

REPORT ON "B" BATTERY, ROYAL SCHOOL OF GUNNERY, WHILE AT QUEBEC AND KINGSTON, AND BRANCH SCHOOL AT MONTREAL.

KINGSTON, 20th December, 1880.

SIR,—During the year ending 20th of December, 1880, 14 officers and 120 non-commissioned officers and men joined for instruction. Of this number, the officers were as follows:—

Artillery.—Short course, 5; long course, 1.

Engineers.—Long course, 1.

Cavalry.—Short course, 1.

Infantry.—Short course, 4; long course, 2.

Of the above, fifty-one were non-commissioned officers, gunners and drivers from the various artillery and cavalry militia corps in Ontario, Quebec and Maritime Provinces.

In addition, sixty-two non-commissioned officers and men enlisted and re-enlisted in "B" Battery. In the Branch School, Montreal, two officers and seven non-commissioned officers and gunners obtained certificates under the instruction of Assistant Gunnery Instructor, Staff-Sergeant J. Howard, "B" Battery, Royal School Gunnery. The examination papers were sent from Gunnery School headquarters. These are included in the above. Appended are returns of certificates granted, showing subjects of instruction and results of examination.

(A.) Garrison artillery and infantry officers, "B," Royal School Gunnery, while at Quebec and Kingston, and Branch School, Montreal.

(B.) Field artillery officers, "B," Royal School Gunnery, while at Quebec and Kingston.

(C.) Garrison artillery non-commissioned officers and gunners, "B," Royal School Gunnery, while at Quebec and Kingston, and Branch School, Montreal.

(D.) Field artillery and cavalry non-commissioned officers, gunners and drivers, "B," Royal School Gunnery, while at Quebec and Kingston, and Branch School, Montreal.

Since the formation of "B" Battery at Quebec considerable means of instruction were developed at the Citadel without much expense to the Government. With the consent of the officers of the Quebec Queen's Own Hussars, who owned the structure, the Cavalry Riding School was removed to the ditch of the Citadel, materially assisting in the equitation and Field Artillery instruction of the Gunnery School, especially during the winter months. The artificers and men of the battery formed a theatre and lecture room, which served both for instruction and amusement. An extensive drill shed was built over the casemates, protecting them and affording an excellent gun drill shed in winter. An indoor gymnasium was also constructed, and a large and commodious model room, school room and library were arranged. I find very inadequate provision has been made at Kingston for these necessary adjuncts to a military school in a climate like Canada. There is no riding school for winter use. The drill shed is only ten yards by twelve yards, and quite inadequate for the instruction of the school. There is no gymnasium. The room used as lecture-room and model-room, is only six and a half yards by seven, and ten feet high; a single class can with difficulty find room to write and take notes; ventilation under such circumstances is impossible in winter. The models are, with one or two exceptions, of obsolete war material. The old military fuel-yard close to the Tete-du-pont would be a suitable place to erect a covered riding school, and a shed built over the casemates as recommended for their preservation would form an excellent gun drill-shed for the detachment of the Gunnery School (40 rank and file) it has been found necessary to station there.

Of the five sergeant infantry instructors appointed to "B" Battery, one was left at Quebec for the assistance of "A" Battery in giving instructions to French-speaking cadet corps, etc. These non-commissioned officers have given great satisfaction to the principals of the various colleges to which they have been attached.