

Report of the Executive Committee.

FIELD BATTERY.

1. The target practice for Field Batteries was carried out under the same general conditions as in 1886, the only alteration being an increase of six common shell in the number of rounds allowed, thus allowing for an officers' competition of two officers from each battery firing four common shell each.

This development of the principle inaugurated last year, has been found to be of considerable instructional value and has also excited a good deal of interest and emulation.

2. With the exception of the Woodstock and Newcastle Field Batteries, all the Batteries were enabled to use Major Scott's revolving sight for their annual gun practice. The use of this sight does away with many of the usual causes of errors in laying, and as a necessary consequence the scores made are found to be more uniform. Owing to the somewhat experimental nature of its use and the expense of the sights themselves, only two were obtained last year. It will be advisable to increase this number gradually, so that each Battery should be provided with at least two of these sights, more especially as one of the principal advantages derived from their use is that of being able by manual adjustment only to correct the laying of a second gun by observing the error of the first.

3. The annual gun practice in Ontario was carried out at two ranges—Port Colborne and Kingston—and during the period of annual drill, six Batteries competing at the former and four at the latter locality. Both ranges were found very suitable.

The principal advantages of having the practice during annual drill are those of being able to select the best marksmen from the whole Battery, and the avoidance of much useless expenditure in transport. Against this may be urged the necessary loss of valuable time taken from the already too limited period allowed for annual drill. As, however, the power of maintaining an effective fire is the main object of all field artillery drill, it may be as well that this crucial test is brought most prominently into notice, during the period when all ranks are being instructed in the best means to attain it.

3. An analysis of the scores made by the twelve Batteries which fired at Port Colborne, Kingston and Quebec, shews an average of 427.4 points per battery, which taking into consideration that the Range was increased this year from 1500 to 1700 yards shews that the relative good shooting of the Batteries as compared with the average of 455.4 points last year continues much the same.

It will be seen by the scores made, the Gzowski Cup was won by the Ottawa Battery after an exceedingly close competition with the Durham Battery—the former competing at Ottawa the latter (who were the winners in 1886) at Kingston.