

(No. 37.)



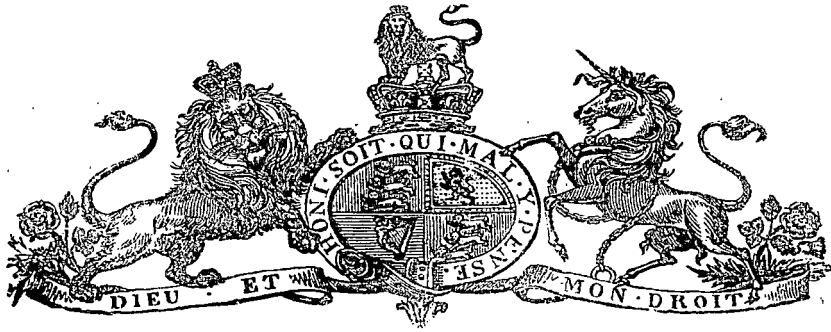
1878.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

DEFENCES OF THE COLONY.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
July 16, 1878.



DEFENCES OF THE COLONY.

MEMORANDUM FOR MINISTERS.

ON and from my first arrival in the Colony I have considered it to be my duty to call the attention of Ministers to the question of Defence. I have ever held that no country has a right to claim the privileges of self-government and to ignore the responsibilities of making such provision for self-defence as may be within its means. Tasmania clearly cannot undertake works or maintain a force sufficient to defend it against any powerful expedition: this can only be effected by a federation for such purposes with other neighbouring colonies, and in part at their expense; and such co-operation would be but just, as even the temporary occupation by an enemy of a strong position in Tasmania would cripple their commerce and destroy their resources, perhaps as much as the occupation of part of their own territory for the same purposes would do. But such an occupation in force is, for reasons which are obvious, and which I will not stop to detail, a contingency which is not at present in the category of immediate probabilities.

In the case of Great Britain being involved in a war, it is, however, immediately probable that armed cruisers would attempt to levy contributions on undefended British settlements, and to cripple their commerce. Such an intention is openly avowed by the Russian papers in case of England becoming involved in the present war. "War" has never "been made with rose-water," and at no period of history has the system of making the conquered pay the conqueror been more in fashion than of late years.

Is "our poverty our defence?" We have in the Banks at Hobart Town £300,000 in bullion, and this, and a similar good round sum obtained as ransom from the Government to avert the firing of the city, and the plunder of the shops and private dwellings, with accompanying outrages, would seem to be a very sufficient inducement to a cruiser or privateer to visit these waters,—not to speak of forced contributions of provisions and coal, which when other neighbouring ports are defended may naturally be sought for here.

It has been said that the people would rise to repel such outrages; but a highly civilised nation in a late war took and shot hostages for every shot fired upon their men, and levied, besides, extra money payments on villages and municipalities where they had been so resisted. Moreover, it would be too late to call for volunteers with an enemy in our port; and risings of the people in these days of scientific war and instruments of precision are simply useless incentives to massacre.

It is, in my opinion, quite within the means of this Colony, and a mere insurance on its growing wealth, to protect itself against cruisers and privateers, from whom the real danger is to be apprehended. His Excellency Sir W. Jervois is about to visit this Colony, and his knowledge and experience will enable him to point out the best means of such defence as may be within our means, and sufficient for the purpose.

A very small paid force of Artillery and Engineers available in time of peace for public works, supplemented by an Artillery Volunteer Corps, a few companies of Volunteer Rifles, and a Gatling gun or two to prevent landings to storm batteries, our present guns (which now in store only tempt attack) placed in position, with possibly a heavy gun or two in addition, perhaps a small swift look-out steamer carrying torpedoes and supplying the place in peace of the present Government schooner; these, or some of these, or such other comparatively inexpensive means that he may recommend, might avert attack and give security against light cruisers, prove an insurance against heavy and repeated exactions and such wide-spread loss to individuals, and general detriment to our commerce as might paralyse our revenue, arrest public works, and throw back the progress of Tasmania for years.

The British Fleet no doubt would do, as it always has done, its duty to the uttermost, but it cannot be everywhere, and single English war-ships cannot be expected to come into ports unsupported by shore batteries, where they may be caught in a trap by any superior hostile ship.

The people of Tasmania would doubtless respond to any encouragement that may be given to them by Government, and cannot be utterly indifferent to their own honor and interests; and I feel it to be my duty to the Colony, as well as to Her Majesty the Queen, to bring these considerations before the notice of Ministers at the earliest possible period after their assumption of office, and I beg that they will give them the attention the gravity of the subject demands.

FRED. A. WELD, *Governor.*

Government House, 14th August, 1877.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 16th August, 1877.

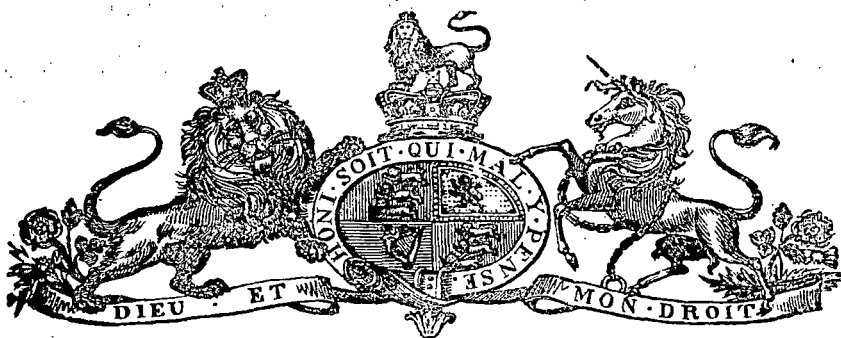
MEMO.

THE Premier has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of His Excellency the Governor's Memorandum of the 14th instant, calling the attention of Ministers to the question of Defence.

The Premier desires to assure His Excellency that the subject will receive the early and serious consideration of Ministers which its importance demands.

(Signed) P. O. Fysh.

His Excellency the Governor.



DEFENCES, TASMANIA.

MEMORANDUM by His Excellency Major-General SIR W. F. DRUMMOND JERVOIS, K.C.M.G., C.B.

Adelaide, 5th February, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor herewith to submit for the consideration of Your Excellency and your Government a Memorandum upon Defences for Tasmania.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,

WM. F. DRUMMOND JERVOIS.

*His Excellency F. A. WELD, Esq., C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
Hobart Town, Tasmania.*

The Island of Tasmania occupies an important position with reference to the general defence of the Australian Colonies. Situated near the south-eastern extremity of the Australian Continent—within three days' steaming distance from Adelaide, one from Melbourne, two and a half from Sydney, and four from New Zealand—an enemy occupying any of the fine harbors which it possesses might operate with facility against the commerce of these countries.

Important position of Tasmania with respect to defence of Australian Colonies.

A hostile occupation of the harbors referred to can, however, only be prevented by naval means, for the provision and maintenance of which Tasmania has not sufficient resources. The defence of those harbors against such occupation must be considered in connection with that of the coast and harbors of the adjacent Colonies; and the number and description of ships of war required for this purpose,—whether as regards the Imperial Naval Squadron on the station or colonial vessels,—will more properly be dealt with in a report upon the naval defence of Australia generally.

Defence of Tasmanian Harbors should be considered in connexion with that of adjacent Colonies.

The recommendations in the present memorandum will therefore be restricted to such measures as are requisite for protection against attack by a cruiser or privateer, and as are within the means of Tasmania to afford.

This memo. restricted to local defence against attack of a cruiser or privateer.

Tasmania is nearly equal in size to Ireland or Ceylon, and lies between 40° 41' and 43° 39' south latitude, and between 144° 30' and 148° 30' east longitude. It is separated from Victoria by Bass's Straits, which average about 150 miles in width. Between its north-east point and the mainland of the Continent is the Flinders group of islands, and about midway between its north-west point and the mainland is King's Island.

Geographical position of Tasmania.

Statement relating to
harbors, &c., on
coast of Tasmania.

A statement is annexed relating to the harbors, roadsteads, and landing-places on the coast of Tasmania, prepared by Rear-Admiral Barnard, R.N. (who at present holds an appointment under the Government of the Colony), and by Sir James Wilson, the President of the Legislative Council.

To the westward, between South-East Cape,—the most southerly point,—and Cape Grim,—the north-west point of the island,—are the bar harbors of Port Macquarie and Port Davey, also the mouths of the Pieman's and Arthur Rivers; but the coast on this side is very dangerous, owing to the heavy sea that invariably rolls against it.

On the northern coast,—which is comparatively sheltered,—are many minor ports, viz.: Duck Bay, Circular Head, Boat Harbor, Table Cape, Port Frederick, Port Sorell, and others. The principal port and harbor on this side, however, is Port Dalrymple, at the entrance of the River Tamar, forty miles from the mouth of which is Launceston; a town containing a population numbering about 10,000, and the second place in importance in the Colony.

On the eastern coast,—which consists of perpendicular cliffs, with long intervals of low shore,—are situated George's Bay, Oyster Bay, and Spring Bay.

On the south-eastern part of the coast there are many deep bays and harbors affording safe anchorages for ships of any size. The principal of these are Port Arthur, Storm Bay, Frederick Henry Bay, Norfolk Bay, D'Entrecasteaux Channel, Port Esperance, South Port, Recherche Bay, and the Derwent. The latter is a fine river on which is situated Hobart Town, the Capital of the Colony, containing a population of about 20,000.

Defence of Hobart
Town.

As before remarked, it would be out of the question to provide local defences to prevent the occupation by an enemy of the numerous harbors upon the coast of Tasmania. It is, however, practicable to protect Hobart Town against the attack of an unarmoured vessel of war, which eluding our naval squadron, and in the absence of sufficient defences, might, under threat of bombardment, or after actually firing into the place, levy a heavy contribution upon the Colony.

Principle on which
the defences of Hobart
Town should be
based.

