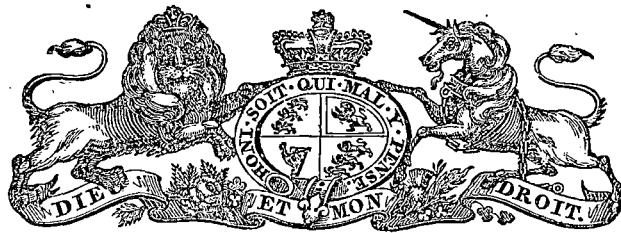


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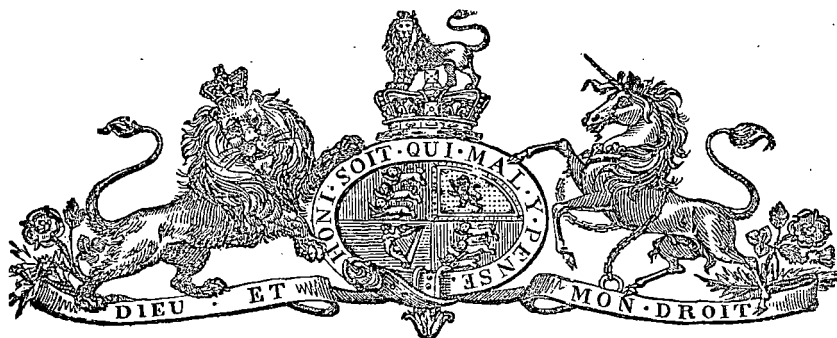
1865.

T A S M A N I A.

T H E V O L U N T E E R S E R V I C E .

R E P O R T O F T H E S E L E C T C O M M I T T E E .

Presented by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House of Assembly to
be printed, 14 September, 1865.



SELECT COMMITTEE appointed on the 9th August, 1865, to enquire into the Condition of the VOLUNTEER FORCE, with the view of instituting a careful Inquiry into its present State and Efficiency.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

MR. BALFE.
MR. HORNE.
MR. PERKINS.

MR. DOBERRY.
MR. JOHN MEREDITH.
MR. SHARLAND.

MR. COLONIAL TREASURER.

DAYS OF MEETING.

24th, 30th, and 31st, August 1865; 7th, 12th, and 14th September, 1865. Present—All the Members.

WITNESSES EXAMINED.

1. Colonel EAGAR, Commanding Volunteer Force.
2. Lieut.-Colonel CHESNEY, Commanding Southern Division.
3. Lieut.-Colonel HOME, Commanding Northern Division.
4. Major WILSON, Commanding Administrative Regiment.
5. Captain DAVIES, 2nd Rifles.
6. Captain SHERIDAN, Launceston Rifles.
7. Captain HARRAP, Launceston Artillery.
8. Captain KISSOCK, City Guards.
9. Captain Fysh, 1st Rifles.
10. Major WILKINSON.
11. Lieut.-Colonel CRAWFORD.

EXPENSES OF WITNESSES.

Lieut.-Colonel HOME..... £9 18s. 0d.

R E P O R T.

Your Committee met on the 24th August, and have continued since to prosecute their investigations into the very important subject referred to them.

. Your Committee have taken the evidence of the Colonel Commanding the Volunteer Force in Tasmania, and of the Lieutenant-Colonels, Major, and Captains of the various Corps; and they have also been favoured with the opinions of Lieutenant-Colonel Crawford of Her Majesty's Indian Army, and of Major Wilkinson, an Officer who served with distinction in the Crimea, and who had also the advantage of being connected with the Militia in England.

From the evidence of these Officers, which your Committee have carefully studied, and which they append to this Report, the nature of the change which it has become necessary to your Committee to recommend in the constitution of the Volunteer Force will be apparent to your Honorable House.

Your Committee cannot shut their eyes to the fact, that the present Volunteer Force, whilst containing in its ranks many men who would make good soldiers, is not in such a state of efficiency as to warrant the very large expenditure which is now incurred by the Colony in its maintenance; and that as a means of Defence against Foreign aggressors it would be next to useless.

Your Committee have, therefore, after full deliberation, decided to place before your Honorable House certain suggestions, by the adoption of which they feel convinced that the Volunteer Force will at once be placed on an effective footing; and whilst the expenditure in its maintenance would not be very considerably increased, it would become, what it has always been intended to be, a means of Defence to the Ports of Hobart Town and Launceston in time of danger, besides forming eventually a class of semi-Military settlers of good character and industrious habits.

The Resolutions are as follows:—

1. That the present Volunteer Force shall be declared by the Governor in Council to be wholly disbanded, and the Arms and Accoutrements returned into Store, on or before the next; and that a statement of the liabilities outstanding of each Corps for clothing for the men shall be laid before the Government.

2. That the Volunteer Force of Tasmania shall be re-organized on a better and more effective footing, under Regulations and Rules to be drawn up by a body of Military Officers—not less than five—appointed by the Governor; and the said Regulations and Rules shall be subject to the approval of the Governor.

3. That the number of Volunteers to be enrolled under the re-organization shall not at present exceed 300 men; of whom 200 shall be stationed in Hobart Town, and 100 in Launceston.

4. That any Corps which may be formed in Rural Municipal or Police Districts shall be called Rifle Clubs, and shall receive aid from the Government in Targets and Arms and Ammunition, at cost price, under certain Regulations.

5. That there shall be but one Volunteer Corps in the Colony, which shall be called “The Tasmanian Defence Force,” with one approved Uniform and Accoutrements, which shall be supplied by the Government once in every two years. Every man shall be drilled to Artillery and Musketry practice.

6. That all the Commissioned Officers of the Tasmanian Defence Force shall receive their appointments from the Governor, under his hand and seal; and such Officers, previously to their being gazetted, shall be required to undergo an examination as to their qualifications for Commissions.

7. That after [] years of good and continuous service, each enrolled Volunteer shall be entitled to a Remission Order in the purchase of Land from the Crown to the value of £ []; and each Commissioned Officer to the value of £ [].

8. That the Tasmanian Defence Force shall attend Artillery Drill and Musketry Practice once in each week; and for each Drill or Parade under Arms shall be granted Pay as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Each Captain	0	10	0
Each Lieutenant	0	7	6
Each Sergeant	0	5	0
Each Corporal	0	4	0
Each Gunner or Rifleman	0	3	0
Each Bandmaster	0	7	6
Each Musician	0	4	0

To forfeit two days' pay for every appointed Drill from which the Volunteer may be absent without leave or Medical Certificate.

9. The Senior Officer of Her Majesty's Troops to be invited to inspect and report upon the Volunteer Force every Six months, receiving for each Half-yearly inspection a fee of Twenty-five Guineas.

10. A permanent Staff Sergeant, who shall have served in Her Majesty's Army, to be appointed for Hobart Town, and one for Launceston, as Artillery and Drill Instructors, with a salary of £125 each per annum.

11. Government Prizes to be annually offered for proficiency in Gunnery and Rifle practice; and Ammunition to be furnished to all enrolled Volunteers at the price which it may have actually cost the Government.

Should these suggestions be fully carried out, your Committee are convinced that there will be no necessity for a Militia Bill to be introduced into Tasmania.

Your Committee append to their Report a rough Estimate of the probable Annual Expenditure on account of the proposed re-organisation of the Volunteer Force, and a Statement of the present Expenditure; and they submit the result of their labours for the careful consideration of your Honorable House.

CHARLES MEREDITH, *Chairman.*

Committee Room, 14th September, 1865.

EXPENDITURE on account of the Volunteer Service for the Year 1864, as extracted from the Auditor's Finance Statement.

	£	s.	d.
Salaries and Allowances, Southern Division	398	11	7
Salaries and Allowances, Northern Division	350	0	0
Grants in aid of Uniforms	846	0	0
Stationery and Stores	292	2	1
Prizes	193	10	0
Incidental Expenses generally	363	6	8
	£2443	10	4
Maintenance of Batteries	£125	0	0

PROPOSED EXPENDITURE.

ROUGH ESTIMATE.

Three Batteries of One hundred Men each (Effectives).

	£	s.	d.
Inspecting Officer of H. M. Army	52	0	0
3 Captains, at £26 each	78	0	0
6 Lieutenants, at £19 10s.	117	0	0
6 Sergeants, at £13	78	0	0
12 Corporals, at £10 8s.	124	16	0
250 Gunners and Riflemen, at £7 16s.	1950	0	0
20 Musicians, at £10 8s.	208	0	0
2 Bandmasters, at £19 10s.	39	0	0
	£2646	16	0
2 Instructors in Gunnery and Drill, at £125 each	250	0	0
Ammunition for Drill practice	600	0	0
Clothing for 300 men,—at £4, charge half to 1866	600	0	0
Prizes, Targets, and Incidental Expenses	403	4	0
	£4500	0	0

EVIDENCE.

