

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE OF
THE MILITIA FOR 1870.

[CONTINUED.]

*The Honorable Sir George E. Cartier, Bart.,
Minister of Militia &c., &c.*

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 2.

In this District no brigade camps for the performance of the drill were formed during last summer, for as very many of the corps in this District were placed on active service in the early part of the summer, at the time of the threatened raid from the United States, it was not deemed expedient to take them away so shortly afterwards from their agricultural operations and civil pursuits. Several corps did, however, form independent camps for the annual drill. The first instance, I believe, of a city battalion, moreover, performing its annual drill in camp was very successfully carried out by the 13th Battalion from Hamilton, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Skinner. This corps marched from Hamilton to Grimsby, a distance of 20 miles, in the latter part of the month of July, moving into camp the same day, remaining under canvas for ten days, and marching back to Hamilton on the twelfth day, without any casualties reported, in a manner which reflected great credit on the commanding officer and those under his command.

On the 20th July, I inspected, at Oakville, the 20th Battalion, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Chisholm, and on the 21st, at Barrie, Lake Simcoe, the 35th Battalion, under Lieut.-Col. McKenzie, both corps being fine rural battalions and in good order; these corps are commanded by excellent and zealous officers. The detailed information connected with the inspection of these battalions will be found in the annual inspection returns of this District.

Military District, No. 2, forms three Brigade Divisions, and I propose for the performance of the next annual drill, that the same be carried out in brigade camps in the respective Districts, or if possible, in one large divisional camp on the Niagara frontier.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 3

The whole of the corps in this District, it will be seen, on reference to the Report of the Deputy Adjutant General, with the exception of the 14th Battalion, at Kingston, and the Garrison Battery, at Napanee, performed their annual drill last year. Two brigade camps were formed in this District, one near Belleville, consisting of the 15th and 49th Battalions; another near Cobourg, composed of the Northumberland and Durham Squadron of Cavalry, the Cobourg Battery of Garrison Artillery, and the 40th and 57th Battalions; and five other smaller camps were formed at other places. I inspected the camp near Belleville, on the 7th September. (Corps and strength below as follows):—

15th Battalion—29 officers,
18 sergeants,
272 rank and file,
—
319 of all ranks.
49th Battalion—21 officers,
22 sergeants,
318 rank and file,
—
680 Total Force.

This camp was well situated, about five miles from the town of Belleville, on the shores of the lake. I found these corps

almost entirely composed of men engaged in farming pursuits, presenting, physically, a very fine appearance, and their arms were in fair condition. Certain deficiencies were observed in respect of clothing and equipment, which will be remedied as soon as possible. After duly inspecting each company the two battalions were brigaded together. The 15th Battalion is commanded by Lieut.-Col. Campbell, and the 49th by Lieut.-Col. Brown, M. P., and both these officers appear not only to take the greatest interest in the welfare and condition of their corps, but also to enjoy the esteem and entire support of those under their command. These two battalions, in presence of a large number of spectators, performed the usual service evolutions in a very creditable manner. The camps were clean, in good order, and tents regularly pitched.

On the morning of Tuesday, the 6th September, I inspected the Adolphustown Troop of Cavalry who were encamped for the annual drill on the shores of the Bay of Quinte, about 36 miles from Kingston; this troop being under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Swotman, numbering 47 officers and men. The men were fairly mounted, and armed with swords and Spencer carbines, and performed their drill in good style, acting as skirmishers when mounted, and executing several charges in line in open order.

On the afternoon of the same day, having proceeded to Picton, I there inspected the 16th Battalion, which was encamped near the town of Picton, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Walter Ross, M. P. (Strength as below):—

16th Battalion—3 field officers,
7 captains,
16 subalterns,
5 staff,
25 sergeants,
18 corporals,
17 band,
276 privates.

Total 367

This corps being entitled to new uniform clothing, and being very ill-supplied with proper accoutrements, did not present so smart an appearance as it otherwise would, but new uniforms and accoutrements will be served out to it previous to next year's drill—in other respects the 16th Battalion displayed much efficiency and excellent spirit, the men are a fine body, and when at drill skirmished, and fired very well. At the conclusion of the inspection, the letter marked H in Appendix, addressed to myself, was presented to me by the Lieut.-Col. and officers of this battalion, with a request that I would submit the same for the favorable consideration of Government, which I have the honor accordingly to do, and strongly recommend.

In this letter is pointed out the desirability of increasing the amount of the prizes granted by Government for the encouragement of rifle shooting, and of doing so in such a manner that the same may be more effectually brought within the reach of the great mass of the non-commissioned officers and men of the Active Militia of the Dominion; it being suggested that the money grant, hitherto given by Government to the Dominion Rifle Association be transferred to the Active Militia, and distributed in prizes equally among the various corps.

By this means, increased interest and emulation would be created in rifle shooting all through the country, and what is of great importance among those who would be first called on for its defence, and whose skill in

rifle shooting it is most desirable to develop, and the money aid, and encouragement thus given by Government, in future, not being practically confined to the competition of a few skilled marksmen, (many of whom do not belong to the Active Militia) but distributed equally to the various corps throughout the Dominion, would produce far greater results to the country.

On the 22nd September I inspected the brigade camp near Cobourg; strength as follows:—

Cavalry. 1 field officer,
2 staff,
2 captains,
1 subalterns,
11 sergeants,
2 trumpeters,
110 troopers,
129 horses.

Garrison Battery,
Cobourg 1 captain,
2 subalterns,
3 sergeants,
1 trumpeter,
35 gunners.

40th Battalion, of
nine companies 3 field officers,
4 staff,
9 captains,
14 subalterns,
32 sergeants,
9 buglers,
399 privates.

57th Battalion, of
six companies 3 field officers,
4 staff,
6 captains,
10 subalterns,
24 sergeants,
4 buglers,
247 rank and file,

Total 933

This brigade was encamped on some open ground on the shores of Lake Ontario, a short distance from the town of Cobourg. After inspecting the different troops and companies, whose arms and equipments were in serviceable condition, the brigade proceeded to perform a number of field movements. The cavalry were well handled, and commanded by the senior cavalry officer present, Lieut. Col. Boulton, and the 40th and 57th Regiments, the former under the command of Lieut. Col. Smith, and the latter under that of Lieut. Col. Poole, were also well commanded by these officers. The weather being remarkably fine, a very large number of spectators were on the ground, and all seemed to take much interest and pride in the appearance of this portion of the Canadian army; and, indeed, this force moved and acted as a brigade very well, and like all the other corps previously inspected, only require a longer period of time at the annual drill to become very effective.

Military District No. 3 consists of two Brigade Divisions, and, if circumstances admit, I propose assembling both brigades at some convenient place, and forming a Divisional camp, for the performance of the next annual drill. The details of inspection of the various corps in this District will be found in the annual inspection returns.

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 4.

Forms one Brigade Division, and contains a force of 212 officers, and 2984 non-commissioned officers and men.

In this District, one brigade camp of 5 battalions was formed during last season, at Prescott; strength as follows:—