

in the equipment of a practical knowledge of their duties, the importance of such meetings cannot be overestimated.

The details of instructional practice, at present limited to firing at a fixed target at a known range, are susceptible of considerable development, dependent, however, upon the previous instruction of the individual in elementary drills. The great advances in this direction made by many batteries led me to hope that a more advanced course of training may soon be undertaken by them with advantage. The expenses of the transport of all the detachments to and from this meeting were this year defrayed by the government, and the prize list and multifarious expenses connected with the expenses of such a large camp, such as camp allowances to each competitor, working pay for staff, targets, range, fatigue parties, &c., were met by the Dominion Artillery Association, mainly out of a government grant for this purpose.

In connection with the drill and training of the garrison artillery I desire most strongly to recommend for the favorable consideration of the proper authorities the advisability of placing all batteries upon the same footing as regards their annual drill, and this for the following reasons, viz:—

The amount of drill and training, not only practical but also theoretical which is required to enable a garrison artillery man to become really efficient, cannot, by any possibility, be acquired even in twelve days annually—voluntary drills combined with competent instruction become an absolute necessity—these drills are encouraged and stimulated by even a very little recognition on the part of the Government—and also by the annual visit and close examination of the Inspecting Officer, whilst the withdrawal of this incentive to exertion every alternate year has had the undoubted effect in years past, of causing the demoralization and consequent inefficiency of many independent batteries.

The rural or independent batteries which are not necessarily called out for annual drill, are with one exception now only to be found in the Maritime Provinces—and when it is considered that for the defence of Halifax alone, the services of every artilleryman in these provinces would be required as auxiliary to the Royal Artillery at that station, the necessity of maintaining each battery in as efficient condition as possible is all the more apparent.

Armament, Equipment and Ammunition.

With the exception of six 64 R.M.L. guns received from the Imperial Government no changes have been made in the armament during the year. The Sydney Field Battery are still armed with obsolete smoothbore guns; with the exception of four 64 pr. R.M.L. guns at Fort Dufferin, there are no serviceable guns on the defences of the harbor of St. John, N.B.

The nature and present condition of the armament at Quebec and Kingston is as reported during previous years.

The equipment of the field batteries is generally in a serviceable condition.

With the exception of cannon gunpowder, all the ammunition used, and in store, has been received from the Imperial Government on repayment. Several experiments have been made with the view of manufacturing common shell for 64 pr. and 9 pr. R.M.L. guns, at Quebec, but so far the pattern adopted, for use with gas checks instead of projecting studs, has not been found altogether satisfactory; there appears to be no reason, however, why common shells, similar to the service pattern, should not be so manufactured.

D. T. IRWIN, Lt.-Colonel,
Inspector of Artillery.

Report of Assistant Inspector of Artillery, Quebec.

Montreal Field Battery, Lt.-Colonel Stevenson Commanding.—Inspected at St. Helen's Island, Montreal, on the 4th July. Found no falling off from its usual marked efficiency.

Horses good, but rather too heavy a class. Guns, carriages, harness, clothing and equipment in first rate order. Marching past, field manoeuvres, gun drill, answers to questions and Gzowski competition all good and very creditable to all ranks.

Their gun practice was performed at the Island of Orleans, Quebec, under my superintendance on the 17th September, when the high score of 394 was made.

Shefford Field Battery, Lt.-Colonel Amyrauld Commanding.—Inspected at Brigade Camp Sherbrooke, on the 6th July; men of fine physique, horses inferior, harness very old and not clean, but well fitted; guns, carriages and equipment in fair order. Clothing fair, but badly fitted. Forge caps well worn. No spurs. Serge trousers and no riding boots. Marching past and field manoeuvres in brigade with the Richmond Field Battery well done. Gun drill very good. Sword drill not done. Gzowski competition not done. Gun practice not performed this year.