30 AUGUST, 1865.

COLONEL EAGAR *called in and examined.*

1. What is your rank in the Queen's Service, and what is your rank and pay in the Volunteer Force? I am a Substantive Major in the Queen's Service, with the appointment of Assistant Adjutant-General in Tasmania, where I am a full Colonel, by the Governor's Commission, with the pay of five shillings a day.
2. What is your opinion as to the present state of efficiency of the Volunteer Force in this Colony? On the whole, bad. As a force it is virtually dead in the North. In the South, a decided improvement has lately been shown. There is here an excellent drill ground, which makes the Volunteers free of the weather to a great extent; and they have efficient Instructors both as to their Gunnery and other Military duties,—the Sergeant-Major and Artillery Sergeant being both efficient men. The last time I mustered 268 men of all ranks, in the Southern Division; and the general remark was that there was an improvement. At the same time the present construction is most objectionable, not from any fault of the Members, but from the original organization, which, in my opinion, was most faulty. They were formed into separate Corps usually composed of Members of secret Societies, such as Freemasons, Odd Fellows, &c.,—the consequence was they did not pull together; and Returns were got in with difficulty when they were required by the Government. I was once called upon by the Colonial Secretary to furnish Returns of those entitled to the Government Grant in aid for Clothing, and it was two months before I got them from the Corps, though I personally urged their being furnished frequently, as did Lieutenant-Colonel Chesney. This also interferes with their drill, because some of the Corps turn out well in appearance and are zealous, and yet have no Officers *inter se* to instruct them. On parade they receive a wrong word of command nearly as frequently as a right one. This applies to one or two Companies.
3. Has the Division under your command made any improvement during the last twelve months? Yes.
4. Do you expect any improvement in future, and if so, in what respects? In drill and musketry efficiency, I do so. I have given orders that certain Volunteers shall be trained to instruct their comrades, which may obviate the defect in drill of the Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers. Four men in each Corps are carefully trained by the Sergeant-Majors as Sub-drill Instructors. They are reported by Lieutenant-Colonel Chesney and his Sergeant-Major as satisfactory, so far as the Southern Division is concerned.
5. What do you consider to be the chief defects of the Volunteer Force as at present organised? I have mentioned them,—the original organisation, and the want of unanimity between the several small Corps. The men of the Artillery Corps are of a different social position to those of the other Corps, who are to a great extent men in a more humble class of life.
6. How would you propose to remedy these defects? I would mobilize the whole Corps, remodel them: term them by one name, say Artillery, or Hobart Town Rifle Corps, or City Guards. I should say the title Artillery Corps is the most convenient.
7. Have you any record of the numbers of the Force in previous years as compared with its present strength? No further than a Volunteer list published in July 1861 by Mr. Hull, which shews 1186 men on paper. Two whole Corps have since been disbanded, the Buckingham and Manchester Unity Corps. Now, we could not show on parade more than about 350 men on both sides of the Island.
8. Would you think it desirable to break up the present Rifle Corps, and organise the Force *de novo*? Yes.
9. Do you think that the Artillery Corps should be increased, if possible; and if so, how would you propose to effect an increase? I would submit that the whole force should be called Artillery Corps. For the defence of this Colony the Artillery would be the most important force. All the different Corps have been more or less instructed in Artillery practice.
10. To what cause do you attribute any improvement of late in the Southern Division? The attention of the paid Staff, Lieutenant-Colonel Chesney and those under him.
11. Have you any difficulty in procuring the attendance of Volunteers at drill or on parade? Oh yes! the greatest. Colonel Chesney has a monthly parade of about 150 men of all arms and ranks. The men receive the greatest discouragement from their employers, and the public in general to a certain extent. Employers do not give the slightest encouragement to their servants or clerks to go a-soldiering as they call it. I can say that Captain Tarleton asks his men to attend in private clothes, as the employers do not like to see their clerks, &c. going about the streets in uniform. One of the Medical Officers, called in a hurry to a patient, went in uniform, and the head of the house said he wondered he did not bring his horse in also,—or something to that effect.
12. How do the Volunteer Regulations promulgated last year answer in practice, and would you recommend their revision in any important points? Not well: they require revision,—they are difficult to be understood by men of ordinary capacity,—they are too diffuse; there is too much of them; and they come hard upon those Volunteers who are attentive to their drills; yet, because others are less attentive, the parades do not come up to the number necessary to make a recognised parade, by which the attentive men suffer; because 25 to 35 men must attend drill—not less than 25 constituting a recognised parade of even a Company. If only 20 men attend they are not qualified for grant in aid, and get no thanks. The same rule applies to the necessity of having a certain number of "parades of a Corps," when not less than 35 members must be present.
13. Could any change be made with advantage in the constitution of the Force? I have answered this; viz.—by uniting all the small Corps into one for the South, and one for the North.
14. What is your opinion with regard to the introduction of a Militia Bill? I think it would be an excellent plan in two ways:—first, it is the best and most constitutional defence; second, even if passed by Parliament and not

carried out, it would resuscitate the Volunteer movement. It would be held *in terrorem* over employers, who would have to pay for Militia both in person and purse. Every man would be subject to it, and the towns would be rated. A Volunteer being exempt from the Militia, the Volunteer Force would be more popular.

15. Would you recommend doing away with the Volunteer Force and supplying its place by Militia? Not suddenly.

16. Would you advise a Militia Bill being framed with a view to form a Force supplementary to the Volunteer Force? No. It should be primary to the Volunteer Force,—so far supplementary as to be held *in terrorem* over the Colony. The Force itself should be primary, because it is a senior branch of the Military Service.

There is an objection to the expense of a Militia Bill. It would cost £3000 for 24 days' service. I drew out a scheme which I lay on the Table, showing the cost of 300 Militia men, at an average of 4s. a day, of which number 150 would be in uniform in one year, and the remainder in the following year.

In Answer to Questions by Mr. Horne,—

There are excellent rules amongst themselves, but which are not always carried out. The Captain of the 2nd Rifles carries out his rules strictly. The 1st Rifles are, to the best of my belief, mostly Freemasons.

The Serjeant-Majors are efficient in drill, and receive pay. The Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers in the North are better up in drill than those in the South, therefore the drilling of the Volunteers there was superior, owing to the efficient Officers over them: better drill is required on this side.

The Officers in the Southern Division, are not well up in drill with some exceptions. I am getting the Officers exercised to be fit, and hope they will be better this summer. They do not think of camping out; it was talked about, but the Government considered the expense too great, I believe.

I do not know a single man who knows how to construct a rifle pit.

By Mr. Dodery.—In the North there was a sudden collapse. I never saw a finer body than the Launceston Artillery four years ago; the Rifle Company was nearly as good, but the numbers are very small now, both on the Roll and at Drill. Last June the two Launceston Corps only mustered 35 men,—and I only saw 5 Cavalry men. At Longford 14 men paraded, who scarcely knew their right from their left from want of instruction. At Deloraine there were 20 men, who made a creditable show on parade. At Westbury the Lieutenant committed suicide, and the Company collapsed. The North is getting tired of it,—they have some idea that they should be encouraged by a grant of land, or something of that sort. And then, others have gone to New Zealand and elsewhere.

Very few Officers have been elected since my appointment. The men were unanimous in their elections, usually. The Volunteers have turned out as guards to help at fires, &c. and have been thanked by the householders; but they exercise no control over the community in the way of keeping order.

When the Officers are elected I have them examined by a Board of Officers, whom I appoint previous to their being gazetted.

The Force at present would be of service against a solitary Vessel of War, but there would be much confusion, owing to the Corps not understanding one another.

At present, many attend from a feeling of amusement, as well as duty. Many Volunteers put themselves to great inconvenience in inclement weather; others no doubt merely attend for the sake of show.

In any alteration the Corps should be confined to the Towns. I do not see the use of Country Corps. They should be called Rifle Clubs. At the Huon, the Corps are spread over 15 miles of country.

By the Colonial Treasurer.—A Mounted Force would only be useful from their knowledge of the country. They would be invaluable as orderlies or messengers,—but totally useless as a Corps to make a charge.

By Mr. Sharland.—I do not know how many men went to New Zealand. I think they went in greater numbers from the North.

By Chairman.—In submitting that the whole Corps should be united as Artillery Corps, I think Rifle practice should be by no means neglected, but carried out as well as Artillery training. They should be good Artillerists and well-trained Riflemen.

For various reasons I would disband all the Corps and re-organise them at once as an Artillery Corps. Any other course would cause disaffection amongst the Officers.

The Rifle Association is a private body. As for the Volunteers, I think they would die out at once if the grants in aid were stopped.

LIEUT.-COLONEL CHESNEY called in and examined.

1. What is your rank in the Queen's Service, and what is your rank and pay in the Volunteer Force? I am 1st Captain Royal Engineers, and on the Foreign Staff as Commanding Royal Engineers in Tasmania. I am Lieut.-Colonel Commanding the Southern Division of Volunteers, at £200 a year.

2. What is your opinion as to the present state of efficiency of the Volunteer Force in this Colony? I should like to answer as to the Southern Division only. It would bear a favourable comparison with the Volunteer Force at Home, or in the neighbouring Colonies.

3. Has the Division under your command made any improvement during the last twelve months? I think a marked improvement has taken place within the last twelve months.

4. Do you expect any improvement in future, and if so in what respect? I anticipate an improvement in the

Artillery branch. We have a good Drill Instructor, and there will be other reasons for improvement. I think the Artillery will be the popular Corps by and bye, as it is certainly the most important arm of the service for the protection of Hobart Town.

5. What do you consider to be the chief defects of the Volunteer Force as at present organised? At present a defect arises from the want of moral support on the part of the community at large. With some exceptions, there is a feeling of hostility to the Volunteer Force. One element which cannot be prevented is, that the Force is drawn from all ranks. You cannot have one force of artisans and one of gentlemen, and that very mixture of classes begets a jealous feeling, at the same time that it excites rivalry which is an ingredient in all Volunteer services. In England separate Corps are formed of certain classes. Here we cannot have that, for society is so limited.

6. How would you propose to remedy these defects? If possible, by inducing the community at large to give more moral support,—it would have a beneficial effect. A larger number of honorary members who need not go in for hard work would give great support to the movement. I have heard it said that the proportion of Officers is too large. If the Force were under fire I do not think this complaint would be made, for the Officers would soon be picked off. I should not recommend any reduction of Officers. One Corps fell to pieces for want of proper Officers—this was the 3rd Rifles; the Corps was broken up, the Captain having often been absent from the Colony on private affairs.

7. Have you any record of the numbers of the Force in previous years as compared with its present strength? The total number enrolled since the beginning of the Force in 1860 was, for the Southern Division, 1228 men of all ranks. Of these 806 have left from various causes, leaving a total of 422. I believe a number of those 806 men are still in the Country. I mean there are upwards of 800 drilled men available—a small per-centage only having left the Colony.

8. Would you think it desirable to break up the present Rifle Corps, and organize the Force *de novo*? I think it would have an injurious effect at present. For a time the Force would be very much reduced by breaking up the Rifle Corps.

