

August 21, 1966

Mr. Harry Johnson,  
Parks Branch,  
Dept. of Northern Affairs,  
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Harry:

Regarding the four old cannon buried outside the  
Halifax Armouries, I quote from the March 2, 1904 issue of the  
Halifax Morning Chronicle:

"FIRST GARRISON ARTILLERY TAKING ON NEW LIFE.  
NEW AND ~~XXXXXXXX~~ UP TO DATE GUNS BEING PLACED  
IN ARMOURIES AND OBSOLETE ONES BEING BURIED.

"The task of removing the big old-fashioned and obsolete  
muzzle loading guns from the Artillery drill hall at the Armouries  
was begun Tuesday and it is quite an undertaking. Some time ago  
arrangements were made between the militia and Imperial author-  
ities by which the 1st Regiment of Canadian Artillery would be  
furnished with modern guns, and two of these arrived at the  
Armouries some weeks ago..... The work of removal of the four  
old guns, which were mounted on carriages, is being done by a  
party of about thirty Royal Artillery men with the heavy lifting  
gear belonging to the department. The guns proper weigh each  
twelve tons and this great weight has to be lifted off the pon-  
derous carriages and lowered to the ground.

"The Imperial authorities have for years been puzzled as to what  
disposition should be made of the big obsolete guns, and different  
methods have been tested, but so far it appears that they must  
be practically thrown away.... The weight is great and ~~xxx~~  
experiments in blowing them to pieces with dynamite and other  
explosives have not been successful, while to move them intact  
to points where they might be reduced or melted would cost more  
than could be obtained for the metal. So as the guns become  
obsolete they are simply buried or thrown overboard.

"The four guns in the 1st C.A. drill are to be buried on the  
Cunard Street side of the Armouries, between the towers, and just  
inside the edge of the sidewalk. After dismantling the first one  
yesterday the Royal Artillerymen moved (it) out of the building  
and up the Cunard Street sidewalk to the spot where the excavation  
is to be made to bury them. The gun carriages will be smashed up."

Enjoyed seeing you again. The monument to Donald McKay at  
Jordan Falls is excellent and the whole show went off very well.

Sincerely,