The width of the Derwent, below Hobart Town, being from 4000 to 5000 yards, the depth of water being sufficient for vessels of any size, and the passage perfectly clear, it would be out of the question, by means of land batteries, to prevent an enemy's vessel steaming rapidly up the river and occupying a position whence she might throw shells into the City. If, however, batteries be established which would bring an effective fire to bear upon her when she lay opposite the town, and if a line of obstructions be placed in such a manner as to prevent her running up the river beyond the town and out of fire from the batteries, she could neither remain in such a position, nor get to any other point whence she could effect a bombardment. She would then be obliged to retire. It is on this principle that the defence of Hobart Town should be based.

Existing batteries.

Batteries have already been constructed, or commenced, as follows:—

Queen's Battery, just outside the town to the north east, and bearing down and across the river. It mounts, *en barbette*, two M. L. R., 70 prs., three S. B. 8-inch shell guns, and two S. B. 32 prs.

Prince of Wales's Battery, and Albert Battery, situated to the eastward of the town, about 1200 yards lower down the river than Queen's Battery, and mounting four S. B. 8-inch shell guns, and seven S. B. 32 prs. Four of these guns fire through embrasures, and the remainder *en barbette*.

A Battery for two guns, called "Alexandra Battery," was also commenced some seven years ago,—but was discontinued,—at "One Tree Point," on the west side of the Derwent, and about 5000 yards nearly southward of Queen's Battery.

Queen's Battery to
be retained.

Queen's Battery is a well-constructed work; the ground about it is open, and unobstructed by houses; it is well calculated to take part in the defence, and I recommend that it be retained.

Prince of Wales and
Albert Batteries to
be dispensed with.

Prince of Wales and Albert Batteries, however, are close in front of the town, and an enemy's fire directed against them could not fail to cause great damage to

the place. It would be necessary to incur much expense to render them efficient; and, considering their position, with clusters of houses immediately in rear of them,—considering, moreover, that they are by no means essential to the character of defence which I have indicated, I suggest that these works be dispensed with.

One Tree Point is an excellent position for a battery. It would bear upon an enemy's vessel in its passage up the Derwent, and be well calculated to co-operate with the Queen's Battery in the defence of the anchorage and town. A battery should be constructed at this point, though on a different plan from that which has hitherto been contemplated. The greater part of the work already executed may, however, be turned to account.

Battery should be constructed at One Tree Point.

The width of the river opposite One Tree Point, towards the east and north-east, is, however, about 5000 yards, and an enemy's vessel might take up a position where she would be so far both from Alexandra Battery and Queen's Battery, that whilst she might greatly injure the town by her shells, the chance of her being herself damaged by the fire of the batteries would be comparatively small. It should be observed that the town covering a large area, every shell fired into it would probably take effect, whilst the vessel being a small object is less likely to be hit at distant range. I therefore recommend that a battery should be placed on the eastern shore of the river, at Kangaroo Bluff, a point about 4000 yards from One Tree Point, and nearly 3000 yards from Queen's Battery. A vessel, lying off the eastern shore, in the position before referred to, would thus be under fire from Kangaroo Bluff, at a range of about 2000 yards and under; whilst, if she approached within the line between Kangaroo Bluff and One Tree Point, she would first be under a cross-fire from the batteries on both those points, and then under a converging fire, at a range of about 2000 yards, from all three batteries.

Battery required at Kangaroo Bluff.

It is generally acknowledged; however, that, in a perfectly clear channel, a vessel steaming at full speed may run past batteries with comparatively little risk; it would thus be possible for an enemy's ship to run rapidly up the river to a point to northward of the defences, whence she might throw shells into the town without being exposed to the fire of the batteries. To prevent this, I recommend that two lines of electro-contact torpedoes, flanked by Queen's Battery, be placed on a line, which is about 1100 yards in length, between Macquarie Point and Montagu Point. These torpedoes should be of the simplest description, and, as in other Australian Colonies, they could be worked by an officer of the Telegraph Department.

Torpedoes should be placed between Macquarie Point and Montagu Point.

As regards the armaments of the batteries, I recommend that that in Queen's Battery should be retained, and that the works at One Tree Point and Kangaroo Bluff should each be designed to mount one 7-ton M.L.R. gun, two 64-pounder rifled converted guns, and two S.B. 8-inch pieces.

Armaments of Batteries, &c.

There are already in the colony two 7-ton guns with carriages and traversing platforms, and seven S.B. 8-inch besides those mounted at Queen's Battery. Four of these last may be utilised in the two proposed new works. The four 64-pounders will have to be purchased, and probably they might be obtained from the Government of Victoria, where there is, I understand, a surplus of pieces of this description.

The heavier pieces in the new batteries should be arranged so as to bear on the approach up the river, and on the positions which might be taken up by an enemy's vessel with a view of firing into the town. An 8-inch piece should be placed on either flank of each of the new works; that on the right at One Tree Point bearing on the approach by the road from the southward, and that on the left commanding Sandy Bay. The gun on the left flank at Kangaroo Bluff should bear on the beach to the southward of it, and that on the right should cross fire with Queen's Battery upon the line of torpedoes. The fire from Kangaroo Bluff would also search the bays between Queen's Battery and One Tree Point.

Both the new batteries should be rendered self-defensible by a stockade enclosure, and accommodation for gunners, placed so as to be protected from fire from seaward, should be provided in each work. The barrack at One Tree Point should be placed behind the hill in rear of the battery. Some small accommodation for gunners is also required at Queen's Battery. The rear of this work is already protected by a good flanked stockade, and a stockade should also be placed in the ditch of the work as an obstacle to assault in front.

Batteries to be rendered self-defensible, and accommodation for gunners provided.

The artillery fire from One Tree Point, Kangaroo Point, and Queen's Battery, in conjunction with the torpedoes between Macquarie Point and Montagu Point,

Defence against a small body landing at one of the bays a

few miles distant from
Hobart Town.

will defend Hobart Town against an unarmoured vessel, but an attack might possibly be made by a small force landing at one of the bays within a few miles distance, and marching along one of the roads which converge therefrom towards the place. On the west side of the Derwent a body of men might land at Brown's River, and if unopposed might march into the town by a good road about ten miles in length. There is also a road through the bush called Proctor's Road, from Brown's River to Hobart Town. To the eastward of the Derwent a landing might be effected at Frederick Henry's Bay, or at Ralph's Bay, from whence there are good roads, respectively about six and eight miles long, to Bellerive, a small place on the left bank of the river near Kangaroo Point. In this latter case, however, an enemy could not enter the town, but if provided with rifled field guns, he might throw shells into it. To meet such contingencies, as also to defend the batteries against assault, there should be, in addition to the gunners required for the batteries, a small body of volunteers, partly infantry and partly artillery, organised and maintained as a field force. In the event of a hostile body landing at any of the bays in the neighbourhood, this force should oppose the enemy at the most favourable points,—which should be previously selected,—and obstacles to an advance should be created, by throwing up earthworks for field guns and infantry, cutting down trees, forming entanglements of branches and wire, and by any other means.

Defence of
Launceston.

The only other town in the Colony, besides Hobart Town, which can be considered liable to attack, with a view to levying a contribution, is Launceston. As before stated, this town, which contains about 10,000 inhabitants, is in the northern part of Tasmania, and is forty miles distant from the mouth of the Tamar River. It is 130 miles from Hobart Town, and the two places are connected by a railway.

The best plan of defence for the Tamar River would be to establish a small strong work at its mouth, near the lighthouse, and to place some torpedoes in connexion with it across the entrance passage. This would at once protect Port Dalrymple, George Town (a small place three or four miles from the entrance), and the Town of Launceston itself. There is, however, no population near the mouth of the river from which a force could be drawn to man a fort there; and altogether, the project is beyond the present resources of the Colony to undertake. Any provision for the defence of Launceston must be near the town itself.

The passage up the Tamar is tortuous and difficult, and only vessels of light draught can navigate the river. It appears at most only necessary to provide for the protection of Launceston against the attack of a small gun-vessel. Some eight or ten years ago, a battery for two 8-inch S.B. shell guns was erected at a distance of about 5000 yards below the town; but it is now in a state of dilapidation. The best position for a battery for the immediate protection of the place is on Pig Island, an elevated spot, very favourably situated for defence, about 7000 yards below the town. It would be desirable to construct a battery for two 64-pounders at this point, and these guns, together with a few electro-contact torpedoes placed under their fire, would effectually bar the passage. The battery should be rendered self-defensible by a stockade, and some accommodation for gunners should be provided within the enclosure.

Considering the small size, and the limited number of the crew of a vessel that could navigate the Tamar, it is scarcely probable that any body of men would be landed on either shore of the river to attack Launceston. It is, however, desirable, in order to protect the battery against assault, that, besides the artillery required to man the guns, a small volunteer force of infantry should be organised and maintained in the place.

Strength and
description of
Volunteer Forces
required.

As regards the strength and description of volunteer forces for Tasmania, I recommend that 180 artillery and 400 infantry be organised and maintained; viz., 130 artillery and 300 infantry for Hobart Town, and 30 artillery and 100 infantry for Launceston. Eighty artillery would be required at Hobart Town for the service of the sea-batteries, and the remaining 50 to work the 12-pr. guns with the field force. At Launceston all the artillerymen would be employed in the service of the fixed battery.

A permanent body of
Artillery required.

In order to form a nucleus for the volunteer force, to provide for the efficient care of the batteries and their armaments, also to furnish military instructors, I recommend that a permanent body of artillery, consisting of one officer and 19 non-commissioned officers and men be maintained. Application might be made to the

Imperial Government for the services of a non-commissioned officer of the Royal Artillery, who might be appointed officer of the permanent force. This officer might also act as adjutant for the volunteer force.

At present there is no recognised volunteer force in Tasmania, but a movement is on foot to enrol a small number of volunteer infantry and artillery at Hobart Town and Launceston. The powers possessed by Government under existing Volunteer Acts are, however, incomplete in most important respects, and I recommend that an Act should be passed, giving powers for retaining men for a fixed period of service,—for continuous training in daylight during a certain number of days in the year, besides a certain number of drills at detached periods,—for their permanent embodiment during war,—for the strict enforcement of discipline, and for the appointment of officers only after passing a proper examination. In framing the new Act, advantage should be taken of the experience gained in the management of the local forces in New South Wales and Victoria.

