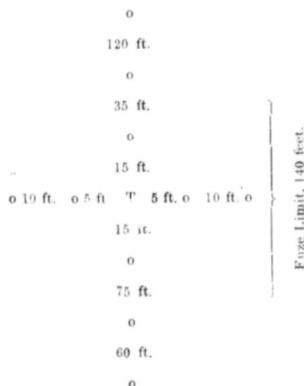


## Practice from 64-32 pr. Guns.

FIRST FALLISER GUN COMPETITION.

The range party under the command of Lieut. Donaldson left Quebec about 9 a. m., in a boat lent by the ever-obliging Chief of the Harbor Police, J. Trudel, Esq., for the range which is situated opposite the Falls of Montmorenci, on the flats on the north shore of the Island of Orleans, where they arrived assisted by wind and tide about half-past ten, and proceeded to place the target and bannerols.

The target, which consisted of an ordinary sugar hogshead, was placed at a distance of about 1,500 yards (judged by range party) from the battery, and the bannerols arranged at the proper distances apart, as shown in diagram:



Fuze Limit, 140 feet.

The party were informed of the arrival of the competitors and their readiness to commence by the trumpeter at the battery sounding "commence firing," and all being ready at the range they lowered their flag and proceeded under cover.

The contest was between five competitors selected from those who had fired in the smooth bore competition.

The trial shots were laid by Lieut.-Col. Montzambert, the first struck 60 yards over, and the second (the elevation having been corrected), nearly 20 yards over; this error was, no doubt, due to the height of the battery above the horizontal plane on which the target was placed. It is, perhaps, worth noting, that under almost identical circumstances, the same results followed with the 9 pr. R. M. L. guns at the practice of Lieut.-Col. Stevenson's, Montreal Field Battery, when firing on the same range.

The first competitor struck on a rock in trying to get the right length of fuze, 8 was just too short, bursting the shell out of bounds under, and 9 was just sufficient to carry it outside the fuze limit before it burst, the shell ricocheting after good elevation.

The second, however, seemed to drop into the right groove at his first round, which struck the ground just one foot from the barrel and plunging through the stones and mud rose in sufficient time to carry away the back of it, and roll what was left 6 or 7 yards from the spot, scoring 8 points, viz., 3 for direction, 4 for elevation and 1 for a ricochet hit; this caused a halt for some time, as the range party had to go out about 300 yards through the mud to put up what remained of the hogshead. After they retired firing recommenced, No. 2 round being a splendidly directed shell with good fuze, a splinter cutting off a limb of the *beuze* which had been stuck in the top of the target. No. 3 round came to grief, bursting out of bounds under, and the range party were beginning to think that times were not going to be so hard as rounds 1 and 2 had foreshadowed, but their hopes were like castles in the air, for the fourth round knocked them with the barrel higher than a kite—after

beating round for another target, half a hogshead remaining from a previous competition was found, and a solemn procession formed, headed by the danger flag, next the barrel borne on the shoulders of two of the party, followed by the rest with faces looking very solemn indeed, there being only one exception, a native of that green isle, where fellows fight just for fun and to keep their hands in practice, who went along swinging a pickaxe as if nothing at all had happened or was likely to happen.

The target being placed the range party retired and had just got under cover when bang went the fifth round, bang went the barrel and simultaneously a voice from one of the despondents who had been paddling in the mud all morning, "Sacre, c'est le diable pur."

The supply of barrels being exhausted a target had to be constructed by placing the staves in a line, showing a front of 4 feet, and securing them front and rear by placing large stones up against them.

The practice of the third and fourth competitors although very good and scoring well, left the target standing, but the first round of No. 5 was a splendid one, it struck the target a little below the centre and sent the staves flying in the air, one of them to the height of, at least, 60 feet, this was the last hit on the target, the remaining four striking under or over, but scoring as solid shot.

The 64-32 pr. converted guns exceeded what was expected from them; before conversion the width of the parallelogram of error was 30 yards, at this practice it was laid down as 30 feet, i. e. 15 feet each side of the target, but not a single shell went outside 10 feet, i. e. 5 feet each side,—and with one competitor four shells out of five made their mark on an ordinary sugar hogshead, the fifth having burst through an error in boring or a bad fuze.

