

DEFENCE.

IN each of the Colonies a small permanent military force is maintained, consisting for the most part of artillery and submarine miners. There has always been manifested by the colonists of Australasia an objection to the maintenance of a standing army, and a disposition to rely mainly upon the patriotism and valour of the citizens for their own defence. But each Colony possesses a more or less complete system of fortifications, armed with expensive ordnance, which requires a more regular and constant attendance than could well be bestowed by those who only devote a portion of their time to military affairs. Hence it has been found advisable to institute the small permanent forces alluded to, whose chief duty it is to man the fortifications and keep the valuable armaments therein in a state of efficiency, so as to be ready for any emergency. At the same time it is expected that they would form a steady nucleus around which to form an effective defence force if ever hostilities should unfortunately occur. The greater portion of the Colonial forces is, however, comprised of volunteers under a system of partial-payment, which affords a cheap and effective defence force without the disadvantages and expense of a standing army. The men receive a fixed amount of pay, in order to compensate them for loss of wages during the time they are away from their employment for the purposes of military instruction. In New South Wales and Victoria the remuneration amounts to £12 per annum to each man, and in Queensland and South Australia to about half that sum. It is computed on the basis of a certain number of whole or half-day parades or night drills at the rate of 10s. per day in the first two Colonies named, 6s. a day in Queensland, and 5s. a day in South Australia. In addition to the remuneration the

Military and Defence Forces of Australasia.

Purely volunteer system unsatisfactory.

partially-paid, in common with all the other military forces, receive free rations when in camp or on active service. There has been a marked tendency in all the Colonies to discourage the services of the purely volunteers, as the system was found to work unsatisfactorily, especially in the country districts. In New Zealand alone is the volunteer system the mainstay of defence. The following is the strength of the forces maintained by each province in 1890 :—

Defence Forces of Australasia.

| | Total Forces. | Paid. | Partially Paid. | Unpaid. |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------|-----------------|---------|
| New South Wales..... | 9,285 | 538 | 4,146 | 4,601 |
| Victoria | 7,314 | 406 | 4,343 | 2,565 |
| Queensland | 4,497 | 134 | 2,787 | 1,576 |
| South Australia..... | 2,202 | 64 | 1,361 | 777 |
| Western Australia | 688 | 2 | 686 | ..... |
| Tasmania | 2,038 | 32 | 521 | 1,485 |
| New Zealand | 7,824 | 204 | ..... | 7,620 |
| Total, Australasia.. | 33,848 | 1,380 | 13,844 | 18,624 |

Rifle clubs.

Among the Volunteers in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and Tasmania are included the rifle clubs or companies of a strength of 4,601, 1,485, 466, and 1,497 men respectively. By means of a liberal extension of these clubs it is expected that there will be a large number of men, trained to the use of the rifle and not unaccustomed to drill, who in time of need may be available to fill the ranks of the regular forces.

Total military strength.

The relative strength of the various arms in the Colonies may be summarized as follows :—

| | |
|---|--------|
| Staff, Medical Staff, Instructors, Ambulance Corps, &c..... | 738 |
| Artillery (Garrison, field and horse)..... | 4,117 |
| Engineers | 753 |
| Cavalry | 995 |
| Mounted Infantry and Mounted Rifles | 4,060 |
| Infantry | 12,919 |
| Rifle Companies | 10,266 |

or, a total strength of 33,848 men.

In addition to the forces enumerated above, all the Colonies, Marine Forces. with the exception of Western Australia, have small corps of Naval Volunteer Artillery, or a partially paid force of a similar character, capable of being employed either as a light artillery land force, or to serve on board the local war vessels. In Victoria there is a permanent naval force of 236 men. The marine forces are as follow :—

| Colony. | Strength. |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| New South Wales | 633 |
| Victoria | 615 |
| Queensland | 428 |
| South Australia | 170 |
| Tasmania..... | 68 |
| New Zealand | 1,192 |
| Total | 3,106 |

Thus the combined forces of all the Australasian Colonies on Combined Australasian Defence Forces. their present footing are 36,954 strong; and of these 25,000 could be mobilised in either of the Colonies of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, or South Australia.

