

recommendation is age or length of service, thereby standing in the way of younger and more energetic men, of whom there are plenty who have qualified at one of the gunnery schools. Officers commanding Batteries of Artillery are in general very well qualified; they fill a responsible position. The increase in the efficiency of Artillery caused by the general substitution of the rifled for the old smooth-bore gun demands every exertion for additional knowledge on the part of those who have to use them, and as Gunnery Schools permit every facility for the necessary instruction, I hope and earnestly recommend, that officers of Garrison and Field Batteries will see the necessity for obliging all young officers and men to obtain the necessary qualification.

In the clothing of Artillery I find the serge overalls are universally condemned, especially for mounted men, they are totally unsuitable for Cavalry or Artillery, who ought to have cloth trousers with foot straps invariably. It is unsightly to observe mounted men with wrinkled trousers half way up the calf of the leg, as slovenly to look at as unserviceable in practice.

I have already alluded to the efficient armament of our 17 Field Batteries, they are as a general rule, quite serviceable for rough field work, and in most, if not in every instance, ably commanded by intelligent and competent officers.

I can hardly speak too highly of the satisfactory result already attained by the general introduction of the competitive gun practice under the rules of the Dominion Artillery Association. Although this Association, introduced through the indomitable energy and perseverance of Lieut.-Col. Strange, with the able assistance of Lieut.-Col. Irwin, is yet in its infancy, yet the increased interest taken by all ranks in the result of this practice, with the obvious necessity of careful instruction in drill, and a knowledge of ammunition and gunnery, is of itself very satisfactory and must lead to a much higher standard of efficiency.

The Dominion Artillery Association which was founded two years ago for the development of gunnery and skill, and the dissemination of artillery knowledge throughout the Dominion has excited emulation for prizes, and has succeeded well. His Excellency the Governor General is patron, and has, with his usual interest, presented medals for competition. The Government grants a small subsidy. The Militia Artillery, I believe without exception, subscribe annually. The practice is carried out whenever possible in presence of one of the Dominion Inspectors, with a qualified Artillery officer to assist and mark the score, and gold embroidered badges and bronze cross guns are awarded the successful competitors in the various corps. Thus, increased efficiency year by year will be obtained, and the waste of valuable ammunition by unskilled men be avoided.

The Dominion Inspectors of Artillery, who are also Commandants of the Artillery or Gunnery Schools, have independent duties to perform in those capacities, upon