

The whole troop did not take long to get itself into presentable shape, in spite of the neglect of the Government to supply the arms. In a paper called the "U. E. Loyalist," of April 26th, 1828, appeared the following paragraph:—

"Wednesday, April 23rd, King's birthday parade—The appearance of Captain Denison's Militia Cavalry in full dress, and well mounted, reflected the highest credit on the officers and men of the troop."

From 1822 to 1837 the uniform of the corps was in the old style—a blue coat, with buff facings over the breast, thickly laced with silver for the officers, and laced also on the sleeves and back. The shako was of bear skin, of helmet shape, but with a plume of red and white feathers standing erect up the side. The overalls had a double white stripe down the outside. A girdle or sash was also worn.—(Historical Record.)

Meantime interest in the general militia appeared to be rapidly diminishing, and May 16th, 1829, an important militia order was issued, having for its object apparently the easing of the already easy service in the militia. This directed that each cavalry regiment should consist of two battalions each; the first of men not exceeding forty years of age; the second or reserve battalion of men residing within the limits of the regiment and from forty to the limit age as prescribed by law. The establishment of the first battalion was fixed at eight companies of thirty men each. One company in each wing was to be armed with rifles. Young men under eighteen were not to be assembled with the battalion, but were to be enrolled as heretofore, and arrangements were ordered to be made by C.O.'s to have them "instructed" in small divisions in their own homes.

As internal discontent developed, so did the official neglect of the militia increase, for the authorities became more and more anxious to avoid giving the appearance of anxiety. It was impossible to get arms for the dragoons or to have anything done for the militia at large. The disturbers were forging pikes, drilling, and actually mobilizing; but the authorities relied upon a masterful policy of drift.