9. Do you think that the Artillery Corps should be increased, if possible; and if so, how would you propose to effect an increase? The Artillery is decidedly most important for Hobart Town, and ought to be increased to more than double its present strength. I look on the Artillery as being in a transition state. There was no proper Instructor for some time; but since we got the new Instructor there has been a great improvement. When the long-range guns come from England, we shall have great additions to our recruits. The Regulations should be modified, so as to give encouragement to Artillery. At present, the number of the Artillery is 61. Nine men are required to work each gun. 58 men of the Rifle Corps have also been learning gun drill in Hobart Town during the last 6 months. This would give 100 gunners; but we ought to have 160 gunners for the batteries at this port. I think the Regulations should be modified, and then the arrangements which the Government are making to bring out the new guns and materiel would make this Corps much more popular and numerous than it is. As soon as the number is above 80 a second battery should be constituted. Men would join from personal motives of regard to a second Captain, if the selection were judiciously made. I think a man could be found who by personal influence could obtain recruits for a second battery, and thus increase the Corps to 160. The Artillery Corps is composed principally of young gentlemen in the Public Offices; a superior class of young men.

10. To what cause do you attribute any improvement of late in the Division under your command? To increased facilities of drill, and the concentration in one spot of all the duties. There is a good drill ground, armoury, and Artillery school all in one place, which gives life to the movement. I lay on the table the present arrangement of the drills which is perfectly understood by all the men of the Force, and prevents any clashing.

11. Have you any difficulty in procuring the attendance of Volunteers at Drills and Parades? No, they attend very well generally. There has been a falling off since this Committee has been talked about, for there is evidently a doubt whether the Force is to be broken up or not. Hitherto the attendance has been pretty regular. At Battalion Drill they generally turn out about 179 men. I lay on table a comparative return of drill attendance.

12. How do the Volunteer Regulations promulgated last year answer in practice, and would you recommend their revision in any important points? They are found to be too stringent in practice. Very trifling verbal alterations would be beneficial to the Force. The definition of an effective Volunteer is too stringent. A man is required to go through the whole course of Musketry Instruction in one year, which is more than is required in England. If men attend what is called the "Preliminary course of Musketry," and are present at 24 drills in the course of the year, they should be entitled to the grant in aid of Uniform. I recommend that the Rules and Regulations be slightly modified. A recruit now joining gets no aid till he has been twelve months in the Force. If the Captain of the Company were made responsible for the amount granted to the man, he might have £1 or so when he shall have passed his examination.

13. Could any change be made with advantage in the constitution of the Force? I am not prepared to recommend any change at present.

14. What is your opinion with regard to the introduction of a Militia Bill? Judging from what I have seen of the working of a Militia Bill in another colony, I think it would be distasteful to the colonists here. Those employers who now allow their men to attend drill for an hour or two in the evenings would find it very inconvenient to spare them for 28 days in each year. The Banker or the Merchant would naturally complain of the loss of the services of clerks or servants for so long a time. Besides, it would be a much more severe tax on the colonists generally than the cost of the present Volunteer Force. In Auckland, when I was there, I saw all sorts of expedients tried to get off certain classes of Militia men. The old proverb of one Volunteer being worth two pressed men would apply here. We have now men who like the Service; then, we should only have pressed men.

15. Would you recommend doing away with the Volunteer Force and supplying its place with Militia? No; for the reasons I have stated already.

16. Would you advise a Militia Bill being framed with a view to form a Force supplementary to the Volunteer Force? That would be a necessity in case of War. A Militia Bill framed on that principle would strengthen the Volunteer Force. Every efficient Volunteer should be exempt from being drawn for the Militia; and such a Bill could be framed without costing the Colony anything. A special clause might be introduced exempting honorary members of the Volunteers from the Militia Service.

17. Have you made any calculation as to the cost of maintaining a Militia Force of about 400 or 500 men in your Division? I have made a calculation of 500 men for the South and 300 for the North to replace the present Force; and if they were called out a month in each year, would cost £6800 for the South, and £4200 for the North, (say) £11,000 a year; but this does not include Camp Equipage, &c. The data of my calculation are laid on the table for the information of the Committee.

18. Would you recommend an outlay of public money in support of a Mounted Force? Not for the South; their only use would be as Orderlies or Messengers. Cavalry are unsuited to the requirements of the Colony.

19. What is the state of efficiency of Non-Commissioned Officers in the present Corps? This is one of the matters in which great improvement has lately taken place; there are four men in each Corps who have been thoroughly trained to teach others.

By Mr. Sharland.—Eighteen guns are sufficient to protect this Port against a roving Privateer, but not against a fleet of the enemy. The present batteries are properly situated, and one is being strengthened and improved. A recommendation has been made to put up an additional battery to command the Sandy Bay anchorage. Guns of a longer range are expected from England, and which will require the same number of men to work them. The guns are at present not rifled guns, and therefore their range is not so great as is desirable.

A certain number of the Riflemen do not go in for rifle shooting, and they don't get the grant in aid. Certain Corps practise more than others. The rifle shooting was very good last year.

At the Huon about 60 men muster, and if we got a road there they could be made useful. I think it would be a pity to do away with them.

By the Chairman.—Would you favour the Committee with any suggestions for the improvement of the Force? The Officers Commanding Divisions should correspond directly with the Colonial Secretary on most points, especially financial matters: if these papers are required to pass through the office of the Colonel Commanding the Force, it would be necessary for Government to supply that Officer with extra clerical assistance. It has been my practice, with Colonel Eagar's concurrence, to submit all accounts against the Southern Division direct to the Colonial Government.

LIEUT.-COLONEL HOME, *Commanding Volunteers, Northern Division, called in and examined.*

1. What is your rank in the Queen's Service, and what is your rank and pay in the Volunteer Force? I served as Lieutenant in the 67th Regiment, and as Captain in the Artillery Militia; and am Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding Volunteers, Northern Division. I receive £150 per annum, and £50 forage allowance.

2. What is your opinion as to the present state of efficiency of the Volunteer Force in this Colony? As regards the Northern Division, it is in a most unsatisfactory and inefficient state.

3. Has the Division under your command made any improvement during the last twelve months? Certainly not.

4. Do you expect any improvement in future, and if so in what respect? Under existing rules and regulations, and under the present system of organisation, I do not anticipate any improvement whatever.

5. What do you consider to be the chief defects of the Volunteer Force as at present organised? The defects are, in my opinion, very numerous. As principal ones, I would adduce the inability of the Commanding Officers to enforce discipline,—the want of clearness and simplicity in the rules,—the lack of inducement to join the Force, or to remain in it when enrolled,—the unfitness of the Officers (generally speaking) for the discharge of their duties on their appointment,—the mode of appointing the Officers,—the manner in which the capitation allowance is distributed,—the defects in the "Efficiency Regulations,"—the existence of separate rules for the internal government of the different Corps,—the unnecessary expense incurred in providing uniform, &c.

6. How would you propose to remedy these defects? I do not think it possible to remedy these defects without disbanding the existing Volunteer Force in the first instance. I should then propose that a Board of Officers be appointed to draw out an entire new code of Rules and Regulations for revision and approval by His Excellency the Governor. Such rules can, in my opinion, be framed so as to remedy the defects to which I have alluded.

7. Have you any record of the numbers of the Force in previous years as compared with its present strength? I hand in a Return showing the strength of the several Volunteer Corps in the Northern District on the 1st July, 1862; also separate Returns of the different Corps at a corresponding period of the years 1864 and 1865.

8. Would you think it desirable to break up the present Rifle Corps, and organize the Force *de novo*? I consider it not only "desirable" but absolutely necessary to break up the present Corps, if it be intended to have a Volunteer Force: a course I strongly recommended that the Government should adopt when the new Rules and Regulations were published last year, giving it then as my opinion, that such were not calculated to secure to the existing Force either efficiency or permanency.

9. Do you think that the Artillery Corps should be increased, if possible; and if so, how would you propose to effect an increase? It would, I think, be desirable to increase the number of Artillery men in Launceston, which could in my opinion be easily effected under a new organisation, suggestions for which I shall be happy to offer if desired. The number should not be less than 150 or 160; but in that case I would have only one Corps, and that an Artillery one, to consist of three companies, all of them to be trained to that branch of the service. One company especially to be drilled as Riflemen, and Light Troops of the Line. I presume that in Hobart Town an Artillery Corps of 200 or 250 strong would be required.

10. Have you any difficulty in procuring the attendance of Volunteers at Drills and Parades? The greatest possible difficulty, in consequence of the inability of the Commanding Officers to enforce discipline under the present system, or to recover the fines imposed for non-attendance.

11. How do the Volunteer Regulations promulgated last year answer in practice, and would you recommend their revision in any important points? As I have already stated, I would do away with the existing Rules altogether, and recommend that a new code should be framed. Those now in force do not answer in practice in many very important points; nor are they in fact understood by the men.

12. What is your opinion with regard to the introduction of a Militia Bill? It has for a considerable period been my opinion that the introduction of a Militia Bill was absolutely necessary with the Volunteer Force on its present footing; and under any circumstances such would perhaps be advisable.

13. Would you recommend doing away with the Volunteer Force and supplying its place with Militia? I have no hesitation in saying that the Volunteer Force as at present constituted is of little or no use, and consequently it would be much better to have a Militia. The expense of keeping up a Force of this nature would be very considerable however, besides being, I fear, a somewhat unpopular movement. It is, I think, quite possible to re-organize, and place the Volunteer Force on such a footing, both as regards numbers and efficiency, so as to obviate the necessity of having recourse to a Militia; although there can be no doubt that *stricter discipline* and more effective training can be ensured by the existence of the latter.

14. Would you advise a Militia Bill being framed with a view to form a Force supplementary to the Volunteer Force? The passing of a Militia Bill would unquestionably stimulate the Volunteer Movement very materially. By "supplementary" it is meant, I presume, that if it be resolved that a minimum *effective* Force shall be maintained, and in the event of the *effective* Volunteer Force not reaching this minimum, it shall be supplemented by a Militia to be balloted for.

