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1863.

TASMANIA.
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE.

REPORT OF COMMISSION.

Presented by Message from His Excellency the Governor, and ordered by the
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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

REPORT	PAGE 3
--------------	-----------

A P P E N D I C E S.

APPENDIX A.

- No. 1. Government Order dated 27th April, for the assembling of the Board.
2. Instructions to the Board.
-

APPENDIX B.

- No. 1. Return of Strength of Volunteer Force.
2 & 3. Nominal Lists of successful Competitors at the Government Rifle Matches, 1863.
4. Table of Establishments.
5. Scale of Allowance of Ammunition.
6. Report of Officer Commanding the Troops on the Defences of the Colony, dated 4th February, 1863.
7. Report of Commanding Royal Engineer on same subject, dated 21st January, 1863.
-

APPENDIX C.

- No. 1. Return of Expenditure, Volunteer Force, during 1860.
2. Ditto 1861.
3. Ditto 1862.
4. Ditto, from 1st January to 31st May, 1863.
5. Estimate of Expenditure, Volunteer Force, for 1863.
-

APPENDIX D.

- Nos. 1 to 6. Returns, called for in Circular issued by Commission, from the various Commanding Officers of Corps, Southern Division.
No. 7. Reply of Lieutenant Boyes (Buckingham Rifles) to above Circular, explanatory of his not having furnished Returns called for.
8 to 13. Returns, called for in Circular issued by Commission, from the various Commanding Officers of Corps, Northern Division.
-

APPENDIX E.

- No. 1. Evidence of Captain Tarleton,
2. Ditto Sergeant-Major Sheehy, } Hobart Town Volunteer Artillery.
3. Ditto Gunner Pratt.
4. Ditto Captain Smith, Artillery Instructor, S.D.
5. Ditto Captain Solly,
6. Ditto Lieutenant Marsden, } First Rifles.
7. Ditto Sergeant-Major Hood,
8. Ditto Private Harris,
9. Ditto Captain Davies, } Second Rifles.
10. Ditto Sergeant Cook,
11. Ditto Private Kirk, }

- | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| No. 12. | Evidence of Lieutenant Hood, | } | Third Rifles. |
| 13. | Ditto Sergeant D'Emden, | | |
| 14. | Ditto Corporal Hollings, | | |
| 15. | Ditto Captain Walpole, | | Fourth Rifles. |
| 16. | Ditto Captain Kissock, | } | City Guards. |
| 17. | Ditto Sergeant-Major Cook, | | |
| 18. | Ditto Corporal Hill, | | |
| 19. | Ditto Private Cairnduff, | | |
| 20. | Ditto Lieutenant Boyes, | } | Buckingham Rifles. |
| 21. | Ditto Quarter-master-Sergeant Tribe, | | |
| 22. | Ditto Private Boothman, | | |
| 23. | Ditto R. C. Read, Esq., late Captain Commanding Derwent Rifles. | | |
| 24. | Ditto J. W. Kirwan, Esq., late Captain Commanding Kingborough Rifles. | | |
| 25. | Ditto H. B. Tonkin, Esq. | | |
| 26. | Ditto Captain Harrap, | } | Launceston Volunteer Artillery. |
| 27. | Ditto Sergeant Martini, | | |
| 28. | Ditto Bombardier Price, | | |
| 29. | Ditto Cornet Barnes, | } | First Light Cavalry Corps. |
| 30. | Ditto Surgeon Grant, | | |
| 31. | Ditto Captain Sheridan, | } | Launceston Volunteer Rifle Corps. |
| 32. | Ditto Quarter-master-Sergeant Stormont, | | |
| 33. | Ditto Private Stephens, | | |
| 34. | Ditto Captain Arthur, | } | Longford Rifles. |
| 35. | Ditto Private Saltmarsh, | | |
| 36. | Ditto Lieutenant Belstead, | } | Westbury Rifles. |
| 37. | Ditto Sergeant Blake, | | |
| 38. | Ditto Lieutenant Thomson, | } | Deloraine Rifles. |
| 39. | Ditto Quarter-master-Sergeant Grice, | | |

APPENDIX F.

- No. 1. Major Home's Remarks and Suggestions for future organisation.
2. Captain Harrap's ditto.
3. Captain Sheridan's ditto.
4. Surgeon Miller's ditto.
5. Letter from T. L. Gellibrand, Esq., (late Captain Commanding Third Rifles, S.D., Volunteers,) with remarks and suggestions, &c.

APPENDIX G.

- No. 1. Minute of His Excellency Colonel Gore Browne on the Defences of the Colony, dated 8th March, 1862, with Returns &c. attached.
2. Memorandum of His Excellency Colonel Gore Browne, on Defences of Colony; and suggestions for the better organisation of the Volunteer Force, dated 11th February, 1863.
3. Extract of a letter from Captain Loring, R.N., to His Excellency the Governor, on the Defences of Colony, dated 2nd October, 1862.
4. Memorandum of B. T. Solly, Esq., (Assistant Colonial Secretary) on Defences of Hobart Town.

APPENDIX H.

Copy of Regulations for the Volunteer Force, dated War Office, 19th January, 1861.

APPENDIX I.

Despatch from His Grace the Duke of Newcastle to His Excellency the Governor, relative to the Volunteer Movement, dated 6th April, 1863.



To His Excellency Colonel THOMAS GORE BROWNE, C.B., Captain-General
and Governor-in-Chief of the Island of Tasmania and its Dependencies.

WE, the Board of Officers appointed to inquire into the condition and efficiency of the Volunteer Force in Tasmania, and to report upon the working of the present system with a view to its general amendment, have the honour to report to Your Excellency as follows:—

In order to obtain the most correct information on the subject of the past history and present state of the Volunteer Movement in Tasmania, and of the general sentiments of Members of all ranks of the Service as to its prospects and requirements, we examined, either personally or by deputy, the Commanding Officer and two other Members of each Corps, as well as some other persons, not Members of any Volunteer Company, who were represented to us as possessing special knowledge on these points. In every case the information sought has been cheerfully afforded us.

We have also availed ourselves of the printed Returns and correspondence on the subject of the Volunteer Force of the Colony from time to time presented to Parliament, and of other Returns supplied from the Colonial Secretary's Office, and by Officers commanding Companies or Corps.

In obedience to Your Excellency's instructions, we have arranged the observations which form the result of our inquiry under two headings; viz.—

- I. A brief account of the present constitution, numerical strength, and general state of the Volunteer Service in the Colony; and,
- II. Suggestions and recommendations for its future—
 - (a.) Organisation, equipment, and administration.
 - (b.) Conditions on which State support should be afforded to the Force, and the heads under which the Grant in Aid should be expended; and,
 - (c.) Encouragement and extension of the Volunteer spirit and movement in the Colony.

I. The present constitution of the Volunteer Force is as follows:—

SOUTHERN DIVISION.

<i>Hobart Town.</i>	<i>Strength.</i>
1 Artillery Corps	53
4 Rifle Corps	446
<i>Franklin</i> —1 Rifle Corps	56
<i>New Town</i> —1 Rifle Corps	40
<i>Total Southern Division</i>	595

NORTHERN DIVISION.

<i>Launceston.</i>	
1 Light Cavalry Corps	33
1 Artillery Corps	116
1 Rifle Corps	112
<i>Longford</i> —1 Rifle Corps	37
<i>Deloraine</i> —1 Rifle Corps	33
<i>Westbury</i> —1 Rifle Corps	31
<i>Total Northern Division</i>	362
TOTAL VOLUNTEER FORCE	957

In the case of Country Corps there has been experienced great difficulty in procuring the requisite instruction and regular attendance for Drill. In some instances it would seem that Arms have been distributed and Grant in Aid for clothing allotted to Corps in the Country from which no adequate return has been derived: the services of more than one of such Corps have been dispensed with, and Arms returned to the Government.

The Buckingham Rifle Corps has not met for Drill during the past twelve months; and we have been unable to obtain the Returns called for, or any satisfactory information.

The Companies in Hobart Town and in Launceston were raised as separate Corps, and have always preserved their individuality. So far as we can learn, there appears to have been no desire entertained, and no effort made, either by the separate Companies or by the authorities, to organise these isolated units into a compact and homogeneous body. The whole Force was at one time commanded by a Military Officer, who was *Gazetted* as "Colonel Commanding Volunteer Force." This appointment was subsequently cancelled, and a Volunteer Officer, late of H. M. Service, with the rank of Major, was appointed to command the Northern Division. An "Inspecting Field Officer, Commanding Southern Division," was then appointed; but the Commission as "Commanding Officer of the several Corps, Southern Division," was not renewed; and, beyond an occasional assembly of the several Companies for Battalion Drill, no attempt has hitherto been made on either side of the Island to teach the Volunteers the necessity of co-operative action. The command of the Southern Division has been vacant since the 8th January, 1863.

The Officers of the various Companies have hitherto invariably been chosen by election from amongst their own Members.

The Corps, generally, in Hobart Town and Launceston, have attained to some proficiency in Company Drill, Manual and Platoon exercise, and a little knowledge of simple Battalion movements. They have not been brought together as a body sufficiently often to enable them to act in concert; and the means of instruction and practice in Light Infantry Drill, so essential to Volunteer Corps, has been neglected, owing mainly to the want of a proper Military Staff.

Many Members of the several Corps have devoted their attention to Rifle practice, but in the attainment of considerable proficiency they have labored under the disadvantage of a want of good ranges; the Hobart Town Butts being most inconveniently situated, and presenting a range not exceeding 450 yards. In Launceston there is a range of 1000 yards. No Butts have been erected in the Country Districts.

Amongst the Captains some have exhibited indications of a competency to command Companies, and have evinced a desire to attain greater proficiency in Military duties; but, for the reasons already stated, they have had no opportunities of acquiring a knowledge of Battalion Movements, and are altogether deficient in Light Infantry Drill.

Amongst the Members generally of the several Companies there would appear to have prevailed a too great laxity of discipline and a want of habitual subordination to authority, which is the essence of Military organisation; and this tendency would seem to have been, to a certain extent, encouraged by a disinclination on the part of Commanding Officers to inflict or enforce the payment of Fines, under the authority of the Volunteer Corps Act and Rules of the several Corps, from fear of reducing the numerical strength of their Companies. This sacrifice of efficiency and discipline has had a very prejudicial effect upon the force generally. It has fostered an undesirable spirit amongst Volunteers, and deters others from entering the service. If the Fines were uniform throughout the service, well ascertained and strictly enforced, there is reason for believing that many useful and zealous members of society would enrol themselves as Volunteers.

The objectionable and unmilitary practice of expressing opinions on matters of duty in the public Press has not unfrequently been resorted to by Members of Volunteer Corps, and, being calculated to seriously impair the efficiency of the Service, should be discouraged.

On the whole, the Volunteer Corps of Hobart Town and Launceston may be regarded as the foundation of a creditable Force: much zeal and perseverance have been manifested by both Officers and other Members; and it is much to be regretted that the absence of system and of government rules to guide them in their formation into Military bodies has hitherto proved prejudicial to their attainment of that higher degree of efficiency of which their progress, in spite of many disadvantages, shows that they are capable under better management and more complete organisation. In the absence of this indispensable Military union and supervision, the various Corps have only too generally followed their own devices. One obvious and undesirable result has been the appointment of a largely disproportionate number of Officers and Non-commissioned Officers, while the Corps themselves have not been kept to any fixed establishment.

