

ERRATA.

For Table, page 310, read

State.	Paid.	Partially Paid.	Unpaid.	Total Forces.
New South Wales	324	4,440	3,305	8,569
Victoria	387	3,560	2,101	6,048
Queensland	234	2,945	657	3,886
South Australia	34	1,320	.....	1,354
Western Australia	42	1,801	.....	1,843
Tasmania	21	225	1,607	1,853
Commonwealth	1,592	14,291	7,670	23,553
New Zealand.....	288	.....	6,742	7,030
Australasia	1,880	14,291	14,412	30,583

DEFENCE.

THE colonists of Australasia have always manifested an objection to the maintenance of a standing army, and shown 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 devote only a portion of their time to military affairs ; hence it has been found advisable to institute in each colony small permanent military forces, consisting for the most part of artillery and submarine miners, 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 will prove the nucleus for an effective defence force if ever hostilities should unfortunately occur. When Federation is established, it is provided that the naval and military defences of the colonies shall as soon as possible be transferred to one central authority under the Commonwealth, and it is hoped that the forces will then be placed on a stronger and more efficient footing.

The greater portion of the Australian forces, consists of volunteers enrolled under a system of partial payment, which affords a defence force without the disadvantages and expense of a standing army. The men receive payment according to the number of parades and night drills they attend, as compensation for wages lost while absent from their employment for the purpose of receiving military instruction. The remuneration varies in the different colonies, the New South Wales scale being 8s. 6d. each whole-day parade, 4s. for a half-day parade, and 2s. for a night drill. There has been a marked tendency in most of the provinces to discourage the services of those who are 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 table shows the strength of the military forces maintained by each colony as at 30th June, 1900. The total number of men of military ages (from 20 to 40 years) in Australasia is estimated

to be upwards of 800,000, and compared with this figure the forces of the colonies appear extremely small.

State.	Paid.	Partially Paid.	Unpaid.	Total Forces.
New South Wales.....	123	5,104	3,342	8,569
Victoria	387	3,560	2,101	6,048
Queensland	284	2,945	657	3,886
South Australia.....	34	1,320	.....	1,354
Western Australia	42	1,801	.....	1,843
Tasmania	21	225	1,607	1,853
Commonwealth	891	14,955	7,707	23,553
New Zealand	288	.....	6,742	7,030
Australasia.....	1,179	14,955	14,449	30,583

In addition to the above there are in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and South Australia civilian rifle clubs, with a total membership of over 18,000 men, who have been enrolled as a volunteer reserve force. These men are all trained to the use of the rifle, and have a slight knowledge of drill, and would be available in time of war to complete the establishment of the regular forces. Under the provisions of the Defence Acts in Queensland and South Australia the police receive a certain amount of military training, and in case of emergency may be called upon to perform military service.

The relative strength of the various arms in the Commonwealth States may be summarised as follows:—

Staff, and all arms not enumerated	971
Artillery	4,126
Engineers	628
Cavalry	1,235
Mounted Rifles	2,063
Infantry	14,480

making a total strength, as shown above, of 23,553 men.

In addition to the military forces enumerated, all the colonies, with the exception of Tasmania and Western Australia, have small corps of Naval Volunteer Artillery, or partially-paid forces of a similar character, capable of being employed either as light artillery land forces or on board the local war vessels. The strength of the marine forces of the colonies is as follows:—

New South Wales.....	583
Victoria	309
Queensland.....	530
South Australia.....	160
Commonwealth	<u>1,582</u>
New Zealand	805
Australasia.....	<u>2,387</u>

For many years the question has been discussed of organising reserve forces in the colonies for the Imperial navy, and early in 1899 the

Admiralty forwarded a despatch to the various colonies outlining a scheme to give effect to the proposal. In July, 1899, a conference of naval officers, representing New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and South Australia, was held at Melbourne, when it was decided that it would be impossible to raise a reserve force in Australasia on the conditions prescribed by the Admiralty, and it was deemed expedient to defer further consideration of the question till the establishment of a central authority under Federation.

