

have read the report of Major Prevost—the able superintendent of the cartridge factory at Quebec—will see that he thinks further improvement is possible in the shell by which it may be made an even more powerful gun than at present. But for ordinary work it is perhaps as good as we can have.

We cannot say quite as much about the garrison gun. I only venture to throw out in the most careful way the suggestion that there is a possibility of means by which the Dominion without occurring more expense for the purchase of guns may be enabled to approach the Imperial government with the view of using some of those guns which are mounted for Imperial defence, as at Halifax. I have some reason to believe that both the general officers and the authorities there are perfectly willing to put all facilities in the way and to give the utmost attention in their power. In that way, and that way only, does it seem to me at the present time that without great expense gun detachments could become acquainted with the working of improved modern guns. I understand that at Halifax there are some guns of the most improved modern type and if the Minister of Militia could see his way clear to the difficulty of travelling expenses, etc., it does seem to me possible that gun detachments may be sent down there in succession and that they might at all events have some idea how to use the more modern appliances that are attached to the modern guns. Of course a great deal can be learned in the ordinary drill and practically that will be carried on as before. That is the only way, I think, of carrying on the work in the most improved way, and without casting a great burden on the finances of the country. I have no authority to say so, but if the question of ammunition was raised the Imperial government might fairly be asked to help." In conclusion his Excellency said he would have much pleasure in rendering all the services he could towards furthering the interests of the association.

THE COUNCIL REPORT.

In moving the adoption of the report of the council, the president, Lieut.-Col. Macdonald, dwelt at length upon the several recommendations it contained—of the holding of a central competition at Quebec for field batteries—the issue of canvas clothing for fatigue duty work—four days preliminary drill in addition to the time now spent in camp—the advisability of forming provincial associations, in which connection he paid a high compliment to Lieut. L. H. Irving, secretary of the Ontario Association, the only provincial body now existing. He was sorry that there was not more in the report about the garrison artillery and that this arm did not get more encouragement.

Lieut.-Col. Irwin seconded the adoption of the report. He criticised the system of annual drill now prevailing, and pointed out that many batteries had been brought to camp last year at places where no ranges were available, and expressed the hope that this year the field batteries might be brought together to some central point where a good range could be secured. He thought Kingston would be more convenient than any other place. He was happy to state that the central competition for garrison batteries, held at Orleans last summer, had been very successful, there being represented twenty-seven batteries—or nearly every efficient battery in the Dominion.

On motion of Major King, an addition was made to the report of the council, thanking Mr. L. H. Irving for his services at Niagara and Toronto.

A PROTEST DISCUSSED.

Major Van Wagner, Hamilton Field Battery, moved, seconded by Mr. Myles, that the efficiency prizes for 1888 be not awarded, on the ground that the competitions were held under such varying circumstances that it was impossible to arrive at any just conclusions. He spoke briefly in support of the motion, which was in pursuance of a formal protest appearing in the annual report.

The trouble arose out of the batteries firing at Toronto having been permitted to use telephonic communication between the firing party and the party at the targets, whereby the place each shot had struck might be communicated more exactly than could be done by flag signalling as at other places. The telephone has been used at Toronto for several years, and no objection has hitherto been made. The executive considered the protest, and decided not to allow it, no particular advantage having been shown to have ensued. There were only a few points difference between the Hamilton and Guelph batteries, and the Hamilton men thought they would have had first place had they fired under the same conditions. Their score placed the Guelph battery first in the general efficiency competition, and gave them the prize presented by His Excellency the Governor-General.

Capt. McCrae held that the Hamilton Field Battery had no just ground of complaint, and that if they did not fire under such favourable conditions as some others, this was merely the fortune of war. The special ground of the protest, he believed, was that telephones were used at Toronto, but he wished it understood that these telephones had been so used for many years.

Major King said he did not think Capt. McCrae fully understood the question. The use of telephones gave the advantage that the batteries firing at Toronto knew exactly how far wide of the mark their shots had gone, and enabled them to apply a remedy more exact than if their shots were only signalled with flags. The Hamilton battery only wanted three points to have first place instead of the Guelph battery, and he claimed that they would have had these points had they fired on equal terms.

The Secretary explained that the protest, if allowed, would have sent to smash the whole efficiency competition, and it had not been thought that the Hamilton battery had suffered any greater injustice than must necessarily occur when the batteries fired at different times and places.

Lieut.-Col. Macdonald said that the telephones were used in accordance with the usual custom, and no objection had been mooted from any quarter. Many outside officers were there, and if the possibility of an objection had been hinted at he had no doubt the use of the telephones would have been abandoned even after the firing had been commenced. It seems that telephones had been used for a great many years at Toronto, but nowhere else, and no objection had until this been raised. He thought it had perhaps arisen more on account of the so-called failure of the system used at Niagara than of any undue advantage received at Toronto.

Lieut.-Col. Irwin said it had been decided that a telephone was a necessity on account of the peculiar danger of the range, which crossed two roads, thus making it imperative that there should be a means of prompt communication between the firing party and the range party. Strictly speaking, the use of telephones had always been irregular, as it had never been authorized.

Lord Stanley said he wished to add a few words as a private member of the association and as one interested in the prize in question. There were certain unavoidable advantages, such as wind and weather, and certain avoidable advantages, such as the use of a telephone was claimed to be. This use was something to which the executive might well give their attention. He believed that they were now used at Shoeburyness. Concerning their use at Toronto, it seemed to him that the interests of the public safety demanded it. He suggested that a vote should not be taken upon the matter, but that in the best interests of the association it should be allowed to rest, leaving the executive to make provision to cover the point for the future. It would be a bad thing to press the protest and thus give the idea that the association were disunited.

This recommendation of His Excellency met with demonstrations of approval, and Mr. Irving suggested that the matter be referred to the council.

Sir Fred. Middleton said it seemed to him unfortunate that this protest had been occasioned, but he thought there had been no greater advantage afforded than must be received by some battery or other in a competition carried on as this was. He thought the executive should have distinctly pronounced upon the use of telephones.

THE PROTEST WITHDRAWN.

After further discussion by Lieut.-Col. Cotton and Lieut.-Col. Turnbull, Lord Stanley suggested, as a way out of the difficulty, the following resolution:—"That this meeting, having heard the protest of the officers of the Hamilton Field Battery, desires to direct the attention of the council to the necessity of examining and revising the rules for marking." This resolution was then moved by Capt. McCrae, seconded by Lieut.-Col. McKenzie, and carried unanimously, the protest being withdrawn.

Mr. Irving then moved in amendment to the motion for the adoption of the report:—"That this meeting regrets that the executive committee decided upon the protest entered by the Hamilton Field Battery without consulting the representative of the Ontario Artillery Association, to which that association is entitled." This resolution was lost on division, on the casting vote of the chairman.

A vote of thanks to Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia, was moved by Lieut.-Col. Curren, seconded by Lieut.-Col. Turnbull, and unanimously accorded. It was acknowledged by Sir Fred. Middleton, who apologized for the unavoidable absence of the Minister.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Officers for the ensuing year were then elected as follows:—

President—Lieut.-Col. A. H. Macdonald, Guelph (re-elected). Lieut.-Col. Curren, of Halifax, was nominated also, but declined to stand.

Vice-Presidents—Lieut.-Cols. A. A. Stevenson, Montreal Field Battery; J. Armstrong, New Brunswick Brigade Garrison Artillery; Curren, Halifax Garrison Artillery; and Capt. W. B. McMurrich, Toronto Garrison Artillery.

The following were elected members of council in addition to the