

rents and sales of such properties, should be applied to purposes of defence. If such a course were pursued over the whole Dominion, the Militia estimates would be reduced to a mere trifle, and fixed some sum for defence placed beyond the fluctuations of party or political feeling.

A portion of such sums might be devoted to the purchase of land in such localities, as those recommended by Colonel Jervis, R. E., for detached works, beyond the present lines, to be thrown up on emergency; plans, sections and elevations having been previously fixed upon and drawn, so that a moderate degree of professional skill, with ample civil labor would, if necessity arose, produce formidable obstacles to an enemy, such as would enable us to keep the gate of Canada until assistance came from the mother country.

History has often repeated itself, and the flag that was swept from this continent, and waved alone on Cape Diamond (the Gibraltar of America) has spread from the Atlantic to the Pacific shore.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

T. B. STRANGE, Lt.-Colonel,  
Inspector of Artillery,  
and Warlike Stores,

The Acting Adjt. General,  
Ottawa.

(B)

QUEBEC, 20th Dec. 1873,

Lieut.-Col. Strange.

I of. A.,

The Citadel.

SIR,—I have the honor to report that the Quebec Field Battery turned out on Wednesday, the 10th September last, to perform the annual drill for the year, 1873-4, under canvas.

The battery was ferried over to the Island of Orleans on Thursday, the 11th September, moving by sub-divisions, at 8 and 10 o'clock a.m., and at 1 and 4 o'clock p.m., and encamped at St. Peter's.

The routine of camp life was as follows:—Reveille at 5½ a.m.; first post at 9, and lights out at 10 o'clock p.m. Breakfast at 8 o'clock, dinner at one, and tea at 6 o'clock. Drills, from 6½ to 7½ a.m.; at stables and standing gun drill; from 9½ to 11½ o'clock a.m., driving drill and gun drill; and from 2½ to 5 o'clock p.m., battery drill mounted. The usual morning and evening gun was fired.

The camp at St. Peter's broke up on Wednesday, 17th September, and the battery marched to St. John, some fifteen miles distant, passing over a hilly country. The arrangements made to repair the bridge over the Rivière à Famine were dispensed with, the battery having arrived in time to ford the stream.

The annual ball practice took place on Friday, the 19th September. The usual precautions were taken against accidents. Enclosed will be found in the range report.

The annual inspection of the battery was made by the Inspector of Artillery on Saturday, the 20th September. Lieut. Col. Lemontagne, Brigade Major, was also present. After a minute inspection, the Battery marched past in column of divisions at the walk and trot. A few manoeuvres were then executed, and the flank guns were dismounted and again mounted, Lieutenants Lindsay and De Lery being in charge.

The camp at St. John broke up on Mon-

day, the 22nd September, and the battery marched to Ste Famille.

The battery marched from Ste Famille to the Bout de L'Isle on Wednesday, the 24th September, remaining over night, and returned to town on Thursday, the 25th September, crossing over by sub divisions at 8 and 11 o'clock a.m., at noon, and 4 o'clock p.m., returning into stores the armament, harness, clothing and camp equipage.

The original intention of marching by the north shore to St. Joachim, and from thence crossing over to the Island of Orleans, had to be abandoned, the necessary authorization to pay for camping grounds not having been received in time. Awaiting this authorization, the battery encamped on the Government property at St. Peter.

After many difficulties, the services of two steamers were secured to convey the battery from St. John to St. Joachim on Sunday, the 27th September, but unfortunately one of the steamers having been withdrawn at the last moment, the return march by the mainland was of necessity given up, the battery in lieu thereof moving around the island.

The conduct of the N. C. officers and men was exemplary, and the great zeal shown on all occasions was everything that could be desired. The services of Lieutenants Lindsay and DeLery are hereby acknowledged. The health, whilst in camp, was satisfactory, and there are no casualties to report.

