

to maintain, and, indeed, to increase our advantage, and that is if we misuse the doggedness of our natural character, by doggedly refusing to adapt our training to the new conditions, if we persist in maintaining a barrack-yard drill, which formerly did resemble warfare, and did train for real fighting, when it has ceased to do so, and thus waste the valuable time which is absolutely required for training in that very talisman for modern success—the conduct of the now protracted fire combat in such strict discipline that till the closest quarters are reached no single shot shall be fired except by direct order, and, that when fired, it shall be fired with coolness. “I cannot urge too strongly on commanders to have the fire of their men under control” (*General Skobeloff*). How is this to be done? How, but by so regularly, consistently and persistently putting the soldier through the action of firing by orders, that it shall be a second nature to fire his rifle only under control of his superior, and not otherwise. What is wanted is the conviction in the mind of every instructor, from the highest to the lowest, that his men should never leave a parade without having gained something in fire discipline. That is, that fire control drill be one of the main points in view as a necessary part of the work to be performed on every occasion when men are being drilled, exercised, or inspected, from the moment that they know the rifle exercises until the day when they leave the service. Let some of the time, which formerly was spent in a perpetual *form* drill to produce a military machine that had a steadiness in formation which nothing could shake, be now spent in producing by a perpetual *control* drill a firing organism which shall have a steadiness in the use of fire which nothing can shake. The troops that shall be found most in the hands of the commander in the matter of fire will, *ceteris paribus*, be invincible. Fire control, when acquired, gives moral power and destructive power. An army which is known to possess it will be dreaded, and its opponents compelled to abstain from all operations of dash and *coup de main*. It will, when it does fire, do so with that accuracy and deadly effect which can never exist where the fire discipline is not strong enough to restrain the soldier from using his fire for himself to give himself encouragement, and not for the purposes and under the hand of his commander. “When firing once begins, men get easily out of hand, unless restrained by an iron discipline” (*Von Kraft Prinz zu Hohenlohe-Ingelfingen*), and “iron discipline” is nothing but that control and enforcement of obedience by constant practice in peace time, which makes it remain as a binding force on the subordinate in war. “Fire discipline requires special training and much practice in peace time” (*Major-General Sir Gerald Graham*); therefore let the habit of firing by orders be matter of practice whenever and wherever men are paraded for drill, and firing without orders, or contrary to orders, or after orders to cease, will become contrary to habit, which is second nature.

Indeed, the plea for practice applies not only to this point of “fire,” but to the training for war generally, and therefore bears upon all the three points stated above, namely, nature of inspection, diminution and simplifications of forms, and control of fire. An inspection directed to practical exercises and fire exercises will cause much practice in preparation in such work, a simplified system will give more time for practice and more time for training in fire control. Thus the maxim would be carried out, both for interval movement and fire training, that “one should not attempt too artificial combinations, but rather spend the time in repeating the simple routine hundreds and thousands of times until it has become a second nature to the man. Thus and thus only can you feel sure that what you require will be done before the enemy” (*Von Kraft Prinz zu Hohenlohe-Ingelfingen*), and there will be hope of meeting the undoubtedly true declaration that “only those troops will be of avail who are as pliable, prompt and under control when extended as if in close order” (*Colonel Gawler*); for these qualities can only be developed and hardened into permanency by constant exercise. And in no way can such constant exercise be got better than by always moving with an interval in fours, instead of moving by close touch in two-deep lines. “Movements with the files separated by spaces can be done in perfect order, and this being so there is no reason why *every movement* of companies and larger bodies should not be made in fours, instead of close ranks” (*General Sir Donald Stewart*). (The italics are General Stewart’s own).

Further, for the development of pliability, promptitude, and control, let the simplification of drill result in the abolition of all the formality of equalising, so that known officers and known men shall always work together, and that in war troops shall not be in an unaccustomed position from having always been exercised in exact divisions. Let there also be a development of control of men on the small scale by group-leadership, as distinguished from and in aid of their control in sections or larger bodies by commanders—an old invention and one on which Saxe laid much stress—but which the system of equalising and the tendency of past times to the closely-set machine moved in large mass by one word of command has held back—but which is now developing rapidly, and for which the means are made to hand for the British

infantry by our characteristic fours, two sections of which, working together, form a perfect group, without any interference with system. The development of a true group system—a system in which a small number of men shall be constantly and specially associated in camp and field, and shall constantly back one another up—is yet in the future. It is to be hoped that it will not be neglected in our army. Personal knowledge on the small scale is most important. The great advantage of Napoleon’s Boulogne camp was “de s’accoutumer a vivre ensemble, d’apprendre a se connaitre” (*Fezenac*).

(To be continued.)

The Field Batteries’ Scores.

WE give this week the scores, in detail, made by the different field batteries in the Dominion (Richmond excepted) during the annual competitive practice, 1886, with 9 pr. R.M.L. guns. We are indebted to Capt. Donaldson, secretary of the Dominion artillery association, for the information, which can be relied on as correct.