The Volunteers throughout the Colony are entitled to the credit of having individually done a great deal towards the movement by their ready contributions of both time and money to the formation of Artillery and Rifle Corps, and the acquisition of the knowledge of Military duties. The results of their exertions in this direction are apparent in the creditable appearances presented by the Volunteer Companies generally on Parade, and in the general diffusion of a Military spirit amongst the Colonists.

II. We now proceed to offer to Your Excellency our suggestions and recommendations for the future organisation and support of the Volunteer Force, and for the general encouragement of the movement in Tasmania.

(a.) Organisation, Equipment, and Administration.

We recommend that the whole Force throughout the Colony should be placed under the command of the Senior Officer Commanding H.M. Regular Forces in Tasmania, or some other competent Officer of H. M. Regular Forces, to be appointed by the Governor as "Lieutenant-Colonel or Colonel Commanding Volunteer Force, Tasmania."

That the Rifle Corps of Hobart Town and suburbs be formed into one Administrative Battalion, under the command of a qualified Volunteer Officer with the rank of Field Officer, but still under the orders of the Officer Commanding Volunteer Force.

That the Artillery and Rifle Corps of Launceston be formed into one Administrative Battalion, under the command of a Field Officer Commanding Volunteer Corps, Northern Division, who will report through the Officer Commanding the Volunteer Force.

The total strength as stated below is recommended for present adoption as a maximum:—

SOUTHERN DIVISION.

2 Companies of Artillery of 80 each.....	160	
6 Town and Suburban Companies of Rifles of 80 each.....	480	
1 Rifle Company, Franklin, 60	60	
	—	700

NORTHERN DIVISION.

1 Artillery Company	100	
Rifle Companies	200	
	—	300
TOTAL VOLUNTEER FORCE, (exclusive of Cavalry)	—	1000

The subjoined Staff is recommended as essential to the Military efficiency and proper working of the Force:—

- 1 Colonel Commanding Volunteer Force, Tasmania.
- 1 Volunteer Field Officer Commanding 1st Administrative Battalion, S.D.
- 1 Paid Adjutant, qualified as Musketry Instructor.
- 1 Sergeant-Major.
- 1 Armourer.
- 1 Orderly-room Clerk.
- 1 Lieutenant-Colonel or Major Commanding Volunteers, N.D.; or Commanding 2nd Administrative Battalion, N.D.
- 1 Paid Adjutant, qualified as a Musketry Instructor.
- 1 Sergeant-Major.
- 1 Armourer.

Equipment and Drill.

With respect to the Equipment and Drill, we do not recommend any change in Equipment other than that the Artillery should be armed with the short Rifle instead of the Enfield; and that they

should be trained to thorough efficiency at working Garrison guns, and should acquire at least some proficiency with Field Batteries. That the Rifle Companies, though retaining that designation, should be uniformly trained as Light Troops of the Line. Some knowledge of Battalion Movements is requisite to enable them to act in concert, but still greater attention should be paid to Light Infantry movements. That a certain proportion of each Rifle Company should be trained at the great guns, for use as Auxiliary Gunners on an emergency. That a few men from each Company should be instructed, under an Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer, in the construction of Field Works and other Engineer duties. That one uniform colour of Clothing should be adopted for each arm of the Service; and that the colour and pattern should be approved by the Governor, and no change in the Uniform of any Corps be permitted to be made without His Excellency's sanction previously obtained through the Officer Commanding Volunteer Force.

It is desirable that the various ranks of Volunteers should be assimilated to those of H.M. Regular Forces, in order to prevent confusion when the two Services are called upon to act together.

We further recommend that the Adjutants, in addition to the other requisite qualifications for that appointment, should be qualified Musketry Instructors; and that the Staff appointments should be permanent during good behaviour, and on a fixed scale of pay, in order to secure and retain the services of efficient Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers in that Department.

Until the services of paid Adjutants are available for the Southern and Northern administrative Battalions, the working of Volunteer Adjutants might be tried; competent Subalterns being detailed in orders periodically, to do the duty in each Division, which would afford Officers an opportunity of becoming practically acquainted with Military duties.

In the present state of the Volunteer Force, paid Sergeant-Majors as Drill Instructors are necessary appointments for both Divisions of the Island. Should their services at any time be required for the instruction of Country Corps, they should be authorised to draw extra allowances while absent from Head Quarters on that duty.

On the subject of Bands, we recommend that there should be but one Band for each Battalion, with the regulation number of drums and fifes, or bugles, for each Company. Any Band in excess of this proportion should be maintained at the expense of the Corps or Company by which it is promoted.

Country Corps.

It will be seen that this scheme makes no provision for Country Corps with the exception of one at Franklin, where a Company of Rifles already exists, and where, from the peculiarity of its relative position to the entrance of the Derwent and to Hobart Town, it seems desirable that some small Military Force should be permanently maintained. The Country Corps in the Northern Division do not average 40 members each; and we recommend that no Country Corps should be maintained of less than 50 members; and that when less than 30 assemble for Inspection, or Muster Parades, the services of such a Corps should be dispensed with, and the Arms issued recalled.

This suggestion applies with still greater force to a Corps which, like the Buckingham Volunteer Rifle Company, S.D., does not comply with its own Rules, and has for twelve months ceased to meet for the purposes of drill or parade.

We further recommend that periodical Musters, not less frequently than once a Quarter, should be required; the Government to be furnished through the Officer Commanding with Muster Rolls accounting for each individual, which will keep them informed of the actual state of the Force.

Mounted Corps.

It seems desirable to maintain, if practicable, small Mounted Corps in the vicinity of Hobart Town and Launceston. These Troops might be found useful in reconnoitring and conveying information, or in acting as Escort to Field Batteries despatched along the coast. The Hobart Town Mounted Corps might be equipped as a Rocket Troop.

Marine Brigade.

The evidence and information we have been enabled to obtain on the subject of the formation of a Marine Brigade are not encouraging; and no action seems practicable in that direction at present. In the event, however, of the Government providing a Steam Ram for the defence of the Derwent, the watermen might be encouraged by suitable remuneration to enrol as Marine Artillery.

(b.) State Support.

We recommend that the Government provide in the Estimates for the following assistance to the movement; namely,—

Staff and Inspection.
 Care and repair of Arms.
 Clothing and Accoutrements.
 Drill Sheds, and Magazine accommodation.
 Prizes.
 Floating Targets.
 Erection and Maintenance of Butts in Hobart Town and Launceston, and regulated allowance of Ammunition.
 Gas for Night Drills in the places appropriated for that purpose.
 Ammunition.

We are of opinion that the Grant in aid of uniform should be continued, at the rate of Two Pounds sterling per annum for each effective Volunteer; and a further Grant of Ten Shillings per annum be paid for every Volunteer, of whatever Arm, who shall have obtained a Certificate that he is an effective Gunner.

That Arms and Accoutrements, and the same amount of small Ammunition as is issued to Troops of the Line, should be supplied by Government, free of cost, to the Volunteers; and that the Corps be permitted to purchase, at cost price, a stated number of rounds of ball cartridge for every effective Volunteer on its roll, such ammunition to be issued to none but effective Volunteers; and that, on account of the paucity of Artillerymen, practice ammunition, at the rate of three rounds of shot or shell for every effective Gunner, be issued annually instead of the Home scale.

The adoption of these conditions involves the previous definition of an "effective Volunteer" and an "effective Gunner." This definition must be fixed by authority; and we recommend that the General Rules for the Volunteer Service, as subsequently to be adopted on our recommendation in this Report, should expressly state what shall be held to constitute an "effective Volunteer" and an "effective Gunner."

We would suggest that the qualification of "an effective Volunteer" should be ascertained by a Certificate from the Commanding Officer and Adjutant, or Drill Instructor, of his having attended 30 Drills since his first enrolment, 9 of which have been during the last 12 months.

An "effective Gunner" should be defined to be a Volunteer of any Arm of the Service who can produce a Certificate from his Commanding Officer and Drill Instructor of his being able to perform the duty of every number at a Garrison Gun, and of his having attended 9 Gun Drills during the previous 12 months.

(c.) Encouragement and Extension of Volunteer Movement in the Colony.

We have now to offer Your Excellency our suggestions and recommendations as to the means by which the spirit and extension of the movement may be fostered and encouraged in the Colony.

We are of opinion that one of the most effective means to this end would be the enforcement of stricter discipline, and the establishment, by Your Excellency's authority, of one fixed and uniform code of Regulations for the Volunteer Service.

The Rules and Regulations for the use and guidance of the Volunteer Service of Great Britain, issued by the authority of the Secretary of State for War, supply an admirable standard. We recommend that a Committee of Volunteers should be empowered by Your Excellency to adapt those Rules and Regulations to the circumstances of the Colony; and that such, when approved and confirmed by Your Excellency, should be promulgated by authority as the Rules and Regulations for the guidance of the Volunteer Service. Corps would still retain their own Rules for government and discipline, when not on actual service; and, as uniformity is desirable, a Committee should be instructed to frame a model code for the adoption of Volunteer Companies, after the example supplied in the War Office Regulations.

This brings us to the question of the appointment of Officers, and of the propriety of making some provision for exercising some superior control over them in reference to matters not exclusively connected with their relations with each other, or with the Service, as Volunteers.

With regard to the appointment of Officers, the various Companies of Volunteers have been enrolled as separate and distinct Corps, and have adopted the practice of electing Officers from amongst their own Members, under the sanction of the *Volunteer Corps Act*. This system has, apparently, hitherto proved popular, and we are not prepared to recommend its abrogation.

It must be obvious, however, that, in the selection of Officers of a higher rank than Captain of a Company, the Governor's power of appointment should be exercised altogether irrespectively of any indication of popular predilection. Captains Commandant, and Field Officers of every grade, should be direct appointments by the Governor as Captain-General.

But, without disturbing the existing plan of electing Officers of Companies, we recommend that, for the future, candidates for Commissions and promotion should be required to undergo an examination, calculated to test their competency for the grade to which they aspire, before their names are submitted to the Governor by the Officer Commanding Volunteers.

We further recommend that the General Rules for the Service should make provision for cases where Officers may be charged with behaviour unbecoming the character of an Officer and a gentleman, and tending to bring discredit on the Force, whether as Volunteers or when engaged in their ordinary capacities as civilians. In such cases the Officer commanding Volunteers should be empowered to direct a Court of Inquiry, consisting of Volunteer Officers, to investigate the charge; which Court shall have power to recommend, in case of conviction, that such Officer should be expelled from the Force: the finding and recommendation of the Court to be submitted to the Governor by the Officer Commanding Volunteers.

In the case of Non-Commissioned Officers and other Members, Courts of Inquiry should be constituted of Members of their own Corps for the investigation of analogous charges, with power to reduce a Non-Commissioned Officer to the ranks, or to fine or expel an offender; such reduction to be confirmed by the Officer Commanding Volunteers: but expulsion should require the approval of the Governor.

The institution of such tribunals, and the liability of all ranks of Volunteers to be dealt with in the way suggested, could not fail to have a beneficial effect upon the general character of the Service.

The circumstance of a Corps having declined to continue receiving the instruction of an Officer appointed by the Government, has been brought to our notice by correspondence laid before us by the Government, and referred to in evidence.

