

## DEFENCE.

Military and Defence Forces of Australasia.

IN all the Colonies small permanent military forces are maintained ; these consist for the most part of artillery and submarine miners. The greater portion of the Colonial forces is, however, maintained by a system of partial payment, which affords a cheap and effective defence force without the disadvantages and expense of a standing army. Under this system the men receive a fixed amount of pay, which compensates 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 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 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 :—

	Total Forces.	Paid.	Partially Paid.	Unpaid.
New South Wales .....	6,131	488	2,954	2,689
Victoria .....	9,552	303	3,080	6,169
Queensland .....	3,016	105	2,193	718
South Australia.....	2,912	58	1,022	1,832
Western Australia .....	624	2	622	.....
Tasmania .....	2,073	34	645	1,394
New Zealand .....	7,490	340	.....	7,150
Total, Australasia. ....	31,798	1,330	10,516	19,952

Among the Volunteers in New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania are included the rifle clubs or companies of a strength of 1,431, 4,401, and 1,394 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.

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

Staff, Medical Staff, Instructors, &c.....	641
Artillery (Garrison, field and horse).....	3,954
Engineers, Submarine-miners and Torpedo Corps ..	779
Cavalry .....	1,174
Mounted Infantry and Mounted Rifles .....	2,111
Infantry .....	15,913
Rifle Companies .....	7,226

or, a total strength of 31,798 men.

In addition to the forces enumerated above, all the Colonies, Marine Forces. with the exception of Tasmania, 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 navy of 222 men. The marine forces are as follow :—

Colony.	Strength.
New South Wales .....	476
Victoria .....	603
Queensland .....	362
South Australia .....	190
Western Australia.....	43
New Zealand .....	1,269
Total .....	2,943

It will be seen that the combined forces of all the Australasian Colonies on their present footing are 34,741 strong; and of these Combined Australasian Defence Forces. 21,000 could be mobilised in either of the colonies of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, or South Australia.

No Colony with the exception of Victoria has any navy of its own, the defence of the coast being in the hands of the British ships on the Australian Station. Sydney, the head quarters of the Imperial navy on the Australasian station. fleet, ranks as a first class naval station; and extensive repairing

## IMPERIAL NAVY IN AUSTRALASIA.

yards and store-houses have been provided for the accommodation of the ships of war. There are stationed in the Australasian waters eleven vessels whose armament &c., are as follows:—

Name.	Class.	Displacement.	Speed.	Guns.
Orlando .....	Armoured cruiser 2 screws.	Tons. 5,600	Knots. 19·25	2 92-in. 22-ton B.L.R. 10 6-in. 5-ton B.L.R. 16 Q.F., 7 M., 2 L
Royalist ...	Corvette (partial deck protected).	1,420	13·00	2 6-in. 81 cwt. B.L.R. 12 5-in. 38 cwt. B.L.R. 10 M., 2 L.
Opal .....	Corvette .....	2,120	13·13	12 64-pdr., M.L.R. 6 M., 2 L.
Rapid .....	Corvette (partial deck protected).	1,420	13·00	2 6-in. 81 cwt. B.L.R. 10 5-in. 38 cwt. B.L.R. 4 M., 1 L.
Lizard .....	Gunboat .....	720	13·00	6 4-in. 25 cwt. B.L.R. 4 M.
Rambler .....	Gunboat .....	835	10·66	4 20-pdr., B.L.R. 1 M., 1 L.
Raven .....	Gunboat .....	460	10·50	2 64-pdr., B.L.R. 2 20-pdr., B.L.R. 2 M.
Swinger .....	Gunboat .....	430	10·00	1 64-pdr., B.L.R. 2 20-pdr., B.L.R. 2 M.
Egeria .....	Sloop .. ..	940	11·30	4 20-pdr., B.L.R. 2 M., 1 L.
Stork .....	Gunboat .....	465	10·50	1 64-pdr., B.L.R. 2 20-pdr., B.L.R. 2 M.
Dart .....	Yacht .....	523	8·5	2 9-pdr., M.L. 2 M.

Special  
Australasian  
squadron.

An undertaking has been entered into by all the Colonies, with the exception of Queensland, 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 fleet will comprise five fast cruisers, and two torpedo gunboats as represented by 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 to be 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 will be built by the British Government, but the Australasian Colonies will 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 will be commanded by the Admiral on the Australian Station, whose headquarters are in Sydney, where a residence is provided for him by the Colony. Some of these vessels have already been launched, and the construction of the others is nearing completion.

Agreement with British Government.

The Colony of New South Wales owns one wooden corvette, the "Wolverene," of 2,540 tons. Her armament at present consists of seventeen 64-pounder M.L.R., two nine and one seven pounders, and one machine gun. There are also two torpedo-boats for harbour defence.

The "Wolverene."

Victoria has a navy of her own, consisting of the following vessels :—

Victorian navy.

Name.	Class.	Displacement.	Armament.
Cerberus.....	Armour-plated (twin-screw) turret ship.	Tons. 3,480	4 10-in. 18-ton M.L.R., 4 M.
Nelson .....	Wooden frigate..	2,730	2 7-in. M.L.R., 18 64-pdr. M.L.R., 1 Q.F.
Victoria .....	Steel gunboat (twin screw).	530	1 10-in. 25-ton B.L.R., 2 13-pdr. B.L.R., 2 M.
Albert.....	do .....	350	1 8-in. 12-ton B.L.R., 1 6-in. 4-ton B.L.R., 2 M.
Batman .....	Iron dredge .....	387	1 6-in. 4-ton B.L.R., 1 Q.F.
Fawkner .....	do .....	387	1 6-in. 4-ton B.L.R., 1 Q.F.
Gannet .....	Tug .....	346	1 6-in. 4-ton B.L.R., 1 Q.F.
Lady Loch.....	Launch .....	.....	1 6-in. B.L., 2 M.

The two dredges and the tug mentioned in the table quoted 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. In addition to the above Victoria possesses 6 torpedo boats for the defence of the harbour.

Queensland  
naval defence.

Queensland has also 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.
		Tons.	
Gayundah .....	Steel gunboat (twin screw).	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.

Expenditure of  
the Australasian  
colonies for  
defence  
purposes.

There is also one torpedo boat at Brisbane, and South Australia maintains one twin-screw steel cruiser 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. All the Colonies have spent considerable sums in works of defence, and most of the principal ports are well protected by extensive

fortifications, erected by the various Governments at great cost. The total expenditure for defence purposes during 1888 was as follows:—

Colony.	Total.	Per head of Population.
	£	s. d.
New South Wales .....	134,502	2 6
Victoria .....	175,358	3 2
South Australia .....	41,122	2 7
Queensland .....	29,336	1 6
Western Australia .....	3,308	1 7
Tasmania .....	17,365	2 4
New Zealand .....	90,037	2 11

Or a total expenditure for Australasia of £491,028, at the rate of 2s. 8d. 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. The debt incurred by each colony for this purpose is as follows:—

Expenditure  
from loans for  
defence  
purposes.

	Total.	Per head of Population.
	£	s. d.
New South Wales .....	601,164	11 1
Victoria .....	100,000	1 10
South Australia .....	187,220	11 11
Queensland .....	148,677	7 8
Tasmania .....	103,411	14 2
New Zealand .....	442,375	14 7
	£1,582,847	7 8

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.