

PART IX.—DEFENCES.

Land forces.

1347. The Land Forces of Victoria in 1883 consisted of a paid Artillery Corps, a Volunteer Militia Torpedo Corps, and the various Volunteer Corps, embracing the Cavalry, Artillery, Rifle, and Engineer arms of the service. The following table shows the designation, strength, and establishment of the various corps on the 31st December of the year named:—

LAND FORCES.—STRENGTH AND ESTABLISHMENT, 1883.

Branch of Service.	Strength, 31st December, 1883.					Wanting to Complete.	Establishment.
	Officers.	Sergeants.	Rank and File.		Total.		
			Regular.	Supernumerary.			
Victorian Artillery ...	3	10	102	...	115	13	128
Torpedo Corps ...	4	4	60	...	68	19	87
Volunteers—							
Cavalry... ..	22	16	178	13	229	...	216
Artillery	56	87	804	...	947	303	1,250
Engineers	8	7	66	...	81	119	200
Rifles	58	78	1,122	...	1,258	642	1,900
Total	151	202	2,332	13	2,698	1,096	3,781
Staff, &c.—Unattached ...	68	22	1	...	91	...	91
Grand Total	219	224	2,333	13	2,789	1,096	3,872

Strength and establishment.

1348. At the end of 1883, the total military establishment—exclusive of the staff—(3,781) was 133 less than at the end of 1882; and the total strength (2,698) was 1,083 less than the establishment. The deficiencies in the various corps are shown in the table to have amounted to 1,096; but as against this must be set 13 supernumeraries, whereby the number wanted to complete is reduced to 1,083, as stated.

Rifles of land forces.

1349. The rifles in possession of the military forces and their distribution amongst the various corps at the end of 1883 were as follow. It will be observed that the Martini-Henry rifle is the one in general use:—

RIFLES IN POSSESSION OF LAND FORCES.

Branch of Service.	Total Number of Rifles.	Pattern of Rifles.		
		Martini-Henry.	Breech-loading Carbine.	General Hay.
Victorian Artillery ...	120	...	120	...
Torpedo Corps ...	95	25	70	...
Volunteers—				
Cavalry	236	16	220	...
Artillery	889	889	...	...
Engineers	100	100	...	...
Rifles	1,777	1,776	...	1
Total	3,217	2,806	410	1

1350. The following is a statement of the number and calibre of the guns in possession of the land forces :—

					Number.
Garrison guns ...	{	Muzzle-loading rifled, 9" ...	...	...	6
		" " 80-pr. ...	...	...	23
Guns of position	{	Smooth-bored, 68-pr. ...	...	...	19
		" " 32-pr. ...	...	...	33
Field guns ...	{	Breech-loading rifled, 40-pr. ...	...	...	6
		Breech-loading Armstrong's, rifled, 12-pr. ...	...	...	6
		" " 6-pr. ...	...	...	6
		Muzzle-loading rifled, Whitworth's, 3-pr. ...	...	...	6
		Smooth-bored howitzers, 24-pr. ...	...	...	1
Guns, 6-pr. ...	{	" " 12-pr. ...	...	...	9
		" " ...	...	...	2
Total ...					117

1351. The strength and establishment of the Naval Forces at the end of 1883 were as follow. Eight were wanted to complete the establishment :—

NAVAL FORCES.—STRENGTH AND ESTABLISHMENT, 1883.

Ship or Corps.	Strength, 31st December, 1883.				Wanted to Complete.	Establishment.
	Officers.	Petty Officers and Men.	Boys.	Total.		
H.M.V. Naval Forces ...	12	94	9	115	1	116
Naval Reserve... ..	10	210	...	220	7	227
Electricians	1	6	...	7	...	7
Total	23	310	9	342	8	350

1352. The following guns were in possession of the Naval Forces at the end of 1883 :—

H.M.V.S. <i>Cerberus</i> .—Woolwich, 10-in., 400-pr. ...	4
" " Gatling machine, 45 ...	1
H.M.V.S. <i>Nelson</i> .—Woolwich, 7-in., 116-pr....	2
" " Shunt, 45 cwt., 64-pr. ...	20
" " Smooth-bore, 32-pr. ...	10
Naval Reserve.—Howitzer, 12-pr. ...	16
Total	53

