

“ twelve months residence in the Military College will return to their homes, having  
“ already acquired very materially improved education and habits of mind and body,  
“ from which they themselves will feel the benefit through life, and with which their  
“ parents and the country may feel satisfied. It may be fairly deduced that a still  
“ more beneficial result will follow at the end of four years at the Military College.”

I have alluded at some length to the Military College because it is still a very young institution, hardly even yet sufficiently known or appreciated throughout the Dominion at large. It is intended that each Military District should annually send to the college two cadets, or 24 for the whole Dominion. From every Province and Military District save one, within reasonable reach, we have now representatives. Nova Scotia alone holds aloof for no reason that I know of, except want of proper encouragement and ventilation by the Military Staff of the District. The sister Maritime Province not only is represented, but I believe one of its cadets has taken the highest number of marks by 670 at the competitive examination for entrance British Columbia, from its great distance, and the expense of the long journey by land and sea could not be expected to send cadets; and Prince Edward Island is also unrepresented from similar unavoidable reasons.

I have not yet received the reports of the Dominion Inspectors of Artillery, and the Commandants of “ A ” and “ B ” Battery, Schools of Gunnery. These two officers, Lieut.-Colonels Strange and Irwin, Royal Artillery, have no need of further commendation from me; their professional acquirements are of the first order, and the zeal which they ably apply in the performance of their duties, sometimes under difficult circumstances, entitle them to the credit I have the pleasure to award them. Their reports, always searching and instructive, will speak for themselves, and I am sure will receive all the attention they fully deserve if I may be permitted to pre-  
prejudge by the high character as artillerymen these officers possess.

I inspected both these permanent batteries during the autumn, commanded respectively by Lieut.-Colonel Montizambert and Lieut.-Colonel Cotton, two Canadian gentlemen of high abilities and fully qualified for the important posts they efficiently fill. “ B ” Battery I scrutinized minutely at the Levis Camp, and I cannot too well express my satisfaction with the proficiency attained by it, which applies equally to “ A ” Battery. The value of these Artillery Schools in instructing officers and men of the Garrison and Field Batteries of the Dominion, is proved by the efficiency of the Artillery generally. In this respect however as may be expected, much still remain to be accomplished, and we can hardly look for a really high standard of efficiency in this scientific arm, unless officers commanding batteries exert themselves to the full to obtain, and to retain, the services of officers and non-commissioned officers who take a keen interest in, and show a natural proclivity for their duties, by a willingness to undergo the necessary course of training at a school of gunnery. It happens that sometimes subaltern officers are retained who can barely drill a gun detachment, while non-commissioned officers are sometimes found whose chief