

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE MILITIA FOR 1872.

(Continued from Page 218.)

The Province of Nova Scotia, figure of merit 12.88, was the best shooting Province. Military District No. 4, figure of merit 13.12, the best shooting district; the 3rd Battalion G.F.R.B. figure of merit, 20.07, the best shooting Battalion. No. 4 Company (Richmond P.Q.) Grand Trunk Railway Brigade, figure of merit 33.67, the best shooting Company; and Sergeant Major J. Lemonde, No. 1 Company, Charlevoix Provisional Battalion, in Military District No. 7, who obtained 57 points out of a possible score of 60, making at 200 yards 20 points, at 400 yards 19 points, and at 600 yards 18 points, was the best shot in the Active Militia of the Dominion of Canada at the Annual Drill of 1872.

Sergeant Major Lemonde thus winning in addition to the company, battalion, and Military district prizes, the Adjutant General's Prize of a silver medal with \$50, awarded annually by the Adjutant General with a view to promote efficiency and skill at arms to the best shot among the non-commissioned officers and men in the Militia of the Dominion at the time of the annual training.

The Reports of Major G. H. Dartnell, Military District No. 2, and Major Vanco Gravelly, 40th Battalion, the Officers who acted as Musketry Instructors to the Corps assembled in the camps near Niagara and Kingston respectively, will be found in the Appendix, and these officers discharged their duties with much zeal and assiduity. The officers who acted as Musketry Instructors at the other Camps were equally attentive. No casualty, or accident is reported to have occurred last year to any men whilst at target practice in the various camps of exercise, and the firing regulations contained in the General Orders of 31st May last, carefully framed to prevent carelessness and guard the men from accident, were found complete.

During the past year a proposal was made to the Government by Lieut. Colonel Casimir Stanislas Gzowski, President of the Dominion Rifle Association, (an officer who has rendered good public services by promoting the formation and success of rifle Associations in Canada) to obtain Government aid and support in sending a body of Canadian representative marksmen belonging to corps of the Active Militia to compete at Wimbledon, England against the marksmen of the mother country.

This proposal met with approval, and I received instructions from the Government to organize and despatch the body as an accredited military body.

The reception and welcome given to this Canadian Detachment by our fellow countrymen in the mother country was most gratifying.

All ranks and classes vied to do them honor.

On arrival at Wimbledon, the Canadian camp was formed and the tents pitched by a detachment of Her Majesty's Foot Guards.

From the hands of royalty the Canadian victors received their prizes, and the Premier Minister of England was among the first to congratulate them on their success.

The individual and collective efficiency of the Canadian Detachment was the theme of universal admiration. Eight Canadian marksmen out of the Detachment competed for the Raja of Kolapore's prize against the eight best marksmen of the mother country,

brought forward for the trial, and obtained a victory.

The prize given by the Secretary of State for War, was gained by Sergeant Turnbull of the Grand Trunk Rifles, and it is reported that the Canadian detachment as a body, exhibited a skill in rifle shooting never before displayed at Wimbledon.

It is beyond doubt that an excellent effect would be produced by the Annual despatch of a Canadian detachment to compete at Wimbledon, irrespective of the stimulus thereby given towards promoting the efficiency of the Militia.

The good conduct and discipline observed by the Canadian detachment at Wimbledon last year reflected as much honor on their country, as the skill at arms displayed by them.

The officer directed to proceed in charge of the party, Major P. W. Worsley, Brigade Major of the Grand Trunk Brigade, discharged his duty with tact and ability, and the instructions issued for his guidance were found complete.

The Report of Major P. W. Worsley contains an interesting and detailed account of the whole proceedings, with the list of prizes won, and the names of the winners, and as the subject is one of great interest to the militia and people of Canada, it is published in the Appendix for general information.

The skillful shooting of the eight Canadians was almost unexampled, and to commemorate this, eight gold medals have been recently ordered by the Dominion Government for presentation to the successful winners.