1353. The rifles and revolvers in possession of the Naval Forces at the same period were as follow. It will be seen that the former numbered 363, and the latter 191 :—

H.M.V.S. <i>Cerberus</i> .—Rifles—Martini-Henry ...	50
" " Revolvers—Deane and Adams' breech-loading ...	72
H.M.V.S. <i>Nelson</i> .—Rifles—Martini-Henry ...	75
" " Revolvers, pattern undescribed ...	119
Naval Reserve.—Rifles—Martini-Henry ...	221
" " Sea service ...	5
" " Carbines... ..	12
Total small arms	554

New system
of defences.

1354. Important changes in the system of Victorian defences were made in 1883 and 1884 by the passing of the Discipline Act 1883 (47 Vict. No. 777), which came into operation on the 3rd November of that year, by the importation of British Naval and Military officers, and by the addition of several vessels to the Victorian fleet. The following account of the new system has been specially prepared for this work :—

The past year has seen a radical change in the system of defence of this colony.

For various reasons, the Volunteer Force was considered inadequate for the proper protection of our shores, and it was deemed desirable to disband the force and replace it with a paid Militia.

The preparation of the new defence scheme was entrusted to the Hon. Lieut.-Col. Sargood, a member of the Ministry, who has for many years taken a deep interest in Colonial defence matters.

Col. Sargood based his scheme upon the advice given by His Excellency Lieut.-General Sir Wm. F. D. Jervois, G.C.M.G., C.B., R.E., in his various reports upon the defences of the colonies, and also embodied a number of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Royal Commission on Colonial Defences which sat in Sydney during 1881-2. This scheme, after being carefully considered by the Cabinet, was submitted to and passed by Parliament.

The alteration in the system of defence necessitated a corresponding change in the Discipline Act, and a new Bill was accordingly brought in and passed in November, 1883.

This measure provides for a special appropriation of £110,000 per annum for five years, a Council of Defence—consisting of the Minister of Defence (President), the Naval Commandant, the Military Commandant, the Officer Commanding the Naval Reserve, the Senior Officer of Metropolitan Infantry, and the Officer Commanding the Field Artillery Brigade—free railway travelling for Militia men in uniform on carrying a rifle, priority of appointment to the non-clerical division of the Public Service to Militia men who have served five years, &c.

The Victorian fleet consists of the *Nelson* (flagship), *Cerberus* (turret-ship, four 10-in. 18-ton M.L. guns), *Victoria* (gun-boat, one 10-in. 25-ton B.L. gun, two 13-pr. B.L. guns), *Albert* (gun-boat, one 8-in. 11½-ton B.L. gun, one 6-in. 3-ton B.L. gun, two 9-pr. B.L. guns), *Childers* (torpedo-boat, first class, Whitehead), *Nepean* (torpedo-boat, second class, Whitehead), *Lonsdale* (torpedo-boat, second class, Whitehead), Harbour Trust steamers *Batman*, *Fawkner*, and *Gannet*, Customs steamer (building).

It is intended to make arrangements with the owners of suitable local or inter-colonial steamers to have several vessels strengthened to carry one heavy gun forward.

The Harbour Trust steamers have been so strengthened, and the one now being built for the Customs Department will be similarly treated.

Arrangements have been entered into with the Admiralty for the loan for a period of three years of one Captain and one Lieutenant R.N., together with several warrant officers.

These officers have arrived and are at present engaged with the local Naval officers in drafting the new scheme of Naval Defence.

This will provide for a considerable increase in the establishment of both the Permanent Force and the Naval Reserve, frequent drills afloat, classes for instruction in torpedo work, &c.

The establishment of the Naval Forces has not yet been finally fixed.

The cost of the gun and torpedo boats, with guns and ammunition, was close upon £86,500, distributed as follows :—

COST OF GUN AND TORPEDO BOATS.

