

(No. 105.)



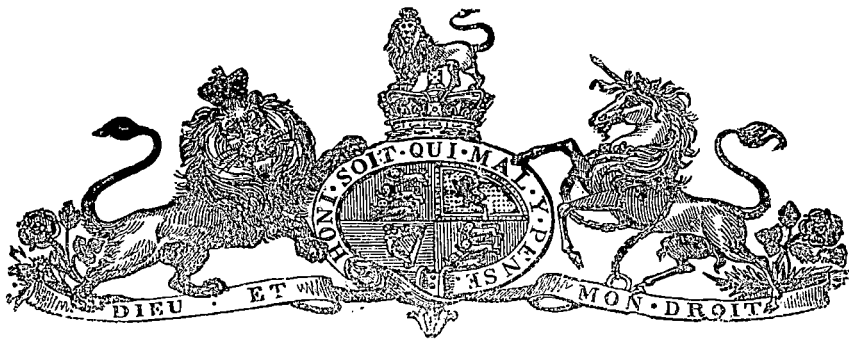
1884.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

D E F E N C E F O R C E :

REORGANIZATION REPORT.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



DEFENCE FORCE.—REORGANIZATION REPORT.

Head Quarters Office, Hobart, 31st May, 1884.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 20th instant, calling for a statement of my views as to the best means of making the Defence Force reliable should occasion arise for its services in actual war. I had purposed to embody my recommendations on this head in my Annual Report now in course of preparation, but as you desire an early answer to your communication, I beg to report as follows :—

The present system, which came into force shortly before my arrival in the Colony, whereby volunteers are enrolled for no fixed term of service, and are required to attend certain daylight drills of varying duration, for which they receive pay, does not, I regret to say, seem to answer well. This scheme, which, as you are aware, was introduced last Session of Parliament, produced fair results at the close of the financial year, as it was a novelty, and the members of the Force, stimulated by the pay offered, attended towards the end of the year a large number of drills in order to qualify themselves as efficient and receive the money allowed for daylight parades. Present system.

It had been stated by some of the officers on the Royal Commission which recommended this system (with, however, the indispensable proviso that the men should be enrolled for three years, and which was unfortunately thrown out by Parliament), that their men would attend daylight parades willingly as long as pay was given them. This idea has proved to be erroneous under the present purely voluntary system, and considerable difficulty is experienced in getting anything like a good muster of either corps for daylight drills. The Artillery Corps in Hobart are against the daylight system, and large numbers of the men have resigned solely for the reason, as stated in the quarterly return, that they cannot get leave to attend drill during daylight. The Bellerive detachment resigned in a body, owing, as they stated, to the impossibility of attending during the day. The Rifles, though there is no openly expressed opinion on the subject among them, attend very poorly, in spite of the commendable endeavours of the officers to induce them to do so. The same causes militate in both corps against success, and they are apparently these :— Difficulty in getting attendance at Daylight Parades.

1. Unwillingness on the part of employers to allow their men leave to attend parade.
 2. A want of interest on the part of the public in the Volunteer movement, which tends to produce the above-mentioned effect.
 3. A want of sufficient military spirit in the population, and more particularly on the part of the Volunteers themselves, to enable them to surmount these difficulties.
 4. The fact of the men being able to resign for any trifling cause they like to assign without any penalty whatever.
- Causes which militate against the success of the present system.

Similar difficulties exist, more or less, in the Northern Division.

The first of these adverse influences is very serious in towns with the small populations of Hobart and Launceston. Labour is scarce and highly paid, and it is not to be expected that men should run the risk of losing their employment for the sake of acquiring the small amount of pay that comes to them for attending the prescribed number of daylight drills.

I hold that daylight work, and a fixed term of enrolment, are absolutely necessary in order to make the Force in Tasmania efficient as a reliable, or, in other words, a first line of defence. The first is necessary because no proper training can be imparted and no smartness in appearance, which is essential to all who bear arms, acquired without it; and the second is requisite in order that the men may take an interest in their work, the officers have a proper hold on those they command, and the men be prevented from resigning before they have received the training necessary to make them efficient. Daylight Drill absolutely necessary.

Engineer
Corps.

I have already forwarded to you my Report on the Engineer Corps raised last year, and enrolled under the system I am advocating, from which you will see that it is so far a complete success. The men are drawn from a class whose tastes are suited to the work required to be done in this corps, and during the month's training they underwent they seemed to have no difficulty in attending the required amount of daylight parades.

New organiza-
tion.