15. Have you made any calculation as to the cost of maintaining a Militia Force of about 400 or 500 men in your Division? I have made a rough calculation based on the charges made in one of the Monthly Pay Lists of the Company I formerly commanded in the Artillery Militia, making an increased allowance of pay for service in the Colonies and for the support of a Permanent Staff; and I find that, in order to maintain a Force of 400 or 500 men, an outlay of at least £5000 would be required.

16. Would you recommend an outlay of public money in support of a Mounted Force? Certainly not.

17. What is the state of efficiency of Non-Commissioned Officers in the present Corps? Generally speaking, very good.

18. Could any change be made with advantage in the constitution of the Force? In replying to this question, I shall avail myself of the opportunity offered me of entering very fully into detail on many important matters relative to the improvement of the Force.

With this object in view, I would, (as I have already recommended) as a preliminary step, disband the entire existing Force. A fresh code of Rules and Regulations should then at once be framed, not only providing for the governance of the body, but also specifying the inducements held out to men willing to enrol themselves. Judging from the experience I have acquired, I am quite satisfied that, in order to raise and maintain any sufficient number of effective Volunteers in this Colony, it is necessary that an inducement of a pecuniary nature be held out to the Recruit. Again, I have observed that many more men would have joined the Force if the means of providing themselves with Uniform had been afforded them. To meet such, I would suggest, that the Officer in command of the Corps be empowered to draw in advance the capitation grant, say 20s. for each man, on account of annual clothing. In the case of Recruits not chargeable until he has completed Recruit Drill.

I would propose that every Volunteer should attend Drill once a week, that during three weeks in the month he shall receive (say) 1s. for each Drill he attends; that he shall be fined (say) 2s. when absent, unless by leave. That he shall attend one afternoon Drill in the month, for which he shall receive (say) 2s.; to be fined in a similar amount when not present. The penalties on officers and non-commissioned officers ought on all occasions to be higher. As an inducement to remain in the Force, I should recommend the adoption of a system in force in some of the neighbouring Colonies. That every Volunteer after Five years service as an effective, shall be entitled to a certificate which shall be equivalent to the sum of £50 towards the purchase-money or lease of any Crown Land. In the event of his serving three or four years a smaller amount in proportion.

Government Prizes should also be offered as at present for good marksmen.

From the earliest period of my connection with the Volunteer Force, I have been opposed to the manner in which the officers have been elected.

I am decidedly of opinion that such appointments ought to be in the hands of the Governor; and that, before receiving a Commission, the Candidate should be subjected to an examination on all necessary subjects.

The Efficiency Regulations are on certain points too stringent, and would require considerable alteration.

I should recommend that all Country Corps form themselves into Rifle Clubs. The Government to grant them the use of the arms, and permit them to purchase ammunition at the usual rate. It would be necessary that their arms be regularly inspected once a quarter at least.

There are many other subjects more immediately connected with detail, which I need not bring under the notice of the Committee. I have only to repeat that I consider it quite practicable under a new system to re-organise a Volunteer Force in the Northern Division without involving any considerable expenditure, and of an efficient nature calculated to be of benefit to the Colony.

MAJOR WILSON, *Commanding the Administrative Regiment, Southern Division, and Senior Captain of the City Guards.*

No emoluments from those posts.

1. What is your opinion as to the present state of efficiency of the Volunteer Force in this Colony? I do not consider the Force altogether efficient in this Division. Some of the Corps excel others; but the Administrative Regiment, as a whole, could be easily brought to a state of efficiency to take part in the defence of the Colony against Foreign aggression.

2. Has the Regiment under your command made any improvement during the last Twelve months? The Regiment has in battalion movements, since the opening of the present parade ground, through which greater facilities of drill are afforded.

3. Do you expect any improvement in future? And if so, in what respects? I am not able to speak positively as to future improvement,—this would depend on the attendance on private parades of Companies, as well as the attendance of the whole as an Administrative Regiment.

4. What do you consider to be the chief defects of the Volunteer Force as at present organized? The chief defects at present arise mainly from the want of perfect elementary drill, which could be obviated by a more close attendance of recruits than hitherto. I refer to the Commissioned Officers as well as the Men. I would observe that some of the Officers in the Force have a most creditable knowledge of drill, both elementary and battalion.

5. Have you any record of the number of the Force in previous years as compared with its present strength? I have of the City Guards. In 1869, at first starting, there were 210,—then came want of employment, and the advantages held out to them to go to New Zealand, where many went, and became Non-Commissioned Officers in the Local Militia. I know of five who were appointed Serjeants; these men were considered to be well-drilled, and were selected accordingly. In August, 1863, there were 132. In August, 1864, the same. In August, 1865, the present number is 152. 70 have passed through the Corps and left, for various causes. Some hundreds have been partially drilled, and could be made available for military purposes in an emergency. The names of all are enrolled, and they could be picked up at once.

6. Would you think it desirable to break up the present Rifle Corps and organize the Force *de novo*? Well; the effect would be to prevent petty jealousies which now exist between the various Corps, if they were organized in one body; though I admit that the emulation between the different Corps as at present constituted has had, in some instances, a slight beneficial influence.

7. Do you think that the Artillery Corps should be increased if possible; and if so, how would you propose to effect an increase; and what number do you think should form an Artillery Corps? It would be most advantageous to increase the Artillery. The only mode which I could at present suggest is to encourage the Rifle Corps or Administrative Regiment to attend great-gun drill and battalion drill, which would be a decided advantage, inasmuch as although the defence of the Colony will depend on the Artillery, still it would be necessary to maintain a Rifle Corps, or a Regiment of Rifles to co-operate with the Artillery. There are four light field-pieces, 12-pounders. At present, the City Guards have two detachments exercised at great-gun drill. No doubt light field-guns would be a good addition for the Company's use in preventing the landing of men from boats near the city.

8. Have you any difficulty in procuring the attendance of Volunteers at drills and parades? In the City Guards I have not found much difficulty, the average attendance is pretty good. In the other Companies it devolves on the independent command of the several Companies. I only know them in their administrative organisation.

9. How do the "Volunteer Regulations" promulgated last year answer in practice, and would you recommend their revision in any important points? They are modelled from the Regulations of the English Service, with an adaptation to the circumstances of the Colony, and they have answered tolerably well. They impose in some instances more duty on the Volunteer than the British Regulations, and I think some slight modifications of the Rules and Regulations would be advantageous.

10. Could any change be made with advantage in the Constitution of the Force? The only change would be to blend the whole of the Corps into one,—probably excepting the Artillery. If the Artillery Force were numerous it might form one body. None of the men have been instructed in Rifle-pit making.

11. What is your opinion with regard to the introduction of a Militia Bill? It might be advisable to have one on the Statute Book, but the expense of Militia would be immense as compared to the Grant in Aid of the Volunteers; and this is found to be the effect in England, where only a few Regiments of Militia are maintained in time of peace, whilst the Volunteer Force is the largest branch of the Service and consists I believe of 180,000 men.

12. Would you recommend doing away with the Volunteer Force, and supplying its place by Militia? I fear a Militia would be too expensive, therefore I could not recommend it.

13. Would you advise a Militia Bill being framed with a view to form a Force supplementary to the Volunteer Force? I have said it would be advisable to have a Militia Bill passed, but calling out the men would create too great an expense at present. Most of the other Colonies have passed a Militia Bill, though no men are embodied under it. It could be carried into effect at a moment's notice. I recommend that the Government should have that power.

14. Have you made any calculations as to the cost of maintenance of a Militia? No, I have not; but I think a Regiment of Militia of 1000 men would cost in maintenance in war time from £12,000 to £15,000 a year, that is for a whole year. A Regiment of the line costs I think £21,000 or £22,000.

15. Looking at it in the light of an insurance, do you consider it a wise thing to support the Volunteer Force and continue the Parliamentary vote? If the Colony had no appliances to protect it from a predatory attack, it would have to submit to whatever terms might be demanded, or have the city burned down or damaged to an immense extent. Probably one Privateer could lay the banks under contribution for £100,000, and another Privateer renew the demand in a few days afterwards.

In the light of an Insurance it would be wise to continue the Parliamentary Vote; because, with the cannon in

position ordered from England, no doubt a Privateer could be successfully driven from any position in which it could injure the city.

I should not recommend any expenditure for a Mounted Force, which I consider unnecessary for the defence of the Colony.

There are some good Non-Commissioned Officers in the Force—quite as good as in the line. I again refer to the City Guards, in which Corps I have more frequent opportunities of seeing the men.

By Mr. Sharland.—I know of no British Colony without the presence of some Military Force, local or line.

Six guns are sent for. The smallest will be 70 pounders; two of them will, perhaps, be 120 pounders. Looking at the number of the Volunteer Force the guns will be adapted to their means of working them. A 300 pounder would be difficult to work, whilst the 70 and 100 pounders would carry as far as the 300 pounder and with steel shot would do mischief. The guns here are four 68 pounders and the remainder are 32 pounders. We have 20 useful guns.

The Queen's Battery is now being remodelled by the Royal Engineers' Department, to resist shot and shell. It will contain 7 guns of large calibre, and two of the modern construction from England.

I think the Artillery should be increased to maintain the Volunteer Force with greater advantage to the Colony. Some inducement should be held out to Volunteers to make themselves efficient. To those who serve for 3 or 5 years I would give a small grant of land. I believe that system exists in Victoria, and is a prospective advantage which would be valued by the Force generally, and tend greatly to increase the numerical strength of the Force to a good standard, and improve the efficiency of the Volunteers generally.

I would not confine this to the Artillery. Many men would be inclined to learn the great gun drill as well as Rifle shooting, and thus make themselves sharpshooters as well as artillerists.

The only way to increase the Force is to encourage the Rifles to go in for great gun drill. 160 men would be ample to defend the Port against a privateer or a small ship of war.

The Artillery practise with Rifles, but they are not so efficient in Battalion Drill, in which they are drilled once a month.

