

A frequent cause of delay was that battery commanders waited to see the result of the first pair of shrapnel before giving out the next length of fuze, whereas it would have been quite within the instructions to give out a length for each section, one of which at the short range would, no doubt, have been correct.

Observation of Fire. Observation of fire is a matter requiring anxious thought and long practice. Its difficulties are not always appreciated by those who criticise the fire effects of artillery.

The observation of fire was not particularly good; commanders did not make use of observers to assist them. In many cases section commanders were noticed watching the results of the shots, consequently neglecting the supervision of their detachments.

Concentration and Distribution of Fire. In series II. the target was 'Artillery' placed at short range.

In series III it represented an attack of infantry.

As a rule, concentrated fire was maintained throughout the practice at both these targets.

Only one Commander thought of distributing his fire. So marked was the concentration that in one instance in series III., during "ranging," several dummies were knocked down in the centre of the line of infantry, but the fire was maintained at the gap, leaving the dummies on the flanks untouched.

A study of clause III, page 97, Field Artillery Drill, respecting distribution, would be desirable.

Suggestions. It is to be hoped that the practice of next year will include a series to fire from behind cover. This is now a most important feature of artillery warfare. It could be admirably carried out at Laprairie by using the railway embankment as cover.

I would also recommend that a longer period be allowed for the camp. The pressure of work this year was too great for the time allotted to it.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

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Umpire-in-Chief.