

prices from an old list. Well, we sent home the order in 1876, and we took our information from the War Office price list of the previous year—the latest we knew of. As the appropriation for Garrison ordnance was specific and definite, we are thus innocently placed in a difficulty by the War Office decision. I therefore recommend a further appeal for its reversal.

In connection with this, I lately had very interesting and instructive interviews with Captain Edward Palliser, late of the 7th Hussars brother and agent of Sir William Palliser the inventor of the converted rifled gun. Captain Palliser entered with great zest into the subject of the conversion of our old smooth-bore guns.

We have in the Dominion :—

19.8-inch guns.

135.32-pounder guns.

209.24-pounder do

32.18-pounder do

The 19.8-inch guns can be converted into 64-pounder rifles, capable of firing battering charges with the Palliser chilled shot of 80 pounds weight. The 32 and 24-pounders can be converted into 64-pounder rifles and the 18-pounders into 40-pounder rifles. Captain Palliser went into the subject of manufacturing, and inspected the machinery of the Canada Engine Works at Montreal owned by Messrs. Gilbert. He states there will be no difficulty in carrying out the conversion at these works. The projectiles for this artillery can also be made there and when a little experience has been gained, the manufacture of the 9-pounder rifled field gun its gun carriage, &c., can also be undertaken, so that there need be no necessity to spend more money out of the country. Canadian workmen and Canadian iron can do the whole work, and the cost would therefore go to Canadian citizens. Therefore, no iron guns should be sold, as they can be utilized. Over 1,500 converted Palliser guns are issued to the Volunteer and Militia Artillery of Great Britain, and no accident to the gun has yet been reported. As to the cost, Sir William Palliser will make no charge against the Canadian Government, or to the manufacturer, on the score of "Royalty" on the invention nor of commission, nor in fact any whatever; the Canadian Government would therefore reap the whole benefit of the manufacture in the Dominion. I understand the Messrs. Gilbert are prepared to undertake the conversion of 32 and 24-pounders smooth-bore to 64-pounder rifled guns at a cost of £120 per gun. A 32-pounder gun has now been lent to Messrs. Gilbert as an experiment for conversion at Sir William Palliser's expense, as well as the construction of 25 common shells. On the completion of this gun, the Dominion Inspector of Artillery will have the gun tested, and after trial will be able to report upon the Canadian manufacture of guns and projectiles.