

fuzes with the 7 pounder Mountain Guns are not suitable. The Laboratory percussion fuze marked II is now supplied for the 7 pounder. M.L.R., and the General Service Percussion in lieu of Pillars fuzes.

The small quantity of ammunition in charge of the Militia Batteries that I inspected was in good order, except a few rounds of blank 24 pounder in the old and ruinous magazine at St. Johns, P.Q., which were un-serviceable.

The temporary magazine in that barracks contains both heavy gun ammunition and small arm.

It is dangerous and contrary to regulation to place the latter, which contains detonating composition, with the former.

The guns in charge of the St. John's Battery and Grossa Isle are not sighted: it would be impossible to make correct practice with them. If authority was given, the Ordnance Armourer from "B" Battery could easily perform this service. There are two small armourers paid on "B" Battery muster rolls, and render no service to the Battery, and are not under my control. I suggest that their pay, \$1.50 each, should be drawn from some other source.

The guns and carriages at St. Helen's Island were lacquered and painted by the detachment "B" Battery (in 1873), but there are not sufficient men at my disposal to perform this service at Quebec except to a very limited extent.

Wooden carriages are preserved by painting and filling up cracks, and the bores of the guns are prevented from corrosion by lacquering in accordance with regulations.

With regard to the ventilation of magazines at Quebec, which are not, however, in my charge, I beg to refer to recommendations in letter dated 11th July, 1872.

I fully concur in the remarks of Lieut. Colonel French, late Dominion Inspector of Artillery, pages xxxviii and xxxix, Militia Report for last year (1872), in which he points out "the advisability of commencing even on the smallest possible scale the manufacture and repair of those warlike stores most needed for the defence of the country." I recommended the same 17th May, 1872, and 21st June, 1872.

There are two rates of payments for warlike stores purchased from the Home Government. No. 1 balance sheet shows cost price. No. 2 balance sheet seems to be the rate charged to foreign nations for the purchase of warlike stores, and Colonies seem to be placed on the same footing, with an addition of 15 per cent. to the rate laid down in No. 2 balance sheet, which in the case of R.L.G. Gunpowder, is nearly double the cost price, viz:

No. 1 balance sheet gunpowder per 100 lbs., at £2 10 11 1/2, No. 2 balance sheet, £4 7 4 1/2.

In addition to this 100 per cent., there is the fact, that for making up cannon* and small arm cartridges, repairing small arms, gun carriages, &c., there are numbers of public buildings lying idle, the use of these rent free would be a sufficient set off to the increased price of labor in this country, particularly if it be borne in mind that the labor of children is employed to a large degree in certain of the minor operations. In the long winter season when labor is abundant, work could be carried on, and discontinued in summer.

I would, in conclusion, submit that the establishment of an arsenal on a small scale

* 1,000 lbs. powder have been made into cannon cartridges at the Quebec Laboratory by the non commissioned officers "B" Battery, without cost to Government. These cartridges have been distributed for use in the Dominion, including Ontario and New Brunswick.

may be pressed on the attention of the Government, especially since a higher percentage than that heretofore charged is likely to be put on warlike stores, in consequence of the rise in the price of coal and iron in England.

T. B. STRANGE Lt. Colonel, Inspector of Artillery, Province of Quebec.

(B.)

[Forwarded to the Deputy Adjutant General at Headquarters, for submission to the Major General Commanding. Major Amyrauld is an excellent officer and obtained a 1st class certificate at "B" Battery Gunnery School Quebec.

T. B. Strange, Lt. Colonel, Inspector of Artillery.]

MONTREAL, 10th Nov., 1874.

Sir,--I have the honor to report that in compliance with district orders, the Sheffield Field Battery, under my command, mustered at Granby in full marching order at noon on the 14th September last, to proceed to camp at Laprairie.

I had obtained previously the tents and blankets required, and as the battery has not been supplied with ammunition waggons which I provided, along with the provisions necessary for the subsistence of the battery during the march.

I kept a party of four men and an intelligent non commissioned officer ahead to procure forage and wood at the halting places previously selected, with also instructions to examine and enquire about the bridges that were thought unsafe, until the battery came up.

The battery moved out of Granby at noon on the 14th September and we reached Abbotstford at 2.30 p.m. where we halted to feed the horses and the men had their dinner.

