp was carried out (so far as practicable) in accordance with the regulations for the annual drill for 1872-73. Many persons visited the camp during the period, including several Ministers of the Crown, viz: Honorables Messrs MacKenzie, Spott, Ross (Minister of Militia), and others who I cannot name; also Lieut. Colonel's Howell, Fletcher (Military Secretary, Macpherson, Wily, Brunell, Ross, and many others.

On the 1st July (Dominion day) the Brigade was inspected by the Acting Adjutant-General, Lieut. Col. Powell; at which time there was a general field day and march out.

This was witnessed by a large concourse of people, and I think passed off satisfactorily, showing conclusively that the short period of drill had been utilized to the fullest extent.

I notice a general falling off in the average shooting of the brigade, which is doubtless attributable to the large number of recruits who receive no preliminary drill or instruction in the theoretical principles of musketry. I cannot well see how this may be obviated under our present system of drill, unless sending more competent instructors to the several companies, and distributing an annual money grant as prizes direct to the companies, under such regulations as will induce the greater number of non-commissioned officers and men to attend practice at their company headquarters. Ammunition should be supplied, and no man allowed to take more than one or two prizes, and the officers excluded altogether. I think some such system as this would induce a large percentage of the men to practice. At present only a few men who have the name of being "crack shots" attend the prize meeting of the organizations now in existence.

Best shot in District during this year's course, Private W. Acheson, No. 1 Company, 56th Battalion, 32 points.

District average figure of merit 9.76—(For names of best shots and other averages I refer you to the District Target Practice Returns.)

The health of the men while in camp was, on the whole, excellent. Two accidents of a rather serious nature however occurred—one man had his ear shot off, and one got his own bayonet run through his leg while skirmishing. This latter was a very unusual occurrence, and could not be attributed to carelessness. I at the time convened Boards of officers to enquire into the particulars of these cases, whose reports have already been forwarded.

The General Hospital at Ottawa proved of great value to us, four severe cases had to be sent there, for which the charges were very moderate.

The discipline on the whole was fair, but it was necessary to send a regimental court martial on one man, who was sentenced to thirty days imprisonment at hard labour. This sentence was carried out in common with the County of Carleton.

It being actually necessary that the men have a meal after reaching camp on the first day, I think authority should be given to issue a sufficient quantity of rations for that purpose. As many companies do not require the full ration on the last day, the officer commanding the camp might be authorized to issue on that day such quantity as he may consider actually necessary. By this arrangement the twenty five cents in lieu of rations on the first day would cover the deficiency of rations on the last day, and the stop-

pages would ensure the Department against loss.

The present forage cap is neither suitable for summer or winter, and as it is held in utter contempt by the great majority of the men it becomes a serious matter of discipline to enforce its use.

It became my painful duty to report the death, on the 28th November, of Lieut. Col. Duncan MacDougall, District Paymaster of this District, and favourably known throughout Ontario as having occupied several important positions in connection with the Active Militia, during a period of about nineteen years.

Major Mattice, Brigade Major, and the following officers who were appointed temporarily to serve on the Staff, viz: Captain Butterfield, Supply Officer; Capt. Weatherley, Musketry Instructor; Captain Jones, Camp Quarter Master, and Lieutenant Supply, Orderly Officer, rendered me valuable assistance during the encampment.

During the past few years there has been so much said and written on the subject of improving the Militia system, that one might well be deterred from alluding to so important a matter, but as has heretofore been the custom, in compliance with the instructions of the late Adjutant General, and as I think considerable improvement can be made without any radical change in our present system or organization, I venture to submit for consideration the annexed crude memorandum.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your most obedt. servant,  
W. H. JACKSON, Lieut. Col.

Deputy Adjut. General,  
Military District No. 4.

Deputy Adjutant General of Militia,  
Ottawa.

#### Memorandum.

Since the departure of the Imperial troops, the Active Militia in the greater part of Canada have had no pattern soldier to copy, and if this state of things is allowed to continue for a long period, the force must necessarily, under our present system of short drills, very much deteriorate. In order to obviate this difficulty, so far as practicable without a large increase of expenditure, the following is suggested.

Abolish the present system of company drill instruction and care of arms, in lieu of which, give each captain (who should be bound, as at present, to provide a properly fitted up armory) fifty dollars per annum.

Appointed from the regular army, one paid non-commissioned officer (married if possible) to each corps or battalion, as drill instructor and caretaker. It would be his duty to take general supervision of all stores, and keep them clean, &c., clean; to be constantly in uniform, moving about between the several company headquarters, cleaning and regulating the whole of the Government stores at each visit.

The appearance of even this small number of regular soldiers constantly moving about the country, would naturally foster and keep alive a military spirit among our rural population; as well as act as a pattern for the volunteers. The expense would be but little, if any, in excess of the present system, and a large annual saving would be effected by preventing deterioration in battalion stores. Considerable drill and target practice would doubtless be carried out at company headquarters, which at present is wholly neglected, and there is no doubt whatever but the efficiency of the force would be much increased. The system to apply to all arms of the service.