

## APPENDIX "A."

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From Major C. W. Drury, R.C.A., Umpire-in-Chief Field Artillery Practice, Laprairie, to Lt.-Col. J. F. Wilson, R.C.A., Commanding Field Artillery Practice Camp, Laprairie.

KINGSTON, 14th January, 1895.

SIR,—As umpire-in-chief, I have the honour to submit the following report upon the Field Artillery Practice held at Laprairie in September last :

*Objects of the Practice.* The object of the practice at Laprairie was to obtain effective fire from the field batteries of the Active Militia, and to test the capabilities of the several officers in command, while providing instruction for all ranks by daily criticism of the work performed by them.

*Fire Discipline.* The first condition for effective fire is "fire discipline." Fire discipline has been defined as "that condition of training and discipline " which gives the commander complete control of the fire of the battery " under all the changing circumstances of battle."

The control of fire is dependent on the Commanding Officer, and before a battery can produce the maximum effect of fire, it must be perfectly drilled and disciplined, or, in other words, the ordinary training of the soldier is the foundation on which fire discipline and the consequent fire effect must be built up. The results of the recent practice showed that the batteries which obtained most credits for fire discipline, as a rule, secured the highest proportion of hits. Consequently, the success of a battery at the targets greatly depends upon the power of the commander to direct its fire.

*Time.* Time is a most important factor in determining the effect produced by a battery in action.

I would suggest that every Commanding Officer make a careful study and comparison of the several records of time taken at the Laprairie practice.

The average time for twelve batteries taken for each series, taken from the word "action" to "first gun," was as follows: 1st series, 1' 52 5/12"; 2nd 1' 18 1/3"; 3rd, 1' 42 3/4". This was very fair for muzzle-loading guns, but as the conditions and view of the targets were the same for all,