A new Volunteer Act required.

It is desirable that an arrangement should be made by which men who enlist in the Permanent Artillery may, after a certain period of military service, obtain appointments in the Police and employment in the Government Departments; as, for instance, letter-carriers for the Post Office, messengers in the Public Offices, and porters on Railways. By thus holding out inducements to well-conducted men in the Artillery, a superior class of recruits will be obtained, and at a lower rate than would otherwise be possible.

Permanent Artillery to receive appointments in Government Civil Service.

The precise mode in which the local forces should be controlled by the Executive Government is rather a constitutional than a military question, and it is perhaps undesirable that I should offer an authoritative opinion upon it, beyond remarking that it is indispensable that all questions relating to the maintenance of military discipline should be kept entirely clear of party or political influence.

Control of Executive Government.

There is at present at Hobart Town a large supply of warlike stores, but many articles are either of obsolete patterns or unserviceable, and I recommend that the whole should be carefully inspected by Colonel Scratchley, with the view of disposing of such as may be dispensed with.

Warlike Stores.

As I have already stated, six 64-pounder rifled converted guns (four for Hobart Town and two for Launceston) are required. These, together with the necessary carriages, platforms, and supply of ammunition, will have to be purchased, and may probably be obtained from the Government of Victoria.

The quantity of powder, shot, and shell in store for the 7-ton and 70-pound rifled guns is sufficient. There is also a sufficiently large stock of ammunition for the smooth bore guns.

The four 12-pr. smooth bore field guns in store will suffice for the field force for the present; but, when the finances of the Colony will permit, it will be desirable to obtain some rifled field pieces.

There are in store 726 muzzle-loading Enfield rifles, 100 muzzle-loading artillery carbines, and 24 breech-loading cavalry carbines, with 42,000 rounds of ball ammunition for the muzzle-loaders, and 36,000 rounds for the breech-loaders.

It is desirable that the muzzle-loading Enfield rifles and artillery carbines should be replaced by 600 breech-loading rifles, with 250 rounds of ball and 100 rounds of blank ammunition for each rifle. The best weapon to procure would be the Martini-Henry, but it is much more expensive than the Snider, and the latter, though inferior to the Martini-Henry, is a very good rifle. There is a large stock of Sniders in England, and probably a supply of these might be obtained by application to the Imperial Government.

To recapitulate : the following are the measures proposed, viz. :—

Recapitulation.

- I. The protection of Hobart Town and Launceston against an unarmoured cruiser or privateer to be effected by land batteries and torpedoes.
- II. The possible attack upon Hobart Town by land to be met by a field force.

III. Forces to be maintained as follows:—

(a) For manning batteries—

Permanent artillery	{	20 officers, non-commissioned officers and men.
Volunteer garrison, artillery	130	Do. do.

(b) For field force—

Volunteer field artillery	50	Do. do.
Volunteer infantry	400	Do. do.
Total	600	Do. do.

Capital expenditure. The capital cost of the scheme would be, approximately, as follows:—

1. Batteries at One Tree Point, Kangaroo Bluff, and Launceston, with armaments and ammunition	£15,000
2. Torpedo stores	3000
3. Rifles and ammunition (Sniders)	2000
4. Contingencies	1000
Total	<u>£21,000</u>

Annual expenditure. The following is an estimate of the annual expenditure involved:—

20 Permanent Artillery	£2000
600 Volunteers and Staff	3600
Annual supply of ammunition, Camp of Instruction, repairs, contingencies	2400
	<u>£8000</u>

WM. F. DRUMMOND JERVOIS.

Adelaide, 5th February, 1878.

APPENDIX.

MEMORANDUM of Harbors, Roadsteads, and Landing Places of Tasmania,
prepared by Rear-Admiral EDWARD K. BARNARD, R.N.

THE principal harbors on the west coast are Port Davey and Macquarie Harbor—the whole of this coast is very dangerous from the heavy sea that invariably rolls in upon it. Of Pieman's River, very little is known; Captain Hobbs, who circumnavigated Tasmania for the Government in 1824, gives a very unfavourable account of it, and he could not enter it in a whaleboat, and reported it totally unfit to approach.

On the north coast the following anchorages are found:—

Anchorage:

Duck Bay is a safe and capacious harbor, landlocked and safe for vessels drawing 10 feet to 13 feet of water.

Duck Bay and River.

Circular Head, the most northern point of Tasmania and the most striking object. It is 500 feet in height, with an area of 80 acres on the summit; the cliffs in many places nearly perpendicular, and all very steep. It is joined to the mainland by a narrow low isthmus, and, except in one spot, wholly surrounded by the ocean. The rivers in the vicinity are the Black River, Crayfish Creek, and the Detention. The village of Stanley is at the foot of the eminence. The harbor is easy of access, landlocked, except from the north-east and east, which is protected with a substantial jetty, with a depth of 12 feet to 14 feet.

Circular Head.

Black River, nine miles from Stanley, is partly sheltered by Circular Head. The entrance is on the beach; the channel running between sandhills, and is not considered a safe anchorage, though used by vessels of about 6 feet draught of water.

Black River.

Rocky Cape is about eleven miles from Table Cape, with a road skirting the seashore. There is no anchorage at this Cape. Near the shore, in the sandy bay formed by the two headlands (the Sister Hills), lies an inlet with a reef off it. There is also a rock which at low water is dry, surrounded by a reef, two miles north of Rocky Cape.

Rocky Cape and River.

Rocky River is dangerous. The channel is tortuous, runs for some distance along the beach, and is exposed, without any protection.

Boat Harbor is an open roadstead, with many dangerous rocks near the entrance.

Boat Harbor.

At Table Cape the anchorage is safe for vessels drawing 8 feet water, and is protected by the high land to the westward. To the east the coast is rocky and dangerous.

Table Cape.

River Inglis (Table Cape) has been much improved by a breakwater, which gives good protection after crossing the bar; but a reef extends off its mouth, and some distance to the eastward.

River Inglis (Table Cape).

Emu Bay, formed by Round Hill Point to the eastward and Blackman Point, is a confined anchorage, affording shelter in westerly winds; but in northerly and easterly vessels are much exposed.

Emu Bay.

The Rivers Cam, Emu, and Blyth, in the vicinity of Emu Bay, are all navigable by boats at high tide to a distance of two or three miles.

Rivers Cam, Emu, and Blyth.

Preservation Bay is an open and unsafe sandy beach.

Preservation Bay.

At Penguin Creek a breakwater has been erected, and vessels drawing 7 ft. water can go inside it; but it is doubtful if it is not silting up the channel. The breakwater is at the mouth of the creek, built on piles, the sides and end filled up with stones and earth, with a twenty-foot roadway on the top. It runs the first 400 ft. due east, and then for 80 ft. south east, and makes a safe harbor for vessels not exceeding 100 tons. There is a rise and fall of tide from 8 ft. to 10 ft.

Penguin Creek.

The River Leven is a safe anchorage for vessels of 150 tons. The entrance is wide, with a bar that seldom shifts. On the west is a range called the Leven Rocks. A rock stands in the middle of the channel, and another on the east side of the entrance.

The River Leven.

The River Forth has a shingle bar at its entrance which shifts periodically and alters the channel. There is no safe anchorage.

The River Forth or Port Fenton.

The anchorage at the River Don is safe and the entrance straight, and is unlike other rivers on the north coast, from having no bar.

River Don.

To the westward of the entrance of the River Mersey there is a small port called Port Frederick, which is safe and easy of access, and good anchorage for vessels (at high water) of fourteen feet draught of water.

Port Frederick.

Port Sorell is easy of access and safe for vessels drawing fourteen feet of water; the bar ranges from fourteen to eighteen feet, with a dangerous rock on the right side; there is another channel on the west side safe for vessels drawing eleven feet of water.

Port Sorell.

Port Dalrymple, at the entrance of the River Tamar, is the principal port and harbor on the north coast of Tasmania. Reefs and banks extend a considerable distance on the west side of the entrance; the greater part of these shoals are uncovered at half-tide. To the east of the entrance on Low Head is a lighthouse, 140 ft. high, exhibiting a light once in a minute; and about three and a half miles from the entrance on the east side, on the margin of a small inlet, is George

Port Dalrymple or River Tamar.

Town, built on the flat forming the north side of a snug cove. Launceston, the second town in Tasmania, is forty miles from the entrance to the River Tamar, which has been completely and carefully surveyed and well buoyed.

Tam o'Shanter Bay, Bridport.

Between the entrance of the Tamar and Cape Portland there are no safe anchorages, the country is low and undulating. Tam o'Shanter Bay is opened and exposed. Bridport, a small village at the mouth of the Great Forester River, which is used by small coasting vessels drawing from four to six feet of water; it flows into the sea at a small inlet called Anderson's Bay. From this point a sandy bay continues for fifteen miles east, the land side being a range of sandhills.

Waterhouse Island.

Waterhouse Island affords on the east side shelter in westerly winds.

Ringarooma Bay.

Ringarooma Bay is a large open bay, and offers little shelter, being exposed to all winds from north east to west.

Cape Portland.

Cape Portland, the north-eastern extremity of Tasmania. There is an anchorage on the west side for small vessels in easterly weather; off this cape are Forester's Islets.

Swan Island.

There is good anchorage at Swan Island in westerly weather, and a lighthouse. The tower is 100 ft. high, and shows a revolving flash light. George's Rocks and Black Reef, and several dangerous outlying rocks, are between Swan Island and Eddystone Point. This coast is very dangerous, without anchorage, and rendered more so by the sudden rise of the sea, which appears to be affected by the wind. There are strong and uncertain currents in Banks' Straits.

On the east coast of Tasmania are—

George's Bay.