NAVAL DEFENCE.

The boundaries of the Australian Naval Station have been Australasian naval station. defined as follows :—From 95° E. long. by the parallel of 10° S. lat. to 130° E. long.; thence north to 12° N. lat., and along that parallel to 160° W. long., and on the south by the Antarctic Circle, including the numerous groups of islands situated within those limits.

The defence of the Australasian coast is mainly in the hands of Imperial navy on the Australasian station. the British ships on the Australian Station, and of the Australasian Auxiliary Squadron. Sydney, the head quarters of the fleet, ranks as a first class naval station; and extensive repairing yards and store-houses have been provided for the accommodation of the ships of war. There were stationed in the Australasian waters at the close of 1891 nine Imperial vessels whose armament, &c., are as follows :—

Imperial War Vessels on Station.

| Name. | Class. | Material of hull. | Displacement. | Indicated horse-power. | Draught of water extreme. | Length. | Beam. | Armour. | Armament. | | Speed. | Coal endurance. | |
|----------------|--|------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|-------|--|---|----------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | | | | | Guns. | Torpedo tubes. | | Coal that can be carried in bunkers. | Distance that can be steamed at 10 knots' speed. |
| Orlando | Twin-screw cruiser, 1st class, armoured. | Steel | tons. 5,600 | 8,500 | ft. in. 24 2 | ft. in. 300 0 | 56 0 | Armoured belt at water-line, 10 in. ; armoured deck, 3 in. ; conning tower, 12 in. | 20 2-in. 22-ton B.L.R. 10 6-in. 5-ton B.L.R. 16 Q.F. Hotchkiss, 7 M., 3 L. 4 6-in. 5-ton B.L.R. 8 5-in. 2-ton B.L.R. 1 Q.F. Hotchkiss 9 M., 2 L. | 2 | knots. 13·5 | tons. 900 | knots. 7,000 |
| Curaçoa | Screw cruiser, 3rd class. | Steel and iron sheathed with wood. | 2,380 | 2,540 | 18 10 | 225 0 | 44 6 | ..... | 10 6-in. 4-ton B.L.R. 10 M., 2 L. | 2 | 13·0 | 470 | 3,800 |
| Cordelia* | Screw cruiser, 3rd class. | do .. | 2,380 | 2,420 | 18 8 | 225 0 | 44 6 | ..... | 10 6-in. 4-ton B.L.R. 10 M., 2 L. | 2 | 13·0 | 470 | 3,800 |
| Rapid | Screw cruiser, 3rd class. | Composite. | 1,420 | 1,400 | 15 9 | 200 0 | 38 0 | ..... | 2 6-in. 4-ton B.L.R., 10 5-in. 38-cwt. B.L.R., 4 M., 1 L. | ..... | 13·1 | 425 | 6,600 |
| Royalist | Screw cruiser, 3rd class. | do .. | 1,420 | 1,510 | 15 9 | 200 0 | 38 0 | ..... | 2 6-in. 4-ton B.L.R., 10 5-in. 38-cwt. B.L.R., 4 M., 1 L. | ..... | 13·1 | 425 | 6,600 |
| Lizard | Screw gun-boat, 1st class. | do .. | 715 | 1,000 | 13 6 | 165 0 | 29 0 | ..... | 64-in. 25-cwt. B.L.R., 4 M. | ..... | 12·7 | 105 | 2,500 |
| Goldfinch | Screw gun-boat, 1st class. | do .. | 805 | 1,200 | 12 8 | 165 0 | 30 0 | ..... | 64-in. 26-cwt. B.L.R., 2 Q.F. Hotchkiss, 2 M. | ..... | 13·0 | 105 | .. |
| Ringdove | Screw gun-boat, 1st class. | do .. | 805 | 1,200 | 12 8 | 165 0 | 30 0 | ..... | 64 in. 26-cwt. B.L.R., 2 Q.F. Hotchkiss, 2 M. | ..... | 13·0 | 105 | .. |
| Dart† | Screw yacht.. | do .. | 470 | 200 | 12 11 | 133 0 | 25 2 | ..... | 2 L. .... | ..... | 8·8 | 64 | .... |

* Left the Australian Station early in 1892.

