

DEFENCE.

Military and De-
fence Forces of
Australasia.

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 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 most of 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 and Western Australia alone is the volunteer system the mainstay of defence. The following is the strength of the forces maintained by each province in 1891-2 :—

Purely volunteer system unsatisfactory.

	Total Forces.	Paid.	Partially Paid.	Unpaid.
New South Wales.....	5,157	633	4,419	105
Victoria	7,314	406	4,343	2,565
Queensland	3,840	134	2,851	855
South Australia.....	2,371	56	1,508	807
Western Australia	657	2	.....	655
Tasmania	1,856	40	605	1,211
New Zealand	5,561	134	.....	5,427
Total, Australasia..	26,756	1,405	13,831	11,520

There are also in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and Tasmania, rifle clubs or companies of a strength of about 8,500 men which have not been included above. 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.

Rifle clubs.

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

Total military strength.

Staff, Medical Staff, Instructors, Ambulance Corps, &c.....	901
Artillery (Garrison, field and horse).....	4,169
Engineers	717
Cavalry	909
Mounted Infantry and Mounted Rifles	3,200
Infantry	16,860

which, with the rifle companies, make a total strength of about 35,256 men.

Marine Forces.

In addition to the forces enumerated above, all the Colonies, with the exception of Western Australia, have small corps of Naval Volunteer Artillery, or a partially paid force of a similar character, trained to sub-marine mining and the use of torpedoes, or 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	631
Victoria	615
Queensland	479
South Australia	173
Tasmania	70
New Zealand	1,228
Total	3,196

Combined
Australasian
Defence Forces.

Thus the combined forces of all the Australasian Colonies on their present footing are 38,452 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.

Australasian
naval station.

The boundaries of the Australian Naval Station have been 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.

Imperial navy
on the Australasian
station.

The defence of the Australasian coast is mainly in the hands of 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 1892 nine Imperial vessels whose armament, speed, &c., are as follow:—

Imperial War Vessels on Station.

II	Name.	Class.	Material of hull.	Displacement.	Indicated horse-power.	Draft of water extreme.		Length.	Beam.	Armour.	Armament.		Speed.	Coal endurance.	
						ft.	in.				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	ft. in. 56 0		Armoured belt at water-line, 10 in.; armoured deck, 3 in.; conning tower, 12 in.	29 2-in. 22-ton B.L.R., 10 6-in. 5-ton B.L.R., 16 Q.F. Hotchkiss, 7 M., 3 L.	2	knots. 18.5	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		.....	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	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	.....

* 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.

Special
Australasian
squadron.

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 £126,000 per annum, the contributions of each being determined on the basis of population. The amounts estimated as payable by each Colony for the year 1892 were :—

	£
New South Wales	37,720
Victoria	36,968
Queensland	13,342
South Australia	10,663
Western Australia	1,858
Tasmania	4,850
New Zealand.....	20,599
Australasia	£126,000

Agreement with
British Govern-
ment.

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 :—

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.	8 4-7 Q.F. guns, 8 3-pr. Q.F. guns, 1 7-pr. M.L.R. gun (boat and field), 4 4.5 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.
 † In reserve.

The
"Wolverene."

New South Wales has no navy of its own, with the exception of the corvette "Wolverene," sixteen 64-pounder M.L. rifled guns, which is at present laid up, and two small torpedo steam-launches, the "Acheron" and the "Avernus."

Victorian navy.

Victoria has a navy of its own for harbour defence, consisting 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 (twin screw).	3,480	4 10-in. M.L.R., 4 1-in. Nordenfeldts, 4 barrels.
Victoria	Steel gunboat ... (twin screw).	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.. (twin screw).	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).	346	do do
Commissioner..	Wooden steam launch.	40	4 14-in. Fiume, also fitted for spar torpedoes.
Customs No. 1	do ...	30	do do

Dredge
gun-boats.

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, to be called the "Countess of Hopetoun," is being built for the Victorian Government.

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	1 64-pounder, M.L.R.
Bonito	Barge (twin screw).	450	1 gun.
Stingaree	do	450	1 gun.
Pumba	do	450	1 gun.
Dolphin	do	450	1 gun.
Bream	do	450	1 gun.
Midge	Steam pinnace	.....	2 machine guns.
Mosquito	Second-class steel torpedo boat.	.....	1 machine gun.

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. New Zealand possesses four Thorneycroft torpedo boats, and four steam launches fitted for torpedo work.

Queensland
naval defence.

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 1891-92 was as follows:—

Colony.	Amount.	Per head of Population.
	£	s. d.
New South Wales	279,239	4 11
Victoria	294,967	5 1
Queensland	75,685	3 8
South Australia ..	51,160	3 2
Western Australia	2,618	1 0
Tasmania	18,936	2 7
New Zealand	77,369	2 5

Or a total expenditure for Australasia of £799,974, at the rate of 4s. 2d. for each inhabitant.

Expenditure from loans for defence purposes.

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 1891-92 were as follows:—

	£
New South Wales.....	154,097*
Queensland.....	22,611
South Australia.....	309
Tasmania	2,402
New Zealand.....	7,347
Total	£186,766

* Inclusive of £42,201 for naval station, Port Jackson.

The total debt incurred by each Colony for defence purposes to the end of 1891-92 was as follows :—

	Amount.	Per head of Population.
	£	s. d.
New South Wales	*1,018,679	17 10
Victoria	100,000	1 9
Queensland	191,423	9 4
South Australia	234,414	14 5
Tasmania	118,993	16 0
New Zealand	871,474	27 8
Australasia	2,534,983	13 1

* Inclusive of £202,198 for naval station, Port Jackson.

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.

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 approaching completion, and both places are ready to receive their armaments and garrisons. The guns for the fort at King George's Sound are in fact on their way from England, and the garrison has already been despatched from South Australia.

Military Defence
Commission.