Particulars.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.
Cost of <i>Victoria</i> , with armament, 530 tons, 180 H.P. (nominal) ...	40,093	15	0
„ <i>Albert</i> , „ „ 350 tons, 80 H.P. (nominal) ...	27,731	15	0
„ <i>Childers</i> , 60 tons, 216 H.P. (nominal) ...	11,156	12	9
„ <i>Nepean</i> and <i>Lonsdale</i> ...	7,500	0	0
	£86,482	2	9

These amounts include guns of the following patterns:—

1	breech-loading,	10-inch,	25-ton.
1	"	8-inch,	11½-ton.
1	"	6-inch,	4-ton.
2	"	12-pounders.	
2	"	9-pounders.	

Also, a supply of ammunition, small arms, spare stores, &c., as provided for vessels of a like character in the Imperial Navy.

To this must be added the cost of bringing the vessels out to the colony, amounting, with some extras, to £16,500.

The following is a Return of the strength and establishment of the Victorian Land Forces brought down to the 15th September, 1884:—

LAND FORCES.

Branch of Service.	Establishment.	Enrolled and Waiting to be Enrolled.	Wanting to Complete Establishment.
Staff	6	5	1
Victorian Artillery	128	102	26
Field Artillery Brigade	306	305	1
Garrison Artillery, 1st Brigade	371	343	28
" " 2nd "	225	196	29
Torpedo Corps	80	80	...
Engineer Corps	101	71	30
Rifles, 1st Battalion	507	359	148
" 2nd "	507	311	196
" 3rd "	326	315	11
" 4th "	327	239	88
Mounted Rifles	101	1	100
Medical	16	15	1
Total	3,001	2,342	659

GIFT OF £500.

A sum of £500 has been presented by the Hon. Sir W. J. Clarke, Bart., to be competed for by the naval and military forces of the colony. Regulations providing for spreading the expenditure of the amount over three years have been framed, prizes being offered not only for shooting, but for proficiency in drill and exercise, and for an essay on military subjects.

RIFLE CLUBS.

The facilities granted to persons in districts where Militia Corps have not been established for the formation of Rifle Clubs have caused these associations to spring up very rapidly. Within the past year, 135 clubs have been formed, to whom about 820 M.-H. rifles have been sold, and 3,200 muzzle-loading rifles have been lent. The rifles are sold at less than the cost to the Government, and ammunition is supplied at half the actual cost.

In order to encourage the practice of rifle shooting, Parliament voted the sum of £100 for prizes to Rifle Clubs. The Victorian Rifle Association set apart a similar amount for the same purpose, and the Minister of Defence presented a shield, valued at £40, for competition amongst these clubs. The Bacchus Marsh Rifle Club won this shield for the present year, with a total score of 294 points. At the request of Col. Sargood, the Railways Commissioners agreed to carry arms and ammunition for clubs free of charge, and also granted the privilege of travelling at excursion fares throughout the year to members of clubs proceeding to Rifle competitions. As already stated, these concessions have caused numerous clubs to spring up, and the movement is rapidly growing all over the colony.

CADET CORPS.

The encouragement of drilling and rifle-shooting in the schools of the colony has led to the establishment of Cadet Corps. Cadet Companies may be formed in any school in detachments of not less than 20. Rifles for drill purposes and carbines for shooting are lent by the Government, and ammunition is issued at half price, the same as to the Rifle Clubs.

The uniform is a simple and inexpensive one, costing about 30s., and is worn as the ordinary school dress. When on parade, the collar of the jacket is turned up, thus exposing the red lining. Badges of rank are worn by the officers and non-commissioned officers. Accoutrements, waist-belt and pouch, no cross-belt.

The Drill Instructors of the Victorian Military Forces are permitted, at such times as they are not required for their ordinary duties, to drill Cadet Companies, for which they shall be paid 2s. 6d. for each drill.

To stimulate the movement, Col. Sargood has presented a handsome shield for competition by the Cadets. This trophy must be won three times consecutively before becoming the property of the winners. It has been already twice shot for. In March, 1884, it was won by the Hawthorn Grammar School, and in December of the same year by the East Sandhurst State School.

The following are the salaries and allowances of the Naval and Military officers and non-commissioned officers who have come out from England for service in Victoria :—

SALARIES OF NAVAL AND MILITARY OFFICERS.

