

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE MILITIA FOR 1873.

APPENDIX No. I

(Continued from Page. 200)

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 8.

HEAD QUARTERS, FREDERICTON.

6th November, 1874.

Sir,—I have the honor to inform you that the quota of Active Militia required to be furnished from the Military District under my command is 3,264 of all ranks

The total nominal strength of the force in the District, where the respective effective Corps complete to their established strength as authorized, would be 2,795.

The total actual strength of the force, when mustered at the time of the annual drill for 1873-74, was 2,154. There are five (5) companies whose drill is in progress—290. Total, 2,444.

There are 820 officers and men wanting to complete; and to meet this discrepancy, new corps have been recommended as shown below, vice others become non-effective.

The Active Militia in the District consists of the following corps, which at the time of the annual drill, turned out as follows :

	Officers.	Men.
<i>8th Regiment of Cavalry,</i>		
Lt. Col. Saunders (7 troops).....	19	275
<i>Newcastle Field Battery.</i>		
Captain Call	4	50
<i>New Brunswick Brigade of Garrison Artillery.</i>		
Lt. Col. Foster (7 batteries).....	25	363
<i>62nd St. John Battalion of Infantry.</i>		
Lt. Col. McShane (6 companies)..	20	230
<i>67th Battalion "Carleton Light Infantry</i>		
Lt. Col. Upton (10 companies)...	35	472
<i>71st "York" Battalion of Infantry.</i>		
Lt. Col. Marsh (5 companies) ...	22	252
<i>73rd Northumberland, Battalion of Infantry.</i>		
Lt. Col. Ferguson (4 companies). 8		157
<i>74th Battalion of Infantry.</i>		
Lt. Col. Beer (4 companies).....	16	165
<i>Dalhousie Infantry Company.</i>		
Captain Barberie.....	1	40
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Total.....	150	2,004

The undermentioned corps have not yet completed their drill, but will do so during the winter months :

- New Brunswick Engineers—Captain Parks.
 - St. Stephen Infantry Company—Captain Hutton.
 - Deer Island Infantry Company—Captain Lloyd.
 - Bathurst Infantry Company—Captain Burns.
 - No. 1 Company, 73rd Battalion—Captain Hutchinson.
- The following Corps, though recommended have not yet been accepted :
- N. B. Brigade Garrison Artillery—Captain Beckwith.
 - Provisional Battalion—Major McAdam, (4 companies, one of them a new company.)
 - 71st Battalion—Captains Ross and Clayton, (one new company added.)

The annual drill was performed in accord, accordance with the general orders of 30th May.

and 23rd June, 1873, and order to give a full detailed account of the proposed alterations to the force of the brigade division separately, instead of by seniority of corps in the district.

The drill having been carried out for the most part at company head quarters instead of at battalion or brigade camps, as heretofore, my report must necessarily be brief.

I must say however, that while I am of opinion that many good results have been produced this year, I by no reason consider this method of performing the annual drill as effective as the former system.

In proof of the good results, may be mentioned.

(1) Although brigade camps had become almost an indispensable institution, and had been rendered attractive to the force and beneficial to the country, this being the commencement of a new period of service, in many corps, by having drill at company head quarters, ample opportunity is afforded the captain to recruit to the full strength, and the time being spent almost entirely at squad and company drill, men will in future more eagerly assemble in camp, and they will be better prepared for battalion and Brigade drill and field manoeuvres, and the people generally, as time goes on, will, I doubt not, more and more appreciate the advantages of having camps of instruction periodically formed in their midst.

(2) Our late Adjutant General has justly pointed out that, as a rule, "reduced militia estimates means reduced efficiency and power of defence," and while I am sure none will allow that the force of the Dominion is in process of deterioration, as on no better foundation could be placed than that on which it now stands, and the best spirit pervades the force. Our rulers, however, may consider that "there is need for economy in any system intended to last," and in this view of the question, it may be desirable to have the annual drill performed at stated periods in the same manner as it has been this year—say 1st year, at company or battalion head quarters, at the option of officers commanding corps; 2nd year, in battalion camp; 3rd year, in brigade camp.

It must be added that all my inspections during the year, commanding officers of corps, and captains of companies, expressed themselves in favor of the brigade camp system. As regards the present not being as effective a system of carrying out the annual drill, as that which hitherto prevailed.

I may say (1) that men, who for two successive years had attended the more attractive brigade camps, and had found—even the most busy—that they could attend them with advantage themselves, and without inconvenience to their employers, having this year returned to the routine of squad and company drill, now find this plan neither as interesting nor instructive as the former.

(2) However careful the "supervision" of officers commanding corps may be, and however great the desire on the part of captains of companies to carry out drill and target practice "regulations" both in letter and spirit, it becomes apparent that one corps cannot vie with another, and, while loyalty and patriotism never flag, there is at local drill a want of the enthusiasm that characterises our battalion and brigade camps. It is, however, due to officers of all grades to say that I consider they conscientiously performed their duty at this drill and target practice. In the absence of Government prizes, local subscriptions were obtained to further this important object.

(3) It is impossible to have the inspection and payment of each company on the last day of training in every instance, as the drill of several companies, many miles apart may take place at the same time, and it is a serious drawback not being able to pay the men on completing their period of drill.

It should be stated, in conclusion, that, although it was left optional this year to commanding officers to assemble their corps in battalion camps under the old system, in consequence of the prevailing rumor that there were to be "no camps," arrangements for drill were made accordingly, and when the general order was published, but one commanding officer (Lieut. Colonel Saunders) availed himself of it.

1st BRIGADE DIVISION—Lieut. Col. Inches, Brigade Major.

No. 5 Battery Garrison Artillery Woodstock—Lieut. W. P. Donnell.

This battery was inspected by Lieut. Col. Jago and myself on September 9th.

Lieut. Colonel Jago reports that the commanding officer, Lieutenant Donnell, appears to be active and energetic, and has got a large number of men on his roll, whilst many others are anxious to join. I saw some shot practice, made from one of the two six-pounder guns with which this battery is armed. The carriage of the other gun is so worn that it is impossible to fire it; and I should recommend that the gun used at this inspection for shot practice, should not on any account be used again, except in a case of urgent necessity.

Lieut. Colonel Jago adds, "I trust that before another year's drill takes place, that this battery will be turned into a field battery. I can only repeat what I stated last year, that the country about Woodstock is more suited to a field battery than any other part of the Province; that the facilities for obtaining horses are good, and that the officers and men are willing and anxious to serve. The battery, as at present constituted and arranged is of no advantage, neither to the country nor itself." I am happy to state that the battery has re-enrolled as a field battery, and the recommendation to that effect will shortly be submitted.

67th Carleton Light Infantry—Lieut. Colonel Upton.

Lieut. Colonel Inches, Brigade Major, inspected the nine (9) out station companies of this large battalion during my temporary absence on duty in King's and Westmoreland, from 8th to 15th July, and that officer's report will be transmitted so soon as received by me.

I inspected the Head Quarters Company No. 1, Captain Bourne, on the 9th of September, and though its drill was not completed on that day, I have much pleasure in reporting favourably, as to the efficiency then attained, reflecting much credit upon the Captain and his subaltern officers.

In fact, efficient as the battalion as a whole is, it is only what may reasonably be expected from the class of men of which it is composed, representing one of the finest farming counties in the Dominion.

71st Battalion.—Lieut. Colonel J. Marsh.

Accompanied by the Lieut. Colonel and other members of the battalion staff, I inspected the different companies of this battalion at their respective head quarters on the following dates :—

Fredericton Lt. Cropley 13th Aug.
Smith's Corner Capt. Christy 15th Sept.