This case might have been dealt with by such a Tribunal as we recommend. The position and authority of Officers appointed by Government appears not to have been understood. Whilst receiving the instruction of such Officers, the Members should be under his orders; a Volunteer Officer being present should not interfere with the instruction, his duty being to maintain order and encourage attention on the part of Members of his Corps. It must be apparent that any objection on the part of Volunteers to receive instruction from the Staff appointed by the Government is at variance with Military discipline. Any case of complaint should be referred to a Board of Inquiry.

The omission of Country Corps from the scheme we have suggested for a Volunteer Force, comprising two Battalions with Head Quarters in Hobart Town and Launceston respectively, seems to be amply justified by the inadequate return, in the shape of trained and effective bodies of Volunteers, hitherto rendered to Government by any Corps other than those raised in the two cities; by the difficulty which has been experienced in getting Members of Country Corps to assemble for drill; by the expense involved in their regular instruction and periodical inspection; and by the fact that two out of six such Corps have returned their Rifles, a third ceased for all practical purposes to exist as a Volunteer Company, and the remainder found it impossible to maintain their strength at a higher average than 40 Members.

We are of opinion, however, that some encouragement towards the acquisition of familiarity with the use of arms and proficiency in Rifle shooting might be afforded by the Government to the Country Districts, in the shape of assistance and co-operation in the formation of Rifle Associations in the interior.

Further consideration and subsequent experience would probably enable the Government to devise means for affording these Associations such encouragement as would practically conduce to their institution, and tend to keep them in active existence when once created.

At present we would recommend that Government should provide such Associations with Rifles and Ammunition at cost price; institute annual Prizes for Rifle shooting open to all comers in the Districts in which Rifle Associations existed; and create one Prize of some value, to be competed for by Members of Rifle Associations exclusively, at the annual Government Shooting Matches. The ranks of the Volunteer Service would in time, no doubt, be occasionally strengthened in turn by the enrolment of Members of Rifle Associations.

These institutions in England paved the way for the general formation of Rifle Corps with a Military organisation; and have subsequently served in a great measure to sustain the Volunteer movement. Similar results may be expected here.

In cases which may be reasonably anticipated where a Rifle Association might wish to enter the Service as a body of enrolled Volunteers, the price paid to Government by Members for their Arms might be refunded to the Commanding Officer of the new Corps, as an assistance towards the expenses inseparable from the first stage of its formation; provided, of course, that the Arms proved on inspection to be in good order and serviceable condition.

We are not prepared to recommend any alteration of the course hitherto adopted with reference to Government Prizes at the Annual Shooting Matches, beyond remarking that an annual course of Musketry instruction should be declared to be an indispensable condition to competition, which should be open, under any circumstances, to none but "effective Volunteers;" and that the Prizes should combine, as honorary distinctions, such articles as Medals, Cups, Rifles, &c. with Money.

Government has hitherto contributed liberally, by Money Prizes and Medals, to the encouragement of good shooting; but the community of Tasmania has not done as much in proportion to its extent and means for the promotion of the Volunteer movement in this way as the people of the adjacent Colonies.

The formation of a Central or National Rifle Association by the foremost citizens of Hobart Town, and other wealthy and influential country gentlemen, would tend to remove this reproach from the Colony, and would materially promote the progress of the Volunteer movement.

We entertain no doubt that, were such an Association once formed, many persons, who are from various causes unable to join the ranks of the Volunteer Service, would more cheerfully contribute to a Rifle Association than to any other form of insurance against external aggression.

In Great Britain the Volunteer Corps are largely assisted by the contributions of Honorary Members—a class which has very few representatives in Tasmania. There are, probably, many persons who would prefer the position of a Subscriber to a Rifle Association to that of an Honorary Member of a Volunteer Corps.

The funds of such an Association should be chiefly expended in Prizes for good shooting, open to Members only. There should be Prizes to be shot for with the Government weapon, and others open to competition with any other description of Rifle.

We recommend, in connection with this subject, that a Code of Rules should be at once enacted for the use of the Butts for private practice; and the Rules in force at Sydney afford an example that might be profitably followed.

Several of the witnesses examined before the Board have expressed their belief that the enactment of a Militia Bill, affording exemption to enrolled Volunteers, would materially strengthen the movement, and add to the efficiency of the Force. We are inclined to concur in this opinion, and we beg to submit the suggestion to Your Excellency's attention; but involving, as it does, some considerations of a financial character, we do not feel at liberty to offer any direct recommendation on the subject.

We have considered the question, whether a fixed period of service would be likely to check the tendency to frequent resignations and changes from one Corps to another. The only effect of this plan would be to render some Volunteers more scrupulous in their observance of their self-imposed obligations, but it could not prevent their retirement from the ranks. If adopted, Two years should be the shortest period of fixed service; and the General Rules might provide that any Volunteer retiring before the expiration of his full period of service should be required to refund the whole, or a proportionable amount, of the grant in aid of Clothing received from the Government by the Corps on account of his membership.

Amongst the facilities and encouragement which Government might be legitimately called upon to provide for the advancement and efficiency of the Volunteer Service, may be mentioned the erection of a commodious Drill-shed in Hobart Town, and the construction of a longer and more suitable Rifle Range, in the neighbourhood.

The liberality of the Legislature might, we think, be successfully appealed to. We recommend the construction of such a building and range as indispensable to the proper drilling and training of Volunteers. A portion of such a building might be set aside as an Armoury, for the safe custody of spare Arms and Accoutrements, an Orderly Room, and other Volunteer services.

We recommend that no Volunteer should be retained in the service who is unable to devote at least a portion of one day a month to daylight Drill. It is essential, for efficiency, that night Drill

should not be the only instruction received, but it appears from the evidence that it would not be practicable to assemble the whole Force for several consecutive days annually.

The Government might set the employers of labour of all kinds the example of affording Volunteers in the Civil Service of the Crown occasional opportunities of receiving Military instruction by daylight.

Employers would, we are persuaded, be happy to follow such an example; and thus additional facilities would be afforded to Volunteers of all classes for more generally and frequently attending afternoon instruction, and the periodical Parades appointed for Battalion or Light Infantry Drill.

In the recommendations we have thus been enabled to offer to Your Excellency, we have been actuated by a desire to promote the practical value and general efficiency of the Volunteer Service, with as little disturbance as possible to existing arrangements or established usage.

We are quite of opinion that the Rifle Corps of Hobart Town would have been better enrolled in the first instance as a Consolidated Battalion. But looking at their present organisation as separate bodies, each with its own elected Officers and possessing some special peculiarity of constitution and character, we have thought it unwise to propose any interference with the distinctiveness of existing Corps, feeling convinced that, under all the circumstances of the case, the most beneficially attainable result will be secured by their organisation, as we have already recommended, as Administrative Battalions.

The importance of Artillery for the defence of the Capital has induced us to recommend the augmentation of this Branch of the Service in Hobart Town to Two Companies of 80 men each; and, when that number shall have been enrolled, it might be desirable to commission a Volunteer Officer as Honorary Captain Commandant of Artillery.

An efficient Artillery Force and Batteries, ready for actual service, are essential for the defence of the Colony. The arrangement we have suggested will go far to provide for this paramount object, which will be still more effectually promoted by procuring two or more long range guns from England for the Hobart Town Batteries. And this we recommend to Your Excellency for your consideration.

On the arrival in the Colony of guns of this class it would probably be found necessary to make provision for the instruction of the Volunteer Artillery in their use; and, with this view, application should be made to the War Office, simultaneously with the despatch to England of the application for the Guns, for a competent and respectable Sergeant of Artillery as Artillery Instructor for the Tasmanian Volunteer Service. The Sergeant so appointed could take charge of the Guns and materiel in the Batteries here the property of the Imperial Government (for which no provision is now made), and might be added to the permanent Staff of the Volunteer Force as Instructor of Artillery,—his British pay being supplemented by a moderate proportionate allowance from Colonial Funds.

In recommending for the Tasmanian Service the adoption of the War Office Rules and Regulations, we have designed to secure the closest practical assimilation of the British and Colonial Services, and especially in the important particulars of fixed establishments, proportion of Officers and Non-commissioned Officers to the strength of Corps, and the rank and designation of Officers and other Members.

We are of opinion that the surest way at once to popularise and raise the character of the Service to a proper standard in public estimation, is to assimilate its organisation, economy, discipline, and scale of ranks and distinction as closely as possible to the English model. And the importance of this design will be at once apparent when it is remembered that the Act of Parliament, under which the Volunteers exist as a recognised institution of the Country, confers upon gentlemen honored with the Governor's Commission substantial relative Military rank and precedence in the Colony with and after the Officers of H. M. Regular Forces.

In explanation of the various reasons which have led us to the recommendations above named, we beg to refer Your Excellency to the evidence and other documents appended to our Report; and among them we desire to call particular attention to the Report of the Officer Commanding the Troops on the defence of the Colony, in which a scheme is suggested for the formation of a Local Corps from the Volunteer Force available for service in any part of the Colony, and for duty on an emergency in the event of the removal of the Regular Troops.

The Suggestions contained in the Reports of the Officer Commanding the Troops, and the Commanding Royal Engineer, on the subject of remodelling the Hobart Town Batteries, seem worthy of consideration in connection with the general question of National Defence.

JOHN FRAS. KEMPT, *Lieut.-Colonel Commanding Troops, President.*
JAMES MILNE WILSON.
F. R. CHESNEY, *Captain, Commanding Royal Engineer.*

A 1.

GOVERNMENT ORDER.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 27th April, 1863.

THE Governor directs the assembling of a Board, consisting of

Colonel Kempt,
The Honorable James Milne Wilson, Esquire, and
Captain Chesney, R.E.,

to enquire into, and report upon, the state of the Volunteer Force in this Colony.

By His Excellency's Command,
JAMES WHYTE.

A 2.

INSTRUCTIONS for the Board of Officers appointed by His Excellency the Governor to enquire into the condition and efficiency of the Volunteer Force, and to report upon the working of the present system, with a view to its general amendment and improvement.

1. The present condition of the Volunteer Corps throughout the Colony appears to the Governor to demand investigation.

With this view, His Excellency has been pleased to nominate Colonel Kempt, the Honorable James Milne Wilson, and Captain Chesney, to be a Board of Officers to institute an enquiry into the present state and actual efficiency of the Volunteer Force of Tasmania.

2. Before entering upon this enquiry, His Excellency desires to direct the particular attention of the Board to the under-mentioned Papers having reference to this subject; viz:—

A. A Paper attributed to the Prince De Joinville on the Volunteers of America, of which a translation has been published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of the 16th January, 1863.

B. The Report of the Royal Commission, published in the *Times*, 29th October, 1862.

C. The Consolidated Volunteer Corps Acts of Victoria, and the Volunteer Corps Acts of New South Wales, South Australia, and New Zealand.

D. A Memorandum by Sir William Denison, and some subsequent papers from his pen, on the subject of the Defences of Hobart Town.

3. Having made themselves acquainted with these documents, the Board of Officers will enter upon the enquiry committed to them, with the understanding that *the object aimed at by His Excellency's Government is the real and practical efficiency of the Volunteer Force.*

4. The principal points on which the Governor is desirous of receiving suggestions from the Board are the following:—

1. *The Constitution of the Force.*

The Board will have the goodness to enquire into, and report upon, the advisability of organising the various Corps now in existence, or to be formed hereafter, into one Battalion at Hobart Town, and one Battalion at Launceston; and whether it would be better to keep the several Corps, or Companies, separate throughout the Colony without being formed into a Battalion.

