

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE OF
THE MILITIA FOR 1870.

(CONTINUED.)

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

PROVINCE OF MANITOBA.

The force despatched to the Province of Manitoba in the month of June last, duly arrived at Fort Garry without accident, encountering those difficulties, however, incidental to so long a journey through a comparatively untravelled country. The advanced party, did not reach Fort Garry until the 24th of August, and they were joined shortly afterwards by the remainder.

This force (three-fourths of its strength consisting of militia) was a joint expedition despatched by the Imperial and Dominion Governments, on the agreement that three-fourths of the men required were to be furnished, and three-fourths of the expenses borne by the Dominion, and although by the wise measures of both Governments, all danger of a collision with our fellow subjects in "Manitoba" had been happily removed previous to its departure (the expedition being purely "a mission of peace,") it proceeded nevertheless in accordance with military rule, properly equipped with all necessary stores and appliances, and as its route lay through a country destitute of supplies, conveying the necessary subsistence: the manner in which this expedition performed its long and toilsome journey, cheerfully enduring the hardships inseparable therefrom, elicited the marked approval of His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief of the Regular Army.

A few days after reaching their destination, that portion of the force consisting of the regular troops, commenced their homeward journey to Canada, the two Militia battalions remaining in Manitoba. On the withdrawal of the regular troops, the arrangements for the military command of the Militia devolved on the Adjutant-General; the senior Militia officer, present in Manitoba (Lieut.-Colonel S. P. Jarvis,) was directed, in general orders to assume and take over the command of the Militia in the district, the 1st or Ontario Battalion of Riflemen was quartered in Upper Fort Garry; the 2nd or Quebec Battalion in Lower Fort Garry; and subsequently one company of the Ontario Battalion was detached to occupy the Hudson's Bay Company's post at Pembina. Necessary instructions in detail, for the guidance of the officers commanding in Manitoba were duly transmitted by the Adjutant-General, as also those required for the victualling and supplying of the troops, and the same has been most satisfactorily carried out by the officer in command, and by Major Peebles, the supply officer, in Manitoba.

On the 1st of September (that being the date on which it had been arranged with the Imperial authorities to despatch them,) ample supplies of new uniforms, winter clothing, bedding, hospital stores, medicines, the whole of the officers' heavy baggage, and a certain number of books to form a soldiers' reading-room, were forwarded to Fort Garry by the Adjutant-General, in charge of Capt. Perry, Canadian Militia, who proceeded via St. Paul's Minnesota and Pembina, and duly reached Fort Garry with the whole of this baggage, amounting in all to two hundred and twelve pieces, in perfect order, on the 26th day of October, having traversed a distance of 2263 miles. The timely arrival of these supplies was fully appreciated by

the troops, and Capt. Perry executed his mission with great judgment and energy.

The necessary arrangements for erecting temporary barracks and housing the men in Manitoba were effected with as little delay as possible, and, as far as means at disposal would admit, under arrangements made by the Department of Public Works, the soldiers themselves executing great part of the work, and before the winter had set in, the troops in Manitoba were all warmly housed, and sufficiently provided to meet the winter season.

In short no measures that could conduce to the comfort and welfare of the force, left to garrison Manitoba, were neglected by the Militia Department, and it may be safely affirmed that no body of troops have ever been more liberally paid, clothed, and provided for than these two battalions belonging to the Dominion of Canada.

As the first period of service for which the men, composing these corps, were engaged, expires on the 1st May next, and as many of them are desirous of obtaining their discharge for the purpose of settling in the Province of Manitoba, and as the necessity, moreover, for maintaining, under arms, so large a force in that Province no longer exists, (the peaceful solution of all difficulties there having (as anticipated) been happily realized,) the reduction on 1st May next of the greater portion of these battalions has been decided on, and I had the honor, when called upon by Government for a report, to recommend that the reduction of the force should be carried out in the following manner:—

1st. That on the 1st May next the force at Manitoba should be reduced to two companies (total strength 86,) to be under the command of a field officer, and that the officers and men of these two companies, should be retained for a six month's longer period of duty, and liable, if required by Government, to a further service of another six month's the whole period not to exceed one year from the 1st May next.