† Surveying service.

M.L.R., Muzzle-loading rifled guns; Q.F., Quick-firing guns; M., Machine guns; L., Light guns under 15 cwt.; B.L.R., Breech-loading rifled guns.

An undertaking has been entered into by all the Colonies for the payment of a *pro rata* subsidy for the maintenance of an auxiliary fleet. The total subvention to be paid by all the Colonies amounts to £91,000 per annum, the contributions of each being determined on the basis of population. The amounts estimated as payable by each Colony for the year 1891 were :—

| Contribution of each Colony for Naval Defence. | |
|--|---------|
| | £ |
| New South Wales | 27,430 |
| Victoria | 27,280 |
| Queensland | 9,380 |
| South Australia | 7,470 |
| Western Australia | 1,210 |
| Tasmania | 3,470 |
| New Zealand..... | 14,760 |
| Australasia | £91,000 |

The fleet consists of five fast cruisers, and two torpedo gunboats of the "Archer" (improved type) and "Rattlesnake" classes of the British Navy; of these three cruisers and one gunboat will be continuously kept in commission, the remainder being held in reserve in Australasian ports, but ready for commission whenever circumstances may require their use. The agreement is for a period of ten years, and shall then, or at the end of any subsequent year, be terminable, provided two years' notice has been given. The vessels have been built by the British Government, but the Australasian Colonies pay the interest on their prime cost at the rate of 5 per cent., provided such payment does not exceed £35,000. The Colonies are also to pay the actual charge for maintenance as mentioned above. On the termination of the agreement these vessels will remain the property of the Imperial Government. The strength of the fleet already in Australian waters will be maintained. The vessels specified in the agreement between Great Britain and the Colonies are to be in addition to these. The Australasian squadron is commanded by the Admiral on the Australian Station, whose headquarters are in Sydney, where a residence is provided for him by the Colony. The squadron, which arrived in Port Jackson on 5th September, 1891, consists of the following vessels :—

Special
Australasian
squadron.

Agreement with
British Govern-
ment.

Australian Auxiliary Squadron.

| Name. | Class. | Material of hull. | Displacement. | Indicated horse-power. | Draught of water extreme. | Length. | Beam. | Armour. | Armament. | | Special. | Coal endurance. | |
|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|---|---|----------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | | | | Guns. | Torpedo tubes. | | Coal that can be carried in bunkers. | Distance that can be steamed at 10 knots speed. |
| Katoomba... | Screw cruiser, 3rd class. | Steel | tons. 2,575 | 7,500 | ft. in. 16 6 | ft. in. 265 0 | ft. in. 41 0 | Deck armour over machinery space, 2 in. and 1 in.; conning tower, 3 in. | 3 4·7 Q.F. guns, 8 3-pr. Q.F. guns, 1 7-pr. M.L.R. gun (boat and field), 4·45 in. 5 barrel Nordenfeldt. | 4 | knots. 16 5 | tons. 300 | knots. 6,000 |
| Ringarooma.. | Screw cruiser, 3rd class. | do .. | 2,575 | 7,500 | 16 6 | 265 0 | 41 0 | do .. | do .. | 4 | 16·5 | 300 | 6,000 |
| Mildura | Screw cruiser, 3rd class. | do .. | 2,575 | 7,500 | 16 6 | 265 0 | 41 0 | do .. | do .. | 4 | 16·5 | 300 | 6,000 |
| Wallaroo | Screw cruiser, 3rd class. | do .. | 2,575 | 7,500 | 16 6 | 265 0 | 41 0 | do .. | do .. | 4 | 16·5 | 300 | 6,000 |
| Tauranga | Screw cruiser, 3rd class. | do .. | 2,575 | 7,500 | 16 6 | 265 0 | 41 0 | do .. | do .. | 4 | 16·5 | 300 | 6,000 |
| Boomerang .. | Torpedo gun-boat. | do .. | 735 | 4,500 | 10 6 | 230 0 | 27 0 | Conning tower, 1 in. | 2 4·7 in. Q.F. guns, 4 3-pr. Q.F. guns. | 5 | *18 75 | 160 | 2,500 |
| Karrakatta .. | Torpedo gun-boat. | do .. | 735 | 4,500 | 10 6 | 230 0 | 27 0 | do .. | do .. | 5 | *18·75 | 160 | 2,500 |