2. *The Appointment of Officers.*

This is a very important question. The Board will direct their enquiry particularly to the consideration of these two points:—1st. By whom, and in what manner, should Officers be appointed; and 2nd. The proportion of Officers to the number of men. Incidentally to these questions, the Board will consider and report upon the advisability of requiring Candidates for Commissions to undergo an examination test of competency and qualification to command. It may also be well for the Board to consider how far it would be desirable to confer upon the collective body of Officers the power of expelling an Officer by private vote, subject, of course, at all times to the approval and ratification of the Governor.

3. The Board will also direct its attention to the question of *the equipment and drill of the Volunteer Corps*. Under this head the Board is requested to report upon the propriety of training all, or what particular Corps, in Artillery exercise,—to state whether they deem it necessary to train all Corps alike to the use of the great guns, or whether particular local Corps alone should be instructed in that exercise. The Board will also consider the question of organising a Mounted Force, and Marine Brigade; and whether the whole Force should be trained uniformly as Rifles or Light Troops, or practised in battalion evolutions, with a view to acting in concert as a homogeneous Force.

4. *The period of Service*.—The Board will consider the propriety of insisting upon a fixed and uniform period of Service for enrolled Volunteers, under what conditions they should be permitted to join and retire from particular Corps, and the most effectual mode of securing their submission to, and control by, the Rules of the Corps they may enter.

5. *Rules and Regulations*.—The existing Rules and Regulations of all the Corps in the Island should be carefully considered and compared together by the Board, who will suggest such alterations and revisions as they may deem requisite and desirable. Under this head the Board will consider whether it would not be practicable to devise a uniform Code of Rules and Regulations for the guidance and control of all Companies on one common plan. Further, whether some method might not be usefully adopted for providing for the settlement of disputes arising between Officers, or between Officers and their men. The Board will also turn their attention to the question whether the Rules and Regulations could be made to define more explicitly the precise extent of their applicability to Volunteers; and whether it would not be well to make the Rules express distinctly that they are not designed to have any application to Members of the Volunteer Force when engaged in their ordinary occupations as civilians.

6. *State Support*.—The Board will consider and report upon the best plan for assisting Volunteer Corps from the Public Funds. The Board will compare the present system of a uniform contribution of so much per head of every enrolled member, with the plan suggested in England of paying £1 per head per annum to the Battalion Fund for each Volunteer who has obtained a certificate of competency and qualification, and of attendance at a given number of drills or parades within the past 12 months. The Board will also consider whether it would be desirable to pay an additional 10s. per head per annum for every Volunteer reported competent to man and work guns in battery; and whether the expenditure and distribution of the Public Funds devoted to this purpose should be prescribed by the Rules and Regulations, or fixed by the Executive Government, or determined by an Act of the Legislature.

7. *Target Practice, and Prizes for Shooting.*

The Board will consider these questions, and offer suggestions for the framing of a standing Code of Regulations to secure certainty and uniformity in the Annual Shooting Matches for Government Prizes, and the general promotion of proficiency in shooting with the Rifle.

In considering these various topics, the Board will bear in mind that the Governor desires, above everything else, to render the Volunteers *effective for purposes of National Defence*. This is the grand primary object of the movement throughout Her Majesty's Dominions;—and all other considerations are but of secondary importance beside this their immediate design. The Legislature has hitherto voted public money liberally for the encouragement of the movement. The Board now constituted is charged with the enquiry,—How far has that liberality been usefully and beneficially accepted by the Volunteers?—Whether the Colony has had any adequate return for its outlay?

The Board will, therefore, make enquiry into the present exact position and condition of all the men now enrolled, as to—

1. Number enrolled.
2. Average attendance at Company Drill.
3. Average attendance at Battalion Drill.
4. Number in uniform.
5. Numbers for whom the Government Contribution is drawn.
6. Proficiency in Drill and Rifle Practice of Members generally.
7. Competency of Officers to command Companies or Battalions.
8. Expenses incidental to Membership.
9. Indebtedness to Commanding Officers or Contractors.
10. When last inspected.
11. When last mustered, drilled, or paraded; and, how frequently during the past 12 months?
12. Proportion of Commanding Officers to ordinary Members.

13. Changes in Officers or constitution of Corps during the past 12 months.
14. Number of Rifles issued.
15. Number of Prizes gained for Rifle shooting, and amount of proficiency as shown by points marked by the winners.
16. Number of Bands. And on every other point calculated to afford information as to the present state of the Volunteer Corps.

The Board will thus be enabled to present His Excellency with a Report upon the actual present condition of the Force ; and to offer suggestions for promoting its efficiency, and increasing its availability for the primary object of its institution—*National Defence*.

The Board are requested to throw the result of their enquiries into a concise sketch of—(1st.) the present state of the Volunteer Force ; and (2nd.) the scheme they would suggest for its future organisation. The Governor hopes that the Board will enter upon their duties immediately, and allow no unnecessary delay to prevent His Excellency from availing himself at an early date of the result of their enquiries, and the sum of their recommendations.

By Command,

JAMES WHYTE.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 30th April, 1863.

B 1.

RETURN showing the Strength and Distribution of the several VOLUNTEER CORPS or COMPANIES, in their respective Districts, throughout the Colony of Tasmania on the 31st May, 1863.

BRANCH OF SERVICE.	DISTRICT.	OFFICER COMMANDING.	STRENGTH.						Description and Number of Small Arms in possession.	REMARKS.	
			Officers.	Medical Officers.	Non-Commis- sioned Officers.	Band.	Rank and File.	Total Strength, exclusive of Officers.			
NORTHERN DISTRICT.	Naval Brigade ..	Launceston	Nil.							The Bandsmen have not been drilled.	
		Ditto	Cornet Barnes (Acting)	2	1	5	-	33	38		
	Cavalry	L. V. Artillery Corps ..	Captain Harrap	10	1	7	13	85	105		160
		Launceston Rifles	Captain Sheridan	3	1	18	-	90	108		100
		Longford Rifles	Captain Arthur	2	1	3	-	33	36		40
		Westbury Rifles	Lieut. Belstead	1	-	3	-	31	34		40
		Deloraine Rifles	Lieut. Thompson	1	-	7	-	34	41		
SOUTHERN DISTRICT.	Naval Brigade ..	Hobart Town	Nil.							The Band consists of boys under 17 years of age. The Rank and File inclusive, a Brass Band, the Members of which have been drilled. This Corps has a Drum and Fife Band, the Members of which have been drilled. The Brass Band are all drilled men. This Corps has, in reality, ceased to exist.	
		Ditto	Nil.								
	Cavalry	H. T. Artillery Corps ..	Captain Tarleton	4	2	5	-	42	47		70
		1st Tasmanian Rifles ..	Captain Solly	4	1	8	16	44	68		60
		2nd ditto	Captain Davies	4	1	6	-	72	78		80
		3rd ditto	Captain Nicholas	3	-	12	-	92	104		79
		Hobart City Guards ...	Captain Wilson	8	2	11	21	141	173		197
		Buckingham Rifles	No Return.	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
		Kingborough Rifles	Disbanded.	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
		Huon or 4th Rifles	Captain Walpole	3	1	5	-	47	52		72
Derwent Rifles	Disbanded.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
			45	11	90	50	744	884	898		

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.
Colonial Secretary's Office, 2nd June, 1863.

For the Brigadier-General, through the Aide-de-Camp,

JOHN FRAS. KEMPT, *Lieut.-Colonel, Commanding Troops, Tasmania,*
Hobart Town, 3rd June, 1863.

B 2.

RETURN showing a Nominal List of the Successful Competitors at the GOVERNMENT RIFLE MATCHES, 1863, for SOUTHERN TASMANIAN VOLUNTEERS, and for the CHAMPIONSHIP of the Colony, Number of Prizes, and degree of proficiency shown by Points marked by the Winners.

RANK.	NAME.	CORPS.	PRIZES.	CHAMPIONSHIP.								FIRST CLASS.				SECOND CLASS.				SKIRMISH- ING.		TOTALS.			
				Five Rounds at each Range.								Ten Rounds at each Range.				Ten Rounds at each Range.				Ten Rounds.					
				200.		300.		400.		450.		400.		450.		250.		300.		Between 200 & 400 yds. without raising the sight.					
				Pts.	Hts.	Pts.	Hts.	Pts.	Hts.	Pts.	Hts.	Pts.	Hts.	Pts.	Hts.	Pts.	Hts.	Pts.	Hts.	Pts.	Hts.				
Cadet	M. Kirman ..	First Rifles	Gold Medal and.... £ s. d. 25 0 0	9	4	6	5	6	4	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	17	42	
Cadet	M. Kirman...	First Rifles	1st Prize Silver Medal and	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	8	11	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	17	41	
Sergeant ...	A. Pitt	Artillery	2nd ditto	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	9	10	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	17	38	
Gunner	T. Evans	Ditto	3rd ditto	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	9	9	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	17	36	
Corporal....	W. Lovett....	First Rifles	4th ditto	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	10	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	17	35	
Gunner	T. Evans.....	Artillery	Greatest No. of hits* 7 10 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cadet	— Roblin	First Rifles	1st Prize Silver Medal and.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	7	12	8	—	—	22	15	37	
Drum-Major	— Warner ...	Ditto	2nd ditto*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	7	12	8	—	—	20	15	35	
Corporal ...	F. Randall ...	Artillery	3rd ditto*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	9	8	8	—	—	18	17	35	
Bandsman ...	— Vimpany .	City Guards	4th ditto	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	7	11	8	—	—	19	15	34	
Corporal....	F. Randall....	Artillery	Greatest No. of hits. 5 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Drum-Major	— Warner ...	First Rifles	1st Prize Silver Medal and.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	6	—	—	—	
Sergeant	— Nickolls ..	Ditto	2nd ditto	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	5	—	—	—	
Corporal	W. Lovett....	Ditto	3rd ditto	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	6	—	—	—	
Gunner	— Golding ...	Artillery	4th ditto	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	5	—	—	—	
Corporal....	W. Lovett....	First Rifles	Greatest No. of hits* 5 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total Amount.. £150 0 0																									

* Ties were shot off in these cases resulting as entered.

8th July, 1863.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY, Assistant Colonial Secretary.

B 3.

RETURN showing a Nominal List of the Successful Competitors at the GOVERNMENT RIFLE MATCHES, 1863, for NORTHERN TASMANIAN VOLUNTEERS, Number of Prizes, and degree of proficiency shown by Points marked by the Winners.