2nd. That the men should be composed, if possible, of Volunteers, in equal proportions from both battalions, preference being given to those individuals purposing on discharge to settle in Manitoba.

3rd. That officers commanding battalions should nominate company officers, the field officer in command to be nominated from head-quarters.

4th. That those officers and men desirous of settling in Manitoba should receive their discharge in that Province on 1st May next, and that they should receive grants of land in such proportion and on such condition as the Government may deem fit to make.

5th. That the men so discharged should be invited to enrol themselves in the Active Militia Force, intended to be organized hereafter for the Province of Manitoba, in accordance with the provisions of the Militia Act, as applicable to the rest of the Dominion.

6th. That all those officers and men of the two battalions, who are not desirous of remaining in the Province of Manitoba, or included in the two companies retained for further service there, should be brought back to Canada at the public expense, in accordance with the terms of their engagement, as soon after the 1st May next as circumstances admit.

7th. That the Province of Manitoba be formed into a Militia Military District, numbered No. 10, and that the field officer left in command of the two companies, remaining as a temporary garrison, should have the command of all the Militia enrolled in the district, until such time as a militia staff

officer shall be appointed to the command of this Militia district.

8th. That on the reduction of the force in Manitoba all the arms, ammunition and military stores, now in possession of the troops there, should be stored in an armoury and magazine at Fort Garry, in order that the same may be available for the service of the Militia in that Province, whenever required.

The whole of these recommendations were approved of by an order in Council, dated 19th January, 1871, and the necessary detailed instructions for carrying the same into effect have been transmitted to the officer commanding the Militia in Manitoba.

MILITARY SCHOOLS.

During the past year the following number of Cadets obtained first and second class certificate:—

Provinces.	1st class.	2nd class.	No. of Cadets remaining in the Military Schools on 1st January, 1871.
Ontario.....	20	151	Schools closed since 1st June, 1870.
Quebec.....	29	229	6
New Brunswick	3	77	6
Nova Scotia.....	1	90	12
Totals.....	53	559	78

And a much larger number would have obtained certificates of qualification but for the fact that three of the military schools, viz., those at Toronto, Kingston and Montreal, were closed on the 1st June last, owing to the withdrawal of the regular troops from those stations. The total number of Cadets who have obtained certificates of qualification, since the first establishment of these schools in 1864, to 1st January, 1871, is as follows:—

Provinces.	1st class.	2nd class.
Ontario.....	497	2,240
Quebec.....	711	2,141
New Brunswick	7	145
Nova Scotia.....	9	181
Totals.....	1,227	4,707

Giving a grand total of 5967.

From the above it will be seen that nearly 6000 individuals have received military training in these practical schools of instruction, obtaining from the commandants of the respective schools (field officers in the regular army) certificates of their fitness to act as company and battalion commanders. A certain proportion, also obtaining gunnery certificates from the School of Gunnery formed for their instruction by the Royal Artillery.

The value of these schools for practical instruction in military exercises, and training officers to command companies and battalions is very great, and as no such advantageous system existed for training officers of the Volunteer Force in England, it appears that a plan, similar in principle to what has been adopted in Canada, is about to be followed there. Indeed some provision for the training of officers of the Militia is indispensable, otherwise, when the force is called out in defence of the country, those appointed to lead and command corps would be ignorant of how to do so.

Owing to the withdrawal of the regular troops from all stations west of Quebec, in order to keep up the system of training established in those districts from which such aid had been withdrawn, it became necessary to re-open the schools at Toronto, Kingston and Montreal, forming the same on the staff of the Militia at those places, and as certain abuses in regard to the number and selection of individuals for admission to such schools as military Cadets had crept in, I had the honour to recommend the follow-