George's Bay, eighteen miles south of Eddystone Point. It was surveyed in the year 1862 by Lieutenant Brooker, R.N.; but from the shifting nature of the bar at the entrance it is not likely, unless some means can be adopted to improve it, to become a port of any consequence. The deepest part of the bar has from eight to ten feet at low water spring tides; but the highest rise at spring tide is only three feet. The practicable navigation of vessels of any draught not over seven feet is only safe and judicious when the bar is perfectly still—a circumstance very rare with any winds from N.N.W. round N. and E. to South. After passing the bar, Moulting Bay is deep at its entrance, and, with George's Bay, offers a safe anchorage to any number of vessels of any draught. The deep water in George's Bay approaches near to the south shore, but the mud flats off South Arm extend over to the Pebbly Point, near Newman's farm, having 15 feet on its edge, and narrows the passage to Jason's Gates.

Oyster Bay.

The depth from north to south of this spacious bay is 15 miles, and its breadth 10 miles. Its northern part is low and sandy, and quite inaccessible. The eastern side is formed by Freycinet's Peninsula and Schouten Island. The bay is entirely open to the south. Between two and three miles N.N.W. is the entrance of a small river—Little Swanport—fit for boats only; and in the N.E. angle is another river, called Great Swanport, the entrance very narrow.

Spring Bay.

Spring Bay is a very fine anchorage, and the only one between Port Dalrymple and Cape Pillar. It is sheltered on the east by Maria Island, and may be safely entered in any weather by vessels of any size, either from the north or south. The coast is generally low, with deep water close to the shore. Near its entrance from the east, about Lord's Bluff, it is precipitous and pretty high.

Fortescue Bay.

Fortescue Bay is a small anchorage to the north of Cape Pillar, inside the Hippolyte Rocks, often used by coasting vessels in heavy weather.

The east coast of Tasmania, from St. Helen's to Cape Pillar, is remarkable; perpendicular cliffs, with long intervals of low shore. These cliffs are either of granite, indurated clay and mudstone, or fossiliferous limestone.

A marine survey of the east coast is much required, for although the coast-line has been carefully laid by good surveyors, by land, the bays, harbors, and anchorages have not been sounded, nor do any reliable charts exist of this coast.

The winds on the east coast do not appear to be regular, either from the north or south. East is the most prevalent, and the rise and fall of the tides does not exceed 3½ ft. at spring, and 2½ at neap tides.

The south and south-east side of the island is studded with safe bays and harbors, the principal being Port Arthur, Storm Bay, Norfolk Bay, D'Entrecasteaux Channel, Port Esperance, South Port, and Recherche Bay. It is impossible to give with any correctness the seaboard of each harbor on this deeply-indented coast, or what places are capable of defence. The southern ports are connected by roads with the settled districts, but they could at any time be easily blocked up so as to impede the advance of troops along them. There is a very good road from one part of D'Entrecasteaux Channel to Hobart Town, namely, from N.W. Bay.

TELEGRAM.

Hobart Town, 18th February, 1878.

UNDERSTANDING that the Defence Forces of Victoria have been armed with Martini-Henry rifles, could your Government supply on loan to Tasmania 3 or 400 Snider rifles for immediate use, with Fifty thousand (50,000) rounds of ammunition on purchase, pending receipt of a supply of rifles and ammunition from England?

WM. MOORE.

To Chief Secretary, Melbourne.

TELEGRAM.

Melbourne, 23rd February, 1878.

REGRET to state in reply to your telegram this Government has no supply of Snider rifles on hand at present time.

CHIEF SECRETARY.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary.

TELEGRAM.

Tasmania, 20th February, 1878.

HAS your Government or the Commodore any spare Sniders?

THE GOVERNOR.

His Excellency the Governor, Sydney, New South Wales.

TELEGRAM.

Sydney, 20th February, 1878.

NEITHER this Government nor the Commodore has any spare Sniders.

GOVERNOR.

His Excellency the Governor.

COPY wired to His Excellency at Ouse.

OPERATOR.

TELEGRAM.

Sydney, 23rd February, 1878.

COMMODORE finds he can spare sixty-five (65) or seventy (70) Sniders if you still require any.

GOVERNOR.

His Excellency the Governor.

COPY wired to his Excellency at Ouse.

OPERATOR, Hobart.

TELEGRAM.

Hobart Town, 4th March, 1878.

PLEASE forward by first steamer direct to Hobart Town as many Snider rifles complete as can be spared, together with Twenty thousand rounds ball ammunition.

The charge made by War Department in England will be paid in London. Letter by post.

WM. MOORE.

The Ordnance Storekeeper, Naval Depot, Sydney.

TELEGRAM.

Sydney, 28th February, 1878.

AM leaving for New Zealand to-morrow. Please instruct Ordnance Storekeeper to communicate direct with our Ordnance Storekeeper, Naval Depôt, Sydney, who I have directed to comply with your request concerning Sniders. Price can be arranged at home, certificate being given that charge made by War Department will be paid in London. Mode of forwarding arms and ammunition, which will be at charge of Tasmanian Government, should be arranged.

COMMODORE HOSKINS.

His Excellency the Governor.

Copy forwarded to Government House.

OPERATOR, *Hobart.*

THE Colonial Secretary will be so good as to take action in this matter as Ministers have advised.

FRED. A. WELD.
4th March, 1878.

TASMANIA.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 5th March, 1878.

SIR,

I HAD the honor yesterday to transmit to you a telegram in the following words :—

“ Please forward by first steamer direct to Hobart Town as many Snider rifles complete as can be spared, together with Twenty thousand rounds ball ammunition. The charge made by War Department in England will be paid in London. Letter by post.”

Commodore Hoskins informed His Excellency Governor Weld by telegram on the 28th ultimo that before leaving for New Zealand he had issued the necessary instructions for the Sniders applied for by this Government to be forwarded, upon a communication being addressed to you direct.

The Commodore also stated that the price could be arranged for at home, a certificate being given that the charge made by the War Department would be paid in London.

I accordingly enclose a Certificate to that effect.

I trust that the Sniders you may be able to forward are fitted with Sword Bayonets complete, as materially enhancing their value as weapons for the use of a Land Force.

Any expenses incurred by you, either for freight or other charges connected with the issue and transport, &c. of the Arms and Ammunition, will be promptly repaid by draft, on your acquainting me with the amount.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. MOORE.

*The Ordnance Storekeeper, Naval Depôt, Sydney.**Colonial Secretary's Office, 5th March, 1878.*

I HEREBY guarantee that such charge as may be made by the Imperial War Department, on account of Snider Rifles and Ammunition supplied by Commodore Hoskins for the use of the Defence Force of Tasmania, shall be duly paid on demand to the Imperial authorities in London by the Crown Agents.

(Signed) WM. MOORE, *Colonial Secretary of Tasmania.*

TELEGRAM.

Tasmania, 22nd February, 1878.

MINISTERS request Imperial Government to grant Colony Six hundred Snider Carbines complete for Defence purposes. One hundred thousand rounds Ball and Twenty thousand Blank Ammunition should accompany, for which Crown Agents will pay.

I ask favorable consideration : if granted, ship quickest route.

WELD.

Colonial Secretary, Downing-street, London.

TELEGRAM.

London, 21st March, 1878.

HOPE Carbines and Ammunition procurable May next.

Governor, Tasmania.

SECRETARY OF STATE.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town,
26th February, 1878.*

SIR,

His Excellency the Governor has placed in the hands of the Ministry the Report of His Excellency Sir William Jervois upon the Defences of the Colony, which is now receiving the earnest consideration of the Government.

The recommendations contained in the Report appear to be fairly within the limits of the resources of the Colony; and the Government are anxious to avail themselves of your services in designing and laying out the Battery at "The Bluff," and the alterations and additions in the existing works at "One Tree Point" and the Queen's Battery, in order that they may be in a position to take immediate action.

The detailed inspection of the War Material in Store, with the view to its retention or disposal, is a service which it is hoped you will also render the Government, and generally to afford them the benefit of your experience as regards the most feasible method of working out the several suggestions contained in the Report.

I should be glad to learn if you could make it convenient to visit Tasmania at an early date for the above objects, and if so, how soon we might expect you?

I should also feel much obliged if you would endeavour to ascertain whether an application to the Government of Victoria for some of the rifled 64-pounder guns and a supply of projectiles would be likely to be favorably entertained; and if so, about what the cost per gun with carriage and platform complete would be?

I enclose copy of a letter (14th February, 1878) from a Melbourne firm respecting the supply of Torpedo explosives, &c., and I am anxious to know whether in your opinion it would be desirable for this Government to procure through the firm either the material or the perfected Torpedo, or would it be better to await your visit to the Colony?

Colonel SCRATCHLEY, R.E., Melbourne.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. MOORE.

Brisbane, 12th March, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 26th ultimo; and to reply as follows:—

1. I hope to be in Hobart Town early in April; but, before my visit, I shall be prepared to submit, for the consideration of the Government of Tasmania, a programme showing how the scheme of Defence, recommended by His Excellency Sir W. Jervois, can best be carried out.

This programme I shall forward in the course of next week; and I would suggest for your consideration the desirability of taking preliminary action in the matter, in order that, on my arrival, I may proceed at once with the necessary preparations.

2. With regard to the Torpedo Stores, I would advise you not to order any material from Mr. Gardner at Melbourne, until I have had an opportunity of personally seeing him and enquiring into his competency to execute orders.

It would be advisable, however, that you should authorise me to obtain—when at Melbourne and before my visit to Tasmania—a tender from Mr. Gardner for the supply of such Torpedo Stores as I may think necessary; the acceptance of the tender being reserved until I saw you.

By this arrangement the Tasmanian Government will, whilst not incurring any liability or losing any time, be in a position to deal promptly and satisfactorily with the matter.

3. I have already addressed a telegram to you respecting the 64-pounder Guns. I very much fear that the Victorian Government will not be in a position to supply the Guns, as the *Nelson* has been cut down and armed, contrary to my expectations.

You will, however, be able to obtain superior Guns at not much greater cost from England.

4. The most important point of the preliminaries, connected with the Defences of Tasmania, is that of getting an officer to act as Staff Officer for the Local Forces, as recommended by Sir W. Jervois.

There is at present a gentleman in Sydney, who has good introductions and satisfactory certificates of efficiency, and who will no doubt write to you.

