

Report of the Executive Committee.

1. The target practice for this year was carried out under the same conditions as regards distribution of ammunition &c. as in 1885—the only alteration being that the trial shots were fired by an officer of the battery competing, three of the rounds so fired being allowed to count towards a special competition for officers only; only ten officers entered as competitors, but the Committee are of opinion that the competition is likely to produce valuable results, and recommend an increase to the number of rounds to be so fired.

2. It is gratifying to observe that the general results of the competitive gun practice show a marked improvement in the score of 1885. In that year fourteen Field Batteries competed, making an average total score of 430 points per battery. In the past year fifteen batteries averaged 455½ points per battery.

In 1885, twelve Garrison Batteries fired from 64 pr. R. M. L. Guns, their average total score being 90½. In 1886 sixteen Garrison Batteries fired under the same conditions making an average total score of 120½—a very considerable and marked improvement.

3. During the past year only two Garrison Batteries were necessarily obliged to fire from S. B. Guns, and it is hoped that arrangements may be made so that in the future such comparatively useless expenditure of ammunition may be rendered unnecessary.

4. The committee regret that their previous recommendation with regard to the selection of suitable ranges for gun practice in Ontario was not carried out with more vigour and research. They are still of opinion that no time should be lost in making a careful examination of the most likely localities for a central range—and from the configuration of the lake shore it is believed that this is most likely to be found between Scarborough and Whitby.

Actual trial has shown that the range at Port Colborne is suitable for the purpose, and that the range at Port Hope might possibly be made so, but the advantages of one central range are so numerous as to render this question one of the greatest importance, and the attention of the Association is directed towards action in favor of a central camp for all Field Batteries, so that gun practice might be held during the period of annual drill.

5. The Committee consider it advisable that greater care should be exercised in selecting competitors for gun practice, and that no man should be allowed to compete who has not shown a certain proficiency in squad and gun drills. They also respectfully recommend for the consideration of the proper authorities the advisability of increasing the number of rounds allowed for practice, or if this cannot be done, then that the number of competitors from each Field Battery should be slightly reduced.