

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF MILITIA AND VOLUNTEERS.

Lieut.-Colonel HARRINGTON to the Hon. D. McLEAN.

SIR,— Militia and Volunteer Office, Wellington, 1st July, 1872.
I have the honor to forward this my report upon the state of the Militia and Volunteers during the past year.

Since my last annual report, all the Militia districts which were then called out for training and exercise, as well as three of those for actual service, have been released, leaving the following still out for actual service:—

Hamilton	Patea
Cambridge	Wairoa (Hawke's Bay)
Alexandra	Poverty Bay
White Cliffs	Opotiki
New Plymouth	Tauranga.
Cape Egmont	

In pursuance of your instructions, that the settlers in these frontier districts should be as little harassed with unnecessary drill as possible, one uniform system has been adopted—viz., to parade the first and second classes only once a quarter, when they have four hours' drill, for which they are paid. This system enables the men to become more proficient, and renders the duty less irksome than the monthly parades as heretofore.

The annexed return marked A shows the number who are armed, and are liable for service. During my tour of inspection, I had an opportunity of seeing the companies of Militia in nearly all these districts, and I think it my duty especially to bring to your notice the superior state of the Militia in the Province of Taranaki, where the settlers have been so long under training, and where such a good spirit exists throughout the whole community. This may be accounted for by the fact of nearly all the inhabitants being permanent residents in that Province, most of whom have suffered more or less during the late wars, whilst in the newer districts—such as Patea, Waikato, &c.—many men have no fixed interest in the place, but are constantly moving about in search of work. These latter naturally take but little interest in drill, and seek every opportunity of avoiding it. The permanent settlers, however, of these districts are beginning to form Volunteer Corps, when they will have a better opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of their duties, and affording mutual protection in their settlements.

With regard to the districts which have been released from training and exercise, an impression prevailed that an immediate decrease in the strength of the Volunteers of the North Island would take place. Such, however, is not the case, as will be seen by Table B. I have omitted to mention that Taranaki furnished from the Militia two representatives to the Colonial Prize Firing, one of whom (Humphries) won five prizes, and shot steadily throughout.

VOLUNTEERS.

In order to render my report more intelligible, I have kept the Adult and Cadet Corps distinct, and will treat of each separately. On the 31st March, 1871, the strength was—

	Adults.	Cadets.
North Island	3,725	177
South Island	2,190	546
	5,915	723

Of this number, 4,880 earned capitation. By the 31st May, 1871, these numbers had increased to—

	Adults.	Cadets.
North Island	4,226	657
South Island	2,141	609
	6,367	1,266

On these numbers were based the estimates for capitation of 1871-72. On 31st March, 1872, the strength was—

	Adults.	Cadets.
North Island	4,038	1,004
South Island	2,004	439
	6,042	1,443

Thus showing a decrease of 325 adults, but an increase of 177 Cadets, between the 31st May, 1871, and 31st March, 1872.

Having again visited almost every district in both Islands since November, I will endeavour to report upon their state.

PROVINCE OF AUCKLAND.

On 1st April, 1871, the Volunteers in this Province consisted of 1,837 enrolled members, which,