

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE OF  
THE MILITIA FOR 1870.

*The Honorable Sir George E. Cartier, Bart  
Minister of Militia &c., &c.*

Sir,—During the year 1870, events of importance in connection with the defence of the country, and involving considerable action on the part of the Militia and the Department, have occurred. This has resulted partly from the attempted invasion by Fenians from the United States, in the early part of the year, partly from the necessity of raising and organizing a Militia Force for service in the North-West Territories, and despatching the same to the Province of Manitoba, in conjunction with a portion of Her Majesty's regular troops; but chiefly from the labor and responsibility that has devolved on the Department, in taking over the entire military charge of the country west of Quebec, consequent on the withdrawal of the regular troops from all parts of the Dominion west of that station.

In addition to which, the necessary inspection and supervision of the Active Militia has been duly attended to (certain improvements connected therewith being initiated), as well as improved arrangements made for carrying out the second enrolment of the Reserve Militia. The circumstances connected with these events are as follows. Early in the month of April, apprehension being entertained of an intended Fenian raid from the United States on the southern frontier, I had the honor, when called on by Government, to take the necessary steps to hold in readiness such number of the Active Militia as might be deemed sufficient for the emergency, and to submit for adoption the following measures:—

1st. That the four frontier Battalions of Active Militia, resident in Military District No. 5, south of the St. Lawrence and west of Lake Memphremagog, viz: The 50th battalion, head-quarters at Huntingdon, numbering 29 officers and 258 non-commissioned officers and men; the 51st battalion, head-quarters at Hemmingford, numbering 31 officers, and 314 non-commissioned officers and men; the 52nd battalion, head-quarters at Knowlton, numbering 29 officers, and 250 non-commissioned officers and men; and the 60th battalion, head-quarters at Durham, numbering 21 officers and 200 non-commissioned officers and men, should at once be called out for active service, and placed upon frontier duty for the military protection of that part of the country.

2nd. That the Montreal Troop of Cavalry, numbering 3 officers and 30 troopers, should be directed to proceed at once to Hemmingford, to be employed on patrol and outpost duty along the frontier, west of the Richelieu.

3rd. That the Cookshire Troop of Cavalry, numbering 3 officers and 45 troopers should be sent by rail (the roads at that time being in very bad condition) via Sherbrooke, St. Lambert's and Stanbridge, and from thence march to Frelighsburg, as their head-quarters, for outpost and patrol duty east of Lake Champlain.

4th. That the above force should be placed under the immediate command of the Deputy Adjutant General Commanding, Military District No. 5, subject to such orders as he might receive from time to time.

5th. That in the event of the regular troops being ordered from Montreal to the front, all the Active Militia Corps there should be held in readiness to turn out for garrison duty in Montreal, or for such other service as might be required.

6th. That such portions of Col. Rodier's

battalion of Active Militia as were then equipped and ready, having their headquarters at Beauharnois, should, together with the St. Martine Company, be placed on active service for the protection of the Beauharnois Canal, acting also as supports and posts of communication with the Huntingdon line of defence.

7th. That the gunboat *Rescue*, then lying at Kingston, should be manned, armed, and placed on duty at Prescott, for patrol service on the river frontier of Military District No. 4, and that the gunboat *Prince Alfred*, then lying at Goderich, should be likewise placed on service and ordered to Sarnia for the protection of the St. Clair frontier.

8th. That the above force should remain on duty until the alarm had subsided, and that to ensure unity of command, arrangements should be made to enable the Lieutenant General commanding Her Majesty's regular troops to assume the command in chief of the Militia so called out.

All these recommendations were duly approved of by an Order in Council, dated 9th April, 1870, the command in chief of the Militia called out, being placed in the hands of the Lieut. General commanding the regular troops, and Lieut.-Col. Osborne Smith, Deputy Adjutant General Commanding Military District No. 5, (an officer well acquainted with the roads and localities on the frontier of his district, the one then most threatened,) assumed the immediate command of the above force in his district, proceeding to post the various pickets, and to make the necessary military dispositions.