On their present footing the combined forces of all the Australasian colonies are nearly 33,000 strong, as will be seen above, and of these over 20,000 could be mobilised in a very short time in any one of the colonies of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, or South Australia. Most of the colonies have also cadet companies, consisting of youths attending school, who are taught the use of arms so as to fit them, on reaching manhood, for taking a patriotic share in the defence of their country.

The outbreak of hostilities with the Boers in October, 1899, served to demonstrate the strength of the loyalty of these colonies to the mother country. From all parts of Australasia members of the various defence forces, as well as civilians, volunteered for service with the Imperial troops in South Africa. The total number of men despatched in the various contingents was 8,334, comprising 4,174 regular troops, chiefly infantry and mounted infantry, and 4,160 irregular troops (bushmen). The table below shows the number of men and horses sent from each colony:—

State.	Regular Troops.		Bushmen.		Total.	
	Men.	Horses.	Men.	Horses.	Men.	Horses.
New South Wales	1,364	1,193	1,280	1,353	2,644	2,546
Victoria	514	447	905	1,135	1,419	1,582
Queensland ..	417	458	705	918	1,122	1,376
South Australia	245	156	330	397	575	553
Western Australia	233	255	242	267	475	522
Tasmania	127	4	175	188	302	192
Commonwealth	2,900	2,513	3,637	4,258	6,537	6,771
New Zealand	1,274	2,127	525	533	1,797	2,660
Australasia	4,174	4,640	4,160	4,791	8,334	9,431

In addition to the above, several special service officers were, at the request of the colonial Governments, attached to the British troops for the purpose of gaining experience, and 14 nurses were despatched from New South Wales.

The colonies again offered to assist Great Britain on the outbreak of hostilities in China. The Imperial Authorities accepted the offer, and contingents of naval volunteers were despatched from New South Wales and Victoria numbering 260 and 200 men respectively, while South Australia equipped and sent the gunboat Protector.

NAVAL DEFENCE.

The boundaries of the Australian Naval Station have been defined as follow :—From 95° E. long. by the parallel of 10° S. lat. to 130° E. long. ; thence north to 2° N. lat., and along that parallel to 136° E. long. ; thence north to 12° N. lat., and along that parallel to 160° W. long. ; thence south to the Equator, and east to 149° 30' W. long. ; bounded on the south by the Antarctic Circle ; and including the numerous groups of islands situated within the limits specified.

The defence of the Australasian coast is entrusted to the British ships on the Australian Station and 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. The vessels of the Imperial fleet are detailed below. The Penguin and Dart are engaged in surveying service.

Name.	Class.	Displacement.	Indicated horse-power.	Draught of water extreme.		Length.	Beam.	Armament.	Speed.	Coal endurance.	
				Guns.	Coal that can be carried in bunkers.			Distance that can be run at 10 knots' speed.			
Royal Arthur	Twin-screw cruiser, 1st class, protected.	7,700	10,000	24 10	3 60	0 60	8	One 9·2-in. B.L., 12 6-in. B.L.Q.F., 12 6-Pr., 5 3-Pr., 7 Nordenfeldt.	19·75	1,250	10,000
Porpoise	Twin-screw cruiser, 3rd class.	1,770	3,500	15 4	2 25	0 36	0	Six 6-in. 5-ton B.L.V.C.P. 8 3-Pr., 2 Nordenfeldt.	16·5	325	7,000
Mohawk	Twin-screw cruiser, 3rd class.	1,770	3,500	15 7	2 25	0 36	0	Six 6-in. 5-ton B.L.V.C.P. 8 3-Pr., 2 Nordenfeldt.	16·5	325	7,000
Royalist..	Screw cruiser, 3rd class.	1,420	1,510	16 11	2 00	0 38	0	Two 6-in. 4-ton B.L.R., 10 5-in. 38-cwt. B.L.R., 4 M., 1 L.	13·1	425	6,600
Ringdove	Screw gun-boat, 1st class.	805	1,200	13 2	1 65	0 31	0	Six 4-in. 25-cwt. B.L., 2 3-Pr., 2 Nordenfeldt.	12·0	128	2,500
Goldfinch	Screw gun-boat, 1st class.	805	1,200	13 3	1 65	0 30	0	Six 4-in. 26-cwt. B.L.R., 2 Q.F. Hotchkiss, 2 M.	13·0	105	..
Torch ..	Screw sloop..	960	1,100	14 6	1 80	0 32	6	Six 4-in. Q.F., 4 3-Pr. Q.F. Hotchkiss, 2 0·45-in. Maxim.	13·25	130	2,000
Penguin..	Screw sloop..	1,130	700	14 0	1 80	0 38	0	Two 64-pr. M., 1 L., 2 M.	10·0	200	..
Dart	Screw yacht..	470	250	12 11	1 33	0 25	2	2 L., 2 M.....	8·8	64	..

