

morning with his things thoroughly clean, did he not, I would hire a man to clean them, and stop the amount out of his pay. The next day, on repairing to the place of drill, I was informed by an inn keeper that the man had brought his things to his house, thrown them down in the bar room, telling him to tell me I might take them and clean them myself, for he would not. I immediately went to a Magistrate and got a warrant for his arrest, which was duly executed, and the following day he was brought before a Bench of Magistrates, and fined seven dollars and costs, amounting in all to ten dollars. I had no trouble with him or any man of troop after; but his Captain dare not have resorted to such a measure. Were there Regimental paid Staff Officers they could enforce the laws and orders of the force, compel the arms and accoutrements to be kept in good order, get the men out for occasional drills, teach them the sword and carbine drill, and vero the drill sheds, where there are troops, converted into riding schools, teach them riding, so that when they went into camp they would soon be fit for field drill. He could also instruct the officers and non-commissioned officers in their duty, and give them lectures in that most important of duties, outpost duty, of which they know but little or anything about now, and by having a general supervision over the regiment prevent many irregularities which entail expense on the country, as every thing should pass through his hands, and be examined by him. Under our present system, should any disturbance take place by which the force is called out, the expense on the country by fraud would be similar to that of our neighbors during their civil war.

There is much more I would like to lay before you, but my duties as an Assistant Engineer, with a section of sixteen miles under construction to look after, occupies nigh the whole of my time. But I may here mention that several of the men at work on the line, citizens of the United States, left their work to fill up a Company now at Guelph. They told their foreman they were going to camp to have a spree. Such is the state of the Force, that in three months from now, if ordered out at an hour's notice, one third of the men that have been in these camps would not be in the companies and yet they are shown on paper as full companies. I feel, Sir, I have trespassed too much on your valuable time.

I have, therefore, the honor to be, Sir,  
Your most humble obedient servant,  
S. W. SPILLETT, Captain,  
Adj't, 2nd Reg't Cav'y.

Major General SELBY SMYTH,  
Commanding the Militia of Canada.

[A.]

St. CATHARINES,  
25th Sept., 1862.

Sir,—Having noticed in the debate on the Militia Bill, prior to the prorogation of Parliament, a paragraph relating to the Volunteer Cavalry, stating they were a useless expense, and I, as one perfectly conversant with that branch and its usefulness, must admit that in their present state they are of but little use, but can be made very useful were a better system than that of the present adopted. Knowing they have not the facilities for attending drill as often as the other branches of the service, who are composed of men living in close proximity with the place appointed for their meeting for drill, whereas, they being for the most part composed of men living entirely in the rural

districts, many of them at a distance of ten and twelve miles from the place of meeting for drill, with roads that are almost impassable in spring and fall, it is therefore more difficult to get them together as often as the other branches of the service. I therefore beg to lay before you a system whereby I am led to believe the cavalry can be organized and brought to as good a state of proficiency as any branch of the service, and be of eminent service to the country in time of war.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
S. W. SPILLETT,  
Troop Ser'g't Major, 9th Royal Lancers,  
Instructor of Cavalry.

J. C. RYKERT, Esq., M.P.  
For the County of Lincoln.

[B.]

#### MODE OF ORGANIZING THE CAVALRY.

1. That each Troop should consist of one Captain, one Lieutenant, one Cornet, four Sergeants, four Corporals, one Trumpeter, one Farrier, and forty privates. Total, exclusive of officers, fifty. Then each Troop, when called out for drill, could be divided into two (one Squadron) and drilled as such.

2. That three Troops compose one Regiment, with the necessary Staff consisting of one Lieutenant Colonel, one Major, one Adjutant, one Quarter Master, one Paymaster, one Surgeon, one Assistant Surgeon, one Veterinary Surgeon, one Drill Instructor, who will also act in the capacity of Adjutant, as having a thorough knowledge of every officer and man, he would be of material service to the working of a Regiment in that capacity; and each Instructor should be granted an allowance for forage for one horse, thus doing away with the present expense of travelling.

