

"The fortress at Isle-aux-Noix is very important and still in fair condition, with bomb-proof barracks and every accommodation for a garrison.

"The establishment of a branch school there for garrison artillery, engineers, and infantry would be a desideratum. It could be formed of a demi-garrison battery of 50 men and 3 Officers on the strength of the Quebec Gunnery School from which reliefs should be sent. They would form an efficient frontier garrison as well as a school of instruction, and allow of the fortress being armed and kept in order. On each recurrence of the threat of invasion a detachment of 'B' Battery, which it can ill afford to spare, has been held in readiness to garrison this fort.

"The General Officer Commanding has already suggested military schools at Toronto and St. John's, P.Q. I have no doubt Lieutenant-Colonel Irwin would concur in the advisability of establishing such a branch school as a detachment from 'A' Battery, which should be augmented for the purpose. The General Order forming the batteries provides for detachments from them at Toronto and Montreal respectively, but their limited numerical strength has prevented these detachments being of any great practical value.

"The camp for field artillery practice was on the Island of Orleans; that for musketry instruction at Engineers' Park, Levis; the headquarters remained in the Citadel, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Montizambert, during the time my duties as Inspector necessitated my absence, which was prolonged this year in consequence of the visit to British Columbia of the Inspector for Ontario. The Gunnery School printing press has furnished copies of examination questions as well as copies of artillery manuals, for the use of Militia of the Dominion, also the necessary circulars for the Dominion Artillery Association.

"While the Quebec Gunnery School has been practically expanded into a school for Officers of all arms, thereby much increasing the labour of the staff, no adequate provision has been made for men, without which, the military art can no more be taught than chess without pawns.

"The Lieutenant-General Commanding is fully cognizant of the points referred to, and has suggested effectual remedies from time to time. I trust, however, the emergency of the case may be an excuse for reporting upon facts with which he is already familiar.

"Notwithstanding the heavy night duty, the usual daily duties, fatigues, &c., the courses of instruction have been carried out.

"The usual courses of gymnastics for young soldiers has been continued.

"The system of bi-hourly meteorological observations by means of the non-commissioned officers of the guard relieving sentries has been also continued.

"The averages are taken by Lieutenant Donaldson, who has charge of instruments, and reports through me to Professor Kingston, of the Toronto Observatory, who speaks very favourably of the results thus obtained. A grant of 60 dollars having been sanctioned for telegraphic instruction, four sets of instruments were purchased, wires &c., fixed. Instruction has been given to six Officers and one non-commissioned officer, by Major Hebert, formerly Superintendent of the Telegraph Institute, Montreal, who is at present at the Gunnery School. It was thought that the valuable knowledge so given could be utilized to concentrate the fire of the fortress or to explode torpedoes, as well as for the ordinary needs of military telegraphy.

"The flags supplied with the Army and Navy Signal Code have also been made use of to a slight extent, to communicate with the Levis forts and Her Majesty's ships while in harbour, but the small numbers of the garrison and their many duties prevent much systematic instruction being carried out.

"From the Governor-General Commanding Canadian Militia, I obtained permission (during the period that war with Russia seemed imminent) to communicate with the Officer then commanding Her Majesty's forces at Halifax, Colonel Elgee, R.A., with a view to sending a detachment of Officers and non-commissioned officers from 'B' battery to learn the manipulation of torpedoes, but I found I could not have spared sufficient men for the purpose.

"The six additional artificers are gunners who have been excused guards and ordinary duties to work in the forge, armourer's, wheeler's, carpenter's, and harness maker's shops. They have, at less than the cost of importation, as before shown,