It is necessary to have some one to take charge of the defensive arrangements and to receive instructions from me.

5. I return to Sydney on the 21st instant. Letters and telegrams should be addressed to me (Brigade Office, Sydney) there until the 28th March, on which date I hope to leave for Melbourne.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. H. SCRATCHLEY.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Hobart Town.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town,
15th March, 1878.*

MEMORANDUM.

THE Colonial Secretary has the honor to request His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to convey to His Excellency Sir William Jervois the cordial thanks of the Government for his Report upon the Defences of the Colony, and to express at the same time their appreciation of His Excellency's liberality in affording the Government the benefit of his services without any remuneration.

Colonel Scratchley has been requested to inform the Government when it will be in his power to revisit the Colony with the view of designing and laying out the Defence Works recommended in the Report; and the Government propose to bring under the consideration of the Legislature, at the earliest possible date, the expediency of undertaking the construction of such as may be deemed most urgent.

(Signed) WM. MOORE.

His Excellency the Governor.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town,
25th March, 1878.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant.

I am glad that you hope to be able to visit Hobart Town early in April, and that before your arrival you will submit a programme showing how the scheme of Defence recommended by His Excellency Sir William Jervois can best be carried out.

In accordance with your suggestion, no Torpedo Stores or other material will be ordered from Mr. Gardner at Melbourne; and should you, upon enquiry, satisfy yourself of his competency to execute orders, you will be good enough to obtain a tender from him for the supply of such stores as you may think necessary.

With reference to the appointment of an officer to act as Staff Officer for the Local Forces, as recommended by Sir William Jervois, several applications have been received by the Government, but they would much prefer, before such appointment is made, to obtain your assistance and advice in the matter. In the meantime the gentleman in Sydney, mentioned by you, could forward his application, with certificates of efficiency, &c.

Since writing the foregoing, it has been suggested by His Excellency the Governor, to whom the draft of this letter was submitted, that in future all correspondence connected with the Defences of the Colony should be carried on direct with him; and in future perhaps you will be good enough to comply with this suggestion.

I have, &c.

Lieut.-Colonel P. H. SCRATCHLEY, R.E., Melbourne.

(Signed) WM. MOORE.

Brigade Office, Sydney, 26th March, 1878.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

REFERRING to the proposal that I should visit Tasmania at an early date to consult with Your Excellency's Government—in the matter of the Defence recommendations made by His Excellency Sir W. Jervois,—I have the honor to enquire whether the Government of Tasmania will accept the

offer of my services upon the basis, accepted by the Governments of Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland, for a term of *three* years.

The amount to be paid annually by Tasmania for my professional services will be £118, besides actual travelling expenses,—living expenses not to be charged.

The manner in which this amount is arrived at is shown in the accompanying memorandum.

Although the Hon. the Chief Secretary of Victoria has not yet communicated with the several Governments concerned, I have been informed by His Excellency the Governor of Victoria that the Government of that Colony is ready to join with Tasmania, New South Wales, and Queensland in the matter.

I have, therefore, settled direct with the Governments of New South Wales and Queensland, and entered upon my duties from the 1st of March, 1878.

Although the duration of my annual visit is limited to 22 days in Tasmania, inclusive of journeys to and fro, I should mention that, in my capacity of Consulting Military Engineer, I shall be at all times at the disposal of the Government in exercising a general supervision over the Military and Defence affairs of Tasmania.

I beg leave to ask Your Excellency to be pleased to give me an early reply, in order that I may communicate the result forthwith to the several Governments concerned.

*His Excellency Governor WELD, C.M.G.,
Hobart Town.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. H. SCRATCHLEY.

BASIS for calculating Lieut.-Colonel SCRATCHLEY's Pay and Duration of Stay in each Colony—agreed to by the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland.

	1876. Population.	Proportion, say.	Pay.	Duration of Stay.
			£	Days.
Victoria	830,679	8	942	172
New South Wales	618,214	6	705	129
Queensland	184,194	2	235	42
Tasmania	104,573	1	118	22
		17	* £2000	563 days.

* Made up as follows:—

Pay	£1500	} Actual travelling expenses only to be charged.
Special Living Expenses for travelling..	500	
Total	£2000	

Sydney, 28th March, 1878.

YOUR EXCELLENCY.

I SUBMIT for the consideration of Your Excellency's Government a memorandum of the steps which should now be taken, in anticipation of the decision of the Parliament to carry out Major-General Sir W. Jervois' Defence recommendations.

I have, &c.

Governor WELD, C.M.G., Hobart Town.

(Signed) P. H. SCRATCHLEY.

DEFENCES OF TASMANIA.

MEMORANDUM.

His Excellency Sir W. Jervois, in his report of the 5th February last, states that his recommendations are restricted to such measures as are requisite for the protection of Hobart Town and Launceston against attack by a cruiser or privateer.

In the defence of Hobart Town, he suggests the following:—

(a) Three batteries to be maintained.

The existing work near the town, called Queen's Battery, which only requires a few improvements.

An enclosed work on One Tree Point armed with one 7-ton Rifled Gun, two 64-pounder Rifled Guns, and two 8-inch Smooth-bore Guns.

A similar work with the same armament on Kangaroo Bluff.

(b) Torpedoes to be laid across the Derwent between Points Macquarie and Montague.

(c) A force to be maintained comprising:—

	<i>Officers and Men.</i>
Permanent Artillery	18
Volunteer ditto	130
Volunteer Infantry	300
Total	<u>448</u>

For the protection of Launceston Sir W. Jervois recommends:—

(d) A Battery on Pig Island in the Tamar, armed with two 64-pounder Rifled Guns.

(e) Torpedoes laid under the protection of these guns.

(f) A force to be maintained composed of—

	<i>Officers and Men.</i>
Permanent Artillery	2
Volunteer ditto	30
Volunteer Infantry	100
Total	<u>132</u>

The Report deals with several other matters of great importance, relating to the Defences generally, which can only be settled on the spot.

Considering the very moderate expenditure proposed, it is very unadvisable to defer any portion of the scheme; more especially as the defensive measures have been reduced to the lowest possible limit with a view to economy.

The only part which it would be possible, in any case, to postpone are: The Battery on Kangaroo Bluff and the work on Pig Island at Launceston, together with the Torpedoes for the River Tamar.

The latter would be of little value, unless covered by the fire of guns in a battery rendered secure against assault.

These omissions would represent a capital expenditure of about £8000, but the annual cost could only be reduced by a few hundred pounds.

It should be understood that the works cannot be commenced without carefully prepared plans; and it is, therefore, suggested that the employment of a draftsman should be at once authorised, in order that no time may be lost in carrying out the decision of the Legislature, in the event of Sir W. Jervois' proposals receiving its approval.

Preliminary enquiries should also be made as to the possibility of procuring Torpedo Stores in Melbourne or elsewhere.

Drafts of the Bills for the enrolment of the Permanent Artillery, and for the re-organisation of the Volunteer Force, should be prepared for the consideration of Parliament.

Immediately the Legislature sanctioned the scheme of Defence, such Guns as were available could be mounted on One Tree Point and that Battery proceeded with, together with the improvements recommended in Queen's Battery.

The Guns on Kangaroo Bluff and Pig Island could not be mounted until the enclosures of the Batteries at those points had been completed.

The six 64-pounder M.L.R. Guns with carriages and Ammunition, and the Snider or Martini-Henry Rifles with Ammunition, could also be ordered from England by telegraph.

When the Torpedo Stores for the Derwent and Tamar were ready, the laying of the mines in the former river could be proceeded with; but it would be necessary to defer operations at Launceston until the guns on Pig Island were mounted.

Lastly, I advise that immediate steps should be taken for the appointment of a Staff Officer for the Local Forces, and that all serviceable warlike stores in the Colony should be overhauled and repaired.

It should be observed that delay must ensue in proceeding with the scheme of Defence if the preliminary action—suggested in this Memorandum—is not taken at once.

Sydney, 28th March, 1878.

P. H. SCRATCHLEY.

Colonial Treasury, Hobart Town, 5th April, 1878.

MEMORANDUM.

MR. GIBLIN has the honor to call the attention of His Excellency the Governor to the question of the naval defence of the Port of Hobart Town, to which subject Major-General Sir William Jervois adverted in the first and second paragraphs of his Memorandum on the Defences of the Colony, dated 5th February last. Ministers are strongly impressed with the conviction that the continuous, or all but continuous, presence of one of Her Majesty's vessels of war in the Port of Hobart Town, during any war which might occur between England and any European power, would be in the very highest degree advisable. It would afford a great encouragement to our Volunteer defenders on land, would offer the greatest obstacle to any landing of troops or occupation of the city, and would probably tend to entirely prevent the attempt being made by a single armed vessel or privateer to plunder the town. It may be urged that in the time of war the vessels on the Australian Station will be necessarily kept moving from one place to another on the Station, for the protection of commerce in the Southern Seas; but when the danger is considered that would accrue, both to commerce and to the interests of all the Australian Colonies, if Hobart Town were to be occupied as a hostile naval Station, and made the basis of operations against the shipping and ports of the other Colonies, the suggestion that one of Her Majesty's armed ships should be kept here does not appear unreasonable. In one of the local newspapers, of yesterday's date, the statement appears that there were on the 26th March last no less than five men-of-war in Sydney Harbour,—and there can be little doubt, if the Commodore deemed it desirable, the fleet at his command might be so disposed as to practically concede the request that is now made.

If His Excellency the Governor should concur in the advisability of the course indicated, Ministers would be glad if His Excellency would be good enough to communicate with the Commodore and urge the proposal upon him for immediate adoption. It is not, of course, intended that the presence of a ship of war in our port should supersede the proceeding with and maintaining such land defences as are recommended by Major-General Sir William Jervois in his Memorandum before alluded to, but that such ship should act as a support, both moral and material, to any defence which, with the forces suggested by Major-General Sir William Jervois, Tasmania could offer to an assistant.

(Signed) W. R. GIBLIN.

His Excellency the Governor.

MEMORANDUM FOR MINISTERS.

