

## AT THE CRIMEA.

"Give us a song!" the soldiers said,  
Their outward trenches guarding.  
When the heated guns of the camps rilled  
Grow weary of bombardment.  
The dark Redan, in silent scoff,  
Lay dim and threatening under,  
And the tawny mound of the Mameluk  
No longer belched its thunder.

"Give us a song!" the Guardsmen say,  
"We storm the fort to-morrow,  
Sing while we may, another day  
Will bring enough of sorrow."  
They lay along the battery's side,  
Below the smoking cannon,  
Brave hearts from Severn and from Clyde,  
And from the banks of Shannon.

They sang of love, and not of fame,—  
Forgot was Britain's glory,—  
Each heart recalled a different mate,  
But all sang "Annie Laurie."  
Voice after voice caught up the strain,  
Until its tender passion  
Swelled like an anthem, rich and strong,  
Their battle eve confessing.

Across the dark'ning ocean burned  
The bloody sunset embers,  
And the Crimean valleys learned  
How British love remembers.  
And once again the fires of hell  
Rained on the Russian quarters,  
With stream of shot, and burst of shell,  
And howling of the moribands.

And English Mary's eyes are dim  
For a singer dumb and gory,  
And Irish Nora mourns for him  
Who sang of Annie Laurie.  
Ah! soldiers, to your honored rest  
Your love and glory bearing,  
The bravest are the truest best,  
The loving are the daring.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE OF  
THE MILITIA FOR 1870.

[CONTINUED.]

*The Honorable Sir George B. Cartier, Bart.,  
Minister of Militia &c., &c.*

## ARTILLERY.—FIELD BATTERIES.

No addition has been made since last year to the Field Artillery of the Dominion, which as yet only consists of ten field batteries, with 42 guns, a number wholly out of proportion to a force of upwards of 40,000 men, being at the rate of less than one gun to every 1000 men. Moreover one of these field batteries (the only one in Military District No. 9,) consists of six-pounder Armstrong guns, which are not recognized in the regular army as suitable for a field battery. There are, therefore, only suitable guns for nine field batteries, and as three guns to every thousand men is considered the least number required for modern warfare, the insufficiency of the strength of this most important arm is apparent.

I would, therefore, strongly recommend the gradual increase of the field artillery, until every brigade in the Dominion has a field battery attached to it (without which it cannot be considered complete,) and as there are twenty-two brigades of active militia—exclusive of the Grand Trunk Brigade—in the Dominion, and only ten field batteries, by degrees, of twelve additional batteries, and the acquiring of fifty-two guns of a suitable description—forty-eight to arm the new batteries, and four to replace those, not recognized as suitable, in Military District, No. 9,) with the necessary waggons, harness and small stores complete.

It is recommended that these guns should be the new pattern rifled muzzle loading field guns, now being constructed for use in the regular army, which have all the advantage of breech-loading artillery, without its complications of stores, &c. It is also recommended that all the nine pounder smooth-bore guns at present in charge of

the field batteries (27 in number,) be gradually replaced by rifled guns of the above description—smooth-bore ordnance being now almost obsolete. The cost of the new gun, (amounting to about £86 sterling, per gun) would be, to a considerable extent, balanced by the sale of the old bronze guns.

The heavier description of the two rifled field guns, recommended for adoption, is lighter by 1½ cwt. than the present nine-pounder guns in use, yet fires a 15 or 16 pound shell with far greater range and accuracy, and is expected to prove the most powerful field gun with which any nation is armed, but the lighter gun being now supplied to the horse artillery in England, would be better adapted on the whole for service in Canada, it is, five and a half cwt. lighter than the present gun, and throws shells of nine to twelve pounds in weight.

A want long felt in the Militia Service, has recently been supplied, viz: the appointment of a trained officer of the Royal Artillery to act as inspector of militia artillery and warlike stores. Such an appointment had become quite indispensable, in consequence of the recent handing over to the Dominion Government of all the forts, artillery, and stores in the country west of Quebec, and from the dimensions which the force has now assumed. The report of this officer, (Lieut. Col. G. A. French,) will be found to contain certain details of inspection, and suggestions for increasing the efficiency of the artillery, and I would especially call attention to, and recommend that the system of enrolling horses, giving a retaining fee to the proprietors for the horsing of the field batteries, as suggested by Lieut. Col. Shanly, commanding the London Field Battery, (whose memorandum on this subject will be found in the appendix) be adopted, and thus meet the great difficulty that has always been experienced in horsing these field batteries.