This corps is, in fact, as near as circumstances will allow in this Colony, a Militia. I propose therefore to enroll, for service in Hobart, a small Corps of Artillery and Infantry of 100 each, commanded by a captain and two lieutenants, and place them on the same footing as the Engineers as regards pay and efficiency. In addition, I advocate the keeping up of 100 Artillery and 100 Infantry in Hobart as a purely Volunteer Force, with minor qualifications, efficiency, and less pay than the Militia. In Launceston I propose to keep the Force as it is,—a purely volunteer one, under the same regulations as the Hobart division. There is opposition, I find, in Launceston to a fixed term of service, and the officers of the Force are of opinion that the population is too shifting, and the community too busy, for anything but a purely Volunteer Force.

Country Corps.

In addition to the "Volunteers" of Hobart and Launceston, I propose this year to raise two local corps,—one at Bellerive and the other at New Norfolk. The former will be composed of the men who were last year attached to the Hobart Artillery; the latter will be a small company of Rifles. I most strongly advocate the formation of country corps as a second line of defence in time of need, and because without them the Force in the Island cannot be kept up to the strength required for active service. Next year I propose to raise two corps in the north in localities of strategical importance, viz.—Longford and Beaconsfield; the former a rifle company to supplement Launceston; the latter an artillery detachment for proposed defences at the mouth of the Tamar, to act in concert with the Artillery at Launceston.

Continuous
training.

The entire Force will, according to my view, have to come out for four days' continuous training at the most suitable time of the year. Without such a training the Defence Force of this Colony will never be thoroughly effective. A few days in camp under strict military discipline will do more good than the entire year's night drills. I have just seen the benefits accruing from this system at my recent visit to the Easter encampment at Sydney. In addition to the continuous training, the Militia Force will have to put in the same drills as the Engineer Force, and be called out for a month's work as they are, the four days in camp being included in the training. Twenty-four night drills of 1½ hours, as well as several daylight drills for musketry, will likewise have to be carried out by each man to become an efficient.

For the Volunteer Force I propose 24 night drills and four half-days in the year, for which latter 2s. 6d. will be the pay allowed.

*RETURN showing Distribution and Pay of Tasmanian Local Forces,
as proposed for 1885.*

DISTRIBUTION.	MILITIA.							VOLUNTEERS.						
	Majors.	Captains and Surgeons.	Lieutenants.	Non-com. Officers & Men.	Total.	Rate of Pay.	Total Pay per Man per annum.	Majors.	Captains and Surgeons.	Lieutenants.	Non-com. Officers & Men.	Total.	Rate of Pay.	Total Pay per Man per annum.
<i>Hobart.</i>							£ s.							£ s.
Artillery	1*	1	2	100	104	10/- or 1/6 per hour	6 5	..	2†	2	100	104	2/6 per half day	2 2
Engineers ...	..	1	2	50	53	12/-	7 13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Infantry	1*	1	2	100	104	8/- or 1/- per hour	5 14	..	2†	2	100	104	8/- per day in camp	2 2
<i>Launceston.</i>														
Artillery .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2†	1	75	78	2/6 per half day	2 2
Infantry .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	4	120	127		
<i>Bellerive.</i>														
Artillery .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	20	21	8/- per day in camp	2 2
<i>New Norfolk.</i>														
Infantry .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	30	32		

* For both Militia and Volunteers. † 1 Surgeon.

Militia.—Course of Training.—One month's training of two hours per diem, with four half-days and four days in camp; four half-days for musketry, and 24 evening drills extra throughout the year.

Volunteers.—Course of Training.—Twenty-four evening drills, four half-days and four days' continuous training in camp. Musketry course besides.

The above is a tabulated statement showing the composition, drills, and pay of the Force I propose that you should maintain. It will be seen on reference to the Estimates which I have recently submitted, and which are based on the scheme I have here formulated, that I have increased the pay of the officers, and also asked for pay for departmental officers.

The pay granted to officers is not commensurate with the dignity of the office they hold. For example, the pay of a lieutenant is not more than £1 in excess of that which a sergeant can obtain if he attends the full number of drills. I submit that is wrong, for the reason just stated, and, though officers in the Volunteer Force are not as a rule gentlemen who look for money for their services, yet their pay should in some measure compensate for a portion of the regimental expenses which must necessarily fall on them. The amounts I have asked for are far below those given in the other colonies.

Pay of
Officers.