QUESTIONS PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE.

1. What is your opinion as to the present state of efficiency of the Volunteer Force of this Colony?
2. What do you consider to be the chief defects of the Volunteer Force as at present organized?
3. How would you propose to remedy these defects?
4. Would you think it desirable to break up the present Rifle Corps and organize the Force *de novo*?
5. Do you think that the Artillery Corps should be increased if possible? And if so, how would you propose to effect an increase? And what number, do you think, should form an Artillery Corps?
6. To what causes do you attribute any improvement of late in the Division under your command?
7. Have you any difficulty in procuring the attendance of Volunteers at drills or parades?
8. How do the "Volunteer Regulations," promulgated last year, answer in practice, and would you recommend their revision in any important points?
9. Could any change be made with advantage in the constitution of the Force?
10. Will you favour the Committee with any suggestions you may have to make for the improvement of the Force? And the cost of maintaining a Militia?

ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS.

1. Of the Northern Division I am not competent to speak. As regards the Southern, whilst I can testify that there are many zealous and efficient members belonging to it, I am, nevertheless, of opinion that, as a military body, it is in a very unsatisfactory state.

2. The principal reasons of this inefficiency appear to me to be:—

1st. A want of moral support and encouragement from the public. Men who in the best possible spirit devoted their time, their mind, and their bodily powers, in no small degree, to the Volunteer cause found themselves rewarded with faint praise, with contemptuous indifference, and even with sneering abuse. It was hardly to be expected that their zeal would stand proof against treatment of this kind. With a few honorable exceptions, the employers of men in the Volunteer Companies have afforded no facilities to the movement, and have refused their servants permission to attend parades and drills during the day-time; nay, some have even refused to employ Volunteers at all! Hence, as a large number of the men enrolled were in dependent positions, it became impossible for them to attend the drills necessary to render them efficient.

2nd. The division of the Force into too great a number of small Companies, under independent commands,—a system which was productive of petty jealousies in place of wholesome *esprit de corps*, and which, by isolating them in their ordinary drills, rendered them incapable of working and moving together with ease as a battalion.

3rd. An absence of power on the part of Commanding Officers to enforce the attendance of members at parade or drill. It is true that the rules of all the Companies provide a scale of fines for non-attendance; but practically these are a dead letter. If inflicted, they are seldom paid; and Commanding Officers naturally shrink from putting the law into effect by distress upon the goods of the offender,—a course which would infallibly lead to the resignation of the man himself, and most probably that of a number of the other members of the Corps. The Captain of a Volunteer Company in fact, at present, rules only by moral influence and persuasion; and if he attempted to enforce his authority with a high hand, he would assuredly find it break down altogether.

4th. An insufficiency in the monetary assistance afforded by the Government. The cost of the Artillery uniform and accoutrements is about £5 17s. 6d. From the heavy, and often dirty work required of the men, their uniforms are often torn and soiled, and will not last two years, whilst the Government allowance during that period amounts only to £4. They are thus considerably out of pocket. The Government Aid, moreover, is not payable until the Volunteer is classed as efficient, which, in the Artillery Service especially, he cannot possibly be for many months. The whole first cost of uniform is thus thrown upon the recruit; and the result is, that many fine young men are deterred from joining from a sheer inability to find the means of doing so. Many such instances have, in fact, come within my personal knowledge. I cannot but think that if men are willing to give their time and labour to the Service it is but reasonable that they should be kept harmless in pocket.

5th. The almost defenceless condition of the batteries as at present constituted and armed, and the absence of a proper rifle range. It is obviously hopeless to ask men to come voluntarily forward to fight (it may be) with guns in which they have no confidence, and to defend batteries in which they have no reliance; and yet it is well known to every member of my command that, whilst the majority of the guns at present mounted have been condemned as unfit for ball-firing; and are hardly safe for saluting purposes, the parapets of the batteries are so loose in their construction as to crumble down with every shot fired from within them. The want of a rifle range has been much felt, and given rise to much dissatisfaction amongst all the Companies.

3. It is much easier to point out the defects of the present state of things than to say how they are to be ameliorated. It seems to me, however, that the remedies to be applied must be measures of coercion or encouragement, perhaps an admixture of both. As to the first, unquestionably the most effectual would be the enactment of a Militia Bill, rendering service either in Militia or Volunteers compulsory on all drawn between the ages of 17 and 45, with a provision that any Volunteer not obtaining a certificate of efficiency within a given time should be drafted into the Militia. A measure of this kind, carried resolutely out, at all events to the length of balloting, would exert a pressure upon both employers and employed which would speedily fill the Volunteer ranks to the required numbers, and would enable the Officers in command to exercise a firmer tone of discipline over those under them of all ranks. With regard to encouragement I would recommend:—

1st. That recruits joining the Service should at once be supplied with uniform at the primary cost of the Government, with the understanding that they should undertake to enrol themselves for two years, that they should receive no other aid during that period, and that if they should quit the ranks before the expiration of their term of Service the uniforms so supplied should be returned into store.

2nd. That Volunteers now in the Service should be supplied with such articles of uniform as they may from time to time require, and as may be certified to by their Commanding Officer, the cost of the same to be charged against their yearly aid.

3rd. That the aid to Artillerymen be increased, in consideration of extra wear and tear, to £2 10s. per man.

4th. That prizes should be given for the most regular attendance at drills and parades, and for general efficiency.

5th. That a good rifle range, up to at least 800 yards, should be established without loss of time.

4. As I do not belong to the Infantry branch of the Service I am hardly competent to answer this question. I have, however, already stated that I think the division of Corps has been too great and operated injuriously; and without taking upon myself to advise the absolute breaking up of the Rifle Corps at present existing, I am of opinion that a more consolidated organization would be desirable.

5. Without any desire to depreciate the value of my fellow Volunteers of the Rifle Companies, I cannot but think that the main defensive force of Hobart Town should consist of Artillery; I am, therefore, decidedly of opinion that the present Corps should be, if possible, increased to not less than 200 men. How this is to be effected is a difficult question. If, however, the measures I have before recommended in answer to Question 3 were adopted, and the Batteries reconstructed and armed with improved cannon,—as indeed is now about to be done in the Domain at the Queen's Battery,—I am not without hope that the men would be found; and I am persuaded that a sufficient and competent body of Artillery Volunteers would receive from the public a larger amount of support and encouragement than the force at present receives. As additional incentives to men to enrol in that branch of the Service, I would recommend an increased number of Prizes for Artillery practice; and that, instead of being compelled to drag their Field Guns themselves, horses should occasionally be hired for the purpose. It might also be a question whether, considering the time and trouble necessary to render a man an efficient Artillery-man, he might not receive the privilege of exemption from service on juries.

6. The Artillery Company has, undoubtedly, much improved in its knowledge of Gunnery since the arrival of our present highly efficient Artillery Instructor, Sergeant Eccleston, R.A.

7. I am sorry to say, yes.

8. The Volunteer Regulations at present in force have not, in my opinion, answered in practice; and I would recommend the appointment of a Board of Officers under the Presidency of Lieutenant-Colonel Chesney to revise them.

9. As I have before stated, I think that Artillery should be made the main body of the force.

10. I have no further suggestions to make. As to the cost of a Militia, I am unable to give any opinion worth much consideration. I do not, however, think that the expense would be so great as is generally conceived. Even if it were to be called out for training, the same staff of paid Officers that are now attached to the Volunteer Force would suffice for its control; and as to uniform, a common blue shirt and cap would, for the present, be quite sufficient. I am persuaded, however, that if men found themselves really liable to 30 days' continuous service, they would gladly accept the alternative offered them of becoming Volunteers, and that thus it would not be necessary to call the Militia out.

W. TARLETON, *Captain Commanding Hobart Town Volunteer Artillery.*

7 September, 1865.

1. I am not in a position to give an opinion, in general terms, of the state of efficiency of the Volunteer Force in this Colony. I can speak in the most favourable manner of the excellent way in which the men drill in the North. The numerical strength of the Force, however, renders it totally inefficient for all practical purposes.

2. The chief defects in the Volunteer Force may be classed thus:—

1st. The difficulty of obtaining ready obedience to the command of the Officers.

2nd. The facilities offered to Volunteers for withdrawing from the Force, in the event of the Officer Commanding insisting upon payment of fines for breach of discipline, acts of insubordination, &c.

3rd. The numerical strength of the Force having diminished to such an extent as to no longer render attendance at drills attractive.

3. I cannot suggest how you are to remedy these defects, the Volunteer Act being sufficiently stringent, as also the rules for the internal government of the respective Corps: to attempt to enforce either is almost certain to result in the resignation of the party offending.

4. I am of opinion, that it would be desirable to break up the present Corps and establish the Force *de novo*, offering inducements in grants of land for the service of members (say) for three or five years service, according to regulations laid down by the Government, and also paying the men for every drill they attend; besides the Government reserving the right of appointing the Officers, and in no case allowing the election of Officers by the Corps.

5. The Artillery Corps on the Northern side of the Island should number one hundred men at least. I would propose to effect the increase by the offer of such inducements as mentioned in previous answer.

6. I have no improvement to report of late in the Division under my command,—the men drill remarkably well, but deficient in strength.

7. I have considerable difficulty in procuring the attendance of Volunteers at drills and parade.

8. The Regulations promulgated last year answer well in practice. The men, however, think the musketry instruction, practice, drills, &c. too much; and many of the men could not find time to qualify (or would not), and many of the employers were against the men belonging to a Corps.

9. A change in the constitution of the Force could be made with considerable advantage, by offering grants of land as an inducement to Volunteers for length of service; say, the inducement offered for the length of service offered.

10. I am favourable to the establishment of a Militia—say, 100 Artillery and 250 Rifles—for the North. The cost would probably be £1500 per annum if called out, say, 30 days in the year.

ALFRED HARRAP, *Captain Launceston Volunteer Artillery Corps.*

4th September, 1865.