* This speed can be increased until, under favourable conditions, for a short period, a maximum of 21 knots can be obtained. Q.F.—Quick-firing guns.

New South Wales has no navy of its own, with the exception ^{The} of the corvette "Wolverene," sixteen 64-pounder M.L. rifled guns, ^{"Wolverene."} and two small torpedo steam-launches, the "Acheron" and the "Avernus."

Victoria has a navy of its own for harbour defence, consisting ^{Victorian navy.} of the following vessels :—

| Name. | Class. | Displacement. | Armament. |
|----------------|--|----------------|--|
| Nelson | Wooden frigate.. | Tons. 2,730 | 2 7-in. M.L.R., 20 64-pdrs., 2 Gatlings. |
| Cerberus..... | Armoured turret ship. | 3,413 | 4 10-in. M.L.R., 4 1-in. Nordenfeldts, 4 barrels. |
| Victoria | Steel gunboat ... | 530 | 1 10-in. R.B.L., 1 6-in. R.B.L., 2 13-pdr. R.B.L., 2 1-in. Nordenfeldts, 4 barrels. |
| Albert..... | do ... | 350 | 1 8-in. R.B.L., 1 6-in. R.B.L., 2 1-in. Norden- feldts, 4 barrels. |
| Childers | First-class steel torpedo boat. | 63 | 2 37-M.M. Hotchkiss guns, 4 13-in. Fiume, 4 14-in. Fiume torpedoes. |
| Nepean | Second-class steel torpedo boat. | 12 | 5 14-in. R.L., also fitted for spar torpedoes. |
| Lonsdale..... | do | 12 | do do |
| Gordon | Wooden torpedo boat "Turn- about." | 12 | 1 1-in. Nordenfeldt, 2 bar- rels, 5 14-in. Fiume. |
| Batman | Armed steamer.. | 387 | 1 6-in. R.B.L., 2 1-in. Nor- denfeldts, 2 barrels. |
| Fawkner | do ... | 387 | 1 6-in. R.B.L., 2 Gatlings. |
| Gannet | do ... | 347 | 1 6-in. R.B.L., 2 1-in. Nor- denfeldts, 2 barrels. |
| Lady Loch..... | Customs steamer (steel). | 300 | do do |
| Commissioner.. | Wooden steam launch. | 40 | 4 14-in. Fiume, also fitted for spar torpedoes. |
| Customs No. 1 | do ... | 30 | do do |

The two dredges ("Batman" and "Fawkner") and the tug ("Gannet") mentioned above have been specially built to carry heavy guns, and provision is also made by which some of the fast steamers belonging to the port could be fitted as cruisers at very

short notice. Guns are kept in readiness in Melbourne in case it should be deemed necessary to put these vessels into commission. A new torpedo boat, of the most improved type, is being built for the Victorian Government.

Queensland
naval defence.