Practice was carried on at Quebec by the Montreal and Quebec batteries; at Port Hope by the Ottawa, Gananoque, Durham and Toronto batteries; Port Colborne by No. 1 and 2, 1st Brigade, Guelph, London, Welland Canal and Hamilton batteries; at Sussex, N.B., by the Newcastle battery and at Woodstock, N.B., by the Woodstock battery.

The Kingston battery was to have practised at Port Hope, but was unable to attend, and will not fire this year. No returns have been received from the Richmond battery; we will give the scores in a future issue. The prizes cannot be attached till they are heard from.

The umpries were were—For Quebec and New Brunswick, Lieut.-Col. Montizambert; for Ontario, Lieut.-Col. Cotton.

The range at Port Colborne is reported to be a first class range in every respect, where a range of 2,000 yards could be easily obtained, and where two batteries could practise together without interfering with one another, besides furnishing a good camping ground in a hard-wood grove.

Ottawa Battery.			No. 1 Battery, 1st Brigade.		
	Preliminary	Final		Preliminary	Final
Staff-Sergt. Dunnett.....	13		Gr. Ritchie.....	25	28
Sergt. Pinkerton.....	30	31	Bomb. McCutcheon.....	32	4'48" 27
Bomb. Cowan.....	30	39	Gr. Hetherington.....	22	
Gr. Gray.....	31	35	Gr. Ryde.....	9	
Gr. Shore.....	22		Staff-Sergt. Ogg.....	20	
Corpl. Clarke.....	14		Sergt. Cross.....	31	31
Sergt.-Major Peck.....	31	20	Sergt.-Major.....	23	23
Gr. Nelson.....	23	11	Gr. Tripp.....	15	
Gr. Graham.....	20		Sergt. W. McIntosh.....	22	5'27" 27
Sergt. Hood.....	23	20	Bomb. Cormack.....	15	
Gr. Lilico.....	22		Sergt. Armstrong.....	15	
Gr. Fago.....	14		Corpl. Knowles.....	23	38
Gr. Wilson.....	25	12	Corpl. Crowe.....	23	5'50" 27
Gr. Faughey.....	20		Bomb. Hynes.....	15	
Gr. Walsh.....	16		Gr. Martin.....	25	18
Sergt. Ingram.....	32	35	Gr. Gore.....	14	
Direct hit not credited...	6				
	372	203		329	219
Aggregate.....		575	Aggregate.....		548
Welland Canal Battery.			Montreal Field Battery.		
	Preliminary	Final		Preliminary	Final
Sergt.-Major Mesler.....	14		Sergt. Stewart.....	25	21
Sergt. King.....	23		Bomb. Keyworth.....	25	31
Gr.-M. Sergt. Chelew.....	24	10	Gr. Porteous.....	25	19
Sergt. Ecclestone.....	19		Sergt.-Major King.....	23	13
Corpl. Gander.....	29	16	Sergt. Kendall.....	23	33
Sergt. Jeffrey.....	32	20	Gr. Hays.....	23	22
Gr. Lydiatt.....	24	22	Gr. Adams.....	22	18
Corpl. Brade.....	15	20	Corpl. Henney.....	20	23
Bomb. Richardson.....	23		Corpl. Keough.....	8	
Corpl. Hallet.....	23		Collarmaker Wall.....	15	
Gr. Dickenson.....	32	20	Bomb. Rollo.....	20	
Bomb. McCormick.....	24	29	Sergt. L. Walker.....	15	
Gr. Wiley.....	23		Gr. Pearel.....	18	
Gr. H. Phipps.....	24		Gr.-M. Sergt. Mowatt.....	8	
Corpl. Clifford.....	31	24	Sergt. Lindsay.....	16	
Gr. Heneckie.....	15		Gr. Crowther.....	13	
	375	161		299	185
Aggregate.....		536	Aggregate.....		484
No. 2 Battery, 1st Brigade.			Hamilton Battery.		
	Preliminary	Final		Preliminary	Final
Sergt.-Major Simpson.....	25	23	Sergt.-Major Walton.....	14	
Sergt. Newshead.....	26	31	Sergt. Coombs.....	10	
Gr.-M. Sergt. Thatcher.....	0		Tpr. Orr.....	22	28
Sergt. McIntosh.....	21		Corpl. Collett.....	20	22
Sergt. Brown.....	13		Sergt. Fernside.....	24	11
Sergt. Hood.....	21	27	Bomb. Atkinson.....	25	32
Sergt. Mereweather.....	22	35	Corpl. Connor.....	8	
Sergt. Anderson.....	13		Tpr. Crites.....	25	29
Corpl. Watson.....	16		Corpl. Omand.....	18	19
Corpl. Haddon.....	22	28	Bomb. Collett.....	6	
Gr. Card.....	24	10	Bomb. Homer.....	22	
Gr. Bigby.....	24	5	Sergt. Trumble.....	19	
Gr. McFarlane.....	21		Gr.-M. Sergt. Madgwick.....	12	
Gr. Parker.....	30	31	Gr. Wilson.....	19	21
Gr. Dyson.....	9		Gr. Burkholder.....	19	
Gr. Austin.....	15		Staff-Sergt. Kerley.....	25	21
	302	180		288	133
Aggregate.....		482	Aggregate.....		471