

questions which, in such a case, it would be found difficult to answer.

4. Lieut. Colonel Pipon recommends that, instead of a camp formed of a Company from each Battalion-district, and serving for 28 days, the *whole* of each Battalion should be called out for a somewhat shorter time. There are but two or three towns, (properly so called,) in the Province, and but about a dozen villages of any size. If, then, the Battalions were to be assembled for any lengthened period, the establishment, not of one but of at least thirty camps, would be found requisite. Lieut. Colonel Pipon further suggests, that the amount which would under the scheme of the Militia Commission be devoted to the expenses of the camp, should be applied to carry into effect the proposed alternative. The expenses of the camp, (if of the whole amount contemplated, which I do not anticipate,) have been roughly estimated by me as follows, viz:—

Pay.....	\$26,657
Rations.....	11,730
Transport.....	5,000
Stores.....	6,000

\$59,380

The lowest pay that can be given in a country where labour commands the high wages it can here obtain, is 50 cents per diem. But the whole of the Militia force of the Province amounts to about 40,000 men. If, therefore, the whole of each Battalion were called out, the total estimated expenditure on the camp at the highest amount contemplated, would only suffice to provide *pay alone* for not quite three days, without taking into account other expenses which the organization required would necessarily involve!

5. Practically, the Militia *Regiments* of the Province must be looked on simply as the material out of which a Militia Force, more proportioned to the size and means of the country, may be drawn. The Regimental organization is useful as facilitating the formation of large bodies in case of urgent need; but under ordinary circumstances to call out for more than a mere parade the whole of these Battalions, would be as oppressive and as impracticable as it would be in England to call out, according to ancient usage, the *levée en masse* of the whole adult male population of each County.

6. Lieut. Colonel Pipon remarks on the omission of the word "male" from one of the recommendations of the Commission. Their Report is not a law, nor is it necessary that it should be worded with the strict accuracy of an Act of Parliament; but in this instance I believe the insertion of the word was unnecessary. Those persons only need *exemption* from any obligation who without such exemption would be liable to be bound by it. But it is only the male population of the Province between certain ages from whom Militia service is required by law, and it is consequently only in favour of certain individuals among such male persons that exemptions are required.

7. I enclose a copy of a Report which I have received from my Adjutant General of Militia, to whom I communicated a copy of your Despatch and its enclosures.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ARTHUR H. GORDON.

Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M. P., &c. &c.

Fredericton, 21st March, 1865.

May it please Your Excellency,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the remarks made on the Resolutions of the Militia Commission assembled by order of Your Excellency in January last. The Officers to whom these Resolutions were submitted were most probably not fully in possession of the circumstances under which the Commission was assembled, or altogether acquainted with the nature of the country. In this Province there exists no such class as that from which the British Army and Militia is drawn. In the British Militia men are enlisted and attested as in the line, and I believe that in no one County has it ever been necessary to resort to the ballot to obtain the quota required by law.

In this Province every able bodied man within certain ages, and with some exceptions, is a Militia man, and the difference in social position between the Private and the Colonel is very slight—not unfrequently in favour of the Private. Almost without exception, any man serving for double the pay of the English soldier would be a loser. In round numbers the Militia of the Province by the last return, (which was under the real number,) amounted to 40,000 men, being one sixth of the entire population, and of these I may safely say that 38,000 are entirely ignorant of the veriest rudiments of Drill. It was with the idea of introducing a leaven of instruction through the whole Province, to be gradually extended and increased, that the Commission framed their Resolutions. In referring to Lieut. Colonel Pipon's remarks, I find he recommends that instead of one Company per Battalion being embodied for 28 days, and associated with others in a Camp forming a Brigade of three Battalions, the whole of each Battalion should be embodied for a shorter time at the same expense. But at the lowest rate at which in this Province men taken from their ordinary occupations for such a purpose could be paid, the estimated expenses of the proposed Camp would only afford to each Battalion about two days pay alone, not including travelling to and from their homes to Head Quarters, the distance of which, in many cases, would amount to 80 miles, and that in a country almost without railroads, and with but few stage coaches.

