

this purpose, and by other modifications intended to make the practice more thoroughly and practically instructive.

This practice was participated in by fourteen batteries, the London and Richmond Batteries being the only ones unable to carry it out; the former on account of there being no safe range near the camp, and the latter not having yet drilled for this year.

The published detailed rules for this practice will be found in the report; they have been generally well observed, and the practice itself has proved to be of increasing value to all concerned. It is proposed to further extend the scope of this practice during the ensuing drill season.

2. The annual competitive gun practice was carried out at Kingston over the same range as the previous year, and was participated in by 27 officers and detachments from twelve batteries; the Winnipeg and Newcastle Batteries practised at local camps. The Toronto Battery was unable to send a detachment at the time, and have not since made any arrangements for practice at local headquarters.

Both at this practice and at the range-finding practice of the several batteries the improved sight was used; unfortunately for its success it was only manufactured in time to be issued in very limited numbers, and only at the time of using, consequently the marksmen were unable to obtain any preliminary practice in its use, and there is no doubt in many cases were rather handicapped in consequence. Subsequent practice carried out by the Royal Schools of Artillery has, however, proved its value as a great improvement upon the old open sight, to which it is an adjunct, and as sights are now issued to all batteries opportunity will be afforded for practice in its use.

3. The arrangements made for camping, messing, transport, etc., for this meeting, by the executive staff of "A" Battery, under the general directions of the commandant, were extremely satisfactory, and the only drawback to the entire success of the meeting, as regards its instructional value, is to be found in the arrangements made by some commanding officers, by which the attendance of their detachments at the meeting was limited to the time sufficient for firing only, and it may be noted that the time spent in camp by each detachment appeared to be inversely proportioned to the distance it had to travel to get there.

It is to be hoped that this defect will be remedied next year, and that the duration of stay in camp by each detachment will not be less than twenty-four hours; much benefit will be gained by the marksmen in carefully watching and judging apparent result of fire under different conditions of atmosphere, etc.; a visit to the range to watch the actual effect of fire will be found instructive, and the opportunity of meeting detachments from different localities, or provinces, is not without its value in strengthening the *esprit de corps* of the force.

4. In this connection the Executive Committee desire to impress upon commanding officers the necessity of complying in all respects with the directions contained in the circulars relative to this meeting, issued previous to it; much inconvenience and unnecessary expense has been in some instances caused by neglect.

5. Application was made for the supply of a certain number of Morris tubes for issue to Field Batteries, and, it is to be hoped, will be favorably considered.

Drill and Driving Competition.—6. This competition was well and closely contested by nine batteries, the average time made by the winning battery (Durham) being twenty seconds less than that made by the winning battery the year previous, and general average of all the batteries was also much better.

Garrison Artillery Practice.—7. The practice at local headquarters was this year confined to the batteries of the British Columbia Brigade, and two batteries of the New Brunswick Brigade, the Halifax Brigade being, fortunately, enabled to obtain transport for detachments, from each of their batteries.

8. The competition at the Island of Orleans was conducted on the same principles as during the previous year, an additional round of plugged shell being, however, fired by each competitor with the 40-pr. gun, and one plugged shell less with the 64-pr. The range was also increased by about 200 yards for each nature of gun.

The practice was participated in by 29 officers and detachments from 24 batteries, and the general results were very satisfactory. Gun practice on Friday, the last day of the meeting, was unavoidably prevented by unfavourable weather, and the detachments from one of the Levis Batteries and the Cobourg Battery had to wait until Monday morning before being able to complete their practice. The results of the practice of each battery are elsewhere fully detailed.

9. *Shifting Ordnance Competitions.*—These competitions were entered for by detachments from the Montreal and Prince Edward Island Brigades, and by three detachments from the Halifax Brigade.

The Montreal detachment commenced with the "A" shift, but owing to the sliding of the carriage under the skids when mounting the gun, the latter fell when partly up, and the detachment relinquished the competition. The gun carriage was subsequently found to be decayed and partly broken, and was replaced by another. The detachment claimed the right to perform the "A" shift over again, but it was decided by the Executive Committee that, as their failure was not in any way due to the defective condition of the carriage, another trial could not be allowed, and the detachment subsequently withdrew from the competition for the "B" shift.

Both shifts were afterwards performed in excellent time by the detachment from the Island Brigade.

The Halifax detachments were detailed for these competitions on Friday, 11th; the weather, however, was extremely unfavourable, and the competition was postponed until Saturday morning, which, however, being equally unsuitable, the detachments were obliged to leave camp without competing.

During the following week an application was received by the Executive Committee from Lt.-Colonel Curren, commanding the Halifax Brigade, for permission to perform the "A" and "B" shifts at local headquarters in competition amongst themselves for the second and third prizes offered by the Association. This application was sanctioned by the committee on the condition that an officer of the Royal Artillery should act as umpire. The result of this brigade competition will be found elsewhere.

Efficiency Competition.—10. These competitions for both Field and Garrison Artillery have been exceedingly closely contested, the difference between the first and second batteries in both not exceeding one point, and the total number of marks obtained by the leading batteries in both competitions showing an extremely creditable state of efficiency.

A protest was received from the officer commanding the Halifax Brigade with reference to the awarding of credits for answers to questions given by an officer subsequently to the inspection of his battery. As the question involved a decision on general principles somewhat without the lines of action laid down for the Executive Committee, it was referred to the President of Council, and was decided at an extra-ordinary meeting, details of which will be found in the report of Council.

The report is signed by Lt.-Colonel D. T. Irwin, Chairman, and Lt.-Colonel C. E. Montizambert, Lt.-Colonel W. H. Cotton, Lt.-Colonel J. R. Armstrong, Major John Stewart, members of Council.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Secretary presents herewith the fifteenth Annual Report of the Association, giving details of the several competitions, etc. The affiliations for the year consisted