

PART IX.—DEFENCES.

676. The Military Forces of Victoria consist of Permanent Forces, Militia, and Volunteer Forces. The Permanent Forces are made up of the Head Quarters Staff, the Victorian Artillery, and the Permanent Section of the Engineer Corps; the Militia embrace the Cavalry, Horse Artillery, Field and Garrison Artillery, Engineers, Infantry, Ambulance, Commissariat, and Medical Staff; and the Volunteer Forces comprise the Mounted Rifles and Victorian Rangers.* At the end of 1892, the strength of the various corps in all cases approximated closely to the establishment, which is as follows:—

MILITARY FORCES—ESTABLISHMENT, 1892.

Corps.	Total all Ranks.
PERMANENT.	
Head-quarters Staff	6
Victorian Artillery	286
Permanent Section, Victorian Engineers	31
Permanent Staff of Militia	36
Mounted Rifles	13
Victorian Rangers	11
Cadet Corps	3
Military Staff Clerks	7
Total Permanent Forces	393
MILITIA.	
Head-quarters' Staff	5
Victorian Horse Artillery	46
Field Artillery—Three Batteries	268
Garrison Artillery—One Battery, Geelong, and Three Batteries, Melbourne	627
" " Three Batteries, One each at Port Fairy, Warrnambool, and Portland	78
Victorian Engineers—Submarine Mining Company	84
" " Field Company	75
1st Battalion 1st Victorian Regiment	506
1st Battalion 2nd Victorian Regiment	506
1st Battalion 3rd Victorian Regiment	503
2nd Battalion 3rd Victorian Regiment	403
Ambulance Corps	40
Commissariat and Transport Corps	39
Medical Staff	15
Total Militia	3,195

* An account of the system of Defence in Victoria was given in the *Victorian Year-Book* 1890-91, Vol. II., paragraph 649.

MILITARY FORCES—ESTABLISHMENT, 1892—*continued.*

Corps.						Total all Ranks.
VOLUNTEERS.						
Mounted Rifles	...	...	...	...	...	800
Victorian Rangers	...	...	...	...	...	1,000
Grand Total	...	...	...	...	...	5,388

Reduction
of land
forces in
1892.

677. In June, 1892, the Government decided, as part of their general scheme of retrenchment, to disband two battalions of Militia Infantry which had been raised in the metropolitan district early in 1891. These battalions numbered 1,016 of all ranks and the annual cost of maintaining them was about £20,000. It was decided, however, that six months' notice should be given, and that while the services of the officers should be retained by placing them on the Reserve, the actual disbandment of the non-commissioned officers and men should not take place until the 31st December, 1892. At the time this course was decided on, the small troop of Cavalry established at Bendigo since 1884, which had fallen off both in strength and efficiency, was also disbanded.

Establish-
ment of
naval
forces.

678. The naval force of the colony consists of a Permanent Naval Force and a Naval Brigade, with an establishment as follows:—

NAVAL FORCES.—ESTABLISHMENT, 1892.

Permanent Force	...	...	...	236	Officers and Men.
Naval Brigade	...	...	...	340	”

Ships of
naval
forces.

679. The naval flotilla consists of nine ships and torpedo boats, but, in addition to these, three vessels belonging to the Harbor Trust and two to the Customs Department are armed as auxiliaries with breech-loading and other guns and torpedo gear. Provision has also been made to arm two steamers as scouts when required for active service, which have accordingly been fitted so as to carry quick-firing guns. The following are the names of the vessels:—

VICTORIAN WAR VESSELS, 1892.

Cerberus—Double-screw iron armour-plated turret ship.

Nelson—Wooden frigate.

Victoria and *Albert*—Steel gunboats.

Countess of Hopetoun—Steel torpedo boat.

VICTORIAN WAR VESSELS, 1892—*continued.**Childers, Nepean, and Lonsdale*—Steel torpedo boats.*Gordon*—Torpedo launch.*Gannet*—Harbor Trust tug-boat, iron.*Batman*—Harbor Trust hopper-barge, iron.*Fawkner*—Harbor Trust hopper-barge, iron.