3. Each Troop to be drilled not less than eighteen days in one year six of which, at least, to be consecutive, the remainder to be left to the discretion of the officers in command of Troops, they taking advantage of the most seasonable periods of the year, and so far studying the convenience of the troopers, as to enable as many as possible to attend at the same time. Four hours' actual drill to constitute one day, which to be duly performed, and returns to be made out by the Adjutant, signed by Officers in command of Troops and forwarded to Brigade Majors.

4. For each day's actual drill each man to be paid the sum of one dollar, and when called out for actual service each man providing his horse with forage and rations for himself, the sum of two dollars per day. If forage and rations be supplied by commissariat, the contract price to be deducted from his pay.

5. To be clothed and equipped at the expense of the Province. Clothing to be of the uniform pattern of the Imperial Hussars. Each suit to last five years, and each man retain it in his own possession and be held responsible for the same, and all repairs or damages to be made good at his own expense.

6. Regular military saddles and bridles, swords, belts, pouches and belts, and rifled carbine. The saddlery and arms to be kept in an armory or place appointed for that purpose, which place to be as central as possible, and always be the place of assembly. An experienced person appointed to look after the arms and saddlery, issuing and receiving the same, and be held responsible for their correct keeping, and make good any deficiencies he may be unable to account

for, for if left to the Troopers' own keeping, they would become unserviceable in two or three years, whereas, otherwise they would last thirty or forty years. If armed with a rifled carbine, and taught the use of dismounted as well as mounted, it would prove a very effective weapon in time of war in a country like this, which is so much interspersed with woodlands.

7. Officers in command of Troops to be responsible for and duly impress it upon the minds of their men that they always bring the same horse to drill, unless sick, which must be duly touched for, and which, on no account, to be parted with without permission of the Officer in command of the Troop, under a penalty of not less than five dollars, which fine to be duly imposed.

8. Each man to serve a term of not less than five years, and be sworn in. No man to be allowed to leave without giving a written notice to the Officer commanding his Troop, which notice, when signed by him, to be forwarded to the Officer in command of the Regiment, from thence through the usual channel to the Commander in Chief for his approval, after which to be given to the man, who will then consider himself discharged, and not before. And no man to be discharged by Officers in command of Troops or Regiments unless authorized by the Commander in Chief.

9. Every Officer to undergo an examination as to his qualification for holding his present or obtaining a higher commission.

10. Each Regiment to be brought together and drilled as such by the Colonel, or in his absence, the next senior Officer present, at least one day in every year.

11. For the better order of discipline, a code of by-laws may be established in each Troop, to be drawn up by the Officer in command, submitted to and signed by each man, and then forwarded to the Commander in Chief for his approval, after which to become law.

S. W. SPILLETT,  
Troop Ser'g't Major, 9th Royal Lancers,  
Instructor of Cavalry.

St. Catharines, 25th Sept., 1862.

In the foregoing letter the writer makes a direct charge against, not only Commanding Officers, but against the District Staff. Now we humbly submit that while such positive charges are fit subjects for military enquiry it by no means follows that they should be given to the world without being substantiated, and with the imprimatur of our highest military authority. It is, however, for the Commanding Officer of the cavalry corps to which the writer belongs and to the Officers of the District Staff to clear up this matter, and with them we are content to let it rest. The writer appears to have been a very zealous and useful non-commissioned officer of a crack cavalry corps in the regular service. At the period of which he writes (1862) the Canadian Militia were obliged to find their own uniforms, and in many cases cavalry regiments had to find their own saddlery and equipments at their individual expense—the only article found by Government being a store of an obsolete pattern, the corps were wholly raised by the Captains of troops and companies who had in most cases to bear the whole expense of outfit in the first instance.

Now would it not have been wise in this