Grade.	Salaries.			Allowances.						
				Quarters, or Allowance in lieu.			Forage.			Other Allowances
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
<i>Naval Forces.</i>										
Captain	800	0	0	Quarters						Rations
Lieutenant	400	0	0	"						"
Gunner	225	0	0	"						"
Torpedo Artificer... ..	200	0	0	"						"
Chief Gunner's Mate and Instructor	182	10	0	"						"
Ditto	182	10	0	"						"
Engine-room Artificer	164	5	0	"						"
<i>Land Forces.</i>										
Colonel	1,000	0	0	200	0	0	150	0	0	...
Lieutenant-Colonel	800	0	0	Quarters			75	0	0	...
Ditto	700	0	0	150	0	0	75	0	0	...
Major	700	0	0	150	0	0	75	0	0	...
Captain	600	0	0	100	0	0	75	0	0	...
Sergeant-Major	180	0	0	36	10	0				Clothing
Ditto	180	0	0	Quarters						"
Ditto	180	0	0	36	10	0				"
Ditto	180	0	0	Quarters						"
Ditto	180	0	0	36	10	0				"
Ditto	180	0	0	Quarters						"
Ditto	180	0	0	"						"
Torpedo Artificer... ..	150	0	0	54	15	0				"
Ditto	90	0	0	41	15	0				"
Total	7,454	5	0	806	0	0	450	0	0	

The Defence scheme submitted to Parliament provided, for the Naval Forces, two officers and six non-commissioned officers—total, eight; and for the Land Forces, six officers, and thirteen non-commissioned officers and privates—total, nineteen. It will therefore be seen the numbers given in the scheme have not been reached.

The cost of bringing out from England the Military officers and non-commissioned officers and their wives and families was £1,706; and the cost of bringing out the wives and families of the Naval non-commissioned officers was £250—total, £1,956.

1355. Batteries for the defence of Melbourne were constructed in 1861-2 at Williamstown, Sandridge, and Queenscliff; but those at Williamstown and Sandridge were set aside by Colonel (now Lieutenant-General) Sir W. F. D. Jervois, R.E., G.C.M.G., C.B., who visited the colonies in 1877, as unsuited to the requirements of modern warfare, which rendered it absolutely necessary to defend Port Phillip at the Heads. He therefore suggested a plan for defending the channel between the Heads of Port Phillip, which he modified in March, 1879, in consequence of his having found when in England, during the year 1878, that great improvements had been made in the manufacture of, and modes of mounting, ordnance. Defence works.

1356. The Government adopted the plan of Sir William Jervois, and the construction of the works was commenced under the supervision of Major-General P. H. Scratchley, R.E., C.M.G., and is being carried out under the supervision of Mr. W. H. Steel, Inspector-General of Public Works, who has kindly contributed the following particulars respecting the progress made in the respective works :— Present state of works.

“PRESENT STATE OF DEFENCE WORKS.*

“1st. *Queenscliff*.—This battery is completed, and may be said to be in an effective state for defence. Three 9-inch and four 80-pounder guns are mounted. It is proposed to further add a 10-inch gun. The defensive wall and keep at rear of battery are completed, and the temporary barracks are occupied by a detachment of the permanent artillery.

“2nd. *Swan Island*.—The earthwork of this battery is completed, also the stockade round same. Three 9-inch and one 80-pounder guns are mounted, and two 80-pounder guns are waiting for new carriages. The brick barracks for the garrison are occupied by a guard detailed from Queenscliff battery. The stores, workshops, and magazine of the torpedo depôt are completed, as also the timber roadway from Swan Island to Queenscliff.

“3rd. *Point Nepean*.—The first contract for the construction of a battery for six 80-pounder guns has been completed, including the magazines. Four of the guns could be mounted at once, and it is intended to replace the other two with 8-inch guns. A lower battery, with an 8-inch gun, is proposed to be erected near the Point.

“4th. *South Channel Fort*.—A stone rubble ring is deposited round the site for fort. The question of a modified design for the construction of this fort is now under consideration.