But besides this, were the Battalion assembled at a central point, where would they live? There are not half a dozen towns in the Province that could furnish accommodation for 1200 men, even if Billetting were allowed; and the whole commerce, farming operations, &c. of the district from which they were drawn, would cease for the time. These difficulties therefore present themselves in considering Colonel Pipon's remarks—

1st. That if the Militia of the Province were called out at once, or in Battalions, the public business, trade, commerce, farming operations of the Province, or of the particular district, would for the time altogether cease.

2nd. That any diminution of time under 28 days, (itself too little) would merely be a waste of time and money.

3rd. That instead of one Camp there would necessarily be forty.

4th. That the expenditure for *one day's* pay, and proportion of outlay for camps, uniform, &c. for the Militia of the Province, would amount to as much as is granted at present for five years, and is equal to the whole amount which the most sanguine expectations can lead us to suppose the House of Assembly to be willing to grant for the present year.

5th. That, as it is not every soldier of whatever rank who is capable of being a Drill Instructor, at the most favourable estimate, the Regiment stationed in New Brunswick could not afford Instructors for 10,000 men.

6th. That even supposing the above stated difficulties overcome, the measure would meet with such universal opposition, from its paralyzing effect on the industry of the country, that it could never be carried into effect.

7th. That though drilling "all lads" in the Province between the ages of 14 and 17 might be desirable if possible, yet this system has not been pursued in England, where far greater facilities for its adoption exist, and that in the present scattered state of the population it is here altogether out of the question.

Colonel Erskine's letter differs little from Colonel Pipon's. I doubt myself if three days drill after the camp would be productive of much benefit. It might however be made easy to the men, by having it in Company divisions, and having a short drill each day under men who have been at the Camp. "Veterans" I always supposed to be old soldiers, not merely old men, and I cannot see the necessity of forming companies of old men only, who have never been drilled, and who would not be very susceptible of instruction. After men have really served, and been drilled for a certain time, companies of veterans might advantageously be formed. The remarks about the fines I am not competent to observe on, as they are more of a Legislative than a Military character.

The letter of Colonel Jervis refers to Canada, and is, I have no doubt, most applicable to that country, but it would require a great deal more than this Province could afford to carry it out. The very lowest estimate for the pay of Adjutants and Sergeant Majors alone would be \$40,000 annually, and I doubt if you would obtain really efficient men for so low a sum. This would be merely one item of the expense, and would be four times the amount of the present grant. It would be very desirable if Battalions could be assembled at their Head Quarters for drill, without being absent from their homes for more than a day, but as Your Excellency is aware in many of the Counties, the musters are taken in company divisions, as the assembly of the Battalion would involve more than a day's travelling on a large number; and even if the Battalions were so assembled, they would not have the advantage of being brigaded together, or of being subjected to the discipline of a camp.

I am aware that Your Excellency did not approve altogether of some of the Resolutions of the Commission, and I have respectfully to remark that I thought the limit of ages included was too extended, as even now the proportion of Militia is greater than in England; but I believe this was done chiefly with a financial object. The Officers composing the Commission were drawn from every part of the Province, represented every branch of the service, and also of the community, and were of all shades of opinion, political and religious. They may therefore be considered fully qualified to deliberate on the measures which were brought before them, and the Resolutions arrived at were unanimous. The adoption of one feature of the English system might be advantageous; that instead of every man being liable, Counties should have a certain proportional quota, to be re-arranged by the census. The number of Volunteers in the Province all armed, accoutred and uniformed, and tolerably well drilled, is between 1700 and 1800. This is about the rate of 7 in 1000 of the whole population. The staff for this Force, the ammunition, cloth, rent of Armories and Drill Rooms, repairs of arms, pay of Drill Instructors, and small allowance to Militia Adjutants for making out Muster Rolls; and all charges of a Military nature are, and have been up to this time, covered by an annual grant of £2,000 sterling, which there is reason to hope will this year be considerably augmented.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed)

T. ANDERSON, Lieut. Col.,

Adjutant General.

The Lieutenant Governor to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Fredericton, March 27, 1865.

SIR,—The elections for the Legislative Assembly have now terminated, and, I believe, the following classification of the Members will be found accurate.