

Lieut.-Colonel Taylor's report, together with the detailed state of the respective corps submitted in the Tabular Annual Inspection Returns, will be found in the Appendix.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 2.

The authorized strength of the Active Militia in this District, all arms and ranks, is 7,412, the actual number, all arms and ranks, who have performed the Annual Drill for 1871-72, 6,011; to complete corps in their proper strength 1,401 officers and men are required, there being a deficiency of sixty eight officers, and 1,333 N. C. officers and men. In this district there are seven troops of Cavalry, three Field Batteries of Garrison Artillery, fourteen Battalions and one Independent Company of Infantry, forming the following corps:—

Cavalry.

- Governor General's Body Guard Troop,
- Oak Ridges Troop,
- Markham do
- St. Catharines do
- Grimsbay do
- Burford do
- Queenston Mounted Infantry
- Barrie do do

Field Batteries.

- Toronto Field Battery,
- Hamilton do do
- Welland do do

Garrison Artillery.

- Toronto Garrison Battery,
- Collingwood do
- St. Catharines do

Infantry Battalions and one Independent Company.

- 2nd Battalion (Queen's Own)
- 10th do (Royals)
- 12th do
- 13th do
- 19th do
- 20th do
- 31st do
- 34th do
- 35th do
- 36th do
- 37th do
- 38th do
- 39th do
- 44th do
- Sault Ste. Marie Independent Company.

The 20th, 31st and 35th Battalion, the Toronto Garrison Battery, and Barrie Mounted Infantry, performed the Annual Drill at their own head-quarters—the Collingwood and St. Catharines Batteries on board the gunboat "Prince Alfred"—the remainder of the corps were assembled in Camp at Niagara on the 6th June, and formed into a division for sixteen days' continuous drill. The division was under the command of Lieut. Col. Durie, commanding the Militia in Military District No. 2, and the Force was concentrated in camp at Niagara, on the immediate frontier, in one day (6th June), with the exception of one corps, the 39th Battalion, County Norfolk, which, having to come upwards of 120 miles from its regimental head quarters, could not join the division till the following day. Most of the corps were brought to Niagara by waggon, rail or steamboat, several of the Cavalry Troops, and a portion of the Field Artillery and Infantry, however, marching to camp. The Welland Field Battery marched a distance of twenty five miles from Port Robinson to Niagara during the night of the 5th June, reaching camp early in the morning. The arrangements for this rapid concentration were well planned and carried out in a

manner reflecting much credit on Lieut. Col. Durie, his staff, and commanding officers of corps, especially upon those officers of the Field Artillery who moved their guns, waggons, and horses by steamboat and rail with out any accident whatever. The average distance travelled by the different corps to reach Niagara was upwards of ninety miles, not only was this rapid concentration of the men effected easily and without confusion, but also the necessary large supplies of food and camp equipage, together with a very considerable supply of ammunition required for target practice. The Field Batteries came with their proper supply of service ammunition, and it may be said that this force of nearly 6,000 men, was concentrated in one day, at a strategic point of importance on the immediate frontier, almost in a condition to enter upon a campaign. A small portable medicine box was provided for every corps, and had the division been called on to undertake operations in the field, it would have been easy to attach a few waggons to every battalion and corps for the transport of provisions, ammunition, hospital equipment, camp equipage, &c., and to issue to the Infantry a proper description of boot for marching. On arriving at Niagara on the 7th June, I found this camp well formed and laid out according to annexed plan.