Pay should be given to surgeons and to quartermasters, provided these latter carry out the duties connected with their position and attend the prescribed number of drills. As regards surgeons, it cannot be expected that they should give up valuable time to attend "practice" and musketry parades, at which their presence, according to military usage, is absolutely necessary, without receiving pay. Considerable dissatisfaction was caused last year at the omission of these officers from the pay roll, and I trust that my recommendations may now meet with the approval of the Government.

Departmental
Officers.

It is my intention further to submit a supplementary estimate for "departmental" officers' pay for the current year.

Their pay for
the current
year.

I consider that sooner or later a small permanent force of Artillery will have to be established in Hobart, which shall have charge of the working of the 8-inch side-loading guns at Kangaroo Bluff and the 6-inch guns mounted on "disappearing" carriages at the Alexandra Battery. Although when the Government have provided a speedy means of communication between the "works" on the Derwent in the shape of a steam guard-boat, the Militia Artillery will be able to do the working of these guns, they would be better in time of war in the hands of a still more highly trained body of men such as a permanent Artillery would afford. The cost of the upkeep of such a force of, say 50 men, would be about £4000, exclusive of the pay of an officer and the erection of barracks. They would form, no doubt, as they do in other Colonies, a nucleus to the Defence Force, and the non-commissioned officers would act as auxiliary instructors for the Volunteer Force when required. The "district gunners," one for each battery, in charge of stores and ammunition, would be furnished from this corps. Until it is formed this work will have to be done by "storemen," such as those at present employed.

Permanent
Force of
Artillery.

As a means of increasing the Force in the Colony, and a source of recruiting, the formation of Cadet Corps in Hobart and Launceston is strongly to be recommended. I am glad to state that a very creditable corps exists now in Launceston, which has been raised entirely through the exertions of Major Aikenhead. The boys have been clothed by means of private subscription. It is only right that Government should now step in and assist in this movement by granting a capitation allowance for each boy who becomes efficient. I have submitted an item, comprised of £1 per boy, on my estimates for next year; without this assistance the corps will probably fall to the ground. The cadets drill well and are steady on parade, forming an additional company at all my inspections. Many will eventually pass into the ranks of the volunteers, and their places be filled up by more recruits.

Cadet Corps.

The maintenance of "Regimental" Bands in corps so small as those in Tasmania is not feasible, and were it so it would be undesirable, as the expense comes far too heavy on the officers. It is now a maxim of the military service that regimental expenses be kept down, in order that good men may not be deterred from joining who are unable to afford heavy expenses connected with the profession. I hold it to be applicable to the Force in Tasmania. I therefore strongly advocate the establishment of two Garrison Bands in the Island, one for Hobart and the other for Launceston. I have submitted a sum of £50 towards the salary of a band master at each of these places; this should be supplemented by a subscription of £2 or £3 from each officer, and, as the bands are essential to the popularity of the Force, and the men have a like interest in their maintenance, a small donation, say half a day's pay, from the non-commissioned officers and privates.

Garrison
Bands.

I further recommend that a portion of the capitation grant each year be devoted to band and other regimental expenses, as with good management the whole sum is not required for clothing after a man's first outfit has been supplied to him. The management of the bands should be in the hands of a committee of officers in each garrison.

It is right to state here, that the Launceston Rifles are willing to assist, as above recommended, the formation of a band for the North.

Paid Adjutant
for Hobart
and Launce-
ton.

It is absolutely necessary that paid Adjutants, who have been in the army, should be appointed for the Force, in Hobart more particularly, if my scheme for the formation of a Militia Corps meets with approval. Such officers are urgently required to ensure the drills being properly and systematically carried out, to impart instruction both to officers and men, and to foster, by their exertions and example, a military tone in the Force. At present the fulfilment of this office is entirely relegated to the instructors, who are sergeants either in, or retired from, the army, and the result is a loss of tone and the absence of a counter influence to slackness, which are harmful in the extreme, and more particularly to the non-commissioned officers. These are the soul of the service, and without the influence of an adjutant they cannot rise to the requisite standard of smartness. I cannot too strongly urge the necessity for these appointments. I am of opinion that with a small force as that in Hobart one adjutant would be sufficient, provided he is acquainted with artillery duties; he should therefore be an artilleryman, as a good artillery officer is acquainted with infantry drill as well as that of his own branch. The case would be best met by the appointment of a high class Warrant Officer from the Royal Artillery, as the services of a commissioned officer of that corps could not be obtained for a less sum than £450 or £500 a year. I speak advisedly, as I am aware of the difficulty the Victorian Government had in procuring the services of a Captain in the Royal Artillery to command the Permanent Artillery, the appointment, £600 a year, having in the end to be given to a subaltern in the corps. In Launceston an Infantry officer would be required.