RANK.	NAME.	CORPS.	PRIZES.	FIRST CLASS.						SECOND CLASS.				THIRD CLASS.				TOTALS.					
				Seven Rounds at each Range.						Ten Rounds at each Range.				Ten Rounds at each Range.									
				500.		550.		600.		400.		450.		200.		300.							
				Pts.	Hts.	Pts.	Hts.	Pts.	Hts.	Pts.	Hts.	Pts.	Hts.	Pts.	Hts.	Pts.	Hts.						
Corporal.....	T. D. Webb	Launceston Artillery.	1st Prize Silver Medal and	£	s.	d.	4	4	7	7	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	14	28		
Gunner	T. H. Webb	Ditto	2nd ditto	16	0	0	5	5	6	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	11	24		
Sergeant	F. Martini	Ditto	3rd ditto	6	0	0	5	4	3	3	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	11	23		
Corporal.....	T. D. Webb	Ditto	4th ditto, greatest No. of hits	8	0	0	4	4	7	7	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	14	28		
Gunner	Wm. A. Collins	Launceston Artillery.	1st Prize Silver Medal and	12	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	10	8	7	—	—	—	19	17	36	
Lieutenant	J. Toan	Ditto	2nd ditto	8	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	7	10	7	—	—	—	20	14	34	
Gunner	W. G. Spicer	Ditto	3rd ditto	5	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	8	7	6	—	—	—	15	14	29	
Ditto	W. A. Collins	Ditto	4th ditto, greatest No. of hits	5	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	10	8	7	—	—	—	19	17	36	
Sergeant.....	W. J. Stormont.....	Launceston Rifles ...	5th ditto, best score at 450 yards	3	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	7	7	7	—	—	—	14	14	28	
Lieutenant	H. Thomson	Deloraine Rifles	6th ditto, ditto 400 yards..	2	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	9	4	4	—	—	—	14	13	27	
Cadet	W. Cox	Deloraine Rifles	1st Prize Silver Medal and	9	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	8	7	5	19	13	32
Sergeant-Major	P. Barnes	Westbury Rifles	2nd ditto	5	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6	10	9	16	15	31
Gunner	J. Hudson	Launceston Artillery.	3rd ditto	3	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	10	5	4	17	14	31
Sergeant-Major	P. Barnes	Westbury Rifles	4th ditto, greatest No. of hits	3	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6	10	9	16	15	31
Cadet	J. Ratigan	Ditto	5th ditto, best score at 300 yards	3	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	7	8	7	16	14	30
Bombadier	E. Brooks	Launceston Artillery.	6th ditto, ditto 200 yards..	2	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	8	7	4	18	12	30
Total No. of Prizes. 16				Total Amount.. £100 0 0																			

R. C. D. HOME, Major, Commanding Volunteers, N.D.

B 4.

TABLE of Establishment for RIFLE VOLUNTEERS.

DESCRIPTION OF CORPS.	Lieutenant-Colonel.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Adjutant.	Surgeon.	Assistant-Surgeons.	STAFF SERGEANTS.					Colour-Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Buglers.	Privates.	TOTAL ENROLLED MEMBERS.
									Sergeant-Major.	Quartermaster-Sergeant.	Armourer.	Orderly-room Clerk.	Bugle-Major.						
Subdivision .....	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	1	$\frac{40}{20}$	$\frac{50}{00}$
Company* .....	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	$\frac{4}{3}$	$\frac{5}{3}$	2	$\frac{24}{20}$	$\frac{100}{00}$
Battalion of 4 Companies .....	..	1	4	4	4	1	1	..	1	1	1	1	1	4	$\frac{16}{3}$	$\frac{20}{3}$	8	$\frac{32}{20}$	$\frac{400}{240}$
Ditto 6 ditto	1	..	6	6	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	$\frac{24}{12}$	$\frac{30}{18}$	12	$\frac{501}{285}$	$\frac{600}{360}$
Ditto 8 ditto	1	1	8	8	8	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	8	$\frac{32}{16}$	$\frac{40}{24}$	16	$\frac{660}{384}$	$\frac{800}{480}$
Ditto 12 ditto	1	2	12	12	12	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	12	$\frac{48}{24}$	$\frac{60}{36}$	24	$\frac{1008}{576}$	$\frac{1200}{720}$

When over Twelve Companies the Corps will be divided into Two Battalions, each with Field Officers and Staff in the above proportion.

* A Company and a Subdivision, or two or more Companies, may be formed into one Corps, under the command of a Captain Commandant, in accordance with Art. 42, and such a Corps will be entitled to an Assistant Surgeon in addition to the establishment due to the number of Companies, &c. of which it is composed.

B 5.

Allowance of Ammunition.

113. Ammunition in the following annual proportions, to be reckoned from the 1st April in each year, is allowed to Volunteer Corps of the several Arms:—

	GRATIS.			ALLOWED TO BE PURCHASED.			TOTAL.		
	Ball.	Blank.	Caps.	Ball.	Blank.	Caps.	Ball.	Blank.	Caps.
LIGHT HORSE.									
For every enrolled Member—									
For his first year of service.....	70	10	98	50	—	55	120	10	153
After his first year of service ...	50	—	55	70	—	77	120	—	132
ARTILLERY—For Guns.									
* Per Battery	{ Shot 80 Shell 20	100	—	—	—	—	{ 80 20	100	
* Per Sub-Division ...	{ Shot 45 Shell 15								
* Per Section	{ Shot 30 Shell 10	40	—	—	—	—	{ 30 10	40	
For Small Arms.									
For every Effective—									
For his first year of service.....	70	10	98	50	—	55	120	10	153
After his first year of service	50	—	55	70	—	77	120	—	132
ENGINEER, MOUNTED RIFLE, AND RIFLE.									
For every enrolled Member—									
For his first year of service.....	110	20	163	110+	100	231	220	120	394
After his first year of service	90	60	165	130+	60	209	220	120	374

* To be issued on the demand of the Officer Commanding the Royal Artillery in the District, as for the Royal Artillery. An Allowance of 4d. per lb. will be granted for any shot which may be recovered after practice and delivered into store in a serviceable state.

† Including 20 rounds for prize shooting.

B 6.

MEMORANDUM on the Defences of Hobart Town.

In obedience to the desire of His Excellency the Governor, I have perused the several documents having reference to the Defences of the Colony, and offer such remarks as occur to me, having first submitted the papers to Captain Chesney, Commanding Royal Engineer,—more competent, from his experience in a scientific branch of the service, to give information and advice on the existing or suggested Batteries.

His Report is herewith forwarded.

It appears to be generally admitted, that any attempt at defence against any large squadron of an enemy's fleet would be unavailing.

Against such the Colony must, therefore, depend upon the vigilance of the powerful Naval force of Great Britain, which will be employed, “not only for the effective prosecution of offensive warfare, but for the protection, as far as possible, of all parts of the Empire which are exposed to attack.”*

The question, then, is: Are the Defences of the Colony in a state to repel the attack of a single frigate, or one or more privateers?

The opinion of Colonel Broughton, Royal Engineers, and others, is, that the Colony is in a defenceless state; in which I must concur.

* Duke of Newcastle's Despatch, 26th December, 1861.

The subject, then, for consideration is, the best way of making preparation for such defence as may be at first necessary, and which the resources of the Colony may be able to meet; the Revenue not being in that state to meet a heavy expenditure for extensive Fortifications.

His Excellency Colonel Gore Browne, in his Minute of 8th March, 1862, and subsequent Memo. of 28th August, has made good suggestions, which it would be well for the Government to take into early consideration.

I fully concur in the desirability—in fact, necessity—for an armour-plated gun-boat in the harbour of Hobart Town, either to be stationed here from Her Majesty's Navy, or the property of the Colony.

A moveable defence has been generally suggested as desirable for the harbour of Hobart Town.

Sir William Denison recommended two steam gun-boats; Captain Chesney now recommends a steam-ram.

The money required for procuring these descriptions of Defences may appear large; but it is for the Colonists to well consider whether it be not better to be taxed to protect what they have got, than to suffer the destruction of their Town, and heavy levies made upon them by an enemy of a buccaneering description, and then afterwards look to the Defences.

With respect to Batteries, if the protection of the harbour of Hobart Town and City is to be dependent on such defence, an immediate provision for long range guns is absolutely necessary. The enemy must be kept from coming within such distance that he could shell the Town. At present a ship could anchor in Sandy Bay, and not a gun be brought to bear upon it.

A Battery to command the Bay has been properly suggested to be erected at St. George's Hill, which should have at least one long range gun.

I would strongly urge upon the Government to procure, with as little delay as possible, three or four guns of heavy calibre, so that the present Batteries, and others that may be constructed, might be in a position to compete with any single frigate of an enemy's fleet, or privateers, which would certainly be armed with such weapons, and cause destruction to the City from a distance the guns now mounted could not reach.

In fitting or placing the guns in position, I draw special attention to Captain Lowry's letter to His Excellency the Governor, with the enclosed printed paper, and recommend the adoption of Captain Cowper Cole's cupola. Captain Chesney, in 3rd paragraph of his Memorandum, is of opinion that two or three such guns would save the City from destruction.

The Queen's Battery, at no great expense, could be re-constructed and mounted with one or two guns of long range. It would then command a part of Sandy Bay and the narrow part of the river at Macquarie Point, and would effect all that a Battery at Rosney Point could, where I think there may be objections for erecting fortifications.

There are not, or likely to be, a sufficient number of Troops in Tasmania to warrant a detachment being told off to garrison a Battery on the other side of the harbour, or of inhabitants to form a Local or Volunteer Company of Artillery for that duty; and a Battery so isolated, without being defended by disciplined Troops, would be liable to be taken by armed boats and turned against the Town.

I concur in the opinion of Captain Chesney with respect to the Denison Battery, the guns of which would be more useful if removed to a new Battery at St. George's Hill, (site B in the sketch accompanying the Assistant Colonial Secretary's Memorandum,) and would there afford some protection by commanding the anchorage in Sandy Bay.

Before quitting the subject of Batteries, I would draw attention to the state of those already constructed, in which, recently, considerable improvements have been effected. Works so essential and connected with the Defences should be completed before those of an ornamental and less important character in the City. I refer particularly to the Prince of Wales Battery, from which the workmen (convict labour) have been removed, leaving the Battery unfinished,—a magazine in which ammunition cannot be kept,—and the Work in such a state, from the rocks and heaps of stones lying about, that, if attacked, it would be untenable.

Having made but a hurried visit to Launceston, I am unable to form an opinion what Batteries may be necessary at the Northern side of the Island, but I conceive that the difficulty of the navigation of the "Tamar" would be a good natural defence to the Town. I recommend a thorough repair and reconstruction of the present Battery in Launceston, and that it be fitted with Captain Cowper Cole's cupola.

The instruction and practice of the Volunteer Artillery at that side of the Island require that the Battery be repaired and fully equipped.

I now come to the consideration of, how is a disciplined Force to be raised? Without the necessary number of men to garrison the Batteries, they would be useless, and instruments of mischief, by holding out increased temptation for an enemy to turn the guns against the City.

All must agree that a trained Military Force is that most to be relied on and ready to meet the first alarm or shock of an attack; and in my opinion, in addition to efficiency, the cheapest in the end to the Colony.

A Battery (or Company) of Royal Artillery, and from three to four hundred Infantry, are necessary for the defence of the Colony; and I would suggest that an offer be made to Her Majesty's Government for the Colony to pay half the maintenance of such a force, which would amount annually to about £6000 or £7000 in pay and allowances.

"A Volunteer Force can only be considered as supplementary or auxiliary to regular Troops; such, organised on a sound and economical plan and purely as Volunteers, is the best that for many years the Australian Colonies can possess."

By the aid of increased Military resources in officers and men, an efficient Volunteer Force may be organised, and from its members a Local Corps could be raised.