THE Governor acknowledges Ministers' Memorandum of 5th April, 1878. He has written to the Commodore, and called his attention to their request; and Ministers are aware that he has already drawn the attention of the Home Government to the question of naval protection, and the great strategical importance of this position.

The Governor entirely agrees with Ministers in recognising the injury that would accrue both to the commerce and interests of all the Australian Colonies were this Port to be occupied by a hostile naval squadron; and he would refer them to his memorandum to Ministers of 22nd April, 1875, and to that of August 14th, 1877.

Should the occupation of this Port as a hostile Naval Station be attempted, it could only be by a powerful squadron backed by a considerable land force. Such an expedition could not easily be fitted out or assembled without the previous knowledge of the British Government and Naval Authorities, who would undoubtedly concentrate a sufficient force to deal with it as soon as it put to sea, even if it escaped from its own port. The Governor, therefore, as he said in his memorandum of 14th August, 1877, does not consider this contingency at present within "the category of immediate probabilities;" and if such an expedition did reach its destination, a single unarmoured vessel would be of no avail to resist it unless as an aid to really powerful batteries and torpedoes. But a single vessel even unarmoured would be of the utmost value in assisting to defend the town and port against one or two hostile cruisers in conjunction with shore batteries.

The Governor has, however, pointed out in his memorandum of 14th August, 1877, that single British ships (of no great power) "cannot be expected to come into ports unsupported by shore batteries, where they might be caught in a trap by a superior hostile ship" or ships.

The Governor is of opinion that if we have no permanent shore defences, the hope of obtaining a subsidy, or the plunder of the town, would offer a sufficient inducement to a cruiser to run a risk; and if once successful, would offer a still greater one for the repetition of the experiments. All history tells us that paying an enemy to retire is the surest means of inducing him to repeat his visit and is as disastrous in its consequences as it is shameful in itself.

The Governor has trust in the spirit of British Colonists, and he is quite aware that Ministers are anxious to do their part. Parliament must, however, be asked for money, and every hour's

delay is a loss. Had steps been taken when he wrote his first memorandum in 1875, the expenditure might have been spread over a term of years, and we should have been ready. However, the delay has had this advantage, that we are now in possession of the highest professional advice, and may take advantage of the most recent means of defence—Torpedoes, Gatling Guns, and Martini-Henry Rifles—to make our small force thoroughly efficient.

The Governor has made these observations in order to point out that his efforts to obtain help for the Colony will be much more likely to be successful if he is able to state to the Imperial Government that the Parliament of Tasmania has decided upon doing its part in the work.

The Governor thinks that the five men-of-war to which Ministers allude as being in Sydney on the 26th March were of various nationalities; yet in any case it must be remembered that until the British Squadron in these seas is more powerful than it is now, it may be expected that a naval Commander will, remembering that to attack is often the surest mode of defence, keep his force well in hand so as to have a sufficient number of ships always at his disposal to attack and pursue any hostile squadron, or to be able to send out several cruisers to intercept and capture any enemy's ships that may be preying upon our commerce, or threatening a descent upon our ports.

The Governor has, however, not lost sight of the fact that Hobart Town is a most advantageous Head-quarters whence ships might by short cruises watch over the large commerce that passes south of Tasmania at a point where it converges, and Ministers may rely upon his utmost co-operation in all that may assist in the defence of the interests of the Colony.

Government House, Hobart Town,
8th April, 1878.

FRED. A. WELD.

"Wolverene," at Auckland, N.Z., 2nd May, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th ult., enclosing a memorandum of your responsible advisers, in which it is contended that the continuous or all but continuous presence of one of Her Majesty's ships of war at Hobart Town during any war which might occur between England and any European Power would be in the very highest degree desirable, and urging certain reasons and statements in support of such a claim, and in proof of the possibility of my acceding to it.

2. With reference to the last point, the only English ships of war at Sydney on the 26th March last were the *Sappho*, which had just returned from Hobart Town, and two schooners—the *Renard* and *Beagle*; the latter vessels being only adapted to the Island service, for which they were built, and which it would be absurd to mention as part of the Naval strength of the Station for the purposes of an European war.

3. With reference to the general question, I would in the first place express the satisfaction which Your Excellency's confidence in my acquaintance with, and desire to promote, the great and varied interests of the Australian Colonies generally and their commerce gives me; and I would beg that the following points in answer to your Ministers should be pressed upon them:—

The effective strength of the Australian Squadron under my command at present consists of four ships, including my own pendant ship.

With this force, as at present advised, in the event of war being declared, the interests of eight Colonies will have to be cared for, and their commerce as far as possible protected.

The principal duty of the Commander of a Naval Force is to meet a hostile Squadron wherever it can be found and endeavour to stop its ravages *in limine*; and not by dividing and shutting up his ships in the different ports to give the enemy the command of the sea, and the power of attacking them separately and in detail.

He has a right to expect that the principal ports shall be protected by Land Forces and Batteries, either afloat or on shore, sufficiently strong to protect them against an ordinary cruising Squadron; and by heading it off, or delaying it, to give him a better chance of intercepting it, and also to afford him a refuge and shelter in case of his being worsted or overpowered in a sea fight.

To call on ships to protect the ports, instead of the ports the ships, is to invert the obligation and prevent their performing their proper duties.

Should the enemy not send a Squadron to these seas, but only single cruisers, acting independently against our commerce, corresponding steps would of course be taken; but even then, to enable detached vessels to act with vigour and success, it would be necessary for them to have fortified places to fall back upon in case of need.

4. It will be evident from what I have said that I can enter into no engagement to give Hobart Town the preference over any other of the Australian ports, and that the steps I may think it right to take in the event of war being declared must depend on the information received as to the nature of the attack or molestation to be expected; and that on such a wide and extended station no place can be safe from an isolated attack and being placed under contribution which is not properly fortified and protected by its own defences.

I have, &c.

A. H. HOSKINS, *Commodore.*

To His Excellency FREDERICK A. WELD, Esq., C.M.G.,
Governor of Tasmania.

FORWARDED to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary for record, to whom previous correspondence was forwarded on the 8th April last.

W. R. GIBLIN, *Colonial Treasurer.*
16th May, 1878.

MINUTE PAPER FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 8th April, 1878.

SUBMITTED,

THAT Colonel Scratchley, R.E., be informed that the Government of Tasmania accept of his services as Consulting Military Engineer for the term of three years, upon the terms specified in his letter of the 26th March last.

The proportion of Colonel Scratchley's salary payable by this Colony, namely, One hundred and eighteen pounds per annum, together with certified travelling expenses, to be provided for upon a supplementary estimate, as a case of emergency.

WM. MOORE.

THE Governor in Council approves.

E. C. NOWELL.
8. 4. 78.

F. A. W.

TELEGRAM.

Hobart Town, 18th April, 1878.

CAN you supply Government with about two miles of Cable? If so, at what price? Please reply if possible to-day.

COLONIAL SECRETARY.

W. WARREN, Esq., *Low Heads.*

TELEGRAM.

Low Heads, 19th April, 1878.

Your message only received late Friday night. Have asked Colonel Glover about Cable. Hope give you reply to-morrow.

W. WARREN.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary.

TELEGRAM.

Low Heads, 20th April, 1878.

I CAN let you have Cable at rate of one shilling per foot, or three hundred pounds per mile. Reply when required and in what lengths.

W. WARREN.

Colonial Secretary.

TELEGRAM.

11th May, 1878.

THE Government will require at least two miles of Submarine Cable, for which they will agree to pay the price stated in your Telegram. Kindly reserve this quantity, and say if they can have more if required.

WM. MOORE, *Colonial Secretary.*

W. WARREN, Esq., *George Town.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 9th May, 1878.

MEMO.

THE Colonial Secretary has the honor to submit for His Excellency's approval the name of E. M. Tudor Boddam, Esq., late Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery, for appointment as Staff Officer of the Local Forces, to act as Adjutant of Infantry and Artillery, as Gunnery Instructor, to supervise the Warlike Stores, and to look after the Batteries, in accordance with the recommendation of Lieut.-Colonel Scratchley in his first Report on the Defences of Tasmania. Mr. Boddam's name was suggested to the Government for this appointment by Colonel Scratchley on the occasion of his recent visit to Hobart Town.

The Government would recommend that Mr. Boddam should be gazetted to this appointment with the rank of Captain.

WM. MOORE.

APPROVED.

FRED. A. WELD, *Governor and Commander-in-Chief.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, 9th May, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint you Staff Officer of the Volunteer Force of Tasmania, with the rank of Captain.

Your duties will include those of Adjutant of Infantry and Artillery, as well as Gunnery Instructor, the supervision of Warlike Stores, and the maintenance of existing, and the construction of proposed Batteries.

The appointment will be for six months from the 3rd instant, with salary at the rate of Three hundred pounds (£300) per annum, with actual travelling expenses incurred.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

E. M. TUDOR BODDAM, *Esq., Webb's Hotel, Murray-street.*

Webb's Hotel, 10th May, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1448, of the 9th May, informing me that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint me Staff Officer of the Volunteer Force.

I have noted what are the duties attached to that post, and will strive to perform them to the best of my ability.

I have, &c.

E. M. TUDOR BODDAM, *Captain and Staff Officer.*

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Hobart Town, Tasmania.*

MINUTE PAPER FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 3rd June, 1878.

SUBMITTED,—

"As a case of emergency;"—That Captain Boddam, Staff Officer of the Volunteer Force of Tasmania, be paid salary at the rate of Three hundred Pounds per annum, with actual travelling expenses incurred.

The appointment to be for six months, on and from the 3rd ultimo.

To be provided for upon a Supplementary Estimate under the head of "Defences of the Colony."

WM. MOORE.

THE Governor in Council approves.

E. C. NOWELL,
3: 6: 78.

F. A. W.

Melbourne, 13th May, 1878.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I HAVE the honor to represent the necessity for making arrangements to secure a proper control over the efficient training of the Volunteer Force, not only in the future by periodical inspections at least every three months, but for the present, by more frequent inspections.