Nomination of
Officers by the
Corps.

The nomination of officers by the men of corps should be abolished. It is prejudicial to the interests of the service, militating against true discipline, and conducing to the possibility of unsuitable appointments being made. It cannot be expected that officers should carry out their duty in a thoroughly impartial manner, and with a single eye to the interests of the service, when they have been placed in the position they hold by the very men they are commanding. Nominations should be made by His Excellency the Governor in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief, on the recommendation of the head of the Military Department. Officers should be provisionally appointed, and made to pass an examination after a service of six months, failing which they should be called upon to resign their appointments.

Members of
Parliament.

With reference to the appointment of officers, a question of grave importance arises, and one upon which I feel bound to express a very decided opinion,—I allude to the practice of Members of Parliament holding commissions.

It is an utter impossibility for a Commanding Officer to occupy his proper position as head of the Defence Force of this Colony, *with the small population of its cities and consequent difficulty in filling the ranks*, when he has under him officers who, having seats in the Legislature, are in a position to bring their Parliamentary influence to bear upon questions on which they may happen to differ from their Commanding Officer, and consequently when off parade must, as regards such points of difference, exercise an influence on the men they command highly detrimental to the maintenance of all military discipline.

The position occupied by similar officers in England is not in the smallest degree analogous to that here referred to; for there the *military* officers connected with the Volunteer Force are under the orders of the War Office, whose authority is always at hand to support them in their decisions and course of action. Here there is no such authority to uphold the Commandant.

Permanent
Force.

The establishment of a small Permanent Force, whenever the Parliament of the Colony are pleased to vote the money required, need not in any way interfere with my proposal to make the Volunteer Force more efficient by enrolling a portion of it as a Militia. The two branches of the Force thus constituted would form the same system that exists at present in South Australia, with the exception that the Militia here would have the advantage of a continuous training; and it must be borne in mind that the cost of the combined Militia and Volunteers, as proposed by me, will be less than the sum voted for 1884 for the present Force. There is therefore no reason why the proposed Force for 1885 should not be supplemented by as many Permanent Artillery as the Colony will consent to pay for.

To recapitulate the proposals I bring forward in this Report, they are briefly:—

1. The enrolment for three years of a portion of the Volunteer Force as a Militia under the same regulations and training as the Engineer Corps; this portion to consist of 100 Artillery in Hobart for the manning of the Kangaroo Bluff and Alexandra Batteries in time of service, 50 men to each; 100 Infantry, to form a well-trained and disciplined body to act against an enemy in the field who may attempt a landing and a march on the town.

2. The advisability of establishing sooner or later a small permanent body of Artillery to form a nucleus to the Force similar to that which exists in the adjoining Colonies, and from which the district gunners in charge of forts would be supplied. To this the small permanent detachment of the Engineers Corps would be attached, mention of which I have already made in my report on the Engineers.
3. The appointment of paid Adjutants for Hobart and Launceston.
4. A reduced scale of qualification, with a less number of daylight parades, for the purely Volunteer portion of the Force.
5. The establishment of certain country corps to supplement the Volunteers of the towns.
6. The establishment of a camp for four days' field training, at which the whole Force must be present.
7. The encouragement of Cadet Corps, and the provision of a capitation grant for them.
8. The augmentation of the pay of officers, and the payment of departmental officers, namely Surgeons and Quartermasters.
9. Assistance towards the maintenance of Garrison Bands.
10. The nomination of officers by the Governor of the Colony, and not by the men of the corps.
11. The inadvisability of Members of Parliament holding commissions in the Force.

I would again refer to the importance of having paid Adjutants appointed for the Force. I have no doubt when the beneficial results are seen of such appointments the Colony will approve of the outlay thus incurred.

Not only are these appointments necessary to ensure the proper carrying out of systematic drills, the technical instruction of officers and non-commissioned officers, the proper performance of their duty by the latter, and the maintenance of discipline among them, but to remove that influence which the sergeant-instructors may possibly exercise unduly over both non-commissioned officers and men, and which may, as in a recent case, have a baneful effect on the *morale* of a corps.

I would likewise again point out, in conclusion, the absolute necessity of having that portion of the Force which it is desired should be thoroughly efficient enrolled for a specified term of engagement, which should not be less than three years.

It will be necessary to bring in (to suit the case) an amended Act to "The Military Discipline Act of 1878," in which clauses should be inserted as here subjoined.