We left Abbotstford at 4.30 p.m. and moved towards St. Césaire. About two miles east of that village I found at a bridge over a rivulet, one man of my advance guard who reported the bridge unsafe. I examined the bridge with my officers and decided to cross over it. As, however, for greater safety unhooked the four leaders of each gun before crossing.

There is a fold on the right of the road and in one hour's work roads could have been cut down the banks.

The road from Granby to Chambly is an old Government macadamized road, the main artery of traffic from Montreal to the eastern townships previous to the building of railways, and is kept in good repairs by the municipalities who have now charge of it. But the bridge above mentioned, to the village of St. Césaire, the road was originally planked as it was thought the bottom too soft for macadamizing. The planks are now all gone and in spring and fall that part of the road is impassable. In an emergency, however, the road could be made practicable by covering it crossways with rails, plenty of which could be found along the road. At St. Césaire I sent the tents and baggage ahead, and we arrived at Rougemont, our camping place for the night at 7.30 p.m. and found the tents pitched in an orchard north of road, on dry ground, and all provision made by my advance party.

We left Rougemont with all our camp equipage properly picketed, at 7.30 a.m., immediately after breakfast, and passing through St. Marie, Richelieu, and crossing Richelieu River at Chambly Centre on a very good toll bridge, and reaching the old Fort on at 10.30 a.m. There the horses were

picketed and it being quite warm I gave leave to the men to bathe in the Basin before dinner.

After dinner, the horses being fed, we left the old Fort at 1.30 p.m., and leaving Chambly village and the Montreuil road to the right, followed the road up the Montreal River which we crossed over a very good wooden bridge at an old grist mill, then passing through Brosseau's mill, Laprairie village we marched into camp at 5.30 p.m.

Just before reaching Laprairie we had to cross a temporary bridge over the rivulet on the route to St. Lambert, which caused me considerable anxiety. The leaders were unhooked, gunners and drivers dismounted, and were got over safely.

Thirty minutes after marching into camp the tents were pitched, the horses feeding and the men at their supper.

I issued on the next morning, the following standing orders for drill, &c., &c.:

- 6 a.m.—Reveille.
- 6 1/2 to 7 1/2 a.m.—Parade—Gunnery for drill. Drivers stable duties.
- 8 a.m.—Breakfast.
- 9 1/2 to 11 1/2 a.m.—Parade—Gunnery drill, &c., &c. Drivers driving drill with limbers.
- 12 to 12 1/2 p.m.—Parade, drivers stable.
- 12 1/2 p.m.—Dinner.
- 2 to 4 p.m.—Parade, under commanding officer.

5 to 5 1/2 p.m.—Parade, drivers stable.

5 1/2 p.m.—Tea.

7 to 8 p.m.—Lecture on Gunnery, ammunition, &c., &c., by commanding officer to non commissioned officers and gunners.

Instructions in harness fitting, &c., &c., to drivers.

As to the proficiency attained is not for me to say, but I hope that when you inspected the battery you there found that my efforts in bringing my men into a state of efficiency have not been altogether lost.

The shot practice of the battery was carried on in your presence, and we have been highly pleased in hearing of your satisfaction at the result. The shells and fuzes not having been issued yet, I intend to call on the battery for shell practice as soon as I receive them. We have a good range at Granby. The behavior of the men; their attention to their duties and disposition to learn, were all I could desire. The number of Gunnery School cadets I have in my battery was a great help to me. It gave tone to the whole corps and enabled me to enforce proper discipline without any difficulty. My non commissioned officers being all Gunnery School cadets, acted as instructors during the camp.

The battery marched home from camp, under command of Lieutenant Neil, and all the guns, stores, arms and equipments, harness &c., &c., were returned into the armory, properly cleaned and in good order, on the 25th September, and the men were dismissed.

When in camp I lost two horses, one died of inflammation of the bowels caused by exposure, and the other was killed on the Grand Trunk R.R.Way. Reports have been made and claims for compensation sent up, and I hope it will be granted as it will make it difficult to obtain horses if the Government do not assume the responsibility of such accidents.

According to your desire I also send you with this report an itinerary (not printed) of the march of the battery from Granby to camp, with such reports on the road as the time I had allowed me to make. The map shows quite a section of country. It was enlarged from a pretty good map in my