



The Volunteer Review

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REPORT OF THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL.

(Continued from Page 255.)

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 8.

The Force in this District consists of one Regiment of Cavalry (7 troops); one Field Battery of Artillery; one Brigade of Garrison Artillery; one company of engineers four Battalions and nine Independent Companies of Infantry, composed of the following corps:—

The New Brunswick Regiment of Cavalry.
 Newcastle Field Battery.
 New Brunswick Brigade of Garrison Artillery.
 St. John Company of Engineers.
 67th Battalion of Infantry.
 71st do do
 73rd do do
 74th do do
 Bathurst Infantry Company.
 Gagetown do do
 Grand Falls do do
 Petit Salt do do
 St. Stephen do do
 St. John, 1st do do
 do 2nd do do
 do 3rd do do
 Dear Island do do

The militia of the District is under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell, who in his report states that:

"1. The strength authorized for the district is 2,864 of all ranks.

The number of officers and men who have performed their Annual Drill for 1871-72 as follows:

Officers.....	173
Non-commissioned Officers and Men.....	2,229
Total....	2,402

Leaving 462 officers and men wanting to complete.

"The average attendance at the inspection of the 48 corps authorized was over 50; no difference being accounted for chiefly by an temporarily absent from their homes or sick.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell is of opinion that captains of companies should have at least sixty men on their rolls, supplied with six uniforms, to ensure an average attendance of 55 men per company and he further states:

"The corps above referred to have mostly

served their time of engagement, and although there are some praiseworthy instances in which not a man is desirous of leaving and many others in which the vacancies created by men taking their discharge, will speedily be filled by good and true men by the volunteering system, I am of opinion that in some few instances, chiefly in cities and towns, the necessity and desirability, on military grounds, for completing the deficiencies in the ranks by means of the Ballot, as prescribed and authorized by the existing militia law, is now apparent.

"Having placed myself in communication with officers commanding corps, the majority of these gentlemen bear me out, and endorse the above opinion; and, when properly understood, I am convinced that it will produce good results if the system be generally adopted throughout the Dominion, in cases where no volunteers can be obtained, to call upon that class of the community comprising those of the age of eighteen years and upwards, but under thirty years, who are unmarried or widowers without children to serve in the Active Militia.

"In the first place a trained reserve force will thus be formed, composed of men available to reinforce the Active Militia in the hour of need, or again to form part of its quota in time of peace.

"(2) Those will be drawn into the ranks who, perhaps, for not sufficient reasons, have hitherto taken no part or interest in the service, leaving the "Enthusiasts," so called, to do all the work.

"(3) By bringing fresh material into the force continued interest in the service will be sustained, and the organization more evenly distributed than heretofore.

"It is to be hoped, too, that the people as a body will thus more willingly submit to those sacrifices of their time and personal liberties by which alone the Force of the country can be maintained in efficiency, as, failing that, all our efforts will be rendered nugatory."

"In conclusion, I may here quote part of a letter from one of the officers commanding corps above referred to, in which I entirely concur.

"The fact that the captain of the company has personally solicited the most of the men in the ranks to join, places him in a not sufficiently independent position in regard to them, which certainly tends to undermine the discipline of the force."

"He adds that 'he thinks it desirable that all reasonable ordinary efforts should

be exhausted to procure volunteers before resort be had to a draft or Ballot; but on military grounds he thinks that it is desirable that the Ballot should be brought into requisition to complete the strength of corps after reasonable efforts have been made to obtain volunteers.

"5. I am of opinion that the whole of the men who performed their Annual Drill were *bona fide* enrolled members of the corps according to the Militia Act.

"Two Camps of Exercise" were formed in this District for the performance of the "Annual Drill," one at "Fredericton" the other at "Chatham," both camps being in operation for sixteen days.

RECAPITULATION.

	Officers.	Men.	Total.
Staff.....	8		8
Cavalry....	21	280	301
67th Battalion....	25	357	382
71st do.....	26	348	374
74th do.....	27	319	346
Total.....	107	1,304	1,411

The details connected with the performance of their Annual Drill will be found in Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell's report in the Appendix, whose recommendation for increasing the efficiency of the force under his command, I beg to support.

I was enabled to inspect the whole of the Brigade assembled at Fredericton, but inspection duties in Western Canada later in the season did not admit of my visiting the smaller Camp at Chatham. Of the Brigade at Fredericton, the general condition of the corps was "very creditable." The New Brunswick Regiment of Cavalry (301 strong) under command of Lieut. Col. Saunders, is composed of excellent material—the majority of the men are farmers in easy circumstances, they are strong hardy fine looking men, in the prime of life, and were mounted on good useful horses. This regiment it will be seen on reference to Lieut. Colonel Maunsell's report, "marched to camp, an average distance of eighty miles crossed three long and tedious ferries, bivouacked at the Jemseg on the night of the 29th, and arrived at Fredericton on the 30th June." On the break up of the camp they marched home in the same manner. The infantry corps in this camp were largely composed of a similar class of men; their arms were all in serviceable order, they were better drilled than any of the rural corps I inspected in the Province of Ontario and Quebec; and in point of physical appearance fully equal