<i>Commissioner</i>	} Torpedo launches.
<i>Customs No. 1</i>	

680. Batteries for the defence of Melbourne were constructed in 1861-2 at Williamstown, Port Melbourne, and Queenscliff; but the battery at Port Melbourne is now set aside as unsuited to the requirements of modern warfare, which rendered it absolutely necessary to make the first line of defence of Port Phillip at the Heads. Lieut.-General Sir W. F. D. Jervois, R.E., G.C.M.G., C.B., who visited the colony in 1877, 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. The Government adopted the plan of Sir William Jervois, and the construction of the works, commenced under the supervision of the late Major-General Sir P. H. Scratchley, R.E., has been carried out in accordance with this scheme.

681. The following table shows the expenditure of all kinds on military and naval defences for the financial year ended 30th June, 1893 :—

MILITARY AND NAVAL EXPENDITURE, 1892-3.

						£	£
CIVIL STAFF.							
Salaries and pay	...	...	...	...	...	6,308	
Contingencies	...	...	...	...	...	776	
							7,084
NAVAL FORCES.							
Permanent Forces—Salaries and pay	...	...	...	...	...	29,507	
" " Contingencies	...	...	...	...	...	8,636	
							38,143
Naval Brigade—Pay	...	...	...	...	...	4,370	
" " Contingencies	...	...	...	...	...	1,006	
							5,376
MILITARY FORCES.							
<i>Permanent.</i>							
Head Quarters Staff—Pay	...	...	...	...	...	5,629	
" " Contingencies	...	...	...	...	...	886	
							6,515
Permanent Staff (instructors and adjutants)—Pay	...	...	...	...	...	6,923	
" " " " Contingencies	...	...	...	...	...	1,058	
							7,981
Military Staff Clerks—Pay	...	...	...	...	...	882	
" " " Contingencies	...	...	...	...	...	76	
							958

Defence works.

Expenditure on defences 1892-3.

MILITARY AND NAVAL EXPENDITURE, 1892-3—continued.

MILITARY FORCES—continued.		£	£
<i>Permanent</i> —continued.			
Victorian Artillery—Pay	... ..	20,695	
" " Contingencies	... ..	9,642	30,337
Victorian Engineers—Pay	... ..	4,605	
" " Contingencies	... ..	715	5,320
MILITIA.			
Militia pay, Field and Horse Artillery, Garrison Artillery, Engineers, Sub-marine Mining Company, and Infantry		32,107	
Militia contingencies, effective allowance, horsing guns, band allowances, etc.		13,231	45,338
AUXILIARY FORCES.			
Cadet Corps—Pay	... ..	875	
" Contingencies	... ..	4,214	5,089
Mounted Rifles—Pay	... ..	3,271	
" " Contingencies	... ..	6,730	10,001
Victorian Rangers—Pay	... ..	2,466	
" " Contingencies	... ..	4,844	7,310
Rifle Clubs—Contingencies	... ..	...	1,070
ORDNANCE BRANCH.			
Warlike stores, rail transport, etc.	... ..	3,309	
Chase-hooping heavy ordnance	... ..	1,000	4,309
ENCAMPMENTS.			
Easter camp and course instruction, Sub-marine Mining Company		...	639
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Expenses officers despatched to England for instruction	... ..	600	
Annual Grant and Queen's Prize, V.R.A.	... ..	1,350	
Militia Parades, Queen's and Prince of Wales' Birthdays	... ..	499	
Ammunition fund recoup	... ..	3,300	
Compensation and injuries on duty, Permanent and Militia Forces		401	
Refund duty, Colonial Ammunition Company	... ..	20	6,170
Total Expenditure Victorian Defences*	... ..	...	181,640
DEFENCE WORKS AND BUILDINGS.			
Erection and inspection of forts, repairs drill rooms, etc.	... ..	...	16,380
AUSTRALASIAN DEFENCE FORCES.			
Annual contribution maintenance Auxiliary Squadron	... ..	37,238	
" subsidy toward defence Thursday Island (Qld.)	... ..	750	
" " " " King George's Sound (W.A.)	... ..	1,156	39,144
Total Expenditure Defences, 1892-3	... ..	...	237,164

* Exclusive of works and buildings.

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

EXPENDITURE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF DEFENCES, 1854 TO 1892-3.

