

Report of Lt.-Col. C. W. Drury, upon the Field Artillery Practice
at Laprairie, 1896.

KINGSTON, 1st December, 1896.

To Lt.-Col. J. F. Wilson, R.C.A.,
Comdg. Camp, Laprairie.

SIR,—As Chief Instructor I have the honour to submit the following report upon the Field Artillery Practice held at Laprairie in September last:

Owing to the condition of the second meeting at Laprairie being so much like the first, it leaves me but little new matter to touch upon. I propose to divide my remarks into two parts:—

1st. A comparison between this and the first meeting, noting progress under the several headings of my former report.

2nd. New matter.

In regard to the former:—

Objects of the Practice. These were about the same, but I feel they were better understood than at the former meeting.

Fire Discipline. A decided improvement was noticed in this. All ranks appear more fully to appreciate their responsibilities.

Time. An advance was made in the rapidity in firing first gun. The comparison is as follows:—

	Series 1.	Series 2.	Series 3.
1894	1.52"	1.18"	1.42"
1896	1.46"	1.16"	1.10"
	Shortest, 0.52" Longest, 2.39"		

A comparison by those interested of other records is desirable.

Occupation of Position. It is difficult to make any criticism on this feature, for the same reasons as were mentioned last year. However, it was noticed that the majority of C.O's were not particular enough in seeing that the alignment of the battery was at right angles to the line of fire. The objections to an oblique alignment are obvious.

Series III—"The Direct Method." This was much better performed than at the first meeting.

Ranging. The same remarks apply this year.

One or two C.O's followed the plan of giving two lengths of fuze at the same time to different sections; the results were excellent, and much time was saved thereby.