

in Militia corps, or candidates for commissions. Two corps applied for permission to perform the Annual Drill at the Regimental Head Quarters, which was granted them. The actual force trained during the year was 1,666 Cavalry (an increase of 447 over preceding years) 951 Field Artillery men with 46 Field Guns (an increase of 208 men and 4 guns) 1,697 Garrison Artillery men, 106 Engineers, and 25,724 Infantry. Most of the Cavalry are now provided with Cavalry Snider Carbines, in addition to their swords. Scientific instruction in Artillery exercises is provided for, and the Batteries are being armed as fast as circumstances will permit, with the same description of Field Guns as these lately issued to the Horse Artillery of the Regular Army. The Infantry are all armed with Snider Breech-loading Rifles, and use the same ammunition as the Regular army. The Active force is organized by Corps, Companies, Battalions and Batteries into Brigades of the three arms, and these rest upon a Reserve organization of the whole manhood of the Dominion. The men conducted themselves during the time of the drill in an admirable manner; only one fatal accident occurred through the whole of them, and that was of a man bathing in disobedience to orders. The ease and rapidity

with which the force was concentrated was remarkable. There was a great improvement in the health of the force and the rations were good and in sufficient quantity. The Reserve Militia in the 4 older Provinces of the Dominion numbered 694,008 men between the ages of 18 and 60, in 1871. It is expected that when the next enrolment in 1873 is returned, it will be found to be considerably more than 700,000. The Military force at present in Manitoba consists of 300 Infantry, and an Artillery detachment of 1 officer and 25 gunners. A Militia Artillery Corps has been organized at Winnipeg. The number of Prairie Indians capable of bearing arms is estimated at 4,000. The Militia of British Columbia was not at the date of the last report of the Minister of Militia, yet thoroughly organized. Several companies of Volunteer Militia were being organized.

Col. Robertson Ross, in command of the Militia since 5th May, 1869, handed over the command to the D. A. General at Head Quarters (Lt. Col. Powell) on the 22nd day of August, on resignation of his command and departure for Great Britain. The vacancy which, according to statute, must be filled by a person having attained a field officer's rank in the Imperial forces has not been, at the time we write, filled up.

## Dominion Lands.

Surveys of the Dominion Lands of Manitoba and the North West Territories were proceeded with during the year 1872, and the returns down to the close of the year were laid before Parliament. Forty-five surveyors were employed with a force of 400 men and 100 horses and carts. 178 Townships were subdivided, opening to settlement 3,552,771 acres, and the survey of the settled portions of the Province of Manitoba was nearly finished. Several isolated settlements at "Point des Chênes," "St. Laurent," and "Oak Point," have also been surveyed. Explorations were conducted in order to ascertain the timber supply and to judge of the fitness of different tracts for settlement along the East shore of Lake Winnipeg as far North as Berens River; the land is reported worthless for farming purposes and the timber too small and scarce for manufacturing into lumber. Signs of iron and other minerals were observed. Some good timber was found on islands in the Lake of the Woods, but the country was not generally suited to farming. On Duck Mountains and Dauphin Lake, there is a good supply of spruce and poplar of good size, and the timber could be floated down the Little Saskatchewan. There is a fair supply of Oak and Poplar on the West Shore of Lake Manitoba for settlers, but

none for manufacture into lumber for market. The soil is a sandy loam. The West Shore of Lake Winnipeg, as well as the islands and rivers, as far north as the Straits, is pretty well timbered with spruce and poplar, especially on Great Black Island; but the timber is nowhere of great size, and the soil is poor. Along Broken Head River, towards the foot of the Lake of the Woods there is a good deal of spruce timber, but too small to manufacture profitably; further east it is better; the soil is a sandy gravelly loam with rocky ridges. Measures have been adopted to prevent the destruction of timber, which have been cheerfully concurred in by all classes. A number of thriving settlements were founded in 1872, and 151,000 acres of land disposed of by the Dominion Land Agent at Winnipeg. The lands surveyed are generally characterised as "very rich," "excellent," "first class land;" on the open prairie lands, "water may be got by digging, at no great depth." The water is good and free from any brackish taste. In only one Township out of the whole number surveyed is the water spoken of as alkaline, in all the others it is "good" "very good," "pure cold," "fresh and clear,"—always to be obtained at a depth of from 2 to 4 feet where there is not running waters.

## Inland Revenue of the Dominion.

The increase in this branch of the Revenue noticed last year, continued during the year 1871-2 though not to the same extent. The total accrued revenue for 1870-71, was \$5,12,004. That for 1871-72 was \$5,619,-

012. The one exception to increased revenue was in the case of Petroleum. Of the increase, \$460,989 was from Excise; \$13,829 from Public Works; \$11,284 from the Supervisor of Cullers, and \$4,906 from