I would further beg to point out the desirability of extending the present period of drill for the field batteries to 32 days, the present period (viz, 16) being found altogether insufficient. One half of the above period of 32 days to be under canvas at the annual Brigade camps along with their respective Brigades, the remaining portion in drill and practice at their own head quarters at such time as may be most convenient for the men, and to enable this to be carried out I would beg to recommend that a sufficient money appropriation be granted by Parliament.

The present strength of the Field Batteries, both in men and horses, is also insufficient, and does not leave any margin for casualties, such as sick, absentees, &c., &c. I would therefore recommend the gradual increase of the Field Batteries, until they reach the following strength, viz:—

- 1 Major,
- 1 Captain,
- 3 Lieutenants,
- 1 Sergeant-Major,
- 4 Sergeants,
- 4 Corporals,
- 4 Bombardiers,
- 1 Trumpeter,
- 1 Farrier,
- 50 Gunners and Drivers.

Total . . . . . 100

And 60 horses, exclusive of officer-horses. I would also strongly recommend that the issue of ammunition for annual practice, be as follows, viz: 10 rounds per Battery, to be distributed in such manner as the Inspector of Artillery may direct.

By the adoption of the above recommendations, this very important branch of the service which cannot be hastily organized, would, I am confident eventually attain to a very high degree of efficiency.

## GARRISON ARTILLERY.

The Garrison Artillery consists of seventy batteries, and numbers 4,108 officers and men; but as yet very insufficient steps have been taken for the instruction in artillery exercises, of the majority of the batteries—although for purposes of defence this description of force, when applied to its legitimate purpose, is perhaps of all others the most valuable. It being therefore very desirable to impart the necessary instruction in artillery to the various batteries, and, as happily, better means now exist for doing so, I would recommend that in future the annual drill of all batteries of Garrison Artillery be performed in the various forts nearest their respective headquarters, and wherever means of instruction may be found. The proposed establishment permanently of the two batteries, recommended, will greatly facilitate carrying out the arrangement by furnishing instructors &c. I would also recommend that provision be made by Parliament to extend the period of drill for the Garrison Artillery to thirty-two days, and all the officers should be attached in rotation to the proposed permanent batteries at such times as may be most convenient to them, for a certain period, and after passing satisfactorily through a short course of instruction, receive certificates of qualification. By such means, the annual drill of the Garrison Artillery could be properly carried out, and the foundation laid of a system which would, in a few years give to the Dominion a large number of trained artillerymen.

It is not necessary or desirable that the Garrison Artillery should be armed or drilled as infantry, or that they should join the brigade camps in summer, which are intended only for the cavalry, field batteries and infantry. The proper position of Garrison Artillery in time of war, is in forts and batteries—their power and means of defence lies in the skilful use of heavy artillery. For annual practice, it is recommended that fifty rounds per battery be allowed to be expended in such manner as the Inspector of Artillery may direct.

## INFANTRY.

The Infantry, truly termed the back bone of an army (exclusive of the Grand Trunk Brigade) numbers 35,119 officers and men, and as a rule is composed of strong and able-bodied men in the prime of life, and they are, generally speaking, well enough instructed in company and battalion drill, for all practical purposes required in modern warfare, as for some years past the various corps of Infantry, have been in the habit of drilling of their own free will in the different drill sheds throughout the country, at convenient times, but very insufficient time has been afforded to them for acquiring a proper knowledge of skirmishing drill in the open field (so essential in those days), and of that most important perhaps, of all military instruction, viz: the proper use of the rifle, and indeed without extending the period of drill at the annual training from eight to sixteen days as recommended, I do not see how even a reasonable degree of knowledge on these essential points can be acquired and maintained by the majority of the men.

If, however, the necessary supply of money be voted by the Dominion Parliament to enable the extension of the annual