1. My knowledge is limited to the Northern Division of the Force; and the number of this Force is so small as to be, as a military body, wholly inefficient.

2. The independent nature of the organization of the different Corps, their slight dependence on the Government, owing to the little aid which it extended to them, and latterly, this given on conditions so stringent as to debar the majority of the Volunteers from it; the consequent laxity of discipline, and numerous withdrawals from the Force.

3. I think the defects are now irremediable.

4. Yes, for the reasons above given.

5. I am of opinion that any future organization ought to be a Regiment without a special designation of Artillery or Rifle Corps; that the Artillery Company or Companies ought to consist of picked men of the Regiment, who have shown especial aptitude for acquiring the knowledge necessary to Artillery-men, such Companies to hold the same position in the Regiment that Light Companies do in ordinary Regiments. A better Artillery Force might thus be maintained, as admission into an Artillery Company would be promotion, and a proof of acquired knowledge; it would also be the means of stimulating others to exertion. If possible here, all Volunteers ought to be Artilleryists; no Company should be designated Artillery the members of which have not all been trained to Artillery exercise.

6. There has been no improvement.

7. An insurmountable difficulty.

8. They have answered as an extinguisher. I deem it useless to enter on the question of revision. I believe it is generally admitted that the mass of men must be gradually, and by almost imperceptible degrees, be educated to a high standard, and not expected to reach it at a bound; to demand from them what to them appears impossible, is to paralyse their energies: this is exactly the effect the Regulations have had on the Northern Volunteers.

9. I think not. *Vide* reply to questions 2, 3, and 4.

10. Re-organization as nearly as possible on the basis of the Victorian Volunteer Regulations; a well-digested Code of Rules, with a copy of which each Volunteer should be furnished, that they may be informed of the duties required of them. Though a tolerably effective Force may be organized and maintained for a few years, it, from a variety of causes, will again fall away if there be not some inducement to men to remain for a term of years, and to make others seek admission into it. Men might be retained, and as many as would be required obtained, by holding out some advantage at the end of a term of years; such as an Order entitling them to land or money. I have not entered minutely into the cost of a Militia Force, but I estimate that to maintain a force of this kind the average weekly cost per head would not be less than Two Pounds during the period they would be embodied. To

bring them into any degree of efficiency they would require to be called out for at least Four weeks in each year. A Force of One thousand men would, in such a case, cost at least Eight thousand Pounds annually. I think the Government should affirm that every able-bodied man is in duty bound to take up arms and be trained to military duty, so as to be able to defend the Country if in case their services might be required. Hitherto the higher and wealthier class of society have shown great apathy and indifference towards the Volunteer movement. By passing a Militia Bill it might have the effect of augmenting the ranks of the Volunteers.

JOHN SHERIDAN, *Captain Commanding L. V. R. C.*

1. I consider that the Volunteer Force is composed of a most desirable body of men ; but, from the absence of any present apprehension of danger, there is wanting that degree of excitement which served to create an *esprit de Corps* when the movement first originated, and hence inattention to Volunteer duty, and a consequent comparative inefficiency. It would be idle to say that the Volunteer Force is at present in such a state of efficiency as a body of men armed for purposes of defence should be always maintained in.

2. The principal defect of the Volunteer Force is the want of discipline which exists among the men composing it. When in uniform and on parade a cheerful obedience to orders is always accorded ; but the Volunteer Act gives really no power to Officers over their men under other circumstances, except when the Force is ordered on actual service. At present Officers are placed in the position of having to beg the attendance of their Companies, instead of being able to exact prompt obedience to their summonses ; and this has chiefly arisen from the mistake made on the original formation of the Force. Too much responsibility was then thrown on Captains of Companies, and the men, being in no way brought under the immediate influence of the central Volunteer Military authorities, failed to feel or appreciate the necessity for that due submission to superiors, and prompt obedience, which is the very essence of discipline. This I consider as the original cause of the decline in the state of efficiency of the Volunteer Force, but immediate and practical causes have operated still more injuriously. First, the Companies were hampered with heavy contingent expenses arising from the necessity of providing uniform, altering accoutrements, paying rent of drill-rooms, and many other items. To meet these, subscriptions were organised under Rules and Regulations, and fines were also provided for certain breaches of Rules, &c. The majority of the force being poor men, and unable to pay with promptitude, these charges have accumulated in many instances ; and the men on being pushed for payment, become careless, and either neglect their duties or resign in disgust. It is an observable fact also, that the Volunteers as a body are generally willing to surrender their own time on holidays and within working hours to the practice of military duties, but that employers very generally refuse to countenance the movement at all, and instances have occurred within my own experience where men have been threatened with dismissal from their employment for seeking the opportunities of attending parades. This, of course, has had a serious effect upon the movement, and has been a great bar to its success, while it is a fact which speaks volumes for the disinterested patriotism shown by our Volunteers in attending the parades as regularly as they do even under present circumstances.

3 and 4. I shall endeavour to answer these questions together ; and to begin with number 4, I would not advise the breaking up of the present Force, but I should recommend its re-organisation with a view to remedying the defects referred to in my second answer. I should recommend,—

1st. That each Company should be required to report its financial condition to head quarters ; and that in the event of any balance being shown against it, such a concession should be made as would serve to clear off all liabilities, and relieve members of the amounts in unpaid subscriptions and fines, which have accumulated against them under the Regulations.

2nd. I should recommend the adoption of a plan which has worked well in other Colonies, and which would relieve Officers of a great responsibility ; namely, —that all arms and accoutrements be at once called in and re-issued to members from the Central Office, each Volunteer being required to give a bond in favour of the Colonial Treasurer to the effect that he will become duly responsible for the safe custody of such arms and accoutrements, and for their due return when called for.

3rd. A Roll of each Company should be kept in a book at the Central Office, and every Volunteer should be required to subscribe such Roll and to take the Oath of Allegiance before the Colonel Commanding, or such other Officer of the Staff as might be appointed.

4th. That a suit of uniform (of one colour, but allowing distinguishing facings to Companies) should be issued to Volunteers by Government once in every two years, and that Volunteers should be required to give a bond for the safe custody of such uniform, &c., to become void at the end of such period, when the uniform to become the property of the member. In the event of Volunteers resigning within the time, to have the option of returning the clothing or purchasing it at a price to be fixed by a sliding scale, making due allowance for the period of service.

5th. That all enrolments, resignations, or transfers should be with the concurrence of the Colonel Commanding on the recommendations of Captains of Companies, and should be duly registered in the Roll-book at the Central Office ; and that Volunteers should be enrolled for four years.

6th. That in affirming Rules and Regulations for the guidance of Companies no subscription be permitted which should exceed an entrance fee of 2s. 6d., and a quarterly payment of the like amount.

7th. That Captains of Companies be provided as at present with circulars for summoning the members of their Companies, and be required to furnish Monthly Returns to the Central Office as to the attendances at parades, giving the date of each parade with the names of those present, absent, or on leave, and that such roll should be copied into a book to be kept at the Central Office.

In reference to Musketry Practice.

I believe that musketry or Rifle practice among the Volunteers should be encouraged in every way, and that all should be induced to become good shots if possible. To bring about this, I should recommend :—

1st. The establishment of a complete and convenient Rifle range, with a qualified marker appointed and paid by Government to take charge of the targets, flags, &c.

2nd. Without interfering with the present regulations as to the purchase of ammunition, I should recommend that a sufficient grant per man, weekly, be made to all Volunteers who chose to avail themselves of it ; such ammunition to be fired under the supervision of a commissioned officer of the company to which the Volunteers belong, and a return to be regularly filed with the marker for transmission to the Central Office showing the result of the practice and the names of the members firing. The issue of such practice ammunition might be entrusted to the marker.

3rd. In connection with the classification, &c., I should recommend that a more liberal scale of prizes be offered.

4th. As a good rifleman always entertains some regard for his rifle, to encourage improvements in sighting and the general care of arms and study of musketry, I would recommend that all Volunteers should at the close of their period of service (four years) be presented with their rifles and accoutrements; such a gift in perspective would induce attention on the part of the men, and, in the event of the disbandment of the Corps in the future, a body of trained riflemen would be disseminated through the country, with arms in their possession ready in case of emergency.

5. I think that every encouragement should be given to induce the maintenance of a Corps of trained Artilleryists of from to strong, and every inducement should be offered to the Riflemen to practise artillery, so as to be ready in case of need.

6. My Company has been for some time past in a quiescent state, and I have no improvement to report or the reverse.

7. Answered in reply No. 2.

8. Answered in reply No. 3.

The present Regulations are too exacting, and have given dissatisfaction because of the impossibility of carrying them out.

9. Answered in reply No. 3.

10. The first part of this question I have already answered. As regards a Militia, I do not think it would be more effective than the Volunteer Force. The cost of 500 men would be £20,000 per annum, if properly equipped, instructed, and maintained. It would have to be camped for practice at least once annually, and this would be extremely expensive. I believe the Volunteer Force could be rendered efficient for all purposes without this necessity, if managed on the principles I have suggested.

JOHN DAVIES, *Captain 2nd Rifles.*

1. I cannot say that I consider the present condition of the Volunteer Force satisfactory. It is not what it should be; whatever the state of efficiency of individual Corps, as a whole the Force is not in my opinion efficient at all.

2. The chief defect of the present organisation is the minute sub-division of the Force into a number of petty Corps or Companies, occasioning constant petty jealousies and a general want of uniformity and cohesion in the Force.

3 and 4. I would disband the present Force and organise it anew. I strongly recommended this course when the Regulations were issued in 1864, under "The Volunteer Act, 1863." That was the course followed under similar circumstances in Victoria, and it has been attended with the most satisfactory results. The General Regulations and the Efficiency Regulations should, in my opinion, be carefully revised and modified in one or two particulars. The whole Force should then be disbanded, and Volunteers invited to enrol under the new Regulations. Those Regulations should be strictly enforced. I can speak with confidence of my own Corps, the City Guards. I have no doubt whatever that all the best men would enrol themselves in the new Force and submit cheerfully to a strict enforcement of Regulations, as tending to draw out the drones or holiday Volunteers, of whom there is a certain proportion in every Corps,—men who have joined for the sake of the uniform and the possession of a rifle. And I believe that, generally, the Volunteers of the Southern Division would enrol again in the new organisation if it was once understood that their services were valued and appreciated, and that the Force was only disbanded in order to be re-constituted on a basis of permanent efficiency.