In conclusion, I must remark that I have not included the amount necessary for the payment of a Permanent Force in the estimates I have submitted to you, as I was sure the Parliament of the Colony would not vote the money this year; nor am I of the opinion that such a project will be favourably entertained for some time to come. Should, however, the Volunteer Force revert to the non-payment system (except during the four days in camp) the Colony could well bear the expense. The cost of 650 men—say, for four days in camp, including an allowance for rations, and not including officers' pay, would be, roughly, £1200. To this must be added capitation allowance for that number, pay and capitation allowance for the Engineer Militia, and pay of Artillery and Infantry officers in camp. The cost of a Permanent Force as stated above is about £4000. Certain night drills for Volunteers, however, should be paid for, as in N. S. Wales, in order to ensure a good muster for Commanding Officer's parades.

I propose to embody my remarks on, and recommendations as to the completion of the defences of the Colony in a separate report, the subject being one which is not connected with the reorganization of the Volunteer Force.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. V. LEGGE, *Lt.-Col. R., R.A.,*
and Colonel on the Staff.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

AN ACT to amend "The Military Discipline Act, 1878."

Insert the following Clauses:—

— In the said Act the word "Force" used therein shall include the Artillery and Infantry Corps engaged under this Act; and whenever in the said Act "The Mutiny Act" is mentioned it shall be taken to mean the Act of the Imperial Parliament to amend the Law relating to the Discipline and Regulation of the Army.

— The Governor may engage, upon the terms and conditions contained in the said Act, the services of such a number of persons not exceeding one hundred and fifty to serve in the said Artillery Corps, and not exceeding one hundred and fifty in the said Infantry Corps, as Parliament shall from time to time authorise and provide for.

— The provisions contained in Section Twenty of the said Act shall not apply to any member of the said Artillery and Infantry Corps engaged under this Act.

[*Addendum to Paper No. 105.*]

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 25th June, 1884.

SIR,

THE Government request that you will reconsider the Estimate of Expenditure on account of the Defences for the year 1885 submitted by you, and which I return herewith, with a view to reducing the total amount to a sum not exceeding £9000.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

The Commandant of the Local Forces.

Head Quarters Office, 27th June, 1884.

SIR,

In reply to your letter of the 25th instant, with reference to my Report on the Reorganization of the Force and the Estimate for 1885 accompanying it, requesting me to send a revised Estimate not exceeding £9000, I have the honor to forward a new Estimate* to you this day, but I have been unable to reduce it to that figure.

There has been no other means of lowering the sum to its present proportions than by following the idea suggested at the end of my Report,—viz., by reverting the Volunteer Force, which should be enrolled for a term of three years, to the non-payment system, except during training in camp, and introducing a small Permanent Force, which is absolutely necessary in the absence of the Militia Artillery, the organization of which I recommended in my report, and the cost of which I provided for in my Estimate.

The Permanent Force I have now provided for will form a nucleus, but it is not sufficiently large to work all the new guns now being mounted entirely by itself. It will have to be supplemented at drill (when practicable) by picked men from the Volunteers.

As the daylight drills will have to be dispensed with, the efficiency of the Volunteer Artillery will be at a lower standard than before. At present I am able to parade the men for artillery practice in the daytime, which has never been done before except under their own officers on holidays and the Queen's Birthday.

The musketry instruction of the Rifles will also be interfered with owing to the doing away with the daylight parades, for there is not time during the camp training for this work.

It is a matter of great regret that, owing to a temporary depression, the expenses of the Force intended to defend the Country in time of war should be so cut down that its efficiency has of necessity to be reduced. While doing my best to render the Force which I command efficient, I cannot accept the responsibility which the Country might seek to place upon my shoulders if in time of war the Corps composing that Force are not found to be sufficiently trained and disciplined.

In revising the Estimates I have been obliged to cut out the amounts which have been allowed for the last two years for completing the armament of the Force by the purchase of rifles and ammunition, and also the amount that will be required to provide new rifle ranges for the Force during the ensuing year.

I have also had to omit the amounts proposed for the purchase of saddlery, and the ammunition equipment required for the new guns lately received from England. I propose that this amount shall be placed on a supplementary Loans Bill, together with the cost of other machine guns and armament required to complete the existing defences.

The Permanent Force proposed does away with the necessity for the employment of three (3) store labourers and the Magazine guards at Hobart.

I have, &c.

W. V. LEGGE,

Lieut.-Col. and Colonel Commandant.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

* Departmental Estimate.