

principal ports in the working of the heavy batteries about to be erected, for which a special allowance will be granted for each drill required of them.

The regulations framed according to these provisions met, I am assured, with general approval with few exceptions throughout the colony, as it was felt by all who had the good of volunteering at heart that they would tend to the establishment of stricter discipline, and therefore greater efficiency, uniformity of dress, and more general attention to training and musketry practice.

The appointment of properly-qualified staff officers to districts has already effected a marked improvement. This is especially apparent in Canterbury, where the interest in Volunteer matters had in past years declined to such an extent that of rifle corps only one existed in Christchurch at the end of last year and for a long time before. On the present regulations coming into effect three new corps were raised at once, and when I passed through Christchurch in April last I was surprised to find them already not only very proficient in company drill, but showing they were rapidly acquiring a knowledge of battalion drill, several movements being executed by the five corps on parade in a manner most creditable to themselves and the officers who trained them.

I heard very good accounts of both the Dunedin and Oamaru corps, but I regret that my visit South on Constabulary matters was so hurried as to give me no opportunity of seeing any of the Southern Volunteers on parade, except in Christchurch as I have stated, where the monthly parade of all corps happened to fall on one of the days I was detained there.

In the North Island I have had no opportunity of seeing anything of the corps since the reorganization, except in Wellington, where I can with confidence assert that the Volunteers were never in a better condition than they are now. An annual inspection of all corps by a thoroughly competent officer would be very desirable, and highly appreciated by all members of the force.

I have, &c.,

H. E. READER, Lieut.-Colonel,

Under-Secretary for Defence.

The Hon. the Defence Minister, Wellington.

Return of Small Arms and Ammunition.

Rifles, &c.—In Store and on Issue—

Snider (all sizes)—On issue	...	...	...	...	...	5,317
In store	...	...	...	...	...	6,129
Enfield—In store	...	...	...	...	...	10,402
On issue	...	...	...	...	...	1,091

Ammunition—

Snider—In store	...	...	...	...	...	1,340,296
Enfield—In store	...	...	...	...	...	520,780

Cadet Arms—

*Carbines	Muzzle-loaders	Terry's	"	On issue	...	...	...	246
				In store	...	...	...	457
				On issue	...	...	...	94
				In store	...	...	...	783

* For drill purposes only.

RETURN of VOLUNTEERS to the 31st December, 1882.

District.	Cavalry.		Artillery.		Engineer.		Rifle.		Naval.		Total.		Cadets.	
	Corps.	Strength.	Corps.	Strength.	Corps.	Strength.	Corps.	Strength.	Corps.	Strength.	Corps.	Strength.	Corps.	Strength.
Auckland	1	84	1	79	5	367	1	78	8	608	1	57
Waikato	1	55	..	..	..	1	50	..	..	2	105	..	..
Waikato	*1	130	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	130	..	..
Taranaki	2	83	..	..	..	11	460	..	..	13	543	..	..
Wanganui, Patea, and Rangitikei	3	200	..	..	..	8	624	1	97	12	921	2	122
Wellington	1	87	1	46	4	233	1	203	7	569	3	226
Napier	1	54	..	..	1	41	..	..	2	95	..	..
Poverty Bay	1	101	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	101	..	..
Wairarapa	3	185	..	..	3	185	2	125
Thames	1	97	2	148	1	160	4	405	1	64
Total N. I. ..	7	468	4	326	3	222	35	2,108	4	538	53	3,662	9	594
Nelson	1	90	..	..	3	169	1	56	5	315	1	51
Marlborough	3	176	..	..	3	176	2	156
Canterbury	1	131	2	163	..	3	199	1	67	7	560	1	68
Oamaru	1	78	..	..	3	241	..	..	4	319	2	131
Dunedin	2	122	..	..	9	555	2	260	13	937	7	553
Invercargill	*1	150	2	140	..	2	195	..	..	5	485	1	106
Lake	1	66	..	..	2	124	..	..	3	190	2	106
Westland	3	184	..	..	3	184	..	..
Total S. I. ..	2	281	9	659	..	..	28	1,843	4	383	43	3,166	16	1,171
Grand Total ..	9	749	13	985	3	222	63	3,951	8	921	96	6,828	25	1,765

* Regiments of Cavalry of three troops each.