“5th. The system of torpedo defences to be laid in the west and south channels, as occasion may arise, has made considerable progress since the completion of the torpedo depôt at Swan Island.”

1357. The following table shows the expenditure on military and naval defences during 1882-3. The amounts expended under the heads Expenditure, on defences 1882-3. “Artillery Corps,” “Volunteer Force,” and “Naval Reserve,” give an

* On the 9th December, 1884.

average cost per man per annum in each division respectively as £103 3s., £5 3s. 8d., and £17 4s. 6.* :—

MILITARY AND NAVAL EXPENDITURE, 1882-3.

MILITARY EXPENDITURE.						£	£
Staff—Salaries	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,062
Artillery Corps—Salaries and wages	...	...	...	...	...	9,628	
" Contingencies	...	...	...	...	...	3,163	
							12,791
Volunteer Militia—Torpedo corps	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,136
Volunteer Force—Effective allowance	...	...	...	...	...	8,155	
" Drill instruction	...	...	...	...	...	3,453	
" Horse allowance for mounting officers, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	1,052	
" Purchase of great coats, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	496	
" Badges, incidentals, and travelling expenses	...	...	...	...	...	1,114	
" Expenses for engineering	...	...	...	...	...	96	
							14,366
Ordnance Branch—Salaries	...	...	...	...	...	1,926	
" Contingencies	...	...	...	...	...	3,096	
							5,022
Railway transport and freight	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,006
Ammunition fund	...	...	...	...	...	...	600
In aid of Victorian Rifle Association	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,000
" " Volunteer Artillery Association	...	...	...	...	...	...	500
Queen's prize	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Camp of instruction for 1882-3	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,207
General contingencies	...	...	...	...	...	...	290
Defence works—erection of forts	...	...	...	...	...	...	99,984
Total						...	145,064
NAVAL EXPENDITURE.							
Naval Forces—Salaries and wages	...	...	...	...	...	14,531	
" Contingencies	...	...	...	...	...	5,521	
							20,052
Naval Reserve—Salaries and wages	...	...	...	...	...	2,702	
" Contingencies	...	...	...	...	...	1,070	
							3,772
Electricians—Allowances	...	...	...	...	...	146	
" Contingencies	...	...	...	...	...	42	
							188
New boiler for <i>Cerberus</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,863†
Amount due Admiralty on account of the <i>Nelson</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,469
Total						...	41,344
Total expenditure on defences						...	186,408

Expenditure on defences, 1854 to 1883.

1358. A statement of the expenditure on the establishment and maintenance of defences during the last twenty-nine years and a half will be found in the following table :—

* These calculations have been reckoned from the strength on the 31st December, 1882, viz., 124 Artillery Corps, 2,771 Volunteers, and 219 Naval Reserve.

† In addition to £1,069 expended in the previous year.

**EXPENDITURE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF
DEFENCES, 1854 TO 1882-3.**

Year.				Military Expenditure (including Buildings and Works of Defence).	Naval Expenditure.	Total.
				£	£	£
1854 and 1855	...	...	...	287,973	...	287,973
1856 to 1864	...	...	...	758,000	123,000	881,000
1865	...	...	...	38,434	7,743	46,177
1866	...	...	...	47,647	14,453	62,100
1867	...	...	...	64,606	17,243	81,849
1868	...	...	...	58,873	19,061	77,934
1869	...	...	...	34,200	12,672	46,872
1870	...	...	...	37,102	10,570	47,672
1871 (6 months)	...	...	...	21,014	6,305	27,319
1871-2	...	...	...	38,634	19,604	58,238
1872-3	...	...	...	35,367	18,641	54,008
1873-4	...	...	...	41,050	17,643	58,693
1874-5	...	...	...	37,847	17,135	54,982
1875-6	...	...	...	40,698	17,536	58,234
1876-7	...	...	...	54,599	19,421	74,020
1877-8	...	...	...	62,842	58,424	121,266
1878-9	...	...	...	82,917	35,205	118,122
1879-80	...	...	...	60,420	33,359	93,779
1880-81	...	...	...	57,117	21,616	78,733
1881-2	...	...	...	59,589	21,845	81,434
1882-3	...	...	...	145,064	41,344	186,408
Towards cost of <i>Cerberus</i> and <i>Nelson</i> *				...	101,966	101,966
Total ...				2,063,993	634,786	2,698,779
Arms, ammunition, and stores for defences generally †				...	...	47,408
Value of land certificates granted to Volunteers, including Naval Brigade, computed at £1 per acre				...	...	139,683
Grand Total ...				...	...	2,885,870

