

## Militia of Dominion.

During the autumn of 1873, 18,963 officers, non-commissioned officers and men performed the annual drill, and the remaining corps during the winter and spring following. It is very difficult to frame any regulation respecting the annual drill which will be applicable to all parts of the Dominion. In the western cities, London, Hamilton and Toronto, the force turns out for 16 days *continuous* drill, with readiness and ease, the winters being milder, and the season for work longer. But in the eastern portions of the Dominion, the shortness of the season for navigation places a barrier in the way of the men being absent so long from home, and drill on different days as circumstances render convenient, is preferred. In the newly and thinly settled districts, the system of voluntary service bears more heavily than in the cities and more thickly populated places. The corps on their first organization, absorb the whole volunteer element at the time within a reasonable distance from the head-quarters of the Company, and when the term of service expires it is difficult to find others to fill the vacancies. The absence of stimulating causes such as would call upon the companies to be ready for duty, also has an effect in thinning the ranks of the force, and it is probable that provision will have to be made as in England for compelling each locality to furnish its quota, or to resort to the ballot, or to diminish the number of men required to perform the annual drill.

The returns of Reserve Militia Enrolments for 1873 show a total of 738,991, of which 352,145 were from Ontario, from Quebec 236,285, Nova Scotia 84,746, and New Brunswick 65,805. From the divisions of East York and Algoma, in Ontario, there were no returns, nor from that of 1st Montreal Centre, Quebec. There are no returns from British Columbia, Manitoba or Prince Edward Island.

The establishment at Fort Garry on 31st Dec., 1873, consisted of 20 officers, and 321

non-commissioned officers and privates. Hut barracks were erected at Fort Garry during the year, adding much to the comfort of the men, and to the economy of the service.

\$18,000 was given to Dominion and Provincial Rifle Associations, and \$7,000 in aid of bands. 12 9-pounder muzzle-loading rifled field guns were purchased during the year with carriages and limbers, and such material, and shot and shell as was required for their service. They were distributed to the Quebec, Montreal and Toronto Field Batteries. There were issued for practice ammunition during the year, 1,575,731 rounds of Snider ball, and 631,120 rounds of ball. Ammunition has been sold to different Rifle Associations to the amount of \$3,270.91. There has been a very marked increase in the rental from Militia Lands, about \$7,000 having been collected, while in 1870 the amount was not quite \$800.

At the schools of Gunnery in Kingston and Quebec, there has been no difficulty in keeping up the full establishment, 7 officers and 166 men having joined the Kingston school during the year, and 7 officers and 150 men that of Quebec. In addition to these, six schools of military instruction were in operation during the winter months at Toronto and Kingston, Montreal and Quebec, Frederickton, N. B., and Halifax, N. S. To meet the wants of a higher class of military education, a military college is about being established at Kingston, Ont., which, giving a superior military and scientific education, it is hoped will prove a ready means of providing officers for the different districts, as well as fit the cadets for other employment useful to the Dominion. In the existing schools of instruction, 6,232 cadets had passed through the schools on the 1st of January 1874. There were in the schools at that date:—In New Brunswick 35, in Quebec 23 and in Ontario, 53. None are returned in Nova Scotia.

## Ordnance Lands.

These Lands at the time of their transfer to the Province of Canada in 1856 comprised about 100,000 acres, scattering over both the Provinces. There were farm lands, town lots, and wharf lots, including about two thirds of the present city of Ottawa, and the lands on the line of the Rideau Canal. Many of them had barracks or other buildings on them. Their value was not known. The annual revenue was given as \$15,000. It was found that they had, to a certain extent, been occupied, sometimes on annual leases, sometimes by suzerainty, very often on verbal engagements. Claims and applications poured in from all parts of the country. All these have been investigated and, to a great extent, settled. The *hand* work amounts to 18 folio volumes of correspondence and reports of 750 pages each. The amount of *head* work could hardly be estimated. The annual receipts have in-

creased from \$15,000 in 1856, to \$54,308 in 1873. There have been very few absolute defaulters, and the lots held by these will now sell more advantageously than before. The Corporation of Montreal has purchased a piece of Ordnance property in that city for \$150,000. The Province of Ontario holds extensive buildings for the purpose of a Lunatic Asylum, and 50 acres of land at Amherstburg, and extensive and costly buildings at Penetanguishene with 200 acres of land, for which no compensation has been made. The Ordnance property appropriated for public use of the Dominion at Ottawa, at the present value of land in that city, is worth \$550,000. The sales of lands belonging to the Bank of Upper Canada, whose management was transferred to this Department, amounted up to June, 1873, to \$90,000.