Q.F., Quick-firing guns ; M., Machine guns ; L., Light guns under 15 cwt. ; B.L.R., Breech-loading rifled guns ; V.C.P., Vavasseur Centre Pivot.

The Royal Arthur has no armour, but carries a protective deck of steel, varying in thickness from 1 to 5 inches. Her 6-inch guns are also enclosed in casemates of steel 6 inches thick.

As opportunity offers, the Admiral of the Fleet is empowered to grant commissions, for periods not exceeding six months, to officers of the naval forces of the colonies, in order that they may gain some experience of the conditions under which modern naval warfare is practised. Six cadetships and three engineer studentships in the Imperial Navy are given annually to Australian boys, who must not be less than $14\frac{1}{2}$ nor more than $15\frac{1}{2}$ years of age to qualify for the former, and not less than 14 nor more than 17 years of age for the latter appointments. The cadets undergo a course of instruction for two years on board the Britannia training-ship before they receive a commission.

An undertaking has been entered into by all the colonies for the payment of a *pro rata* subsidy towards the maintenance of an auxiliary fleet. The total subvention to be paid amounts to £126,000 per annum, made up of £91,000 for maintenance, and £35,000 as interest charge on the cost of construction, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, the contribution of each colony being determined on the basis of population. The distribution of the subsidy in 1899-1900, was as follows:—

	£
New South Wales	37,973
Victoria	32,749
Queensland	13,585
South Australia	10,439
Western Australia	4,816
Tasmania	5,134
New Zealand	<u>21,304</u>
Australasia.....	£126,000

The fleet consists of five fast cruisers and two torpedo gunboats of the Archer (improved type) and Rattlesnake classes of the British Navy. Three cruisers and one gunboat are continuously kept in commission, and the remainder are held in reserve in Australasian ports, ready for commission whenever circumstances may require their use. At the present time the vessels in reserve are the Katoomba, Mildura, Tauranga, and Karrakatta, the Katoomba being used as guard-ship. The agreement is for a period of ten years, and is then or at the end of any subsequent year terminable, provided two years' notice has been given. It has lately been decided that the agreement shall remain in force until the Federal Government shall consider the question of Australian Defence. The vessels have been built by the British Government; and the Australasian Governments have no voice whatever in the management of the vessels, nor any control over their movements. On the termination of the agreement the vessels will remain the property of the Imperial Government. The strength of the British fleet in Australian waters before the agreement was entered into is maintained independently of the presence of the Australasian vessels. The squadron is commanded by the Admiral on the Australian Station, whose head-quarters are in Sydney, where a residence is provided for

him by the colony of New South Wales. The squadron, which arrived in Port Jackson on the 5th September, 1891, consists of the following vessels:—

