

## FIELD ARTILLERY WORK.

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Before reading my paper to-night on "Field Artillery in the Field," I would wish to mention that it must of necessity be more or less of a compilation taken from different authors and authorities. A Canadian gunner, educated in this country, is hardly in a position to see the efficient handling of field artillery so as to be able to form opinions of his own, especially where the practical handling of this particular arm of the service is confined to a very small sphere. Therefore I hope I may be exonerated from any charge of plagiarism, if several of the theories and remarks laid down in this paper may appear familiar to some of my audience. Another point I would wish to mention is this: It will be seen in the course of the lecture that I have not alluded in any way to the ammunition column, which, of course, accompanies all artillery corps in the field. The reasons are obvious. The time for the reading of this paper is limited, and the subject itself of such large proportions, that I must, perforce, curtail it in order to keep within the bounds of what may be more or less interesting, without fear of diverting into boredom. But above all, Lieut.-Col. Montizambert last year read a most interesting paper "On the Supply of Ammunition in the Field," before the garrison at Quebec, and as I believe that paper is within the easy reach of anyone wishing to read it, there is no object in my repeating here the principles therein laid down.

One of the first principles of the employment of modern artillery in the field is that care should be taken to have a superior number of guns to those of the enemy, ready to bring into immediate action. To attain this object, care must be taken that guns are placed as near to the front of the column in marching as is possible. It is also very essential that artillery should be used in masses of the greatest strength possible, and brought up at the commencement of an engagement irrespective of the development of the other arms. Of course, should it be found necessary to advance artillery without escort, care must be taken that the front and flanks are clear of the enemy.

It is not advisable for small or detached bodies of artillery to push forward, in the early part of an action, into isolated positions as such movements might interfere with the general's plans of action. In order to produce the fullest effect possible, the fire of artillery must be concentrated, and in order that this concentration of fire may be best directed, the batteries must be sufficiently concentrated to be