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
1883-4	205,596	25,442	231,038
1884-5	157,929	29,639	187,568
1885-6	281,092	37,886	318,978
1886-7	272,682	38,324	311,006
1887-8	281,206	40,913	322,119
1888-9	306,589	46,578	353,167
1889-90	292,129	58,692†	350,821
1890-91	245,314	45,287	290,601
1891-2	205,136	46,611	251,747
1892-3	156,407	80,757‡	237,164
Towards cost of <i>Cerberus</i> and <i>Nelson</i> §	...	101,966	101,966
Total ...	4,468,073	1,084,915	5,552,988
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 ...	...	...	5,740,079

* These figures, which are derived from the Departmental accounts, do not exactly agree in all cases with those taken from the Treasurer's Finance Statement and shown on page 110, Vol. I., owing to the closing of the accounts not being exactly simultaneous.

† Including £14,500 for purchase of a torpedo boat.

‡ Includes £39,144, contribution to Australasian Defences.

§ 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.

Expenditure
on defences
in various
years com-
pared.

683. 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 was estimated by the late General 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 which was withdrawn in 1870. During the last eight years the military expenditure was considerably larger than in any previous year, and during this period the expenditure was smallest in 1892-3, in which it was nearly £50,000 lower than in the preceding year, nearly £90,000 lower than in 1890-91, and nearly £136,000 lower than in 1889-90. The falling-off in 1891-2 and 1892-3 was due to retrenchment. The naval expenditure in 1892-3 was about £34,000 more than in 1891-2, or larger than in any previous year. The expenditure for 1892-3, however, included £37,000 for the first time towards cost of Australasian Auxiliary Squadron, and the garrisons at Thursday Island and King George's Sound. The total expenditure on defences has been reduced from £350,000 in 1888-9 and 1889-90 to £237,000 in 1892-3.

Land forces
in Australi-
asian
colonies.

684. The land forces of the Australasian colonies at the end of 1892 numbered 29,499, of which 22,227 were upon the Australian Continent. The largest number were in New South Wales, and more than one-half of these were reserve forces, which are possessed by few of the other colonies; Victoria, Queensland, and South Australia are the only colonies which possess a militia. New South Wales has more than twice as many volunteers as Victoria, which may, perhaps, be accounted for by the fact that the men there are partially paid. She also has 232 more regular troops than Victoria, besides 4,947 men attached to reserves as before alluded to. In South Australia, however, all adult males under 45 years of age, and in New Zealand all under 55, are liable to be called out in case of necessity. The following is a statement of the land forces in each colony of the group:—

LAND FORCES IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1892.

Colony.	Regular Troops.	Militia.	Volunteers.	Reserves (including rifle clubs).	Total.
Victoria	393	3,195	1,800	...	5,388
New South Wales	625	...	4,294*	4,947	9,866
Queensland	150	3,229	691	...	4,070
South Australia	66	1,355	773*	99	2,293
Western Australia ... ..	...	...	610	...	610
Total	1,234	7,779	8,168	5,046	22,227

* Partially paid.

LAND FORCES IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1892 — *continued.*

Colony.	Regular Troops.	Militia.	Volunteers.	Reserves (including rifle clubs).	Total.
Tasmania	22	...	439	1,250	1,711
New Zealand*	134	...	5,427†	...	5,561
Grand Total‡	1,390	7,779	14,034	6,296	29,499

NOTE.—With a few necessary exceptions, all males in South Australia between 18 and 45 (numbering about 69,820), and all males in New Zealand (where there is no regular Militia) between 17 and 55, are liable to be called out in case of emergency.

685. Five of the Australasian colonies—viz., Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and New Zealand—possess regular naval forces, and of these more than one-half are in the service of Victoria. Victoria, also, as well as New South Wales, Queensland, and South Australia, possesses a few irregular naval forces, who generally receive a small payment for their services, and are sometimes called the naval reserve. The largest force of this description belongs to Queensland. New South Wales possesses 269, and New Zealand as many as 1,155 Naval Volunteers, but no other colony has an arm so designated. New Zealand has a regular Torpedo Corps of 62 members, and Tasmania a Volunteer Corps of 69 members. The following table contains a statement of the number of such forces in each of the colonies from which particulars have been received:—

Naval forces
in Austral-
asian
colonies.

NAVAL FORCES IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1892.