Name.	Displacement.	Indicated horse-power.	Draught of water extreme.	Length.	Beam.	Armament.		Speed.	Coal endurance.		
						Guns.	Torpedo tubes.		Coal that can be carried in bunkers.	Distance that can be steamed at 10 knots' speed.	
	tons.		ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.			knots.	tons.	knots.	
Katoomba	2,575	7,500	17 6	265 0	41 0	{ Eight 4·7 Q.F. guns, eight 3-pr. Q.F. guns, one 7-pr. M.L.R. gun (boat and field), four 4·45-in. 5-barrel Nordenfeldt.	} 4	16·5	300	6,000	
Ringarooma ..	2,575	7,500	17 6	265 0	41 0			4	16·5	300	6,000
Mildura	2,575	7,500	16 6	265 0	41 0			4	16·5	300	6,000
Wallaroo	2,575	7,500	17 3	265 0	41 0			4	16·5	300	6,000
Tauranga	2,575	7,500	17 6	265 0	41 0			4	16·5	300	6,000
Boomerang ..	735	3,500	10 8	230 0	27 0	{ Two 4·7 in. Q.F. guns, four 3-pr. Q.F. guns.	} 3	*18·75	160	2,500	
Karrakatta ..	735	3,500	10 9	230 0	27 0			3	*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. M.L.R.—Muzzle-loading rifled guns.

The Boomerang and Karrakatta are classed as torpedo gun-boats; all the other vessels are third-class screw cruisers. The hull of each vessel is of steel. The deck armour over machinery space is 2-in. and 1-in., and the conning-towers are protected by 3-inch armour, except in the case of the torpedo gun-boats, the towers of which have 1-in. armour. Each of the cruisers carries four, and each of the torpedo gun-boats three torpedo tubes. In the event of any of the squadron being lost, the vessel is to be replaced by the British Government.

The only war vessels which the colony of New South Wales possesses are two small torpedo boats, the Acheron and the Avernus, which are manned by the Naval Artillery Volunteers.

Victoria has the following vessels available for harbour defence:—

Name.	Class.	Displacement.	Armament.
		tons.	
Cerberus	Armoured turret ship (twin screw).	3,480	Four 10-in. 18-ton M.L.R., two 14-pdr. Q.F., six 6-pdr. Q.F., four 1-in. Nordenfeldts, 4 barrels.
Countess of Hopton.	First-class steel torpedo boat.	120	Three 14-in. Mark IX R.G.F. torpedoes, and two 2-barrel Nordenfeldt 1-in. M. guns.
Childers	do do ..	63	Two 14-in. Fiume torpedoes, and two 1-pdr. Hotchkiss Q.F. guns.
Nepean	Second-class steel torpedo boat.	12	Two 14-in. Mark IV Fiume torpedoes.
Lonsdale	do do ..	12	do do do
Gordon	Wooden torpedo boat ..	12	Two 14-in. Mark IV Fiume torpedoes, three 2-barrel 1-in. Nordenfeldt guns.
Commissioner	Wooden steam launch....	40	Spar torpedoes, and dropping gear for two 14-in. R.L. torpedoes.
Customs No. 1....	do do ..	30	do do do

In addition to the vessels mentioned, Victoria formerly had in commission two steel gunboats, the Victoria and the Albert, the wooden frigate Nelson, and the armed steamer Gannet. In consequence of the promulgation of an opinion by the Colonial Defence Committee that where there are complete fixed defences floating defences do not add to the strength of a place, but in most cases even tend to weaken it, by interfering with and limiting the arcs of fire of the battery guns, it was decided to dispose of the vessels named, and to give up the use of the Melbourne Harbour Trust's hopper barges, the Batman and the Fawkner. In 1896 the Government of Western Australia purchased the gunboat Victoria, with the intention of employing it in surveying service; and the frigate Nelson was sold in 1898 to be broken up.