On the 12th April, for the protection of the St. Clair frontier, a force of Militia, consisting of a demi-battery of Field Artillery (two guns, with 35 gunners and drivers,) two companies of the 7th Battalion of Infantry (110 men,) was placed on duty at Sarnia, and the St. Thomas Troop of Cavalry, 40 strong, the Windsor Company of Infantry, 55 strong, and the Leamington Independent Company of Infantry, 55 strong, posted at Windsor; the force at Sarnia being under the command of Lieut.-Col. Shanly, of the London Field Battery, and that at Windsor under Major Walker, of the 7th Battalion.

On the 11th April, in consequence of additional information received by Government, it was considered desirable to call out a force of 5000 men, to be taken chiefly from Military districts Nos. 5, 6 and 7. To this call the Active Militia in those districts at once responded with their well-known promptitude and alacrity, and within forty-eight hours after the receipt of the order very many were assembled at, and all on their way to, their respective posts. The states marked A and B, in the appendix, will show the number then placed on duty on the southern frontier.

The remainder of the force called out at this time being concentrated at Montreal and Quebec; a proportion, however, of the Grand Trunk Brigade being judiciously disposed at certain vulnerable points along the line of the Grand Trunk Railway, by its commandant, Lieut.-Col. C. J. Brydges, and including the number already mentioned on the St. Clair frontier, a force, in all, of 6000 men, was stationed where required in a very short space of time.

By returns received from Montreal, dated 20th April, upwards of 2000 of the Active Militia were held there in reserve, ready, if required, to support those on duty on the Missisquoi, Huntingdon and Hemmingford frontiers, and at Quebec 1637 officers and men were there concentrated.

At Montreal, at an inspection held on the

20th April, and at which H. R. H. Prince Arthur was present, it will be seen by the field state marked C, in appendix, that a brigade of nearly two thousand of the Active Militia was there on that day under arms.

On the 21st April, it being considered by that time unnecessary to retain the whole of the force then embodied, on duty, orders were transmitted for the release from duty of all, with the exception of the 50th, 51st, 52nd, 60th, and Beauharnois Battalions, and the two troops of cavalry originally placed on the southern frontier, and who remained at their posts until the 29th April, when they were also withdrawn. The gunboats *Rescue* and *Prince Alfred*, however, being still kept on their respective stations.

About the same time that these precautions against threatened Fenian attack from the United States were being made, it having been agreed by the Dominion Government to raise and despatch a military contingent, in conjunction with a portion of Her Majesty's regular troops, to the new Province of Manitoba, (about to be confederated with the Dominion of Canada,) for the maintenance of law and order there; in accordance with instructions received, I had the honor to submit the following scheme of organization for the Dominion Force required (750 men,) which was duly approved of by Order in Council, dated 16th April, 1870, and adopted. In that report it was recommended that the Dominion contingent should consist of two battalions of riflemen, to be designated respectively the 1st or Ontario Battalion of Rifles, and the 2nd or Quebec Battalion, each corps to consist of seven companies, and each company of fifty non-commissioned officers and men, having one captain, one lieutenant, and one ensign to each company, the staff of each battalion to consist of one lieutenant-colonel, one major, one adjutant with rank of captain, one paymaster, one quartermaster-sergeant, one hospital sergeant, one surgeon, one sergeant-major, one armourer sergeant, and one paymaster's clerk, thus making the strength of each battalion 375 including officers, staff sergeants, non-commissioned officers and men; and it was further recommended that two chaplains should be appointed to accompany this Force, one from the Church of England, the other from the Church of Rome.

It was also recommended that the officers and men for these battalions should be allowed to volunteer from existing corps of Active Militia, if possible, drawn in equal proportions, according to the strength of the Active Militia in the seven Military Districts forming the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec; that the rate of pay and allowances for the officers should be the same as laid down in paragraph 286 in the "Rules and Regulations for the Active Militia," with free rations when on the march, or encamped, and the pay of the non-commissioned officers and men as follows:—

Sergeant-Major	.....	\$20	per month.
Quartermaster-Sergt	.....	20	" "
Hospital Sergt	.....	18	" "
Paymaster's Clerk	.....	18	" "
Armourer-Sergt	.....	18	" "
Color-Sergt	.....	18	" "
Sergeants	.....	15	" "
Corps'ls and Buglers	.....	13	" "
Privates	.....	12	" "

Each non-commissioned officer and man receiving, in addition to their pay, free rations and lodgings.

It was further recommended, that the men so selected should be between the ages