



PREFACE



It is most meet we arm us 'gainst the foe ;
For pence itself should not so dull a kingdom,
But that defences, musters, preparations
Should be maintained, assembled and collected,
As were a war in expectation.

HENRY V, ACT II, SCENE I.

We have it on no less an authority than that of Colonel Ivor Herbert, at one time Commander-in-Chief of the Active Militia Force of Canada that the Artillery is the most efficient branch of the Dominion's defensive force. This fact being conceded, a short history of one of the oldest and most efficient corps in the most efficient branch of the service should be welcome to all interested in the Canadian Militia, as helping to show how the foundations of that efficiency were laid, and how developed.

I venture to express the hope with all modesty, and with a lively appreciation of the defects which must exist in any hurried historical compilation of this character, that this book will prove not merely interesting, but also useful, to the members of the 3rd Field Battery.

Anyone who has taken an intelligent interest in military affairs knows that esprit de corps has as much practical effect upon the efficiency of any kind of a military organization as has its drill, its discipline, its interior economy, and even its equipment.

There has always been a sturdy, honest corps spirit in the Montreal Field Battery, officers and men being proud of their battery and of themselves. I venture to hope that these pages will help to show them that their pride in the past record of their fine corps is well founded, and assist in keeping the commendable spirit alive in the Battery for all time.