Queensland has two gunboats, one of which, the Paluma, was formerly employed on survey service on the coast of Queensland at the joint expense of the Queensland and British authorities. Afterwards, the Paluma was lent to the Imperial Government; and, since handed back to Queensland in April, 1895, has been placed in reserve. The other gunboat, the Gayundah, was paid off and placed in reserve on the 30th September, 1892, and recommissioned on the 1st December, 1898. Particulars of the vessels available for the defence of Queensland ports are given below:—

Name.	Class.	Displacement.	Armament.
Gayundah.....	Steel gunboat (twin screw)	Tons. 360	One 8-in. B.L., one 6-in. B.L. Armstrong, two 3-pdr. 1½-in. Nordenfeldts, two 1-in. four-barrelled Nordenfeldts, one 0·45-in. five-barrelled Nordenfeldt.
Paluma	do ..	360	One 6-in. B.L.; two 5-in. B.L.; two 1½-in. Q.F. Nordenfeldts; one 1-in. four-barrelled Nordenfeldt; one 0·45-in. five-barrelled Nordenfeldt.
Otter	Tender (twin screw).....	290	One 64-pounder, M.L.R.
Stingaree	do	450	One gun.
Midge.....	Steam pinnace .....	....	Three machine guns.
Mosquito	Second-class steel torpedo boat.	....	One machine gun.

South Australia maintains one twin-screw steel cruiser, the Protector, of 920 tons, and an auxiliary gun vessel. The armament of the Protector consists of one 8-in. 12-ton B.L., five 6-in. 4-ton B.L., four 3-pdr. Q.F., and five improved Gatling machine guns; while the auxiliary gun vessel carries two 6-in. 5-ton B.L. guns. Tasmania owns one Whitehead torpedo boat. Western Australia has the steel gunboat Victoria, purchased from the Victorian Government, and the Meda, a schooner of 150 tons, which are 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.

COST OF DEFENCE.

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. The total expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue for defence purposes during 1898-9 was as follows :—

State.	Amount.	Per head.
	£	s. d.
New South Wales	243,734	3 7
Victoria	197,933	3 5
Queensland	94,402	4 0
South Australia	32,405	1 9
Western Australia	16,963	2 0
Tasmania	12,707	1 5
Commonwealth	598,144	3 3
New Zealand	114,769	3 1
Australasia	£712,933	3 2

In all the colonies, with the exception of Western Australia, a certain amount of money has been spent out of loans for purposes of defence. Victoria, however, from 1872 to 1899 did not expend loan moneys on this service. The amounts thus spent during 1898-9 were as follow :—

	£
New South Wales	*54,917
Victoria	34,827
Queensland	13,342
South Australia	3,402
Tasmania	604
Commonwealth	107,092
New Zealand	24,025
Australasia	£ 131,117

* Inclusive of £1,567 for naval station, Port Jackson.

The total loan expenditure by each colony for defence purposes to the end of the financial year 1898-9 was as follows:—

State.	Amount.	Per head.
	£	s. d.
New South Wales	*1,328,106	19 9
Victoria	133,126	2 4
Queensland	242,566	10 2
South Australia	242,810	13 2
Tasmania	122,027	13 7
Commonwealth	2,068,635	11 2
New Zealand	979,633	26 1
Australasia	£3,048,268	13 8

* Inclusive of £312,481 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.

In 1890 a military commission was appointed by the Imperial and the different Australian Governments to take evidence and report on the question of fortifying King George's Sound, Hobart, Thursday Island, and Port Darwin, at the joint expense of the colonies. The commission visited the points mentioned during 1891, and as a result of the evidence taken fortifications have been erected at King George's Sound and Thursday Island, and it is probable that similar works will be begun at Hobart and Port Darwin in the near future. On 11th March, 1892, the four colonies New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and South Australia entered into a contract with Western Australia, to contribute to the cost of the defence of Albany. The agreement provides that one-fourth of the total expense shall be defrayed by Western Australia, and three-fourths by the other colonies, the proportion to be paid by each to be calculated on the basis of its population. Western Australia provides the garrison and has general superintendence. A similar agreement was made on the 1st January, 1893, between the same five colonies for the defence of Thursday Island. In this instance each colony contributes towards the total expense of maintaining the garrison in proportion to its population.