The drill performed has to a certain extent tested the utility of field batteries in Canada. This corps, at an unfavourable period of the year, turned out seventy-six men and sixty two horses, out of an establishment of seventy-nine men and sixty horses. The camp was raised on three several occasions, and the St. Lawrence was twice crossed during the sixteen days' drill. Whilst on the march, and on favourable occasions, the battery manoeuvred through the fields, coming into action to the front, flanks, and rear, care being taken to screen guns and gunners whilst in action, and also to place limbers and wagons under cover. On rainy days, the usual drills were replaced by lectures on gunnery, and on several occasions guns were dismounted, and mounted, and disabled wheels replaced. Much valuable information and a certain amount of self reliance have been acquired, which must increase the efficiency of this corps.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

M. W. BART,  
Com. Q. F. B.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY BRIGADE,  
MONTREAL, Nov. 11th, 1873.

SIR,—I have the honor to report, for your information, my opinion on the state of the companies of the Grand Trunk Railway Brigade, after the annual training of years 1873 and 1874. Only a portion, however, have at this date, concluded their prescribed course, principally owing to the great stress put upon our men during the summer and autumn, connected with the change of gauge.

On the 10th October, inspected the two batteries at Stratford, Ontario, belonging to 2nd Brigade Artillery, Lt.-Col. Spicer; and at the same time and place Nos. 4 and 5 Companies of 3rd Battalion Rifles, No. 5 marching from St. Mary's. The two batteries are excellent, as far as foot drill and a fine appearance can make them, but some of the officers are very deficient in their knowledge of drill. The other two companies are fair. The band is kept up at

their own expense, and is in an improving condition.

On the 11th of October, I inspected the H. Q. of the 3rd Battalion of Rifles, at Brantford, and all work was stopped in order to have a good turn out on the plains near the station. They marched past in good style, performed the manual and firing exercises, battalion and company drill, skirmishing, practising, retiring, with advancing and retiring, and expended twenty rounds of blank cartridge. The force, at this point, is in excellent order, you will perceive by my reports for the last two years, that they have always, in my opinion been up to the mark; this is helped materially by the care and pains bestowed upon it by Lt.-Col. B. S. Stevenson, in the interior economy, if that name can be applied to this force. The right men are Captains of companies, as they command the men both in their civil and military capacity, and should be invariably followed in this organization.

The officers at this point are fairly up in their work. I have inspected Lt. Colonel Hickson's Brigade, with the exception of No. 6 Battery, Captain Symington, by two batteries at a time. By this means it gave me time to check the pay rolls and have a thorough inspection of the men and their ability to perform drill. The musters were excellent, and the batteries performed foot drill steadily. The whole have completed their target practice. You will perceive in this brigade that we have had a dead lock with regard to promotion, owing to the fact that it is impossible for the officers of this force to go to the Gunnery Schools, even for the short course. I hope you will be able to remedy this at once, as the officers are by far the weakest point in the force, and we have already too limited a number.

Inspected the 1st Battalion Rifles, Lt.-Col. Bailey. They are in excellent order both in drill and as regards the efficiency of the officers belonging to the battalion. I also saw one company of the 2nd Battalion, Captain Wall. The same remarks apply to this company as to the 1st Battalion. Target practice has been carried out, to my knowledge, to a greater extent than in any previous year. Prizes and very large amounts have been subscribed for, and got up by the officers and non-commissioned officers in every company. The prizes at the Dominion and Provincial matches for battalion and companies have been, without exception, carried by the brigade, showing a high state of efficiency in the use of the national weapon, the Snider Rifle. I have also inspected all armouries connected with the brigade, they are in good order, with the exception of Brockville.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

P. W. WORSLEY, Lt.-Colonel,  
B. M., G. T. R. B.

The Acting Adjt. Gen. of Militia,  
Ottawa.

MONTREAL, Nov. 19th 1873.

List of all the Corps in the Grand Trunk Rifle Brigade, not inspected by the Brigade Major, and a Statement when they will perform their drill:—

1st Brigade Artillery, No. 6 Battery, 20th May, 1874  
2nd do do Nos. 1, 2, 3 & 4 do., 30th March 74  
1st Batt. Rifles, Nos. 5 & 6 Companies, 30th Nov. 1874  
2nd do do " 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 Companies, between November and December, 1873  
3rd do do Nos. 6 & 7 Companies, 15th Nov. 1873

P. W. WORSLEY, Lieut.-Colonel,  
Brigade Major, G. T. R. B.

(To be continued.)