"On the news of the disturbed state of Europe, or fear of war, a Local Corps might be raised by men enlisted for a special time (three or six months), with a provision as in *The Mutiny Act*, page 7, that their time could be prolonged by the Government for an additional term, say two months if necessary, or the men might be enlisted for the duration of the emergency." *

The present Volunteer Force would, I have no doubt, supply out of its ranks men sufficient to raise a Regiment of about four hundred at any moment of danger, principally from the class who would be thrown out of work; and with the drill and military habits they have acquired as Volunteers, in three weeks in Barracks a good battalion could be raised and easily officered from the Army, or competent officers of the Volunteer Force. It is not likely that the news of war in Europe would be followed by such a sudden attack in Tasmania that this Local Corps could not be raised. The men and officers generally would come from that portion of the Volunteer Force who, unsettled, and thrown out of employment by the circumstances of the Colony, desired active Military Service. They would be available for duty, not at any particular spot, but for general service in the Colony; and at the termination of hostilities, and the Corps being disbanded, they would again rejoin the Volunteer Force, and the expense of keeping up a Local Corps would last only during the emergency.

A system of this kind might ensure the cheapest and most efficient supply of armed men for the defence of the Colony; and if adopted, the details might at once be arranged.

The Pensioners from Her Majesty's Service settled in the Colony might be induced to join such a Local Corps.

A Company of Local Artillery on the same principle might be formed from the able-bodied watermen, who would in the event of any attack on the Colony be thrown out of employ; to be enrolled on conditions to go through a certain number of preliminary drills, and after being dismissed to attend a fixed number of drills annually at the garrison guns, for which a small annual retaining-fee might be given.

This Company could be told off for the Batteries to which they should repair in the event of alarm, acting with the Royal or Volunteer Artillery.

The Volunteer Force, as at present constituted, I am constrained to express an opinion, is not as efficient as it might be. A large number of Volunteers appear on paper as effective members, but I am afraid they have too generally enrolled themselves for the pleasure of possessing a valuable rifle, and, in reality, have acted too much as members of Rifle Clubs, instead of endeavouring to attain that discipline and military efficiency so essential in time of danger. It is comparatively easy to find a large number of good shots at long distances; but without thorough discipline, and the careful training of the various qualities required in a good soldier, Volunteers would never be able to stand against an enemy.

I strongly recommend that the several Corps in and near Hobart Town be formed into one good battalion, in one uniform dress, with a paid Adjutant.

* I borrow this suggestion for a Local Corps from a Staff Officer of rank and experience in Melbourne.

A better state of discipline and greater efficiency would be thus attained, and, from the men being accustomed to act in concert, the jealousy and rivalry now existing between the companies (called Corps) would cease, while, at the same time, there would be a considerable reduction of expense to the individual members.

The Volunteer Artillery should be drilled chiefly at the garrison guns, and facilities afforded them for frequent practice, that they may become good shots at long ranges.

JOHN FRAS. KEMPT, *Lieut.-Col.*
Commanding Troops.

Hobart Town, 4th February, 1863.

B 7.

MEMORANDUM on the Defence of Hobart Town.

THE place is at present quite unable to defend itself from a fleet or large hostile force; the question therefore appears to be, how to protect the Capital from the assault of one or more hostile ships?

2. The most efficient protection for the place would be a steam ram, with guns shielded on Captain Cowper Cole's principle. Such a vessel would involve an outlay of some £60,000, and an annual expenditure of several thousand pounds more for the payment of a commander, officers, engineers, and men. It is questionable whether the Colony can afford such an expensive insurance against war risk.

3. The approach of any ordinary vessel of war might be prevented by the use of rifled guns of large calibre. Two or three such guns, if placed in position and protected in the most approved manner, would save the City from destruction.

4. It has been said, that it is contrary to legitimate warfare to bombard the commercial part of the Town, and that the Denison three-gun Battery would tend to draw the fire of an attacking party on the Town itself. In considering this opinion, it is to be remembered that Hobart Town does not possess a *fortified* in contradistinction to a *commercial* city, and that the kind of attack to be dreaded would partake of a buccaneering nature; the enemy, seeking for plunder or revenge, would care little what destruction his fire caused provided he attained his object. The guns in the Denison Battery would, however, be more useful if they commanded the Sandy Bay anchorage. They should be mounted on or about the site (B) indicated in the sketch accompanying the Memorandum of the Assistant Colonial Secretary, dated 9th January, 1863, and should be made more destructive by being used in conjunction with one of Martin's cupolas for filling shells with molten iron. At least one heavy rifled gun is required at this point.

5. Two more guns of the same description mounted in the existing Battery in the Domain, and suitably protected, would rake any vessel attempting to approach the City.

6. Provision should be made for removing these two guns to a Battery commanding the river above Macquarie Point, which Battery should be constructed, but need not be armed except in the case of a vessel having passed the Town unharmed.

7. To mount these guns without providing Artillerymen, would be to hold out increased temptation to an enemy. In the absence of Royal Artillery, the Volunteers of that branch should be encouraged, and liberally assisted by the issue of ammunition for target practice, with great guns.

8. It is therefore recommended to procure three long range rifled guns and one Martin's shot furnace; to strengthen part of the Queen's Battery with iron plates, &c.; to construct two new Batteries; and to increase the Volunteer Artillery. The outlay required may be roughly estimated at £5000.

9. With regard to the Volunteer Force generally, the proposal to appoint a paid Adjutant for one administrative battalion seems a good one, and would enable the Corps near the City more effectually to prevent a hostile force from carrying the Batteries and plundering the place. With regard to the Country Corps, the Members of which could not without inconvenience belong to the City Battalion, it is doubted whether it would be advisable to disband bodies of men who are, or ought to be, skilled marksmen. Although not available in time of peace, they could in case of war be marched at once on the Capital, and would form a reserve of no mean value.

F. R. CHESNEY, *Captain, Commanding Royal Engineer.*

21st January, 1863.

G. 1.

MINUTE.*

I HAVE read Sir William Denison's Minute addressed to the Executive Council, dated 7th April, 1854; the Minute of Council dated 25th April, 1854; Sir William Denison's Despatch dated 9th May, 1854; and Colonel Broughton's Report dated 20th October, 1858.

In the data on which Sir W. Denison grounds his Minute the strength of the Garrison is stated to be a Regiment of the Line, whereas it now consists only of 119 men.

Sir William Denison observes, "that a sailing vessel need not come within 2000 yards of any Battery near the Town, and consequently, that any attempt to impede the progress of a hostile squadron up the river would be unavailing." His observations are directed to the preparations necessary to defend the Town against the attack of a single frigate, or two or three privateers.

For this purpose he suggests the employment of two armed steam gun-boats, made of iron; that they should be low vessels, strong enough to carry one heavy eight-inch gun in the bow; the tonnage being 100 or 150 tons. He suggests that these vessels should be supplied by the Imperial Government, but maintained at the expense of the Colony; and that they might be usefully employed as ferry boats when not required for war purposes. He further advises the formation of three Companies of Artillery of 80 men to each Company, one for Launceston and two for Hobart Town; *that they should be embodied and paid for a month in each year, and be subjected to Military law for that period*; and, lastly, he recommends the establishment of a Signal Station at Cape Frederick Henry.

Colonel Broughton appears generally to concur in the above, and speaks "of the utter defencelessness of the Colony," on 20th October, 1858.

I entirely agree in the whole of the above.

In the event of war with America, Her Majesty's Navy would defend the Colonies against the enemy's fleet; but this Colony would have great reason to expect an attack from privateers, thoroughly acquainted with the Coast, from having been engaged in the whaling trade, who would be the more likely to make such an attack, because they would be no longer able to continue their usual occupation, and against whom the Royal Navy would afford no protection. Against such an attack armed steam vessels such as those described by Sir W. Denison are the best, if not the only means of defence. In the absence of such a vessel I can only suggest a very insufficient substitute, viz. the formation of a platform on two luggage boats, which might be towed by the steam tug which now plies in the harbour. A Battery should also be established at Sandy Bay, where an enemy could land unseen from the Town, and give great annoyance; and the Signal Station at Cape Frederick Henry should be formed as soon as it is known that War has been declared. Without men, however, neither Steamers nor Batteries will be of any avail. I therefore suggest that (in the event of War) a Proclamation be issued calling for Volunteers who will engage to serve during the War subject to the Articles of War and Military discipline. Pay sufficiently high to encourage enlistment should be offered, with a promise of considerable increase to each individual when reported to be efficient, and properly drilled to Artillery and Rifle practice; the increase being more in proportion for perfection in Artillery than Rifle practice, and more for both than for either. The drill should at first be for twenty-eight days only; after that period those who are reported fit should parade only once a week for half a day, but the others should continue to be drilled daily until they are so.

It appears to me that about 350 Volunteers will be required permanently during War in Hobart Town, and about 300 at Launceston. A Battery should also be established at or near the mouth of the Tamar; and the Battery in the Town of Launceston, and any others which may require it, should be at once placed in thorough repair.

If War is declared it will further be necessary that Parliament should be at once assembled, and that a stringent Militia Bill should be submitted to it, on the understanding that it will only be resorted to in the case of extreme necessity.

T. GORE BROWNE.

Government House, March 8th, 1862.

* Written at the time when the Despatch from the Secretary of State was received informing the Governor that War with the United States of America was not improbable.

RETURNS called for by Private Secretary's Letter, 6 March, 1862.

TASMANIA.—ARTILLERY GUNS.

1.—NUMBER of Guns mounted, with their Size.

	HOBART TOWN.	LAUNCESTON.
Albert Battery	4 32-pounders.	
Prince of Wales' Battery	6 32-pounders.	
	4 8-inch.	
Denison Battery	2 32-pounders.	
Queen's Battery	7 32-pounders.	
	4 8-inch.	
Barrack Battery	—	2 32-pounders.
	19 32-pounders.	2 32-pounders.
	8 8-inch.	

EDWD. H. EAGER, Assistant Adjutant-General.

Hobart Town, 7th March, 1862.

TASMANIA.—FIELD-PIECES FOR USE.

2.—NUMBER of Field-pieces for use, with their Size.

Brass 6-pounders, in the Military Barracks, Hobart Town.....	2
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EDWD. H. EAGER, Assistant Adjutant-General.

Hobart Town, 7th March, 1862.

TASMANIA.—ORDNANCE.

3.—NUMBER of Guns in Store, and their Description.

	HOBART TOWN.	LAUNCESTON.
Brass Howitzers, 32-pounders.....	4	
Ditto, 24-pounders	4	
Brass Mortars, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch	2	
Iron Guns, 8-inch	2	
Ditto, 12-pounders	—	
Ditto, 6-pounders	4	
Iron Mortars, 8-inch	4	
Ditto, 10-inch	4	
Totals in each District	24	

EDWD. H. EAGER, Assistant Adjutant-General.

Hobart Town, 7th March, 1862.

TASMANIA.—AMMUNITION IN STORE.

4.—AMOUNT of Ammunition.

