

In many batteries there was a slackening of fire discipline when the target commenced its advance; this was generally due to the C.O. giving *casual directions* instead of *explicit orders*.

By all means adhere to the familiar orders of the drill book.

3rd. *Time v. Ammunition Limit*. This system was decided upon with two objects in view:—

1. Variation from last year's system.
2. Experimental test.

In regard to the latter, it was found that those batteries which practiced at Laprairie in 1894, and also those practicing at headquarters, never attained the rate of fire expected of them, *i.e.* two rounds per minute, as laid down in Paragraph 22 of the Instructions for Practice, 1895.

Since this rate was never attained, it left a doubt in the minds of those who compiled the instructions, whether this was possible; but the practice this year proved, beyond a doubt, that this was not only possible, but by many batteries a very much higher rate was reached: at the same time control and regularity of fire was maintained. This was, no doubt, due to a careful study by the C.O.'s of the drill, in order to take every advantage of the unlimited supply of ammunition provided for in the instructions.

A comparison of time and expenditure of this year with that of the previous meeting is recommended.

1st Series.				2nd Series.			
1894....	Rounds, 20;	Time, 19' 14"	..	Rounds, 18;	Time, 15' 57"		
1896....	" 25	" 15	..	" 28	" 15		

This demonstrates that delays in the former year were not justified. While the expenditure of the latter is not quite up to the Imperial average.

Results. Take the 3rd series in both meetings, range and target being the same. In 1894, 12.42 men were hit in 11' 26", with an average expenditure of 20 rounds per battery. In 1896, 16.91 men were hit in 11', with an average expenditure of 20 rounds per battery.

There were a greater number of hits this year. It will also be observed that the proportion of men hit per shell was slightly greater.

Failure to distribute the fire was the principal cause of more men not being hit.

Ammunition. The total expenditure of ammunition was as follows:—

292 common shell
651 shrapnel shell
125 case shot

or an average of 89 rounds per battery, 7 rounds per battery under the estimated expenditure.