

# Dominion Artillery Association Competition

FOR GARRISON ARTILLERY, 1892.

The competition practice of detachments from all Garrison Batteries in the Dominion (except British Columbia) was held this year at Halifax, N.S. lasting two weeks, from the 1st to the 13th instant. The camp was situated at Point Pleasant in a pine grove which forms part of the Imperial Government Park. An open space adjoining with a gentle slope to the beach served as the firing Battery where two 64 pounder and two 20 pounder guns were mounted. The targets were anchored at a distance of 2000 yards from the firing point, opposite York Redoubt and near the mouth of the harbor. The range proves to have been well selected as the water is comparatively smooth except when a southerly wind is blowing, and the high rocky shore enables the range party to remain on land and observe the results of the shots with much greater accuracy than could be done from a boat. The drawbacks are that the harbor is subject to thick fogs at all seasons of the year and in fine weather the large number of shipping craft constantly passing in and out, causes delay when they get in the line of fire.

The opening day was fine and the Halifax detachments made some good scores. Rain and fog however came on at night and lasted all next day during which nothing could be done. On Wednesday morning the fog lifted and the Yarmouth and Digby Batteries were enabled to complete their firing. They were followed immediately by the Montreal Brigade, but in the afternoon the rain came on and thick fog again hid the targets, making it impossible to continue firing. The next morning was clear, however, and the Montrealers were up bright and early—commenced firing soon after six o'clock, and finished about 4 p.m. Then followed the 'A' Shift. This consisted in dismounting a gun weighing 58 cwt. down the rear taking it 20 feet and back by rollers, and remounting it up the side. Time allowance, 20 minutes. Highest possible marks 250. The Montreal detachment under Sergt.-Major Benton were handicapped in having to work with wet skids and planks, and with a gun 8 cwt. heavier than the one they have to practice with at home. They were the first to do the shift, their time being 21 min. 15 sec. and five points deducted for misplacing two men. The shift has since been performed by Nos. 1 and 2 Halifax detachments in 14 min. 35 sec. and 16 min. 16 sec. respectively, and by Prince Edward Island in 19 min. 55 sec. but the points deducted from these detachments for errors in drill have not yet been announced.

Through the courtesy of the Imperial officers the Montreal detachment was enabled to take advantage of the passes granted by Sir John Ross to the citadel and forts. Col. Hill, R.E., placed a government steamboat at the disposal of Col. Cole, who gladly availed himself of the opportunity to take his officers and men to visit the harbour and fortifications, and with Capt. Boileau, Adjutant of the Royal Artillery, as guide, the trip proved a most enjoyable and instructive one. The detachment landed near the new "quick firing battery" on McNab's Island, and then visited Ives Point Battery, which is heavily armed with 9 and 10 inch guns. A new instrument for range finding, which was shewn here, proved of great interest. A march of two miles brought the detachment to the camp of the Leicestershire regiment, two companies of which are under canvas on this island all summer for the purpose of rifle practice. Just beyond the camp is the most modern of all the harbour fortifications, namely, Fort McNab.

The chief point of attraction in this fort was the new 10 in. B. L. gun, which has lately been mounted. It is 29 feet long, fires a steel projectile weighing 500 pounds, and has an effective range of 7 miles. A pleasant sail across the harbour and a steep climb up the rocky cliff brought the detachment to the entrance to York Redoubt. This is an old fort which is being remodelled and extended, all the work being done in the solid rock. At the base of the cliff is another "quick firing battery" for Hotchkiss guns, intended to repel torpedo boats.

It appears strange to us that the officers of the Royal Artillery at Halifax were not approached by the executive of the Dominion Artillery Association with a view to securing their co-operation and assistance in making the meeting at Halifax as instructive and interesting as possible to the visiting artillerymen. We understand that the first intimation the Royal Artillery officers had of the existence of an artillery camp in Halifax was through the newspapers, and had they been asked to assist they could have arranged to fire the 9 and 10 inch guns before the close of the present competitions.

The messing arrangements, both for officers and men in camp, were found to be inferior to those of the Island of Orleans. Another drawback to the present camp is that no telephonic communication was arranged for, or means of conveyance provided between the camp and the city, a distance of 1½ miles. These matters of detail we think could easily have been arranged and would have added materially to the comfort of the visiting detachments. If the Dominion Artillery Association decides to hold their next meeting at Halifax it is hoped that the executive will take the matter up in good time and have all possible arrangements for comfort and convenience made long beforehand.

The scores made were as follows:

## HALIFAX BRIGADE.

No. 1 Battery	64-pr., 18; 20-pr., 24.	Aggregate, 42.
No. 2 Battery	64-pr., 30; 20-pr., 47.	" 77.
No. 3 Battery	64-pr., 81; 20-pr., 39.	" 120.
No. 4 Battery	64-pr., 15; 20-pr., 19.	" 34.
No. 5 Battery	64-pr., 33; 20-pr., 25.	" 58.
No. 6 Battery	64-pr., 54; 20-pr., 19.	" 73.
No. 7 Battery	64-pr., 14; 20-pr., 45.	" 59.

## QUEBEC.

No. 2 Battery	64-pr., 76; 20-pr., 43.	Aggregate, 119.
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## LEVIS.

No. 1 Battery	64-pr., 28; 20-pr., 27.	Aggregate, 55.
No. 2 Battery	64-pr., 31; 20-pr., 6.	" 37.

## NEW BRUNSWICK BRIGADE.

No. 1 Battery	64-pr., 13; 20-pr., 18.	Aggregate, 31.
No. 2 Battery	64-pr., 44; 20-pr., 31.	" 75.
No. 3 Battery	64-pr., 20; 20-pr., 21.	" 41.
No. 4 Battery	64-pr., 16; 20-pr., 33.	" 49.
No. 5 Battery	64-pr., 23; 20-pr., 23.	" 46.

## COBOURG BATTERY.

64-pr., 51; 20-pr., 46.	Aggregate, 97.
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## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND BRIGADE.

No. 1 Battery	64-pr., 19; 20-pr., 27.	Aggregate, 46.
No. 2 Battery	64-pr., 24; 20-pr., 31.	" 55.
No. 3 Battery	64-pr., 62; 20-pr., 46.	" 108.
No. 4 Battery	64-pr., 33; 20-pr., 25.	" 58.
No. 5 Battery	64-pr., 41; 20-pr., 51.	" 92.

## DIGBY BATTERY.

64-pr., 15; 20-pr., 46.	Aggregate, 61.
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## YARMOUTH BATTERY.

64-pr., 18; 20-pr., 39.	Aggregate, 57.
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## MONTREAL BRIGADE.

No. 1 Battery	64-pr., 17; 20-pr., 3.	Aggregate, 20.
No. 2 Battery	64-pr., 34; 20-pr., 5.	" 39.
No. 3 Battery	64-pr., 40; 20-pr., 43.	" 92.
No. 4 Battery	64-pr., 17; 20-pr., 20.	" 46.
No. 5 Battery	64-pr., 38; 20-pr., 40.	" 87.
No. 6 Battery	64-pr., 12; 20-pr., 12.	" 24.

The Prize-list will be published in our next issue.

Lord Wolseley has issued an order directing that "God save the Queen" be sung by the band and choir in all military churches at the conclusion of the parade services on Sundays and Christmas Day.