Colony.	Regular Forces.	Forces only casually employed.§	Volunteers.	Total.
Victoria	236	340	...	576
New South Wales	19	331	269	619
Queensland	21	495	...	516
South Australia	70||	72	...	142
Total	346	1,238	269	1,853
Tasmania ... ..	...	...	69¶	69
New Zealand*	62¶	...	1,155	1,217
Grand Total	408	1,238	1,493	3,139

* Figures for 1891-2, those for the later year not being available.

† Partially paid.

‡ Exclusive of cadets, who numbered 4,128 in Victoria, 576 in Queensland, *nil* in South Australia, 71 in Tasmania, and 2,111 in New Zealand.

§ Partially paid in some of the colonies; but only when called out in South Australia.

|| Since reduced to 17, but 35 of those discharged were re-enrolled in Naval Reserve.

¶ Torpedo Corps.

Relative proportions of various forces.

686. According to a table published in the last issue of this work,* the local troops in the self-governing colonies of the Empire numbered in 1889 77,000, and half of these (38,238) were in Canada, whilst 41 per cent. (31,994) were in Australasia, and 9 per cent. (6,710) in South Africa. The partially paid forces amount to five-sixths of the whole, whilst the permanent forces and the volunteer forces—the latter of which exist only in Australasia—amount to only a fifteenth and a tenth of the whole respectively.

Defence expenditure in Australasian colonies.

687. In 1892-3 Victoria spent over £237,000 on defences, or nearly a third of the amount so expended by all the colonies on the Australian continent, whilst New South Wales spent nearly £400,000, or about one-half of that amount. The Australasian colonies, as a whole, spent about £907,000 on defences in the same year, as is shown in the following table:—

EXPENDITURE ON DEFENCES IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1892-3.

Colony.	Ordinary Expenditure.		Expenditure on Fortifications. †	Grand Total.
	Military.	Naval. †		
	£	£	£	£
Victoria	140,027	80,757	16,380	237,164
New South Wales	233,815	82,306	83,398§	399,519
Queensland	71,204	25,948	9,908	107,060
South Australia	31,499	22,913	248	54,660
Western Australia	4,057	3,360	...	7,417
Total	480,602	215,284	109,934	805,820
Tasmania	14,350	4,932	1,740	21,022
New Zealand	73,122	...	7,347	80,469
Grand Total	568,074	220,216	119,021	907,311

NOTE.—The figures for New South Wales, Western Australia, and Tasmania are for the calendar year 1892; those for New Zealand for 1891-2; and those for the other colonies for the financial year 1892-3.

* See *Victorian Year-Book* 1892, Volume II., paragraph 659.

† Including contributions towards maintenance of Australian Naval Defence Force as follows:—Victoria, £37,238; New South Wales, £69,471 (including arrears); Queensland, £13,260; South Australia, £10,527; Western Australia, £3,360 (2 years); Tasmania, £4,932. See also paragraph 689 *post*.

‡ Including contributions towards cost of garrisons at King George's Sound and Thursday Island:—Victoria, £1,906; New South Wales, £639; Queensland (approximately) £3,039 (but exclusive of £9,393 spent on behalf of the other colonies to be recouped); South Australia, £216. The payments by the other contributing colonies were not specified. See paragraph 690 *post*.

§ Including £23,412, Naval Station, Port Jackson. The Government Statistician of New South Wales states that the works at Garden Island and elsewhere in connection with the Naval Station are being carried out at the expense of that colony, in consideration of which the Imperial Authorities agreed to make Sydney the head-quarters of the fleet, and also to cede to the Government certain land and buildings owned by them within the colony.

688. The military forces of the Australasian colonies were inspected in 1889 by Major-General J. B. Edwards, a distinguished officer in the Imperial service, specially sent by the Horse Guards to perform that duty. General Edwards reported (9th October, 1889) in regard to Victoria that the troops were in a satisfactory condition, and capable of fulfilling the duty for which they are maintained, viz., the defence of the colony. He, however, strongly recommended that, for the general defence of Australasia, there should be a federation of the forces of the different colonies.*

Inspection
of Austral-
asian
troops.