Moreover, in the absence of a paid Commandant, there are innumerable details which will require settlement before the defence system of the Colony is placed upon a satisfactory footing, and can only be dealt with by a competent officer.

Should Your Excellency see no objection to, and be able to meet the inconvenience attending the proposal, I have the honor to recommend that Your Excellency's Private Secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel St. Hill, should be appointed Inspecting Field Officer of the Volunteer Force.

I have had several opportunities of judging of Lieutenant-Colonel St. Hill's qualifications for the post, and I feel confident that the recommendation will commend itself to the favourable consideration of Your Excellency's Ministers.

Lieutenant-Colonel St. Hill's knowledge of surveying, of field fortification, and of military affairs generally, render him fully competent to act as a referee in the establishment of Sir W. Jervois' scheme of defence.

Should the appointment be made, it is desirable that Lieutenant-Colonel St. Hill should be instructed to communicate with me on the subject of his duties.

I have, &c.

P. H. SCRATCHLEY, *Lt.-Col. R.E.*

His Excellency FREDERICK WELD, *C.M.G.*,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

Melbourne, 15th May, 1878.

SIR,

As I am leaving for Adelaide on the 24th instant, I recommend that the gentleman from the Telegraph Department who is to have charge of the Torpedo arrangements should come to Melbourne at once to confer with me, and learn the work from Messrs. Joseph Brothers, the electrical instrument makers.

I recommend that an order be given to Messrs. Joseph for patterns of all the appliances which would be required for the proposed Torpedo Defences in the Derwent.

It is not to be expected that Messrs. Joseph will take the trouble of instructing the Tasmanian Torpedo Officer unless they see a chance of getting an order ultimately.

The advantage of following the course proposed is that the Torpedo Officer will, by means of the patterns, be able to experiment and make himself thoroughly acquainted with the business after returning to Hobart Town.

As I find that Captain Boddam is desirous of learning the Torpedo work, I propose that the small Torpedo detachment, to be enrolled for working the Submarine Defences, should be attached to the Permanent Artillery detachment, which it is proposed to place under Captain Boddam's charge.

The expense of the patterns above referred to will be £100, and I beg to request an early authority to order the same.

Lastly, I beg leave to remind you that Torpedo Defences cannot be expeditiously extemporised.

Besides the delay in procuring the cases and electrical appliances, elaborate preparations have to be made for laying the mines.

With untrained men and a deficiency of appliances the delay is proportionately longer.

If, therefore, it is intended to proceed with the Defence Scheme as recommended, not only should the Torpedo stores be ordered now, but the guns, &c. to be procured from England should be telegraphed for.

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

P. H. SCRATCHLEY.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 21st May, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, and, with reference to the Torpedo service, I have to inform you that Mr. Robert Henry, who will proceed to Melbourne by steamer to-morrow, has been directed to place himself in communication with you on his arrival.

With respect to the guns, &c., a telegram will be forwarded this day to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.

Lieut.-Colonel P. H. SCRATCHLEY,
Melbourne, Victoria.

W. R. GIBLIN,
For Colonial Secretary, absent.

TELEGRAM .

Melbourne, 28th May, 1878.

HAVE seen Henry. He must take back with him complete set of Torpedo apparatus to experiment with, as already recommended by me, otherwise value of visit will be lost. Tender for same amounts to Two hundred pounds. I advise immediate acceptance. Wire reply.

P. H. SCRATCHLEY.

Colonial Secretary, Hobart Town.

TELEGRAM.

29th May, 1878.

PLEASE accept for Tasmanian Government tender for complete set of Torpedo Apparatus at Two hundred Pounds.

WM. MOORE, *Colonial Secretary.*

Lieut.-Colonel SCRATCHLEY, *Melbourne.*

Melbourne, 14th May, 1878.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I BEG to recommend that the Secretary of State for the Colonies may be moved to request the War Office to supply regularly, for the use of the Staff Officers of the Local Forces of Tasmania, the Army Circulars, the Lists of Changes in Patterns, the Confidential Reports on Torpedo Experiments; and further, to sanction the issue of a complete set of the Confidential Reports which have been issued up to date, upon torpedoes, obstructions, &c., together with a copy of Colonel Stotherd's Work on Torpedoes.

I have, &c.

P. H. SCRATCHLEY, *Lieut.-Colonel R.E.*

*His Excellency FREDERICK WELD, C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.*

MINISTERS would be glad if His Excellency the Governor would move the Secretary of State to obtain and cause to be forwarded for the use of this Government the several documents referred to by Lieut.-Colonel Scratchley.

WM. MOORE.
10th June, 1878.

His Excellency the Governor.

TELEGRAM.

Tasmania, 21st May, 1877.

TASMANIA carrying out Jervois' recommendations defence Scratchley's advice. Government require (besides existing materiel) Five eighty-pounder converted guns, dwarf platforms, circular racers, Five hundred rounds ammunition, side-arms, small stores complete; Two wrought iron-rifled sixty-four pounders, wood travelling carriages limbers, Two hundred rounds, side-arms, small stores complete, usual proportions for coast defences; Four rifled nine-pounders, six hundredweight, wood carriages, limbers, Four hundred rounds, side-arms, stores complete.

All ammunition usual proportion. Two Gatling guns, wood travelling carriages, Twenty thousand rounds.

Five hundred Martini rifles, Two hundred thousand rounds.

Latest pattern electric light, torpedo defence engine complete.

I earnestly beg help for poor Colony; strategically important; making efforts; what you cannot give Agents pay.

WELD.

Colonial Secretary, London.

MEMORANDUM.

THE Premier desires to convey to the Governor an expression of the very high estimation which His Excellency's Ministers entertain of the valuable and gratuitous exertions of Lieut.-Colonel St. Hill, both in Hobart Town and Launceston, in the organisation of the Rifle Regiment of Volunteers, and the zeal and tact he has evinced in his efforts to forward the Volunteer movement generally at the present juncture.

Ministers would also take this opportunity to thank His Excellency for allowing Lieut.-Colonel St. Hill, as His Excellency's Aide-de-camp, to devote so much of his time to a service of such pressing importance.

W. R. GIBLIN.

Colonial Treasury, 4th June, 1878.

MEMO.

THE Premier has the honor to return Lieut.-Colonel Scratchley's letter to His Excellency the Governor of the 13th ultimo, recommending the appointment of Lieut.-Colonel St. Hill as Inspecting Field Officer of the Volunteer Force.

With His Excellency's concurrence Ministers would desire to adopt the recommendation of Colonel Scratchley; and should it meet His Excellency's and Colonel St. Hill's views, Ministers would be glad if, with the object of centralising the control and ensuring the better discipline of the Force, the Colonel would take the command of the whole of the Local Forces of Tasmania, at any rate until the subject of the defences of the Colony has been brought under the consideration of Parliament.

W. R. GIBLIN.

Colonial Treasury, 4th June, 1878.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Melbourne, 11th June, 1878.

It is very desirable to appoint a qualified gentleman to the position of Engineer Officer, to be attached to the Volunteer Force of Tasmania.

This officer would be useful in many ways, which need not be detailed, not only in time of war but during peace.

Mr. Rickett, of the Works Department, who served for many years in England in the Volunteer Artillery, is anxious to join the Force, and, from what I saw of him during my last visit to Tasmania, is well qualified for the post.

I submit his name for consideration.

Mr. Rickett is at present employed under Mr. Fincham, the Engineer-in-Chief.

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient Servant,

P. H. SCRATCHLEY, *Lieut.-Colonel R.E.*

*His Excellency F. A. WELD, C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander in Chief.*

Staff Office, 17th June, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report that I have examined all the Ordnance, Ammunition, and Military Stores, together with the Magazines, Batteries, and all Buildings until now under the sole charge of Master-Gunner James Chisholm, and found them to be in every way properly and satisfactorily taken care of. The books have been carefully and correctly kept, and I consider that the whole

system on which the responsible and troublesome duties appertaining to his office have been carried out reflect great credit on the Master-Gunner. I would call especial attention to the inventory boards kept by him with all stores. These I have never seen kept elsewhere in military stores, and serve not only as a check on the "ledger," but also enable any one inspecting the stores to see at a glance what is on hand. Most of the stores being of very old manufacture, their present serviceable condition is a sufficient test of the way in which they have been kept. The good state of preservation of the wood-work of wheels, and all leather-work especially, shows that they have been carefully attended to and preserved from exposure. The thorough knowledge of the position of everything under his charge without reference to books, and the careful arrangement of even the smallest stores, shows that the work to the smallest detail has been under the direct superintendence of the Master-Gunner.

I enclose receipt and delivery vouchers.

I have, &c.

E. M. TUDOR BODDAM, *Captain and Staff Officer.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

TRANSFER OF STORES.

Hobart Town, 13th June, 1878.

RECEIVED from the Honorable the Colonial Secretary the Ordnance, Ammunition, and Military Stores enumerated below :—

1. All Stores entered as balance in Store Ledger on 31st December, 1877.
2. Since received—210 Snider Rifles, B.L., with sword-bayonets (Naval Pattern 58); 135,000 Rounds Snider Ball Cartridges; 6500 Rounds Snider Blank Cartridges.
3. The usual supply of "Small Stores" for the year as entered in the Receipt Book to date.

E. M. TUDOR BODDAM, *Captain and Staff Officer.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, 21st June, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, reporting that you had examined all the Ordnance, Ammunition, and Military Stores, together with the Magazines, Batteries, and all Buildings until now under the sole charge of Master-Gunner James Chisholm, and enclosing receipt and delivery vouchers.

I desire to express my satisfaction at the condition in which you have found the property entrusted to the care of the Master-Gunner, and request that you will convey to him the entire approval of the Government at the manner in which he has discharged his various duties.

Your strong recommendation of this officer will be duly taken into consideration at the proper time.

I have, &c.

Captain BODDAM, *Staff Officer, Tasmanian Volunteer Force.*

WM. MOORE.

TASMANIA.—No. 17.

Downing-street, 1st May, 1878.

