

of a Military School organization based on the formation of each School into a tactical Brigade of the three arms for many reasons.

In time of war corps are grouped into tactical Brigades of the three arms for purposes of Military cohesion and combination during operations in the field.

In time of peace corps are also grouped into brigades, concentrated as much as possible in Divisions and large bodies, for purposes of Military duty, instruction and administration.

It follows, therefore, that a military School organized on the basis and principles of a tactical brigade of the three arms, is the proper kind of school for acquiring a practical as well as a theoretical knowledge of the application of Military science.

At these brigade schools a limited number of officers, non commissioned officers and men belonging to Cavalry, Artillery, and Infantry Corps of the Active Militia could be thoroughly instructed in their duties, and in due time a very large number passed in rotation through the Brigade schools.

Officers would have an opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of the Regimental exercises appertaining to the three arms; a matter of great importance. Each Brigade School would become an excellent Staff College in addition, and serve as a model brigade for all corps of Active Militia in the Province.

Should this system be adopted I would recommend that all staff officers in future should be appointed from such officers as have passed satisfactorily through the Brigade School, obtained certificates of qualification in Cavalry, Artillery, and Infantry exercises, and who have acquired a proper knowledge of the duties of Staff Officers; by which means the country would obtain the services of officers qualified to discharge efficiently the military and administrative duties of the higher commands, in addition to securing a satisfactory system of regimental instruction for others.

If the present sums voted annually by Parliament under different heads for purposes of Military School instruction were amalgamated into one fund and an additional sum granted to raise the total amount to \$250,000 I believe a very satisfactory system of real Military schools, adequate to the present wants of the Militia, and the country could be established, but of course the successful working of such Schools would depend mainly upon the qualifications and ability for the officers selected for Instructors.

MILITARY STORES, CLOTHING, AND EQUIPMENT.

Reference to the Report of Lieut. Colonel Wiley, Director of Stores, which is published in the Appendix, shows the condition of the country, in respect of Military Clothing, Arms, Ammunition, Camp Equipage, and Military stores generally.

The receipts and issues of clothing, arms, ammunition, and Military Stores during the past year, are shown in Colonel Wiley's Report, and much valuable Information on other matters connected with his duty is contained in this officer's report.

Lieut. Colonel Wiley is also charged with the care of Militia properties, he is an officer attached to the staff of the Militia Department, directly responsible to the Minister of Militia, and not under my command.

Hitherto the supplies of uniform, clothing, military equipment, small arms, small arm ammunition, rifled field guns, ammunition for Field and Garrison artillery, &c. &c. and

military stores generally have been obtained almost entirely from the Imperial Government or from private contractors in England.

It appears to me that the time has now arrived when an alteration in this system might be adopted, to a very great extent, with advantage.

The desirability of expending in the country, as far as possible, the money voted for the annual supply of these stores is obvious, but I would especially call attention on military grounds to the necessity for commencing the manufacture of small arms ammunition, and such other warlike stores as are annually required for practice, and for the maintenance of a sufficient reserve.

As regards gunpowder, an article of the first military importance, and which could not be obtained in time from England, should a sudden emergency arise, Lieut. Col. French, Inspector of Artillery and Warlike Stores, (formerly Inspector of Warlike stores for the Imperial Government at Quebec, and consequently a competent authority) has reported to me on the subject as follows:

"Having reference to the ammunition required for gun practice for the current year I have the honor to point out that for various reasons it would be desirable to ascertain if the powder could not be manufactured in this country.

"In December, 1871, I inspected the powder mills near Hamilton, and I feel satisfied from that inspection, as well as from conversation with the Manager, and Foreman, that a suitable powder for heavy guns could be obtained at those mills.

"The finer brand of powder known as "Dominion Rifle" is an excellent powder, I have used it a great deal myself, but the fact that it is used in a great measure by small bore riflemen is a sufficient proof of its excellence.

"It is, I suppose, needless for me to mention the advisability of encouraging the manufacture of gunpowder in the country; at the same time it will be necessary, if Government should contract with manufacturers for this article, to look closely after its manufacture, in order that the conditions may be as similar as possible to the manufacture of the powder at present in store.

"I have received from the Superintendent of the Government Powder Factory, at Waltham Abbey, England, specifications for the supply of powder by contract &c. &c., I shall be happy to submit the necessary conditions if required.

And with regard to the general question of the manufacture and repair of warlike stores in the country, that officer reports to me as follows:

"I have the honor again to bring to your notice the advisability of commencing, even on the smallest possible scale, the manufacture and repair of those warlike stores most needed for the defence of the country.

"I would in conclusion, submit that the establishment of an arsenal on a small scale may be pressed on the attention of the Government.

"With regard to the suggestion of the Inspector of Artillery and Warlike Stores, I concur entirely in the views submitted by that officer.

Reference to the Militia Estimates will show that a very considerable sum is voted annually for military stores &c. for instance in the Financial Estimates for the year ending 30th June, 1872, the following sums were voted, viz:—

Ammunition.....	\$139,109 00
Clothing.....	130,000 00

Military stores (including storage however)	85,683 00
Ordnance Stores and Equipment for Field and Garrison Batteries.....	33,606 00
For improved Firearms ..	142,055 00
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	\$530,453 00

Although this amount exceeds the average expenditure, it is evident that a very large sum of money has hitherto, (and I believe unavoidably) been expended out of the Country, the greater portion of which might now, on military and other grounds, be expended with advantage in the Country.

ANNUAL DRILL AND INSPECTION OF THE ACTIVE MILITIA BY DISTRICTS.

The annual Drill of the various corps of the Active Militia was, with few exceptions carried out in accordance with the detailed instructions contained in the General Orders of 31st May, 1872, a copy of which will be found in the appendix.

The dates on which the Corps were assembled having been previously arranged to suit the convenience of the majority of the men who are, for the most part, engaged in agricultural pursuits.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 1.

The Militia in this District are under the command of Lieut. Col. Taylor, Deputy Adjutant General, who reports as follows on the state of his command:

Head Quarters, London, Ont.

14th November, 1872.

Sir,—I have the honor to inform you that the quota of Active Militia required to be furnished from the district under my command is 5,617.

The total strength of the force when mustered at the time of the Annual drill for 1872-73, was 4,303.

There are 1214 officers and men wanting to complete.

The annual drill was performed in accordance with General Orders of 31st of May, 1872, in obedience to which the whole active force in the District (with the exception of the Garrison Batteries, the Lucan company of infantry, and four new corps not equipped), were assembled, on the 18th of June, in a divisional camp at Windsor for sixteen days drill.

Immediately after arrival in camp, a medical inspection was made by the surgeons of their respective corps, and seven men who were found unfit for service were sent home. forty two others were subsequently sent home on account of sickness, the particulars of which will be found in the report of Surgeon V. A. Brown, principal medical officer in camp, which I now have the honor to enclose.

The force in camp was divided into two brigades, which were under the command of Lieut. Colonel Richardson, 2nd Rifles, and Lieut. Colonel Ross, 33rd Battalion as Brigadiers, who fully justified the confidence placed in their ability for these positions. The Brigade of artillery was under command of Lieut. Colonel Shanly, a most efficient officer, and the cavalry under Lieut. Colonel Cole, by whose able exertions the troops of cavalry in this district were now for the first time drilled together as a regiment.

Drill for the first week in camp was confined to company skirmishing, and battalion drill; and the second week, there was a brigade or divisional drill once a day; and a marked improvement was very evident to