

"junction with an ordinary lumber wagon, being used for this purpose, and horses and drivers hired for the occasion."

So much for the gun power, which does not perhaps sound much in these days of modern monsters. But how about the man power? It will be seen for the reason stated to be quite inadequate, unless a small permanent force of regular trained artillerymen is established there. I again quote Lieutenant-Colonel Irwin's report.

"The guns were mounted on their carriages and platforms by the labourers employed on the works. I was anxious to obtain the services of the garrison battery for this purpose, but from reasons entirely beyond my control I was unable to get more than a very few volunteers for this duty, and then only in the evenings.

"The work of transporting the guns, stores, &c., from the Naval Storeyard to Brothers Island being of exceptional difficulty if obliged to be effected with the ordinary means at my disposal, I applied to the Naval Commander-in-Chief for assistance, and Rear-Admiral de Horsey was pleased to undertake the entire execution of this work, which was successfully effected by a naval detachment under the direction of Captain F. Robinson, Her Majesty's ship 'Opal.' The detachment received the ordinary rates of working pay, from the Dominion Government.

"With reference to the subject of manning the guns in these batteries, it will be observed that for this purpose the only means at present provided are the members of the garrison battery, enrolled about the time of my arrival, numbering about fifty of all ranks.

"Of this number about thirty attended the voluntary evening drills and lectures, held on the average twice a week during my stay in Victoria; about twenty men are fairly proficient in gun drill and artillery exercises, and a class of about ten of the Officers and probable non-commissioned officers, who were able to attend occasionally at special afternoon drills, are capable of instructing at standing gun drill and elementary exercises.

"The battery is fortunate in being commanded by an Officer of great energy and zeal, and also in possessing the services as instructor of Lieutenant D. G. McLaughlin, who obtained a first-class short course certificate from this school of gunnery in January, 1876, he being then a sergeant in the New Brunswick Garrison Artillery.

"Owing to the isolated position of Victoria, the very limited number of its population, and the high rate of wages paid for labour, special and almost insuperable difficulties are placed in the way of the establishment of anything like an efficient volunteer artillery force sufficiently numerous or well trained for the purpose of manning this number of guns and maintaining an effective fire against ships in motion, a duty the successful performance of which requires the greatest possible amount of training and intelligence on the part of the gunners.

"My previous reports and recommendations (16th June, 1878) on this subject have indicated the advisability of maintaining a small permanent force at Victoria or Esquimalt, whether composed of