The total cost connected with the performance of this service including all incidental expenses incurred previous to the departure of the party from Canada, and subsequent to their return home, amounted to \$5,250, probably no sum of money connected with the militia was ever laid out to more advantage.

The sum of \$5,000 was contributed out of the public funds to aid the Dominion Rifle Association in carrying out this laudable object, and the balance \$250, was subscribed by the Dominion Rifle Association.

ARTILLERY.

The Regimental Command and annual training of Artillery Corps in the Province of Ontario is under Lieut. Colonel G. French, the senior inspector of Artillery and Warlike stores for the Dominion.

The Regimental Command and annual training of Artillery corps in the Province of Quebec is under Lieut. Col. T.B. Strange, and Inspector of Artillery and Warlike Stores for the Dominion.

The Regimental annual training of Artillery corps in the Province of New Brunswick for last year, was superintended by Lieut. Col. Darel R. Iago, A.A.G.A.

In the Province of Nova Scotia the officer commanding the Militia in that province reports that 12 batteries of Garrison Artillery performed their gun practice from a Battery belonging to the Imperial Artillery kindly placed at their disposal by Lieut. General Sir Haslings Doyle K.C.M.G., Commanding Her Majesty's Regular Army in British North America, and the practice made by the Halifax battery, with their Six Pounder Armstrong guns, at 1,800 yards range, as well as the efficiency of the Corps appears to have been considered satisfactory by Colonel Gibbon, C.B., Commanding the Imperial Artillery at Halifax.

In addition to reporting on the State of the Artillery in the Province of Ontario, I directed Lieut. Colonel G. French as the Se-

nior Artillery Inspector in the Militia of the Dominion, to report generally, for my information, on Artillery matters connected with the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Lieut. Col. French reports for my information as follows:—

FIELD ARTILLERY, ONTARIO.

"The force of this arm in this Province is 9 batteries.

"The Durham and Gananoque batteries have only recently been raised; they performed their drill at the school of Gunnery, Kingston, this year, not having as yet received any equipment.

"The other batteries performed their drill in camp, with the infantry and cavalry of their districts. They were all inspected by me, and the particulars connected therewith will be found in the annexed inspection report.

"In addition to the above field batteries the St. Catharines Garrison battery has received two 18 pounder guns of position, which, I understand the captain will be able to find horses for. Two such guns on the Niagara Frontier properly horsed form a valuable addition to the defensive force of the Province.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

"There is only one battery in this Province viz., at Newcastle. It had not turned out for annual training at the time I inspected the New Brunswick Garrison Artillery in August.

"I am informed that another field battery is about to be raised at Woodstock. This town being situated in the centre of a fine farming country, good horses will doubtless be available for the battery; the situation also is far preferable to Newcastle, the latter being much further from the frontier.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The only approach to a field battery in this Province is the 6 pounder Armstrong Battery, reported on fully last year. I did not see the battery this year, but Colonel Gibbon, C.B. commanding the Imperial Artillery in British North America, informed me that he inspected the battery at practice—that he thought the shooting excellent, and that he was quite surprised at the ready manner in which all his questions were answered by the officers. Such an encomium, from so high an authority is a sufficient proof of the efficiency of this battery as at present organized.

"During the past year fourteen 9-pounder muzzle-loading rifle guns have been purchased. One complete battery was given to the London field battery, and this corps took them to camp at Windsor in July last.

"I pointed out last year the fact that our field batteries, although equipped with only four guns each, have to learn their drill from a book which treats only of drill from a six gun battery; taking this into account with the additional fact that the new guns being fitted with axletree seats, a change in the drill must necessarily ensue. I have resolved should time and circumstances admit to draw up and submit for your approval, a small manual of field artillery exercises suitable for our batteries.

"The appointment of a Major to each field battery as recommended in your two last reports will, I trust, be adopted before the next annual training. This change has been carried out in the Imperial Artillery, and with us there is the additional reason