1359. It is to be specially noted that the total expenditure recorded includes not only the cost of establishing the military and naval defences but also the annual outlay incurred for their maintenance, which annual outlay is estimated by Colonel Scratchley to represent close upon seven-eighths of the total expenditure. The annual expenditure from 1854 to 1864 was unusually large, in consequence of Imperial troops serving in the colony. The last detachment of these troops was withdrawn in 1870. In 1882-3, the military expenditure was considerably greater than in any previous year since 1855, owing to the outlay of £100,000 on the erection of forts. The naval expenditure in 1882-3 was exceeded in only one previous year, viz., 1877-8.

Small expenditure on establishing defences.

1360. One cadetship at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, England, is allocated annually to students of each university in the

Military cadetships.

* The figures in this line do not represent the total cost of the vessels, but only so much of it as cannot now be apportioned to particular years.

† The figures in this line do not represent the total cost of the arms, ammunition, and stores, but only so much of it as cannot now be apportioned to particular years.

Australasian colonies to which a charter by letters patent has been granted. This includes the Melbourne University, as well as the universities of Sydney, Adelaide, and New Zealand. A candidate who is recommended for a cadetship must be within the limits of 17 and 22 years of age at the date of his joining the Royal Military College; he is required to enter the college within six months of his passing the requisite qualifying examination, otherwise his claim to a cadetship will lapse; and at least one month before the date of his entering, certificates of his age and moral character, together with a recommendation by the proper university authority, must be forwarded to the Military Secretary at the Horse Guards.*

Colonial
candidates
for the
army.

1361. In the case of colonial candidates for commissions in the army who are not members of any university, an arrangement has been made whereby the ordinary preliminary examination held in London by the Civil Service Commissioners is dispensed with (except as regards geometrical drawing) upon the candidate producing a certificate of his having passed an equivalent examination in the colonies.*

Naval
cadetships.

1362. Four nominations to naval cadetships are placed annually at the disposal of the Secretary of State for distribution to sons of gentlemen in certain colonies.† The Governor in any of such colonies has the right of submitting an application in favour of a candidate, with any recommendation he may think fit. The qualifications of a candidate are—that he must be a colonist in the strict sense of the term, must not be less than 12 or more than 13½ years of age, must be in good health and perfectly free from any physical defect or disease, and must be able to pass a preliminary examination in English, Arithmetic, Elementary Algebra, Elementary Geometry, French, and Scripture History, obtaining not less than two-fifths of the whole number of marks assigned in each subject; and a second examination in any two of the following subjects, viz., Elementary Mathematics, Latin, Geography, and the outlines of English History. When a cadet is entered, he will be required to pay annually the sum of £70 for a period of two years, to be spent on board the *Britannia* training ship, besides expenses of outfit and of all necessary books and instruments, during which time he must pass four examinations in seamanship and study. He is subsequently to pay £50 per annum until he passes his final examination for the rank of lieutenant.‡

* For despatches respecting military cadetships and colonial candidates for army commissions, see *Government Gazettes* of the 22nd October, 1880, and 26th August, 1881.

† The colonies from which nominations will, in the first instance, be received, are—each of the Australasian colonies, Canada, Newfoundland, Jamaica, Antigua, Barbadoes, British Guiana, Trinidad, Cape Colony, Natal, Malta, Ceylon, and Mauritius; but should all the four nominations not be applied for by the end of the first quarter in each year, the balance will be made available for applications which may be received from other colonies.

‡ For latest regulations respecting naval cadetships for the colonies, containing full particulars of the clothing, books, and instruments required by cadets and of the examinations, &c., see *Government Gazette* of the 30th June, 1881.