

ter to secure the annual prize. It would besides create a spirit of emulation and enterprise, from which the country would receive much benefit.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant.
T. AMYRAULD, Major.
Commanding S. F. B. of A.
Lieut.-Col. Bacon,
Acting Dpty. Adjt. General,
Montreal.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 7.
Quebec Field Battery.

QUEBEC, 24th Nov., 1873.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th inst., requesting me to state if the present system of supplying horses for Field Batteries works satisfactorily in my case, and also if I have any suggestions to offer calculated to increase the efficiency of this service, and at the same time within the power of the Department to grant.

I may state the present system of supply does not work satisfactorily.

As the Battery of necessity drill during the busy season of the year, and as the rate of pay allowed is far under the present value, it has become impossible to procure powerful first-class horses, such as are required.

To remedy this difficulty, a vital one, and at the same time greatly improve the efficiency of Field Batteries, I beg to suggest.

That the annual drill be extended from sixteen to thirty-six days, eighteen at head quarters and eighteen in camp; or,

That the rate of pay for horses be increased, and in addition a bonus, of \$1 per horse, be allowed, payable to the proprietor at the end of the year, on the presentation of a certificate to the effect that the horse is of the class required, and has been during the year at the service of the Battery.

I may also suggest that the efficiency of the Q. F. B. would be materially improved by taking on the strength of this corps the horses allowed the School of Gunnery; these horses during the annual drill would be available for the Q. F. B., and during the remainder of the year would be at the service of the School of Gunnery; a few thoroughly trained horses being a matter of much importance.

The present establishment and drill allowed Field Batteries has been pronounced by the Adjutant-General to be entirely insufficient.

It is to be hoped, therefore, the Department will give a satisfactory solution to the question of efficiently organizing Field Batteries, the most important, and at the same time the most difficult arm of the service to place on a satisfactory footing.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant.
M. W. BABY, Brevet-Maj,
Commanding Q. F. B.

Lt.-Col. Lamontagne, Brigade Major,
Mil. Dist. No. 7.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 8.

Newcastle Field Battery.

NEWCASTLE, MURRAY, 4th Dec., 1873.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th ult., with memorandum from the Acting Adjutant-General of Militia.

While I have always had considerable trouble in getting sufficient horses for our battery, and although I have taken time to think the matter over, and consulted my

officers on the subject, I cannot suggest any thing important in the way of improvement. So long as horses command higher pay at ordinary work than is paid by the Militia Department, it will be difficult to get them. You must hold out some inducement to a man before you will get him to consent to take his horses from their regular employment to go out for eight days' drill. I think a Field Battery should drill twelve of fifteen days, of six hours each day, and the horses be furnished with fodder in addition to the present pay.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
R. R. CALL, Captain.
N. F. B.

Lt.-Col. Jago, N. B. Artillery,
St. John.

New Brunswick Artillery.

St. John, Dec. 11th, 1873.

SIR,—With reference to the enclosed memorandum, I have now the honor to forward to you the reply of Captain Call, of the Newcastle Field Battery.

It appears to me that it might be worth while to take into consideration whether a regular system of registration of horses might not be carried out—the owner of the animal to receive a small retaining fee annually, in addition to the drill pay for the year; and in return he would have to obtain leave from proper authority before parting with the horses by sale or otherwise.

By payment of a small fixed sum in this manner it appears to me that owners of horses would have greater inducements to allow their horses to be enrolled, commanding officers would have a larger choice of horses suitable for the work required of them, and the expense to the country would not be materially increased.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
D. R. JAGO, Lieut. Col.
N. B. Artillery.

Lieut. Col. G. Maunsell,
Dpty Adjutant-General.
Mil. Dis. No. 8.

THE NAVY AS A LAND FORCE.

The current number of the *United Service Magazine* contains an article on a subject of so much importance to an effective co-operation of our Naval and Military forces in time of war, that we are only too glad to draw attention to and assist in promulgating the views and suggestions of the writer. The subject is "Naval Brigades." In all our recent wars, Naval Brigades have played a conspicuous part. Since the war with China in 1840, the sailor has been landed to fight side by side with the soldier, and this, too, at a time when military tactics comprised movements not at all suited to the training of a man-of-war's man. Still the Naval Brigades always covered themselves with honor and glory, and were ever ready for any service when wanted; soldiering—we do not mean the fighting, but the drilling part of the work—was never popular with our seamen, and although its unpopularity is now somewhat modified, yet we often receive complaints of ships being turned into barracks. In the article to which we shall freely quote, the cause of this unpopularity is clearly shown. Too much is expected from both officers and men, and the repugnances hitherto manifested by the former to the study of military exercises and drill, "mainly results from the fact that what little instruction

they now receive is far too elaborate, inappropriate, and based on a misconception of the real elements of success in land warfare." There can be no doubt that both the officers and seamen of the fleet have proved themselves capable of "discharging their duties in the field in a manner inferior to none," which the recent campaign on the Gold Coast has fully proved, the Naval Brigade having gained high eulogiums and won golden opinions from all the superior Military officers with whom it was brought in contact, and under whom it was more immediately engaged in the several actions fought, as also from the General-in-chief. Nothing could have tended more to bring out the aptitude of our Blue-jackets for shore work than the general adoption of breech-loading arms of precision now used, in consequence of the tactical changes they have made necessary in landing troops in the field. "To stiff mechanical movement has succeeded loose, intelligent co-operation, each one working in the most skillful manner for the common end." It is not necessary the sailor should be taught to emulate the soldier in the erectness of his drill on parade. The blunder now committed is attempting too much in this line, and to it may be chiefly attributed the distaste to "soldiering," as rifle drill and field exercises are termed afloat. All this is fully and ably touched upon in the article on "Naval Brigades." The most simple manœuvres, combined with ordinary instruction in the use of the rifle, and all the seamen require. The intelligence and self-reliance they so largely possess the present day will more than make amends for any shortcomings in more elaborate exercises. "If to the knowledge of how to skirmish, the capability of forming fours in any direction, and of forming company to the front, rear, and either flank be added, we have really summed up all the 'drill' necessary to make a perfect fighting man." This, from one who evidently bears the impress of knowing what he is writing about, should go far to remove a delusion under which Naval Officers as a body labor, and that a good soldier must necessarily be master of the whole of the Army field exercises. But it may be said, "What is to become of our Sailor element, if they are to be turned into soldiers? No such metamorphosis, however, necessary. Our sailors will not be one whit the worse as such, if a little more judgment and less "playing at soldiers" were to be exercised in their teaching. If, with the author of "Naval Brigades," "we were not profoundly convinced that we can retain—nay, even exalt—all the chief and most precious characteristics of the English seaman, and still make him—such has been the revolution in the mode of fighting on shore—the equal of any infantry man in the world, we should be the first to raise our voice against in any way teaching these matters to him. Let us above all things be sailors. To whatever excellence we are capable of attaining in other walks, let us never forget that it is here our chief attention has been given, as it is here our most glorious laurels have been won."

Naval co-operation with the Army, whenever practicable, has now become an established principle of action, and the sooner Naval officers realise the fact by fitting themselves for the duties they will be called upon to perform, the sooner will credit take the place of the reproach which now attaches to too many of them, for the ignorance displayed when called upon to put only a small arm company through the most simple movements.—*London United Service Gazette.*