

in future be advisable to supply a relay of targets for the practice of this battery.

One of the Halifax Harbor Batteries was kindly placed at my disposal by the Lieut. General commanding the troops for the annual shot and shell practice of the Brigade of Garrison Artillery, and the majority of the batteries performed the regular practice; but, through some misunderstanding, the guns in the battery were dismounted preparatory to re-armament, before the whole of the batteries had gone through this practice.

The rifle target practice of the several corps was, in each case performed as usual under the immediate supervision of a field officer.

The several corps composing this brigade were inspected by me regimentally. I was thus enabled to devote more time to the details of inspection than if they had been inspected in brigade.

The appearance of both of these corps is becoming more and more soldierly, both in uniforms, appointments and general turnout.

The commanders of corps are zealous and efficient, and they are well seconded by their officers, and great credit is due to them and to all ranks for the results attained.

The battalion drill was very creditably performed, but more practice in skirmishing is required.

AYLESFORD CAMP.

The 68th, 69th, 72nd Battalions and Kentville Troop of Cavalry performed their training in brigade camp at Aylesford, during September, under the command of Lt. Col. Milsom. I inspected them the day after their arrival in camp, and again at the conclusion of the training.

Owing to the non issue of forge caps to the corps of Infantry, the appearance of the men was not so soldierly as it should have been, all sorts of head gear being worn, and there were a good many young lads in the ranks. It is right I should mention that Lt. Col. Starratt and the officers and men of the 69th show a good deal of *esprit de corps*, taking great pride both in turnout and in drill.

These corps worked very fairly in brigade, both in battalion movements and in skirmishing.

The Kentville Troop of Cavalry deserve especial credit for their turnout. Captain, Ryan and his officers and men must have worked unremittingly, and this corps showed the advantage of having an instructor who had been well trained in the regular army.

The 75th Battalion trained in regimental camp at Mahone Bay, and the Mahone Bay Battery of Garrison Artillery encamped with, and was attached to this battalion. As this battalion has no trained Adjutant, Lieut. Colonel Milsom himself superintended and took charge of the instruction, and the results of the training under such a thoroughly competent instructor were most surprising; the progress made by, and steadiness of the men were most creditable to them, and to Lt. Col. Milsom who took so much pains with them.

The Victoria Provisional Battalion trained in regimental camp at Baddeck, Cape-Berton, and was inspected by the Honorable the Minister of Militia, who expressed himself well pleased with the appearance and training.

I spent some days in the camp and was much gratified with the willingness and desire to learn of the men, and generally with the zest on the part of the officers; but as many of the men only speak Gaelic and do not understand English, it is necessary to

interpret all orders and explanations to them, and the progress is, therefore, not so rapid.

The Digby Battery of Garrison Artillery was inspected by Lieut. Colonel Milsom. He reports the men attentive, and that the shot and shell practice was fairly performed.

The Lunenburg Battery of Garrison Artillery, and No. 2 Company, 75th Battalion, were absent from camp at Mahone Bay, although duly warned to attend.

The 78th Highlanders and Cumberland Provisional Battalion were relieved from annual training this season, under instruction from headquarters.

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Arms.

The arms in possession of the several corps were, with very few exceptions, issued in 1869; they have therefore been five years in use, and should now receive a thorough overhaul by a competent armorer; a recommendation to this effect was forwarded by me in October, 1872, after consultation with Lieut. Col. French.

Accoutrements.

The city corps keep belts and pouches in a very soldierly manner, and some rural battalions deserve great credit for their attempt to pipe clay belts and polish pouches, but in camp the conveniences for this work are scant, and the whole proceeding is so novel to officers and men, that it is a matter of great difficulty to accomplish satisfactory results, and as the present pattern of accoutrements has a very slovenly appearance if not properly cleaned, it is worthy of serious consideration whether accoutrements more suitable to the circumstances of the Dominion forces and the training of the corps, when called on to perform, should not be supplied.

Uniform.

The cloth tunics supplied will certainly wear twice as long as the serge trowsers, and I would again urge that trowsers should be supplied every two and tunics every four years; and further, that a reasonable money allowance should be made to men or corps that make their clothing last beyond the regulation time, as an inducement to the officers and men to keep the clothing in good order.

The forage cap at present issued is most unsatisfactory; it does not cover the head from the sun or rain, and as generally worn is slovenly in appearance—it is discarded the moment parade is over, and a straw hat or something with brim or shade substituted—a neat cap with peak would be a great improvement.

Training.

I would refer to my remarks in last years report on the subject of instructors for corps, and the best means of carrying out the training, and I would especially dwell on the urgent need of affording preliminary drill to officers and noncommissioned officers previous to the mustering of the battalions that train in camp. At present the men do not derive the full benefit they should from the time they give to drill, as the officers on whom the instruction devolves (even when previously trained), are quite out of practice at the commencement of the training, and the non commissioned officers know no more than the men, consequently, although they wear badges and draw higher pay, they exercise but little authority or influence, and are of little help at the training.

J. WILSON LAUREN, Colonel,
Deputy Adjut. Gen. Com. Mil'y. Dist. No. 9.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 10.

HEADQUARTERS, WINNIPEG,

December, 20, 1874.

SIR,—Since my last annual report considerable changes have taken place in the Militia force in this Province, one Troop of Cavalry and six Companies of Rifles having been struck off the establishment of the District, leaving a total of fifteen officers and 295 non commissioned officers and men, as the quota at present authorized.

Of the companies thus removed they existed only as paper companies, with one exception; of those still maintained, their equipment and organization remains in the same condition as at my last report.

Strength and Enumeration of Local Corps.

The authorized strength of the local corps in this District, is as follows:—

	Officers.	Men.
"Headingley" Mounted Rifles.....	3	55
"Winnipeg" Field Battery.....	3	75
"Lisgar" Rifle Company.....	3	55
"Mapleton" " "	3	55
"Poplar Point" " "	3	55
Total.....	15	295

Of these corps, the only one which has been enabled up to the present date to perform the drill for the present financial year, has been the Winnipeg Field Battery, which paraded for the inspection after twelve days of consecutive drill, with the following strength viz:—

Officers.	N. C. O. & Men.
2	52

The Headingley Mounted Rifles Corps has not has yet been supplied with clothing or equipments, and has, therefore, not been inspected.

The three Rifle Companies above enumerated, showed at my last inspection subsequent to my annual report an actual strength on parade of 7 officers and 129 non commissioned officers and men.

The inspection of the Winnipeg Field Battery was most satisfactory; although but partially equipped and uniformed, the general appearance of the corps, and the steadiness of the men in the ranks was soldierly like.

I respectfully request that for the ensuing year that authorization for pay for horses for the annual drill be granted for this corps and that it be fully equipped and uniformed.

Recommendation as to the Establishment of the Active Militia Force.

I have hardly any suggestions to make relative to the Active Force of the Province, beyond those embodied in my report of the 2nd of last January, nor have I found any reason to change my views relative to the suggestions which are therein, and in previous reports from time to time, I have had the honor to present to your notice on the subject.

I would, however, remark that I think the time has now arrived when it would be feasible to organize several corps in various parts of the Province, which would be maintained efficiently.

School of Instruction for the Province.

The want of a School of Instruction, and the distance of this from the other Provinces where schools are established, is a difficulty which I respectfully suggest might be obviated by establishing a school here, in connection