SHOT	Grape	Caffins, 8-inch	381
		Common, 32-pounder	212
	Round common	32-pounders	1682
		9-pounders	
		6-pounders	411 and 480
	Tin-case, 8-inch		388
	Case, howitzer, 32-pounder		200
	Mortar, 10-inch, round		200
	Gun	32-pounder	123
		6-pounder	120
	Howitzer	24-pounder	300
		12-pounder	134
Hollow	Gun, 8-inch	1758 and 200	
	Howitzer, 12-pounder	173	
SHELL	<i>Empty.</i>		
	Gun, 8-inch		2188
	Howitzer, 12-pounder		478
	Ditto, 24-pounder		2900 and 600
	Ditto, 32-pounder		1200 and 600
	Mortar, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch		588
	Ditto, 10-inch		1600
	Ditto, 8 inch		1600
	<i>Filled.</i>		
	Howitzers, 12-pounders		68
CARTRIDGES ..	Carcasses, 10-inch		120
	Ditto, 8-inch		120
	<i>Empty, Flannel.</i>		
	8-inch gun		4892, and bursters, 2188
	32-pounders		3573
	12-pounders		439, and bursters, 668
	6-pounders		1032
	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch		600, and bursters, 600
	10-inch		2000; also 368
	8-inch		2000; also 108
	Howitzers, 24-pounders		4000, and bursters, 2900
	Ditto, 32-pounders		3200
	Ditto, 12-pounders		324, and bursters, 30
	Calico Cartridges, 10-inch		1600 bursters
	Ditto, 8-inch		1600
	Calico bursters		1200
Gunpowder, large grain			84,685 lbs.
Ditto, fine			6182 lbs.
Wads			13,524
Portfires			1325
Slowmatch			742 lbs.

EDWD. H. EAGER, *Assistant Adjutant-General.**Hobart Town, 7th March, 1862.*

TASMANIA.—MILITARY FORCE.

5.—RETURN of Effectives fit for Duty, including Casualties temporarily unfit.

	HOBART TOWN.		PORT ARTHUR.		
	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	
Field Officers	2	—	—	—	Military Staff. Including Lieut. Seddon, R.E.
Captains	2	—	1	—	
Subalterns	4	—	—	—	
Staff	1	—	—	—	
Serjeants	—	7	—	2	
Drummers	—	3	—	—	
Rank and File	—	109	—	40	
	8	119	1	42	
Total Effectives, including between 25 and 30 Casualties.....	9 Officers. 161 Men.				

Hobart Town, 7th March, 1862.

EDWD H. EAGER, Assistant Adjutant-General.

Assistant Adjutant-General's Office, 8th March, 1862.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour, in connection with the Returns of Armament mounted and in Store enclosed to your address on the 7th instant, to acquaint you, for His Excellency's information, that the Volunteer Artillery Companies at Hobart Town and Launceston are in possession (on loan from the Military Stores) of two Guns each, as described in the margin.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your very obedient Servant,
EDWD. H. EAGER, Assistant Adjutant-General.

The Private Secretary, Government House.

Hobart Town Volunteer Artillery Company.—Two 12-pounder brass Howitzers, with Stores complete.
Launceston Volunteer Artillery Company.—Two 12-pounder brass Howitzers, with Stores complete.

G. 2.

MEMORANDUM.

VARIOUS Memoranda on the defence of Tasmania have been prepared and submitted, either to the Home Authorities or the Government of Tasmania, commencing with an able paper by Sir W. Denison, dated 7th April, 1854, and ending with one by Mr. Solly, dated 9th January, 1863. After perusing these Memoranda, Colonel Kempt has, at my request, favored me with his views, and those of the Commanding Engineer Officer on the same subject. (See Enclosures.)

My own opinions were expressed in a Memorandum prepared when a rupture between Her Majesty's Government and that of the United States was thought probable; but it is perhaps advisable that I should again return to the subject.

I may repeat that Her Majesty's Government has declared that the Royal Navy will protect all parts of the Empire from attack by an Enemy's Fleet; but has with equal distinctness declared that the Colonists must defend themselves from attack by Privateers or single vessels, not being part of an Armed Fleet.

It is very desirable, therefore, that measures for protecting the Colony should be considered carefully while no danger threatens, and that the Tasmanian Parliament should be asked to adopt, without delay, some plan which shall combine efficiency with economy.

Since the commencement of the War in America many changes have taken place in the art of attack and defence; and I would particularly direct the attention of Government to an article on the Volunteer Force in America, attributed to the Prince de Joinville, and translated from the *Revue des deux Mondes* in the *Sydney Herald*, 16th January.

The lessons derived from practical experience by so distinguished an Officer ought not to be neglected, and are as applicable to the English as to the Americans.

The Volunteer Regulations of Tasmania appear to me to require alteration; and I suggest that a Committee of Officers conversant with the subject be formed and directed to report, after considering the Report of the Royal Commission (see *Times*, 29th October, 1862), and the Consolidated Volunteer Act in Victoria.

Nothing contributes more towards making a people bold and confident than that skill in the use of fire-arms which can be acquired by practice alone; and practice at the Target can be most easily encouraged and promoted by the gift of Prizes. Prizes, therefore, for Target Practice, and payment for proficiency in Field Exercise and Gunnery, are indispensable: but I agree with the Royal Commission in thinking that payment should not be made to the individual, but to the Corps, and should be used only for specific purposes.

But, though some improvement may be expected from an altered system, it must be evident to careful observers that a Volunteer Force ought only to be auxiliary to Regular Troops.

Settlers, whose time is of much greater value than it is in England, can hardly be induced to attend with regularity, and yield implicit obedience to rules which are apt to become irksome when novelty has worn off; and the consequence is, that Volunteers are often more numerous on paper than on parade.

Here, therefore, as elsewhere, a nucleus of Regular Troops is absolutely required, more especially for the service of Artillery; and all who have turned their attention to the subject unite in considering at least one Armour-cased Gun-boat to be absolutely necessary if Hobart Town is to be insured against outrage.

To raise and maintain any number of men for Regular Service in the Colony would cost at least twice as much as the same force would cost if provided by the Imperial Government: *e. g.*, assuming that a Company of Artillery, consisting of 70 Privates, is required, two Companies of the same strength might be obtained for the same money if the Imperial Government would accept a subsidy and supply the protection.

The same may be said of a Gun-boat,—but in this case there is another consideration. The system of attack and defence is constantly undergoing change, so that a vessel built on the plan most approved at the present time might, in a few years, become useless: added to which, officers and men stationed constantly in one Port would labour under great disadvantages when opposed to others whose lives are passed in studying their profession in all parts of the world.

On the whole, therefore, a Colonial Force would cost more than an Imperial one, and probably would not be nearly as efficient.

Turning now to the question of Ways and Means, I find that during the ten years ended 31st December, 1862, the Customs' Revenue has been steadily decreasing, and there is too much reason to believe that increased or additional Duties can alone prevent a continuance of that decrease.

In 1852 the Customs Revenue was £164,000, and in 1862 (apart from the *Ad Valorem* Duties then imposed and now about to be repealed) it reached only £100,000; and this, notwithstanding a considerable increase of Duties imposed in 1858. Seeing also that systems no longer in existence have entailed extraordinary expenses on Tasmania, any additional outlay would be severely felt, and would probably stimulate the emigration which is already going on too rapidly from Tasmania to other Colonies.

But, however objectionable any additional expenditure may be, none can doubt that protection is more necessary against the risks of war than insurance is against those of fire; for the former is required to preserve life and honor, while the latter can only afford security against pecuniary loss.

Assuming, then, that protection is indispensable, that a Volunteer Force unsupported by a nucleus of Regular Troops could not be depended on, and that a permanent Local Force would

be far more expensive and less effective than a Detachment from Her Majesty's Forces, it remains only to enquire whether Her Majesty's Government would consent to grant the Regular Force required on receiving such an annual contribution as the Colony could afford to pay.

I therefore recommend Ministers to bring the subject to the notice of the Tasmanian Parliament, and to urge it on their consideration at an early opportunity.

T. GORE BROWNE.

Government House, February 11, 1863.

G 3.

EXTRACT from a Letter addressed on the 2nd October, 1862, by Captain LORING, R.N., to His Excellency the Governor.

IN what you said about the Defence of Hobart Town, I conclude that you confined it to the question of defence from an enemy's squadron, and that also to be on so moderate a scale that it may be in some sort practicable to be undertaken by the finances of the Colony.

I think that all these modern inventions, though altering the detail, do not alter the principles of attack and defence.

The advantage that a ship has over a Battery, is chiefly that she can move about and choose her position. Also, the officers and men, from being constantly close to their guns, are generally better used to the working of them.

The Battery, on the other hand, has the advantage of being perfectly steady; and if the skill of the gunners is good, they ought never to miss so conspicuous a mark as a ship.

I believe that the "revolving cupola," as proposed by Captain Cowper Coles, is the best possible mode of fitting guns, and that it is even more applicable to the shore than to a ship.

On board ship the weight is the consideration; on shore it (the weight) does not matter; and your cupola cannot be enfiladed, because it can be turned in any direction.

The cupola should be made as little conspicuous as possible, so that the enemy's ship should have difficulty in seeing it to aim at it.

If possible, it should be surrounded with a ditch, so that it may not be taken by storm, though this would be very difficult under any circumstances.

These cupolas, each with two guns, should be dotted about so that the ships may have difficulty in attacking them except separately.

And, if possible, they should be *commanded* by one *stronghold* also armed with one or more cupolas, so that in the event of the enemy landing and attempting to storm, they may be well covered.

This latter should be sufficiently strong to be able to resist a *coup de main*. Of course a regular attack could only be repulsed by the pluck of the Colonists.

Your harbour is too wide for a boom,—therefore I do not enter on that point.

Guns are now in course of being made which it is expected will send shot and shell through any amount of iron; but I never expected that iron could be made *invulnerable*; still *it is the best resisting means* that we have, and should be made use of accordingly.

I think I sent you one of Cowper Coles' Pamphlets a year ago, but, in case it did not reach you, I will try and send another. Also a sheet of Paper which I had printed before the "Iris" was commissioned, therefore much of it is obsolete, though the principles remain the same.

On the Protection of our Forts from Floating Batteries.

(Written immediately after the attack on "Kinbourne," in October 1855; therefore much of it is superseped by the new guns, and the new style of ships.—WILLIAM LORING.)

THE practical efficiency of Floating Batteries was first demonstrated at the attack on "Kinbourne."

On that occasion, the French brought into play three vessels cased in 3-inch wrought iron, and armed with 12 and 14 heavy guns.

These vessels were for several hours exposed to a fire from Russian 32-pounders of 75 cwt., and at a distance from 700 to 800 yards.

They were struck constantly, indeed so often, that the particular vessel which I inspected looked as if it had been deeply dinted with the small-pox. In one or two places where the shot had struck on the edge of a plate the iron was slightly cracked, but *only slightly*, but in no other part was it damaged, except by being dinted in. No shot had entered into any of the ports, and there was no casualty on board * either of the three vessels.

Meantime they had maintained a heavy fire on the enemy's bastion; and it was evident that, even without other assistance, they must have succeeded in dismounting his guns and breaching the wall, and this with impunity to themselves. It was only a question of time and ammunition.

It is well that we should look to these facts to guide us in the arming of our sea fortresses. Malta, Gibraltar, and even Portsmouth, are liable to be attacked by Floating Batteries should untoward circumstances, even for a time only, deprive us of our naval superiority.

Many thousands of pounds are expended yearly in raising Batteries and providing for our sea defences.

More than a twelvemonth has passed over since "Kinbourne" fell, but I cannot learn that any steps have been taken to meet this possible foe. There is, as yet, no deviation from the old established manner of fortification.