Queensland has two gunboats, one of which, the "Palumah," is employed on survey service at the joint expense of the Queensland and Imperial Governments. The following are the particulars of the vessels available for the defence of Queensland ports :—

| Name. | Class. | Displacement. | Armament. |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Gayundah | Steel gunboat (twin screw). | Tons. 360 | 1 8-in. B.L. Armstrong, 1 6-in. B.L. Armstrong, 4 M. |
| Palumah | do | 360 | 1 8-in. B.L. Armstrong, 1 6-in. B.L. Armstrong, 2 M. |
| Otter | Tender (twin screw). | 120 | 2 guns. |
| Bonito | Barge (twin screw). | 450 | 1 gun. |
| Stingaree | do | 450 | 1 gun. |

There is also one torpedo boat at Brisbane, and South Australia maintains one twin-screw steel cruiser, the "Protector," of 920 tons. Her armament consists of 1 8-in. 11½ ton B.L., 5 6-in. 4 ton B.L., and 5 machine guns. Tasmania owns one torpedo boat, and Western Australia one schooner, the "Meda," of 150 tons, employed on survey service at the joint expense of the Imperial and Colonial Governments.

FORTIFICATIONS.

Expenditure of
the Australasian
colonies for
defence
purposes

Most of the Colonies have spent considerable sums in works of defence, and the principal ports are well protected by extensive fortifications, erected by the various Governments at great cost.

The total expenditure from Consolidated Revenue for defence purposes during 1890-91 was as follows:—

| Colony. | Amount. | Per head of Population. |
|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------|
| | £ | s. d. |
| New South Wales | 280,780 | 4 11 |
| Victoria | 149,381 | 2 8 |
| Queensland | 66,013 | 3 5 |
| South Australia | 47,797 | 3 0 |
| Western Australia | 4,013 | 1 9 |
| Tasmania | 16,836 | 2 4 |
| New Zealand | 75,852 | 2 5 |

Or a total expenditure for Australasia of £793,750, at the rate of 4s. 3d. for each inhabitant.

In all the Colonies with the exception of Western Australia a certain amount of money has been spent out of loans on works of defence. Victoria, however, for several years has discontinued the expenditure of loan moneys for this service. The amounts thus spent during 1890-91 were as follows:—

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| | £ |
| New South Wales..... | 89,391* |
| Queensland..... | 11,487 |
| South Australia..... | 1,410 |
| Tasmania | 5,200 |
| New Zealand..... | 2,477 |
| Total | £109,965 |

* Inclusive of £42,400 for naval station, Port Jackson.

The total debt incurred by each Colony for defence purposes to the end of 1890-91 was as follows:—

| | Amount. | Per head of Population. |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| | £ | s. d. |
| New South Wales | *1,018,679 | 17 10 |
| Victoria | 98,299 | 1 9 |
| Queensland | 151,584 | 7 10 |
| South Australia | 250,645 | 15 8 |
| Tasmania | 116,591 | 16 3 |
| New Zealand | †429,719 | 13 10 |
| Australasia | 2,065,517 | 10 10 |

* Inclusive of £159,090 for naval station, Port Jackson. † Contingent Defence.

This does not represent the whole cost of the fortifications, as large sums have from time to time been expended from the general revenues of the colonies in the construction of works of defence; the amount of such payments, however, it is now impossible to determine.

Military Defence
Commission.

A military commission was appointed in 1890 by the Imperial and the different Colonial Governments, to take evidence and report on the fortification of King George's Sound, Hobart, Thursday Island, and Port Darwin, at the joint expense of the various Governments. The commission visited the points mentioned during 1891, and as a result of the evidence taken it may be anticipated that before long these four important strategical points will no longer be left at the mercy of any hostile cruiser that might choose to make a descent upon them. At King George's Sound and Thursday Island the construction of the works determined on is now in full progress, and both places were stated early in 1892 to be nearly ready to receive their armaments and garrisons.