
who especially selected a high class of artizans and artificers, is a very superior company, and its commanding officer is most capable of rendering valuable service.

The reserve of stores of all kinds is maintained and replenished according to our means. We have a fair average supply of most things necessary for general use and under Lieut.-Colonel Wily's direction and that of his District Storekeepers, the equipment and war material in charge is in good order. The Reserve is perhaps sufficient for the Active force while not required to take the field; but with a view to emergency and the possible necessity for calling out some of the Reserve Militia, I should suggest the prudence of adding to our stores.

We have no reserve of military clothing; the yearly supply hardly meets the yearly wants, and as I said last year, under the present system this will soon be absorbed. With 43,000 men we should require one-third, or 14,000 suits to be issued each year, and as our funds only enable us to purchase outfits for about five or six thousand per annum, we shall soon reach the end unless a larger vote is taken or the Active force reduced as before proposed.

We have a reserve of 21,000 Snider rifles, and about 8,000 rifles and carbines of various patterns, which I think had better be sold and their places filled by 10,000 Sniders from England; of gunpowder we have about 200,000 pounds, and of Snider ball cartridges, about seven and a half million rounds. In addition, about a million and a half of cartridges are ordered from England, and upwards of 30,000 pounds of powder. Of shell of various sorts we have about 17,000 for Field Artillery, or about 290 rounds per gun, besides 100 rounds per gun in addition ordered from England. For the new $\frac{3}{4}$ converted rifled guns we have 200 rounds of shell for each. In the item of ammunition therefore we are fairly provided, but we should have at least 10,000 additional Snider rifles in stock. We have suffered much loss this year from accidental fires in various parts of the country; in rifles alone we have had 2,013 destroyed, upwards of 1,500 of these in the appalling fire by which half the City of St. John, New Brunswick, was burnt; these were lodged in the barracks and stores adjacent, all of which were laid in ruins. But our loss by the great fire of St. John is not confined to rifles and clothing. When so many thousand people in the course of a few hours became houseless, an urgent appeal was made by the Mayor for tents and blankets from Militia stores; about 586 marquees and round tents, and 2,690 blankets were immediately issued from Quebec and Halifax, and sent wholesale to the Mayor of St. John, instead of being delivered for issue by the Military Staff on the spot. But there was little time for reflection and so in haste these articles were handed to the unfortunate sufferers. We have lost all the blankets, seven marquees and twelve circular tents, besides the equipment for all the tents issued, I fear those returned are hardly serviceable and as the amount of subscription sent to St. John was enormous, they ought to pay for the loss we have sustained and which we cannot afford.