5. I think the Artillery should be increased at the lowest estimate up to the minimum establishment fixed in the Garrison Regulations,—namely, Two Battalions of 80 gunners, in all 160. On this side of the Island the Artillery is the most important arm of defence, and the first aim of the Volunteer Force should be to provide an efficient and sufficient Artillery Corps. I am unable to suggest any method of increasing the numbers of the present Corps. But in the event of a re-organisation of the whole Force, I think if it were distinctly understood that such a number as I have named would be told off as Artillery, and trained to great gun exercise and Battery practice, there would be little difficulty in making up the requisite numbers by Volunteers for that service. At the same time I think that the whole Force should be induced to acquire some proficiency in the same exercise. The annual course of instruction for Rifle Volunteers should include a certain number of gun drills. I believe the Line Regiments of the Queen's Regular Forces receive periodical instruction in great gun exercise.

6. I am not aware what evidence of recent improvement in any department of the Volunteer Force may have been given before the Committee. Speaking only for my own Corps, the City Guards, I attribute whatever efficiency they now exhibit to the strictness with which the Regulations and the Rules of the Corps are uniformly enforced, and to their general anxiety to maintain a leading position in the Force as a Corps with a high proportion of "efficient" Members relatively to their numerical strength.

7. As a general rule the City Guards muster very fairly for Parade and Drills. Looking at the position in life, and the nature of the occupations, of the bulk of its Members, I have no complaint to make of my Corps on this head.

8. The Regulations of 1864, on the whole, answer very well in practice. They might, as I have said, be revised in some particulars. The "efficiency" Regulations are, perhaps, a little too severe in some points; but on essential points I think the present Regulations do not require amendment.

9. I would desire a complete re-organization of the Force on an entirely new basis. In the first place there should be but one Corps or Regiment on each side of the Island. The sub-divisions into small Corps should be abolished at once and for ever. The men should be enrolled for 2 years' service. The Officers should be appointed and be removable by the Governor-in-Council, as in Victoria. There should be but one person in the legal position of "Commanding Officer" in each Regiment; that is to say, one in Hobart Town and one in Launceston. In

Hobart Town the Commanding Officer should hold the rank of Major at least, as he would command 500 men. In Launceston the Senior Officer might be gazetted as "Captain-Commandant," as he would have no more than 200 men. In each case the Artillery and Rifle Volunteers should be combined in one Battalion, as is now the case in Launceston. The Commanding Officers of the two Regiments—I would abolish the distinction of Southern and Northern Divisions—should receive no pay: but they should be allowed the assistance of a paid orderly-room Clerk. There should be one salaried Officer, with the rank of Commandant of the whole Force, appointed by the Governor-in-Council, and responsible to the Government as the head of a department for the efficiency of the Force and the proper expenditure of the funds devoted to its maintenance by Parliament. He should receive his instructions from the Colonial Secretary. The Government being thus made responsible for the proper administration of the Force, by appointing all its Officers without reference to election, as under the present system, would, no doubt, make a careful selection of a thoroughly competent Military Commandant, and appoint Commanding Officers of the two Regiments who would be likely to secure the respect of their Corps, and maintain proper discipline and efficiency. All other Officers should be appointed only after special training for Commissions, and examination as to their Military competency. The existing Regulations for the examination of Candidates for Commissions should be strictly enforced. If proper instruction were provided, and sufficient inducement held out to the Volunteers that none but those qualified, efficient, acquainted with, and capable of performing, the duties of Officers would receive Commissions, and that that distinction was open to all upon those conditions, I think the *morale* of the whole Force would be improved, and there would be no difficulty in finding qualified Officers. I would desire specially to guard against the system of appointing a Board to examine any individual Volunteer with a view to passing him for a vacant Commission. Volunteers should be encouraged to qualify themselves for Commissions, and to undergo examination for Certificates of competency without reference to existing vacancies; and it should be distinctly understood that Commissions would be bestowed upon none but the holders of such Certificates. The Regulations on this point now in force provide amply for the adoption of this system. I think this plan would be found to work well. It would provide the Force with efficient Officers; and would tend to raise the public estimate of the value of a Volunteer Commission when it was seen to be the reward of Military competency and proficiency.

10. I have no suggestions to offer for improving the Force on its present footing, but when re-organized it should be administered in many respects on a different plan. All musters, drills, and parades should be held at the official Parade-ground. The sub-divisions into small Corps being abolished, there would be no necessity for private drills and private orderly-rooms. All attendances to count for "efficiency" should be recorded in the Volunteer Office, or Regimental Orderly-room. I think the uniform should be provided by Government. At present, Commanding Officers are subjected to many expenses that should not fall upon them. They have frequently to advance the money for uniform, and wait perhaps a year, or two years, before they receive the money from the Treasury. They should be relieved of these charges and liabilities. The men should also be liberally dealt with, and a fixed proportion of ammunition should be supplied to each Volunteer for practice, *gratis*. To acquire anything like proficiency as a marksman involves an outlay for ammunition that is often a heavy tax upon Volunteers. I think the Government should provide long-range Butts for the Volunteers. At present they have no means of qualifying for competition in Inter-colonial Rifle Matches. I am aware that the constitution I would give the Force would go far to deprive it of its character of a Volunteer Force. As it is to be officered and organized by the Government for the purposes of National Defence, and supported by State funds, it might perhaps be well to drop the title of "Volunteers,"—which will always be associated with the present unsatisfactory system,—and call it "The Colonial Defence Force," or "The Tasmanian Defence Force." A Militia would prove too expensive for the means of the Colony; but as there is no such Force in existence, and there are no regular Troops in the Country, it would be well to provide that the Defence Force should be called out for actual service in the field for a certain number of days in each year, not less than eight, during which time they should be on pay. On these occasions the two Regiments could be brigaded for Military exercise and instruction, and I think the effect upon the Force would be highly beneficial. In this way, in connection of course with a strict enforcement of "efficiency Regulations," I think you would obtain a Defence Force fully equal to anything you could hope to secure under a Militia Bill. If these reforms are to be carried out, some Legislative enactment would be necessary to give them legal effect. In the Bill to be introduced for that purpose, it would be well to provide that the Governor should be empowered to call for a Militia levy throughout the Colony of all males from 18 to 50, in any year when voluntary enrolment failed to supply a sufficient number of men for the Defence Force, of which the minimum strength should be fixed every year by proclamation. This would stimulate voluntary enrolment, as the services and duties of Militia would be heavier and more irksome than that of the Defence Force. I venture to believe, that if the system I have thus briefly sketched were carried out, after a re-enrolment of the whole Force, Parliament and the Country would have no reason to complain of the inefficiency or inutility of the National Defence Force; and I think the object aimed at—namely, the formation of a nucleus of a Military Force capable of offering some resistance to hostile aggression—would be attained at pretty much the same money cost as that of the present Volunteer Corps, which it is not pretended are equal to such an emergency. I may add that, for purposes of National Defence, the Governor should be empowered by Statute to call out a Militia Force in case of a sudden declaration of War, or imminent or actual hostile invasion. In that event the Defence Force, trained to habits of discipline and military proficiency, would prove, as it were, the rallying centre of the Military organization of the Country, and would be able to supply the Militia with Officers and Non-commissioned Officers capable of training the raw levies into a state of tolerable efficiency, without any necessity for recourse to Military Drill Instructors, and in much less time than if you had to Officer your Militia at once with untrained and untried men. The suggestions I have made, at the request of the Committee, are thrown out with the sole desire of giving practical effect to the wishes of Parliament in voting an annual sum for the Volunteer Force. At present, I say the Country does not get value received for the outlay. A National Defence Force, in the absence of all assistance from the Mother Country, we must provide in some shape at our own cost. I believe I have indicated a plan which would supply that desideratum, and justify the annual outlay on its maintenance.

A. KISSOCK, *Captain City Guards, S. T. V.*

September 5th, 1865.

Captain Fysh, in answering the questions, wishes it to be understood that his replies have reference only to the Southern Tasmanian Volunteer Force.

1. Those members of the Force who give a fair amount of attention and time to drill are competent for any military duties likely, in case of emergency, to be imposed on them.

2. I know of nothing in the Force to be improved upon but the attendance of members enrolled, which is very irregular in too many instances. The organisation is sufficient to make good soldiers of all who will devote themselves to their duties as Volunteers. The capitation grant might be made serviceable in securing regularity of

attendance, by requiring that not only shall each Volunteer be efficient, but also attend a given number of Company and battalion parades or drills yearly before entitling himself to the grant; the Sergeant-major of the Division to be required to certify to these attendances, or what might be regarded as a drill or parade in one Company might not be so esteemed in another, and injustice to the men thereby ensue.

3. No good would arise from so doing.

4. Artillery, I believe, would be the most useful branch of the Service in emergency, and would therefore increase it by calling upon one or more of the existing Companies to enrol as Artillery, in numbers of about sixty to a Company.

5. As the Roll is constantly being altered by the resignation of some and introduction of other members, it is difficult to notice any decided improvement in my Company, and as the greater number of those most regular in attendance are old members of the Force, who have little that is necessary to learn.

6. Many are very regular, and a smaller number equally irregular.

7 and 8. My replies to these are embodied in the foregoing six.

Nothing can be done to improve the Force but by securing a regular attendance at stated drills; and towards enlarging the Force an addition to the grant per head might be useful, but more so would be a Militia, embracing all *non-Volunteers*. Of the cost of a Militiaman I cannot speak.

P. O. FYSH, *Captain Commanding 1st Rifles.*

MEMORANDUM.

