

the variation between the maximum and minimum in each series seems altogether too great.

The serious consequences which might occur from a battery being silent after the guns are brought into action is a matter that cannot be too forcibly impressed upon all ranks.

The "deliberate method" of coming into action gives ample time for preparation; therefore, there is no excuse for delay in firing the first gun.

The firing in both natures of fire was slow. Unnecessary delays, for various reasons, occurred when changing from common to shrapnel. In no case did a battery approach the time limits allowed for the series, *i.e.*, two rounds per minute. It was deemed advisable not to enforce the penalty in the time limit rule this year, owing to the conditions of the practice being so new to all; next year, however, I would recommend its being rigidly observed, and the battery deprived of any rounds it may not have fired within the time allowed.

*Occupation of Position.* It is much to be regretted that the nature of the ground did not permit of testing the capacity of the several Commanding Officers in reconnoitring and selecting positions, or in the choice of method of coming into action; since the uniformity of Laprairie Common was such that it precluded the possibility of such test. The umpires, therefore, besides pointing out the general alignment of the battery, directed that the "deliberate method" should be followed in the first and second series and the "direct" in the third. In connection with this subject I would remark that the employment of the "deliberate method" under the conditions existing at Laprairie, in the second series, is hardly in accordance with the spirit of the instructions. As the target was plainly visible and the range comparatively short, there was nothing to be gained by adopting the "deliberate method," yet for the sake of instruction and for testing of the knowledge of the Commanding Officers in this method, it proved useful.

*Series III—"The Direct Method."* Although it was evident that one or two Commanding Officers thoroughly understood what was required, the situation was not grasped by the section commanders and gun layers, clearly demonstrating the want of training in their duties.

*Ranging.* The ranging with common shell was good, but in most cases the corrections for "fuze-finding" with shrapnel were quite wrong. As a rule, the ranging at the infantry target was very slow. This was especially the case when "fuze finding." When a battery is exposed to infantry fire it is evident that the rate of fire of a battery must be the highest possible, if an effect is to be produced.