Nothing could go further to prove the utility of the Government proceeding with the conversion of the old smooth bore guns than the above practice, besides arming the different batteries with a useful weapon, it would give confidence to the men working it and would, moreover, be the means of inciting the Garrison Artillery to emulate their brethren of the Field Batteries.

It is true that for sea defence a heavier gun is needed to penetrate armor plates, but for the defence of batteries placed anywhere above, or even at Quebec, assisted by a battery of heavy guns to protect torpedoes, the 64-32 pr. gun is capable of withstanding any gun that could be brought against it overland.

Officers and Sergeants of the home volunteer corps are not permitted to wear sashes.

The War Office will not entertain the application of officers on the home establishment who may volunteer for active service in Afghanistan.

Forty tons of Martini-Henry cartridges have recently been despatched to the Cape of Good Hope, in consequence of an urgent demand by the authorities there.

While riding over Brighton Downs recently a lady had her horse shot dead under her by a stray rifle shot. The ranges were closed for inspection and a searching enquiry made, but the result had not transpired.

The colonial reliefs for 1878-79 comprise the removal of the 101st Fusiliers in the troopship *Orontes* from Cyprus to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and the moves of the 1st Battalion 4th Foot from Gibraltar to the West Indies; 1st Battalion 20th Foot from Nova Scotia to Gibraltar; 35th Foot from Barbadoes to Malta; and 27th Foot from Malta to the Straits Settlements in relief of the 28th Regiment, which will be brought home.

## Halifax.

There is unusual stir just now amongst the troops in garrison; the 97th regiment, who have just got comfortably settled in their quarters at Wellington Barracks, are preparing to reoccupy the citadel, their present quarters being taken over by the 101st Fusiliers from Cyprus. The 1st Batt., 20th regiment,—who by the way have just brought their winter kit—will embark in the troop-ship *Orontes* about first week in November and proceed by way of the West India stations to Gibraltar. Major King's battery Royal Artillery will embark at the same time to replace a Battery from Bermuda which will land at Halifax with the 101st Fusiliers.

The short service system continues to draw men from the station, several leaving by every mail steamer, last week, two from the 97th regiment and several from other corps sailed for home, also the torpedo section of the company of Royal Engineers.

The weather has been all that could be desired, and the 97th, who have a great portion of their men available for drill, have not lost the opportunity. On the 16th inst. the regiment were on the common in full service marching order and looked well; with the recently issued new valise, helmet, &c., one would hardly recognize the regiment. The marching was excellent, the drill very good, but it is a moral impossibility for men to drill as steady in complete marching order as in drill order. The space allowed a man in the ranks is not enough for him to turn about with ease, consequently the men require to shake out which gives the battalion a very loose appearance; now, however, appearance is sacrificed for efficiency, all drills are done in as loose a formation as possible, in fact all movements as far as possible are now done at the double, and there is not that attention paid to wheeling or dressing as formally, line being formed in all cases without markers (except for the purpose of drill) and then it is optional.

The new form for attack is most practised, the regiment are getting almost perfect in it, the charge at the last looks grand, the whole of the bugles and drums beat "the charge," and as the men sweep by with a ringing cheer, the looker on gets a gentle hint of what the British soldier can do when he is on his mettle.

Great preparations are in progress for the reception of the Marquis of Lorne and the Princess, but it is not yet known what the military arrangements will be, at present it looks as though the bustle of shifting quarters would be nearer the time of arrival of the new Governor-General and his Royal lady that would be desirable.

The War Office has had under consideration the advisability of employing balloons in the event of an Afghan expedition, the mountainous features of the country being regarded as favourable to aerial observations; but the experiments which have been made are not yet sufficiently advanced to be put into practice.

The Royal Humane Society have awarded a bronze medallion to Mrs. Disney-Roebuck, wife of Captain Disney Roebuck of the 46th Foot, and a handsome testimonial inscribed on vellum to E. Bond for courageous conduct in saving the lives of three ladies who were bathing at Broadstairs.

Extraordinary results have attended the trial of an Armstrong 6-inch gun at Shoeburyness. This gun, which weighs only 70 cwt., but fires a very heavy charge in an enlarged chamber, for the propulsion of a comparatively light projectile, has succeeded in penetrating an 11-inch iron target with energy to spare, calculated as nearly equal to another inch of metal.