

result was satisfactory to the extent possible in the meagre instruction of twelve days. I saw some very fine battalions of Infantry at Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton and London. I occasionally met isolated companies performing their drill with what knowledge they had. The Cavalry Troop at Quebec, under an able officer, Lieut.-Colonel Turnbull, gave me satisfaction. The Artillery, wherever I met them, were far beyond an average. Landing at Pictou I was agreeably surprised by finding a smart and very efficient Garrison battery, which both in the field and at their guns, were instructed with intelligence and good effect. Strange as it may seem, the brigade at Halifax, which from its advantage in the presence and example of Her Majesty's regular troops ought naturally to have been the best, compares less favorably with the others. The reason for this is apparent to me.

All the corps that I inspected, with one exception paraded in the field, and thus I was able to judge of the proficiency of their mounted officers in taking up and dressing points and generally superintending the battalion; likewise the knowledge of company officers, guides and markers, I can speak favorably as a general rule. Every possible effort was apparent; all eagerly intent upon appearing to the best advantage. The broken ground on which they manœuvred tried the steadiness of the several battalions. The regiment that preferred the drill shed was strong in the ranks, well clothed, well armed and equipped, looked well, and on the flat floor on which they moved they were creditable. Of their proficiency in the field I form no judgment, nor whether their field officers can ride, without which accomplishment a staff or field officer is useless for active service. Only two of all the Infantry battalions I reviewed had practised the new formation for attack, probably because it was late in the season when the change reached us from England, and also because from confined space some of them had no means of practice in extended order.

The clothing, arms and appointments of all the city battalions are in a serviceable state. I cannot speak too highly of the great care taken by the commanding and other officers of these good battalions, and I regret to say some of them labor under disadvantage in point of armouries and storerooms, which leaves me in admiration of the zeal that animates them.

In so large a force some are and must be better than others; but I must not criticise, for all really do their best. I am afraid I could not speak quite confidently of some of the country battalions, and it is not in the nature of things that there should not be exceptions, but it is easily understood that so long as our small appropriation renders it impossible to assemble companies at battalion headquarters, and drill them under the orders and superintendence of experienced commanding officers, so long will it be expending money to no purpose at all in what is termed "company drill," under officers who though ever so willing, are in many instances rusty in their duties.