The position of the camp, in a military point of view, was well chosen; the front being protected by the Niagara River, the left flank by the town of Niagara and Lake Ontario, the right and rear by thick woods; the camp was laid out with regularity in the manner directed in the Militia Orders and Regulations, which is an approved method; it formed three sides of a large square, the front of the position being commanded by the field guns when parked; 600 bell tents were pitched, there being in addition many large marquees used as regimental canteens, or for officers' messes. Lieut. Col. Durie reported that he received great assistance in laying out this camp from Major and Brevet Lieut.-Colonel T. C. Scoble, 37th Battalion, who is a zealous Militia officer. Circumstances permitted my remaining at Niagara during nearly the whole time the troops were there, and I was thus enabled not only to inspect every corps, and muster personally every officer, man and horse present, but also to watch closely the working of the system. Lieutenant Mason 13th Battalion, acted as supply officer, and no man could have performed his important duties with greater zeal and ability; from daylight to dark this officer was at his work, receiving and distributing the ration supplies: Lieut.-Colonel Mackenzie, 35th Battalion (his own corps not being in the camp) acted as camp quarter master with equal zeal and activity, whilst Brevet Major G. H. Dartnell, 34th Battalion, Musketry Instructor to the division, performed his laborious duties with marked success; it was mainly to this officer's energy that the whole of the corps were put through the prescribed course of target practice within the time allowed; Lieutenant Goddes, of the Hamilton Field Battery performed the duties of orderly officer, and was most useful, the two permanent Brigade Majors of the District, Lt. Cols. Donison and Villiers, attending with customary efficiency to their own legitimate duties, ably supported Lieutenant-Colonel Durie in his command. It certainly was most creditable to the staff of this division, that a force of the strength and description assembled, could be concentrated so rapidly, supplied, drilled and maintained from day to day for a period of sixteen days, and then dispersed to their respective corps' head-

quarters as quickly, as they had been assembled, not only without any fuss or confusion, as frequently happens on such occasions, but without accident or injury of any kind occurring.

The routine of drill carried on by the corps in this, as in all the other camps, was similar to that observed at the Godorich camp, and as prescribed in the General Orders of 5th May, 1871. The Cavalry Corps (7 troops) were formed in a provisional regiment for drill and administrative purposes, under the command of the senior Cavalry officer, Lieutenant-Colonel McLeod—both officers and men presented a good appearance, were mounted on serviceable horses, and considering that they had never been previously brought together acquitted themselves creditably on parade. The three Field Batteries (12 guns), were placed under the command of the senior Artillery officer present (Captain Smith of the Hamilton Battery), and the Inspector of Artillery (who inspected these batteries regimentally) reports upon them as follows—"Gun drill good, driving fair, but some officers and non-commissioned officers not well up in field manoeuvres; shot and shell practice good; the batteries generally well horsed; the Welland Battery not as good at manoeuvring as the other two, but it has not the same advantages; this Battery marched twenty-five miles to camp in one day, and also marched back to its local Headquarters in the same time; the Hamilton Battery marched twelve miles to St. Catharines, from thence by rail. Capt. Groy who commands the Toronto Field Battery, is a very efficient officer." Of the Infantry Battalions (11 in number), four Battalions were in rifle, the rest in scarlet uniform clothing; the arms, generally speaking, were in good order, and the accoutrements, although of various kinds and some of obsolete pattern, were yet serviceable; many articles, however, were wanting which I was informed had been originally issued by the Department, but subsequently lost.

(To be continued.)

The rumor that the British Government had arranged with Canada to declare the independence of that colony in case of war with us, thus relieving the province from any share in the duel, is proved to be untrue. The only use that has been made of it so far as we know, is by the author of the "Invasion of Canada in 1874," published in the *Volunteer Review*, of Canada. It purports to be written in 1900 by a retired militiaman and the author seems to have anticipated his senility, for he has produced the most idiotic of the many dreary attempts at campaigning on paper, which have followed the "Battle of Dorking." Looking through the historians spectacles, we should judge the Canadian militia to be made up of an unrivalled collection of Jack the Giant-killers. The "Yankees" get an awful drubbing, and it would probably have been worse if the historian had not felt it his duty to expend a part of his space in letting the "Whig Radicals" who now govern England know whither they were tending. Since the folly of this "battle" business has now reached its extreme, we hope that the gentry who have devoted their talents to the task will suffer this effort of our contemporary to be the valdictory. It certainly is fitted to be the tail piece to any exhibition of stupidity that can be conceived of.—*Army and Navy Journal*.