

Owing to very few of the officers, non-commissioned officers, or men of the battery having attended the School of Gunnery, there is not as great a knowledge of the use and application of artillery projectiles and stores as I should desire. This remark also applies to the Hamilton Field Battery.

The Kingston Field Battery was inspected by me on the 22nd September.

The Battery was rather short of men during the training, and but little gun drill had been carried out. The greater portion of the drill was devoted to driving and field manoeuvres, and consequently the battery was very efficient therein. The battery was very well horsed.

I inspected the Toronto Field Battery on the 30th September. The turn out, whether of men, horses, harness or guns, left little to be desired.

The gun drill and field manoeuvres were remarkably well done. This battery has sent a large number of non-commissioned officers and men to the School of Gunnery at different times.

The officers are exceptionally good.

Lieutenant General Haly, C.B., commanding the troops in British North America, was present on the occasion of the inspection. He was agreeably astonished at the ready way the battery manoeuvred. The annexed letter (A) which he was kind enough to write to me a short time afterwards, expresses more fully his opinion on this matter.

I inspected the Wellington Field Battery on the 30th September.

A sergeant-instructor from the School of Gunnery, was present with the battery during the whole training. This was only the second turn out of this battery since its formation. It progress has been remarkable, and I think will probably be still more so, as all ranks shew the greatest zeal for their work.

The Hamilton Field Battery performed its annual training in the early part of Oct. This Battery was particularly well horsed. The harness was in excellent order. The men were well up in gun drill.

Capt. Smith performed field manoeuvres very well.

At the Niagara Camp, in 1871, I gave a small prize to the cleanest set of harness, and I am glad to say, that in most of the batteries the hint has been taken up, and the officers offer small prizes for the cleanest harness; as nearly all the drivers endeavour to obtain a prize, the general effect on the appearance of the battery may readily be imagined.

I have frequently pointed out no provision has been made for a Government prize for drivers. I think it hard, that as a class, they should be debarred from all Government prizes.

A badge of crossed whips, and \$10 to the best driver of each battery, would not appreciably affect the Military expenditure.

GARRISON ARTILLERY.

Of the Garrison Batteries shown on the Inspection State, the Toronto, Collingwood, Garnaia, Napanee, and Nos. 3 and 5 Batteries of the Ottawa Brigade Garrison Artillery, performed the annual drill in eight consecutive days; the Goderich and Cobourg batteries in sixteen day, drilling at various times.

The particulars connected with the above batteries, will be seen on reference to the Inspection State.

The Toronto, Napanee and Cobourg Batteries turned out very creditably, and were well up in Garrison gun drill. The Colling-

wood and Goderich Batteries were fairly efficient but the two batteries of the Ottawa Brigade Garrison Artillery gave me anything but satisfaction.

These batteries were encamped at Ottawa; their appearance on parade was not particularly good, and with the concurrence of the acting Deputy Adjutant-General, several names were struck from the Muster Roll, as the individuals were quite unfit for service, several of them being boys of fourteen and sixteen years of age.

I inspected several detachments at gun drill, but was not at all favourably impressed I have reason to believe that the discipline maintained or attempted to be maintained, was of a very loose kind.

Unless Garrison Batteries are brought into forts and instructed at garrison gun drill, mortar drill, &c, under properly qualified instructors, I doubt very much if there is any advantage in retaining them on the strength of the force as *Garrison Artillery*.

In the Field Artillery of the Province there is much greater *esprit de corps* than in the Garrison. I would however, even in the case of Field Batteries, recommend that the annual training be carried on in the District camps, under proper supervision, and with the assistance of the staff of instructors from the School of Gunnery.

As I shall probably have no future opportunity of bringing forward any recommendations with reference to the artillery warlike stores of the Dominion, I beg to submit the following matters, most of which I have previously recommended:—

1st. The appointment of a Major to each Field Battery.

2nd. The increase of the establishment of a Field Battery to 100 non-commissioned officers and men.

3rd. The enrolment of draught horses for Field Batteries.

4th. The simplification of the drill of Field Batteries, by manoeuvring with the guns independently of the wagons.

5th. Granting prizes to drivers for proficiency in their own particular line.

6th. The removal of Garrison Batteries from their own headquarters to the most convenient forts and batteries for the annual training.

7th. The appointment of a Battery Sergeant Major to each Garrison Battery.

8th. Extension of the period of annual drill for both Field and Garrison Batteries.

9th. The manufacture of small-arm ammunition, and other warlike stores in the Dominion.

10. The encouragement of the manufacture of large grain gunpowder, by purchasing the powder required for annual practice in the Dominion.

11. The annual inspection of all warlike stores by competent officers.

12. The adoption of some fixed policy with reference to the fortifications and their armaments, as they are rapidly going to ruin.

Having, during the last three years, been brought much in contact with the Artillery of the Dominion, (but more particularly of Ontario), it gives me great pleasure in being able to testify that during all that time, I have ever been treated with the greatest kindness and consideration by all ranks, and I would respectfully request that I may be allowed through the medium of your report to return my sincere thanks to the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Militia Artillery generally, and particularly to Lieut Colonel Shanly, of London; Capt. Gray, Toronto; Captain Macdonald, Guelph;

Major Kirkpatrick, Kingston; Lieut. Colonel Mackay, of Montreal, and Lieut. Colonel Jago, of St. John, New Brunswick, hoping that during the period of my connection with the Artillery of the Dominion, I have generally conducted my duties to the satisfaction of the officers commanding the Militia of the Dominion.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

G. A. FRENCH, Lieut.-Col.

Inspector of Artillery,
and Warlike Stores,
Dominion of Canada.

The Acting Adjt. Gen. of Militia,
Ottawa.

(A)

CITADEL, QUEBEC, 14th Oct. 1873.

My Dear Colonel,—It was a great satisfaction to me during my tour, in the upper Provinces, having the opportunity which you so kindly afforded me of seeing unofficially your batteries of the Dominion Artillery at Toronto, and at Kingston. As I verbally expressed myself on those occasions I was very much pleased with what I saw of those troops. The Field Batteries of four guns, which, I saw on parade at Toronto; efficiently horsed and commanded by a smart and intelligent officer, gave most satisfactory evidence of the manner in which field artillery can be raised and formed, for which the Province of Ontario appears to me to possess special capabilities, both in men and horses. The manner in which that battery moved, evidences the zeal and intelligence with which it has been trained and instructed, and the turn out on parade of both men and horses was highly creditable to yourself, and those officers and soldiers serving under your command.

The battery and detachment at Kingston appeared equally efficient and well appointed. I was impressed with the feeling that both your officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers, appeared to be animated with a zealous and soldier-like spirit and bearing, and can only hope that increased opportunity and facilities may be offered these troops of attaining to the highest degrees of efficiency commensurate with Imperial and Dominion military interests. Wishing yourself and them every success, believe me,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed,)

W. O. G. HALY,
Lieut. General

(To be continued.)

MILITIA INSPECTION.—On Thursday evening at 7, the New Westminster Rifles mustered in their Drill Shed—36 being present—and marched out to the Cricket Ground, to be inspected by Lieut.-Col. Houghton, Deputy Adjutant General. After inspection of arms &c., various evolutions were performed in a very creditable manner. Colonel Houghton then addressed the men in very complimentary terms, expressing his satisfaction at the progress made by the company and referring in terms of special praise to the good muster (40 is the full strength of the company), and to the fact that the New Westminster Rifles numbered among them three or four of the best shots in the Province. Colonel Houghton urged the men to make fresh efforts to maintain and improve the standing they had acquired, both on the Parade Ground and at the Butts.—*Dominion Pacific Herald*.