The experiences gained from the bombardment of Sebastopol on October 17th, 1854, when a few scattered guns on the North Cliff did more damage to our ships than the fire of the heavy forts, and the effect of the attacking iron-cased batteries on the walls of "Kinbourne," are alike disregarded; and we continue to build large stone Batteries, and to fit them with old-fashioned embrasures which, as it were, hold out their arms to entice the enemy's shot to enter. I have known one shot striking the angular face of a stone embrasure to disable the gun and clear off the *whole* crew. This occurred at "Acre."

The guns at "Kinbourne" were almost all of them mounted "en barbette," and of the whole number (between 60 and 70) only 26 remained that could have been again fired, and several of these would not have stood many rounds, they had been disabled and knocked over by the shower of shot which had assailed them; and it must be remembered that this "shower of shot" is what a Sea Fortress should be built to contend against, as shipping seldom attack stone walls unless with a great superiority of guns.

This experience condemns the gun mounted "en barbette," (when of moderate elevation) as much as common sense condemns the old embrasure now that a means has been found for obtaining strength without the necessary immense thickness of stone or earth works.

And Sebastopol has shown that guns placed irregularly, and not conspicuously, are far more formidable to shipping than those mounted in close order in a large stone fort which acts as a target for the Captain of the ship's guns to aim at. It is the number and the closeness of the guns to each other, and the rapidity with which they are worked, that renders the fire of a line-of-battle ship so formidable; but that very number and closeness and rapidity carry with them a great disadvantage. After a few broadsides the smoke becomes so dense that it is very difficult to distinguish the object attacked, and a single gun will in all probability escape notice, where a large white table cloth of a battery would be a conspicuous object to aim at.

Taking all these practical and proved points into consideration, it is evident that attention should be paid to the masking of a Battery, something in the manner of the "Snake in the Grass" at Gibraltar, and the North Cliff guns at Sebastopol; and that as much trouble should be taken to plant guns irregularly (though at the same time scientifically) as is now bestowed on exhibiting them in rows of teeth, so as to catch the eye of the enemy's gunners.

* Yes, there was on board one of them.

And now to the point of how to resist the attack of Floating Batteries.

I will not enter on the point of how much nearer they might have been advanced on "Kinbourne" with impunity, nor on the probable effects of 68-pounders, or even the monster gun.

I will rest on the proven fact that they did maintain their position for hours at a distance of 700 or 800 yards, and against a fire of 32-pounders of 75 cwt.,—15 cwt. heavier than our largest 32-pounders,—and therefore we may conclude served with a full charge of gunpowder.

I know of no stone or earthwork that will not crumble before a constant fire maintained at that distance.

There is but one means of resisting such a fire, and that is by the adoption on shore of the same defence which has been hitherto tried only afloat. The weight of material is of no consequence on shore, and there is scarcely a limit to the ability and powers of the iron-masters of England. Our embrasures must be formed of wrought iron of at least 6 inches thickness, or thicker, or with double coatings, or laid on an elastic substance in such manner as may be found by experience to be practical.

And I would propose at the same time that the embrasures should be, as it were, reversed, and that they should be of very little more width than the muzzle of the gun. A slight alteration in the present traversing gun-slide will adapt it to the required purpose. The gun must not be run out so far, the muzzle must barely present itself outside the embrasure, and the pivot on which the carriage is worked must be immediately under the muzzle, or only a few inches inside it, instead of under the centre of the weight as at present. Any difficulty in training may be remedied by increasing the size of the traversing trucks; and, indeed, *all difficulties must be overcome* to attain an important point.

A heavier calibre, a shorter range, and wrought iron shot have been found more effective; but all attacking and resisting powers are comparative,—the one must be increased to meet the other.

G 4.

MEMORANDUM upon the Defences of Hobart Town, and the Maintenance of a Volunteer Force.

THE question respecting the maintenance and organisation of a Volunteer Force is so intimately connected with that of the Defences of the Colony, that, before entering on the former, it is necessary to consider the latter and larger subject.

The total change in the means of attack and defence since Sir William Denison wrote his Minute upon the Defences of the Colony, published in the Votes and Proceedings of 1854, Paper No. 15, renders the recommendations contained in that document no longer applicable; and, in addition to that, the views held by the Home Government respecting Colonial Defences generally would preclude their being carried out except very partially.

It is, therefore, necessary to reconsider the entire subject: and, in the first place, the question arises as to what would be the probable nature of any attack the Colony might be called upon to resist.

In the event of any large squadron of an enemy's fleet being ordered to attack this Port, it would evidently be impracticable for the Colonists to offer any resistance with the most remote chance of success, however numerous and heavily armed our batteries might be; and the result of an unsuccessful defence would be far more disastrous than a prompt surrender. Should such an event occur, the Colony must depend entirely upon the efficiency of the British Naval Force in these seas; but, from the attack of single Ships of War, or Privateers, it is still the duty of the Government to provide, if possible, adequate means of defence.

The difficulty of manning batteries at any considerable distance from Town would counter-balance the advantages that might be expected to arise from the endeavour to oppose the entrance of ships into the river; and, consequently, whatever defences may be deemed necessary, they must be erected solely with the view of defending the anchorage, and preventing an enemy's ship from assailing the Town: but, from its position, great facilities are afforded to an attacking force for shelling the City; and, with the increased range of the projectiles now in use, vessels could lie

either in Sandy Bay or above Macquarie Point, and throw shot and shell into the heart of the Town, while there is not a single gun in position that could be brought to bear upon them.

It is evidently of the highest importance that any works erected for the defence of a Town should be so placed as not unnecessarily to draw the fire of the attacking party upon the Town itself: and, for that reason, the site of the 3-gun battery in the neighbourhood of the Government Offices is objectionable, as offering a legitimate inducement to an enemy's vessel to assail the most populous part of the Town, and thereby necessitate its surrender to avoid entire destruction. The doctrine now so generally advocated, that it is contrary to the spirit of legitimate warfare to bombard the commercial portion of an enemy's Town, but that the fire should be confined to the fortifications and Government building, renders it apparent that the Denison Battery would cause far greater injury to be inflicted on the City than it could effect in its defence.

If the defence of the place is to depend upon the batteries or earth-works, it would be requisite to erect one to command the anchorage above Macquarie Point, and another below St. George's Hill, covering on the one hand the anchorage in Sandy Bay, and on the other the direct approach to Sullivan's Cove: but it is questionable if such defences would be able to beat off a vessel of any size, armed with rifled cannon, competent as she would be to throw shells into the batteries from a distance beyond the range of our guns.

If, in order to place the armament of our batteries on a par with vessels thus armed, the Government decided upon procuring rifled cannon, it would be requisite to mount a sufficient number to cover all the different points in the anchorage which are available and advantageous as positions for attack; and the great expense of the Armstrong Guns (that on board the *Orpheus* a 111-pounder cost about £1000), and their liability to be injured, renders it worthy of consideration whether the plan suggested by a Naval Officer well acquainted with the harbour would not be an economical plan of mounting such ordnance; namely, to erect revolving Iron Cupolas, upon Captain Cowper Coles' principle, in suitable situations, offering, as they would, impenetrable protection to the men working the guns, while they could direct their fire to any point, and at the same time exposing a very small mark for the enemy's shot.

By far the most effective defence for the Port would, however, be a Steam Ram, on the principle of the *Monitor*, with two Cupolas, each armed with two wrought iron smooth-bore guns, to carry 10-inch shells: for, as it is most improbable that any attacking ships sent into these seas would be protected by the heavy armour plates now in use in Europe, the destruction of any vessel, however well armed, would be a matter of certainty; and, as such certainty could be arrived at by no other means, it might prove in the end the cheapest method of defending the Port, although the first outlay would be undoubtedly heavy, probably not less than £60,000.

Whatever system may be decided upon with regard to our Defences, it is, however, evident that the British Government are not prepared to furnish the necessary number of men to render them effective; and this fact leads to the consideration of the second part of the subject,—the question as to the best method of rendering a Volunteer Force available to supply the place of Regular Troops, at the least possible expense to the Colony.

One of the great disadvantages attending a Volunteer Force, is the constant change in the elements of each Company; and this operates to such an extent that, taken into consideration with the difficulty of inducing the men to attend regularly at drill, there are seldom more than half the men on the roll who can be said to have advanced beyond the very first stages of a soldier's drill. The consequence of this is, first, that there is a vast discrepancy between the total number of Volunteers returned as "effective," and the actual available strength of the Force if their active services were required; and, secondly, that the presence of so many half-drilled men often interferes with the movements of those who would otherwise perform the required manœuvres with some degree of steadiness and precision.

To meet this, so far as practicable, it would be desirable to constitute the several Corps or Companies in and about Hobart Town one Administrative Battalion, under the Command of a Lieutenant-Colonel, and with a paid Adjutant, who would, under the direction of the Colonel, conduct all correspondence with the Government on the one hand, and the several Captains Commanding Corps or Companies on the other,—prepare all Returns,—and superintend the drill, not only of the Battalion, but occasionally of the several Companies separately. He would also conduct the Musketry Instruction, and prepare all Reports upon the state of the Volunteer Force for the signature of the Colonel.

To carry out the necessary discipline, it would be requisite to pass an Act giving the Governor in Council power to constitute Administrative Battalions, to appoint Field and Regimental Staff Officers, and to make general regulations for the governance and discipline of the Force. Such assistance as the Government might decide upon granting in aid of Uniform, or other expenses,

should be made contingent upon enrolment for a definite period, and upon the production of a certificate of a certain amount of proficiency in drill, and the knowledge of the great gun exercise.

It may be said that, if such a system were adopted, it would result in the resignation of many members of the present Force, and such would probably be the case: but, on the other hand, it is the duty of the Government to take steps, whatever may be the result, to prevent the annual expenditure of from three to four thousand pounds upon the maintenance of a body of men who, under present circumstances, could afford but very little practical protection to the City in the event of an attack; and, though for a time the numbers might be considerably diminished, those that remained would form the nucleus of a new formation, based on a better and more lasting foundation. The maintenance of Country Corps is open to serious objections; and the propriety of disbanding them is a question for the consideration of the Government.

The circumstances under which such Corps could aid in the defence of the Town are hardly within the scope of probability; and the scattered character of the population from whence they are derived almost precludes their ever attaining any great proficiency in drill, or steadiness as a body under arms.

The introduction of a Militia Bill would be the best mode of aiding the maintenance of a Volunteer Force, at the same time extending to Volunteers certain advantages, such as exemption for a definite period from liability to serve as Jurymen.

It is evident that the defence of this Harbour could only require the services of Riflemen in the event of an attacking Force finding it too dangerous to attempt to reduce the place by the fire of her guns; or, from being beaten off by our own Artillery, landing her crew and marching on the Town. Consequently, whatever system of defence, whatever class of guns may be adopted, it must be to the Artillery Arm of the Service we must look for protection in the first instance; but, having secured that, it becomes still more necessary to provide against the contingency of an attack by land; and, to this end, the maintenance of an efficient body of drilled marksmen is indispensable.

Since the above was written, there has appeared in the *Mercury*, quoting from the *Daily Age*, the Report of the English Commission on the Defence of Melbourne, strongly recommending Iron-plated Gun-boats as the most efficient defence, and quoting Captain Coles' authority as to their being procurable for about £60,000 apiece.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY, *Assistant Colonial Secretary*.
9th January, 1863.

The Honorable T. D. CHAPMAN, *Premier*.