689. According to an agreement entered into with the Imperial Government, and embodied in Acts passed by the several Legislatures (the Victorian Act being 54 Vict. No. 1,083), an additional naval force, consisting of 5 fast cruisers and 2 torpedo boats, has been provided for the protection of the floating trade in Australasian waters. The agreement, which is to remain in force for 10 years, provides for the payment by the Australasian colonies of interest on the prime cost at 5 per cent., but not exceeding £35,000 per annum, and a sum not exceeding £91,000 towards annual maintenance; or a total contribution of £126,000. The third annual contribution, which was payable in advance on the 1st March, 1893, is thus apportioned amongst the various colonies on a population basis:—Victoria, £36,968; New South Wales, £37,720; New Zealand, £20,599; Queensland, £13,342; South Australia, £10,663; Tasmania, £4,850; Western Australia, £1,858.

Additional
naval
defences
for Aus-
tralasian
colonies.

690. In terms of an understanding arrived at between the several Colonies on the continent of Australia, the defence works connected with the fortification of Albany (Western Australia) and Thursday Island (Queensland) have now been completed and the forts themselves garrisoned at the joint expense of the contributing colonies. The works at Albany cost £15,758 to the beginning of 1893, towards which Western Australia was to contribute a lump sum of £5,000, and the balance by the other colonies on a population basis. The capital cost of the works at Thursday Island was estimated to be £23,053, and the annual cost £5,443; the former amount to be contributed in the various colonies as follows:—New South Wales, £8,630; Victoria, £8,576; Queensland, £3,039; South Australia, £2,413; Western Australia, £395. In addition the Imperial Government provides £28,000, chiefly in the form of material, towards the armament of the two forts.

Fortifica-
tions at
Albany
and King
George's
Sound.

* See Parliamentary Paper, No. 139, Session 1889.

Military
cadetships.

691. By letter dated 24th March, 1892, the Government was informed that new regulations for the grant of commissions in the British infantry to officers of the colonial local forces, and students from the colonial universities, were issued by the War Office with army orders dated 1st January, 1892. Attention was called to the fact that by these regulations the privilege of admission to the Royal Military College was withdrawn from university students, but owing to representations made by the Melbourne University the Secretary for War subsequently approved of the suspension of the new regulations, as far as the Melbourne University is concerned, up to the 31st of December, 1893. The regulations provide for the grant of two army commissions annually to the following colonies:—New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria, Queensland, New Zealand, Cape of Good Hope; six to Canada, one biennially to Tasmania, and two every three years to the Royal Malta Militia. An officer of the colonial forces who is a candidate will be required:—(a) To be between 18 and 22 years on the 1st of January of the year in which he is allowed to present himself for examination; (b) to have served at least fifteen months as an officer in the local force, and to have attended two annual trainings, or to have had active service in the field. The qualifying literary examination by the Civil Service Commissioners comprises Mathematics, French or German (translation and grammar), Writing, Geography, and the elements of Geometrical Drawing. Then there is a second and more advanced literary test, and finally a military examination.

Commis-
sions in
engineers
and
artillery.

692. It has been decided that commissions in the Royal Engineers or Royal Artillery cannot be granted to Australian colonists until Australia possesses a Royal Military College, similar to that established at Kingston, in Canada. The Kingston College was founded in 1875, since which date 81 candidates have received commissions in the Imperial Army; in 1891, four cadets received commissions, viz., 1 in the Royal Engineers, 1 in the Royal Artillery, and 2 in the Infantry.

Naval
cadetships.

693. 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,

* 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.

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 13 or more than $14\frac{1}{2}$ 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, obtaining not less than half the whole number of marks assigned in Arithmetic, and two-fifths in each of the other subjects; and a second examination in the following subjects, viz., Elementary Mathematics, Latin, Geography, English History (a short selected period), Drawing (freehand and simple rectangular model). Candidates must obtain at least 660 out of a possible 2,150. A candidate who passes the test examination, but fails in the competition, will be entitled to compete at the next examination, provided he be still within the limits of age; but a candidate who fails to pass the test cannot compete again unless nominated afresh, and be still within the age limits. When a cadet is entered, he will be required to pay annually the sum of £75 for a period of two years to be spent on board the *Britannia* training ship, besides expenses of outfit and of all necessary books or instruments, during which time he must pass four examinations in seamanship and study, at which he must obtain at least 41 per cent. of the marks in mathematical subjects; and also, at the final examination, 40 per cent. of those in the technical subjects, combined with Physics and French. He is subsequently to pay £50 per annum until he passes his final examination for the rank of lieutenant.

* Revised regulations respecting naval cadets are published in the *Government Gazette* of 23rd January, 1891.