ON the 26th May last, during a discussion in the Imperial Parliament on "the protection of our Colonies," Mr. Cardwell said, "that the policy adopted of late years towards the Colonies had established as a principle that they were to be self-supporting. In conformity with this principle troops had been withdrawn from several of the Colonies, but the Government had made a distinction between such places as Gibraltar, Malta, and Bermuda, which might be termed national strongholds, and such places as New Zealand, Australia, the West Indies, Hong Kong, Mauritius, and Ceylon. The Government highly valued the connection subsisting between the Colonies and the Mother Country, and so long as they manifested a spirit of self-reliance, they might confidently depend upon encouragement and support."

The concluding portion of this statement is most satisfactory, if we can view it as guaranteeing that the efforts of the Colonists to provide for their own defence will obtain from the Home Government that amount of assistance requisite to render the same effective.

The position of Tasmania at present is false in regard to its means of defence in the event of hostilities between England and any maritime power. We cannot protect our external trade, or the petty ports and settlements on the sea-board: for their safety we must look to the Royal Navy. But we can and ought to provide for the security of Hobart Town and Launceston. One well-armed ship could now lay either place under contribution or burn them down.

In the late war with Russia our fleet came to action with the batteries of Odessa, but scrupulously spared the city itself. It is quite certain that no Russian or other foreign ships of war would exhibit a like forbearance towards an enemy's town lying under their guns,—they would assuredly destroy or compel it to purchase mercy.

Launceston, of course, is not so open to insult as Hobart Town; but, as many men-of-war now carry steam-launches, a hostile squadron off the mouth of the Tamar could easily despatch a boat flotilla up the river to burn and destroy at pleasure.

Our Rifle Volunteers would be utterly useless against a vessel lying at long artillery range and carrying the improved ordnance of the day; so too would our old battery guns,—and therefore both should be changed.

The late Field-Marshal Radetzky, one of the most distinguished Officers in the Austrian Army, has recorded his opinion that "the most perfect strength of a nation will be found in a properly drilled Militia. It supplies the State with the largest number of combatants in proportion to its population; it keeps up in the people the consciousness that it is defending itself, and at the same time a martial spirit which will not die out because those who are animated by it never cease to be citizens. Such a spirit renders a nation irresistible."

Tasmania should have a Militia—an Artillery Militia—that could be thoroughly depended upon; men regularly enlisted, sworn to their duty, and effectively trained thereto. Then the Volunteers may supplement the Militia in the same way as the like force is considered to supplement the Line at home, if such a system be deemed advisable in the Colony; but the propriety of retaining the Volunteer Force is, I think, doubtful, at least if it should in any way be likely to interfere with the filling of the ranks of the Militia.

In time of war,—especially in any protracted struggle—England's difficulty has always been to raise men: money has generally proved easy to obtain, but not so soldiers; and consequently on such occasions, first a class of men physically inferior to the ordinary stamp of our troops has been admitted into the ranks, and subsequently recourse has been had to foreign mercenaries, such as the Hessian, Swiss, and Italian Corps, that at various periods have stood on the roll of the British Army.

This well-understood difficulty renders the Imperial Government very chary of parting with its troops, and particularly of frittering them away in small and comparatively useless garrisons for distant Colonial outposts. The same reason would, I conceive, render exceedingly acceptable to the English Cabinet any scheme of Colonial defence that, whilst efficient in itself, should limit the requirement of assistance from the mother country to a small contribution of money and *not men*.

We are promised, it is said, 240 men of a Line Regiment, (say three Companies under a Field Officer) as the quota of British troops that may be spared for the protection of Tasmania. We have not yet got them; and if we had them, they would be nearly as useless as our own Rifle Volunteers against a well-armed cruiser. But if the

English Treasury would grant annually to Tasmania, instead of the 240 soldiers, the sum of money that that number of men costs for pay, rations, clothing, arms and ammunition, barrack accommodation, &c., &c., and which I roughly estimate at £15,000, we could with that amount in aid of our own finances provide ourselves with a thoroughly efficient Corps for the safeguard of our two principal ports, and we might exonerate England from taking further care about us as regards our Land Forces.

The Militia in Great Britain is considered as maintained in a serviceable state by undergoing one month's training in twelve. I do not deem that sufficient for a Force that would be our sole reliance; and I would propose for the Tasmanian Militia two months' drill per annum, and the same to be taken not in one bout, but spread over the whole year. Two months represent fifty-two working days. A parade every Saturday afternoon throughout the year should be reckoned each as half a day's work, and stand for twenty-six of the days to be devoted to training. The other moiety might go for field-days once a month, and at Easter, Michaelmas, Queen's Birthday, or other holiday periods.

The populations of Hobart Town and Launceston amount respectively to about 20,000 and 10,000 according to the last census, representing again for each town 4000 and 2000 male adults. From these numbers, after deducting a proportion for men who could claim exemption from Military Service on account of age, profession, or bodily infirmities, there ought to be no difficulty in raising a Corps of a thousand strong,—say ten Companies of eighty privates, each with a due proportion of Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers, &c.

For such a Corps there should be a Colonel always on duty at Hobart Town, (Head Quarters), and a Lieut.-Colonel on the same footing at Launceston; but both these Officers might receive pay, &c. on the scale of the next lower grades. The Regimental Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Staff would also be a permanent yearly charge, but the rest of the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and men might receive pay and commuted allowance for rations for two months only, or rather for fifty-two days per annum.

On this footing the pay charges of such a Militia battalion would stand nearly as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	
1 Colonel, at per annum.....	365	0	0	} with quarters.
1 Lieutenant-Colonel, ditto	292	0	0	
1 Major, ditto	48	0	0	
10 Captains, ditto, £30	300	0	0	
10 Lieutenants, ditto, £20	200	0	0	
10 Second Lieutenants, ditto, £15	150	0	0	
1 Adjutant, at per annum	240	0	0	} with quarters.
1 Quartermaster and Paymaster, ditto	365	0	0	
1 Surgeon, ditto	36	0	0	
2 Assistant Surgeons, ditto, £24	48	0	0	
50 Serjeants, at 2s. 6d. per diem	} for 52 days	553	10	0
50 Corporals, at 2s. 3d. ditto...				
20 Buglers, ditto				
20 Musicians, ditto				
800 Privates, at 2s. per diem.....	4160	0	0	

Non-Commissioned Staff—

2 Serjeant-Majors, (one for Launceston)	} at £60 each per annum	240	0	0	with quarters.
1 Quartermaster-Serjeant					
1 Paymaster Serjeant					
		<u>£7322</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	

The above being taken as the annual expenditure for the pay of a thousand militia, or as a close approximate thereto,—about an equal sum would remain of the assumed contribution from the British Government to meet the charges for arms, clothing, &c., and for which purpose it would be more than adequate.

A Corps of such a strength would admit of seven companies being quartered in Hobart Town, and three at Launceston.

At each place a light field battery of Armstrong Guns should be kept up with two companies specially attached thereto; the remaining companies might be armed with rifles, but of course also drilled regularly to the use of heavy ordnance, so as to man when requisite any such artillery that may hereafter be provided for the defence of the two ports.

An Artillery Militia Battalion such as contemplated in this sketch would, I am of opinion, be all that is essential under the existing circumstances of the Colony. It would, I conceive, find favour in the eyes of the Colonists generally, not only for the protection it would promise, but as offering military service to the best of our manhood of a nature more worthy of the term than that which is now open in the ranks of the Volunteers. And lastly, I feel assured, that the scheme fully elaborated would be approved and supported by the Home Government, inasmuch as it would embody the self-reliance on the part of the Colonists called for by Mr. Cardwell, combined with efficiency and economy.

A. CRAWFORD, Lieut.-Colonel.

Richmond, 11th September, 1865.

7 SEPTEMBER, 1865.

MAJOR WILKINSON *called in and examined.*

In reply to questions from the Chairman.

I am a Captain in the Queen's Service, and I was Major, Militia, Essex Rifles.

I am not acquainted with the general features of the Volunteer Force in Tasmania.

With regard to the cost of a Military Force, if you have barrack accommodation it would make a material difference in the expense of billeting the men.

If the Militia men are to be drawn throughout the Island the cost of their conveyance will be very great; but 300 or 400 men could be obtained within 20 miles of Hobart Town.

If men were billeted here, we should have to find them a home in addition to the usual shilling a day, which would cost 3 shillings a day. They would have to be clothed and equipped.

At Home a Militia man is enlisted for 5 years, and is amenable to Martial law. The drawing for the Militia is enforced by law.

My opinion is unfavourable in regard to the introduction of a Militia Bill. It would be a very expensive measure, and I should think the Volunteer Force if re-organized would be far cheaper and better.

In the event of war breaking out, I should have one Artillery Corps called out, all instructed in great gun practice, and also in the use of the rifle.

There is a good deal of jealousy amongst the small Corps. There should be one Corps, with one dress; and the defence of the Port should rest on the Artillery.

The Two batteries in existence could not, with their guns, beat off a single hostile vessel. A cheap and efficient gun-boat is better than a battery.

The election of Volunteer Officers is objectionable. The appointment should be vested in the Governor.

In England the Militia are kept up with an annual training of 21 days; and if, during their five years' enlistment, they leave, they are considered deserters.

The Soldiers of the line, of course, cost more than Militia, but then they are much more efficient. I should always prefer a Soldier. I have not seen the English Volunteers, they were enrolled after I left.

The Militia are officered by the Lord-Lieutenants of Counties, and there is a good deal of favouritism shown. There is a nominal examination for Officers. The Inspecting General always examines young Officers at the Annual Inspection.

The Staff-Serjeants are always taken from the Line, and a large proportion of recruits for the Regular Army come from the Militia.

It would be better to call out the Volunteers here twice a year, for shorter periods than they are in England, which is 21 days.

The Officers of the Militia are paid at the same rate as Officers of the Line when on duty.

The Militia are usually called out at Home previous to harvest. The War Office appoints a time for each Regiment to be called out.