Richmond Field Battery, Major Aylmer Commanding.—Inspected Brigade Camp at Sherbrooke on 6th July. Fine body of men. Horses fairly good. Harness old and dirty, but well fitted. Guns, carriages and equipment in fair order, Clothing badly fitted. No belts worn. Helmets worn. No spurs. Marching past and field manoeuvres in brigade with the Shefford Field Battery well done. Serge trousers and no riding boots. Gun drill very good. No sword exercise. No Gzowski competition. Gun practice not performed this year.

Quebec Field Battery, Major Crawford Lindsay Commanding.—Inspected in Brigade Camp, at St. Thomas, on 13th July. This battery as usual turned out in a most smart and praiseworthy manner. Horses good and serviceable. Harness very old but in good order and fairly clean. Clothing very good and all the men properly booted and spurred. The boots are paid for by the men themselves. Water bottles and haversacks complete. Guns, carriages and equipment in good order. March past and field manoeuvres very good. Sword drill indifferent. Gzowski competition not done on account of the heavy nature of the ground available for drill, which was of a nature to render fast work out of the question. Gun practice performed at the Island of Orleans on 6th September.

Quebec Garrison Artillery, No. 3 Batt. Capt. Morgan Commanding.—Inspected at the Drill Shed, Quebec, on the 9th May, 1888, for the year 1887. Present Captain Morgan and Lieutenants Morgan and Panet and 41 non-Commissioned Officers and men. Their manual and firing exercises and marching past was very good, and the battery was well turned out. The Gun drill and Company drill was not up to former standard. This battery did not answer the official questions this year.

No. 1 Battery, Capt. Roy,—No. 2 Battery, Capt. Boulanger.—Inspected at the Drill Shed, Quebec, August 23rd. Both batteries well turned out and smart, but deficient in accoutrements as formerly reported,

Manual and firing and Gun drill very good. Two detachments of each only at the latter. Company drill fair, some very undersized men. No. 1 Battery did not answer the official questions this year. No. 1 Battery did not practice this year. No. 2 Battery fired at the Island of Orleans Dominion Artillery Association.

Levis Garrison Artillery, No. 1 Battery, Captain Martineau Commanding.—Inspected at No. 2 Fort Levis, 6th August. This Battery was very creditably turned out, and their drill was uncommonly good, especially their Gun drill. Some very small men. They are deficient of clothing and accoutrements, and have borrowed from other batteries. Answers to questions very good. Gun practice performed at the Island of Orleans, Dominion Artillery association meeting.

No. 2 Battery, Captain Vien Commanding.—Inspected at Lévis, 25th August, smart and well turned out. Gun drill fair. Manual and firing exercise very good. Some very small men. Deficient in clothing and accoutrements, and had borrowed from other batteries. Gun practice performed at Island of Orleans, Dominion Artillery Association meeting.

C. E. MONTIZAMBERT, Lt.-Colonel,
Assistant Inspector of Artillery, Quebec.

Report Assistant Inspector of Artillery, Ontario.

The following batteries assembled in brigade camp at Gananoque, Lieut.-Col. B. Van Straubensee, Deputy Adjutant General commanding, and performed their duties in a highly satisfactory manner and with great cheerfulness:—

Ottawa Field Battery, Major Steward commanding.

Kingston Field Battery, Major Drennan commanding.

Durham Field Battery, Major McLean commanding.

Gananoque Field Battery, Lieut.-Col. Mackenzie commanding.

Captain Bliss, of the Ottawa Field Battery, acted as my brigade major, rendering valuable assistance, much to my satisfaction. The non-commissioned officers, selected from the batteries in camp, performed their several duties efficiently. The weather was continuously fine, and excepting delay to the Ottawa and Durham Field Batteries on the first day, owing to transport difficulties, no time was lost.

All four batteries performed their annual gun practice while in camp at a range of 2,000 yards. I feel convinced from experience that a material alteration is necessary in the gun practice and distribution of ammunition.

These batteries were all efficient, and the Kingston Battery, which still improves, had their equipment in excellent order, but were weak in number of gunners. I fear, however, that in all batteries year after year the reduced harness and stores are maintained at the expense of the proper battery equipment which is not seen at annual drill.

While the improvement at the termination of the drill was most marked, still the prominent weak point is the lack of knowledge of the