

report and that of my Assistant-Inspector, Lieutenant-Colonel Price Lewes :—

*"Garrison Artillery Generally.*

"With the exception of the Montreal and St. John, N.B., Brigades of Garrison Artillery, I have found the garrison artillery in a very inefficient condition, mainly, I believe, for want of a weapon on the efficacy of which they can rely, as they cannot on the old smooth bores that cumber our works and drill sheds. The introduction of Sir William Palliser's comparatively inexpensive system of converting our old cannon into rifles in Canadian workshops, at a cost of 120*l.* each, the cost of the imported Palliser gun being 160*l.* exclusive of freight, is, in my opinion, the only tangible and permanent means of giving efficiency to this important branch of the service, especially in cities where both the industry, the guns, and the gunners, are most needed; and where intelligent mechanics may be found to form enthusiastic artillerymen to man the guns they forge in the defence of the city where they live. Judging by what has taken place in Great Britain, these results are not necessarily visionary for Canada. Having commanded the Gunnery School for Reserve Artillery at Woolwich, from its inception until I left for Canada, it was my duty to recommend the adoption of the Palliser 64-pounder for the Reserve Artillery of Great Britain. The immediate interest roused by this substitution (for 'the old 'gas-pipe guns,' as the obsolete weapons were somewhat irreverently styled by the men who were supposed to fight them) raised the efficiency of the force in a manner incredible to one who did not witness it. The home Reserve Artillery of Great Britain musters 60,000 fairly trained gunners in addition to the regular reserves of the Royal Artillery. I would earnestly plead for the extension of the system to this part of the Empire."

Lieutenant-Colonel Price Lewes reports :—

"I regret to find in the Halifax drill shed no stores for shifting ordnance exercises; in fact no appliances wherewith to instruct or interest the artilleryman in his work beyond a few 32-pounder smooth-bore guns mounted on traversing platforms. The Brigades of Halifax Artillery contain the material for as fine a force of garrison artillery as could be desired; but if the most ordinary appliances for instruction (which in England are possessed by the smallest volunteer artillery corps) are not given them a high state of efficiency cannot be expected. I trust this deficiency may be remedied, especially as regards Halifax and St. John, N.B., at both of which places are excellent drill sheds, and I feel confident that the results in increased efficiency will amply justify the trifling outlay required for the few stores referred to. These brigades have not carried out their annual gun practice, owing to the ammunition having only very recently been received, and I should recommend that, as the winter season has set in, the ammunition be retained until the spring, and then used for competitive practice."

In my own report I find the following :—