SIR,

WITH reference to the telegraphic communications which have passed respecting a supply of Rifles, &c. for the service of the Colony, I have the honor to acquaint you that the Crown Agents for the Colonies have been instructed to forward to Tasmania by the quickest route the Stores specified, in a packing account from the War Office, of which a copy is enclosed.

I have, &c.

Governor WELD, *C.M.G.*

M. E. HICKS BEACH.

PACKING Account of Military Stores ready for issue to Crown Agents for the Colonies, Downing-street.

Description and Number of Packages.	Names of Stores.	Numbers.	Gross Weight of Shipments.	Measurement.
	(For Tasmania).		tns. cwts. qrs. lbs.	
179 Boxes Wood Ammunition, S.A., with tin lining. Service Pattern IV. }	Ball Rifle or Carbine B.L. Snider Service }	100,000	6 7 0 6	Of each 1/10 × 0/9 × 0/7
	Cartridges }			
10 Barrels Cartridge 1/2 }	Blank Rifle or Carbine B.L. }	20,000	0 7 0 11	1/5 × 1/2 × 1/2
	Small Arm }			

(Value about £398.)

21st March, 1878.

W. GRAHAM, *A.C., for Commissary-General.*

For information of Ministers.

FRED. A. WELD,
June 22, 1878.

NOTED and returned. Ministers regret that the Despatch contains no reference to their application for 600 Snider Rifles being complied with.

WM. MOORE.
24th June, 1878.

FORWARDED for the information of the Staff Officer. To be returned.

Captain BODDAM, Staff Officer.

WM. MOORE.
25th June, 1878.

TELEGRAM.

Sydney, 27th June, 1878.

I ADVISE Telegram to England substituting new pattern rifled twelve-pounders for nine-pounders already ordered.

P. H. SCRATCHLEY.

To His Excellency the Governor, Hobart Town.

TELEGRAM.

DELAY Order. Parliament meeting. Will telegraph.

Colonial Secretary, London.

WELD.
Tasmania.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 6th July, 1878.

MEMORANDUM.

WITH reference to Lieutenant-Colonel Scratchley's letter to His Excellency of the 11th ultimo, recommending that Mr. Rickett, of the Public Works Department, should be appointed to the position of Engineer Officer to be attached to the Volunteer Force, Ministers are of opinion that, in view of the more pacific aspect of affairs in Europe, it is unnecessary to increase the paid staff of the Volunteer Force by such an appointment; and that the necessities of the case will be fully met by the construction of the necessary Defence Works under the immediate superintendence of Captain Boddam, according to instructions from Lieutenant-Colonel Scratchley, and with the occasional assistance, if required, of Mr. Fincham, the Engineer-in-Chief.

WM. MOORE.

His Excellency the Governor.

Sydney, 29th June, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that I am making satisfactory progress with the designs for the Batteries at One Tree Point and Kangaroo Bluff.

After trying several Draftsmen, who were worse than useless, I have engaged Mr. Merrett, late Chief Draftsman in the Public Works Department of Victoria, to complete the drawings (about ten sheets), and I hope that they will be done in about 6 or 8 weeks.

I regret to say that I have been obliged to promise Mr. Merrett nine pounds per week, but this is not at all out of the common salary paid for temporary work.

The Draftsman now employed by the New South Wales Government (who is not equal to Mr. Merrett) for defence drawings gets the same salary.

By employing a well qualified Draftsman I am enabled to supply finished designs, very accurately drawn,—a point of very great importance as I shall not be on the spot to superintend the execution of the works.

I have, &c.

P. H. SCRATCHLEY, *Lieutenant-Colonel R.E.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Hobart Town.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 9th July, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, informing me that you had engaged the services of Mr. Merrett, late Chief Draftsman in the Public Works Department of Victoria, to complete the drawings for the batteries at One Tree Point and Kangaroo Bluff, at a Salary of Nine Pounds per week.

In the confident hope that you will, as far as practicable, keep down the expenses attending this important work, and realising the necessity for accurate plans to enable the Staff Officer to construct the batteries in your absence, I have to notify the approval of the Government of the steps you have taken in this matter.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. SCRATCHLEY, R.E., Sydney, New South Wales.

SOUTHERN TASMANIAN VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY.

Hobart Town, 22nd December, 1877.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that the Committee appointed at a Public Meeting held at the Town Hall on the 19th instant, for the purpose of forming a Volunteer Defence Force for the Southern portion of the Colony, held a meeting last evening, when it was unanimously resolved that "the names of those who have volunteered to form a self-supporting Artillery Defence Force for the Southern portion of the Colony be at once handed in to the Colonial Secretary for presentation to the Governor." In accordance with that resolution I herewith enclose the offer of service of 122 citizens who have volunteered for that purpose, and beg, on behalf of the Committee, most respectfully to solicit that the application will, upon an early date, receive the consideration of the Government.

I have, &c.

W. P. GREEN, *Chairman of the Committee.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Hobart Town, 21st December, 1877.

SIR,

WE, the undersigned One hundred and twenty-two (122) citizens of Hobart Town, beg to make an offer of service to the Government as a Volunteer Artillery Defence Force for the Southern portion of the Colony, under the "Volunteer Act, 1877." We beg further to apply for the necessary arms and appointments, together with use of batteries, ammunition, field-pieces, drill-yard, sheds, &c., to enable us to become effective, we undertaking to provide a suitable uniform.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servants,

[Here follow One hundred and twenty-two signatures.]

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Town Hall, 22nd December, 1877.

I hereby certify that the above names of 122 citizen of Hobart Town are *bonâ fide*, they having expressed their desire to the Committee appointed at a public meeting held on the 19th instant to become volunteers, under the "Volunteer Act, 1877," and find their own uniform.

W. P. GREEN, *Mayor of City of Hobart, Chairman of Committee.*

Hanby Villa, Hobart Town, 5th January 1878.

SIR,

As I am informed that the application forwarded to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary on the 22nd ult., being an offer of service from 122 citizens who are willing to enrol themselves under the "Volunteer Act, 1877," for the purpose of forming the nucleus of a Defence Force for the Southern portion of the Colony to be a *self-supporting corps requiring no pecuniary assistance from the Government*, has been mislaid or confounded with a previous application to be placed upon the same footing as English Volunteers, I have the honor to enclose a copy of the offer referred to. Since

that date several more names have been received ; and were a corps once formed no difficulty would be experienced in obtaining as many as would be required to mount another battery.

I desire to earnestly impress upon the Government the desire which exists for the *immediately* accepting the citizens' services, as until that is done it is impossible they can be enrolled. Further delay would probably have the effect of lessening the number of volunteers already forwarded, besides being inimical to the future organisation of a Defence Force and inconsiderate to the feelings of the citizens at large.

When the volunteers are sworn in, the officers nominated by them will be at once submitted to His Excellency the Governor, together with the Rules and Regulations for the guidance of the corps.

Trusting this matter will receive your earliest consideration,

I have, &c.

EDWARD L. CROWTHER,
for W. P. GREEN, *absent*.

The Hon. the Premier.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 7th January, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd ultimo, communicating a Resolution passed at a Public Meeting held at the Town Hall on the 19th, for the purpose of forming a Volunteer Defence Force for the Southern portion of the Colony, to the effect that "The names of those who have volunteered to form a self-supporting Artillery Defence Force for the Southern portion of the Colony be at once handed in to the Colonial Secretary for presentation to the Governor."

You also enclose the "offer of service of 122 volunteers."

I regret the delay that has occurred in replying to your letter, which has partly arisen from the pressure of public business, and partly from the absence of the Colonial Secretary from town.

The "offer of service" has been duly laid before the Governor; and His Excellency desires it to be notified that, in the terms of the 1st Section of "The Volunteer Act, 1877," he accepts the services of the citizens whose names appear therein, and at the same time to express his satisfaction at the evidence thus afforded of the interest taken by the citizens in the defence of the City.

The general question of the Defences of the Colony being now under the consideration of Sir William Jervois and Colonel Scratchley, the steps that may eventually be taken in connection with this subject must in a great measure depend upon their report, and the decision at which Parliament may arrive thereon, but, in the meantime, the Government will be prepared to foster the movement so far as lies within the power of the Executive.

I have, &c.

W. P. GREEN, *Esq., Chairman of the Committee,*
Hobart Town.

P. O. FYSH,
For Colonial Secretary, absent.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 11th April, 1878.

SIR,

WITH reference to our conversation on the subject, I have the honor to suggest, for the consideration of yourself and the members of your corps, that Government having decided to recommend to Parliament that a capitation allowance of £2 10s. be granted to those volunteers who may be found "efficient," it is desirable that they should re-enrol under "The Volunteers Act, 1863," (27 Vict. No. 23), and thus secure the advantages offered by the provisions of that Act, in preference to their continuing as volunteers under the Act No. 25 of last Session.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

Captain EDWARD L. CROWTHER,
Southern Tasmanian Volunteer Artillery Corps, Hobart Town.

*Southern Tasmanian Volunteer Artillery Corps,
Orderly Room, 13th April, 1878.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you in reply to your letter of the 11th instant, throwing out the suggestion that it would be desirable to transfer the Artillery Corps under my command from "The Volunteer Act, 1877," to the Act of 1863, and thereby gain the capitation grant of £2 10s., and also the other advantages of the older enactment, that I put the question to a full parade of members last evening, when the proposal was unanimously agreed to, as it is believed that the change will conduce to better efficiency. I stated to the members that I had your assurance that it was not the intention of the Government to in any way alter the existing appointments of officers and staff in the corps.

I have therefore the pleasure to offer you the services of the S.T.V. Artillery Corps (135 of whom are in uniform) as a defence force, under "The Volunteers Act, 1863," 27 Vict. No. 23; and I have to request you will take the necessary steps to complete the transference.

I have, &c.

EDWARD L. CROWTHER, *Captain.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 23rd April, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant containing the "offer of service" of the Southern Tasmanian Volunteer Artillery Corps under "The Volunteers Act, 1863," instead of, as at present enrolled, under the Act of last year.

The Government are glad to find the men under your command unanimous in the adoption of the suggestion contained in my letter of the 11th instant; and I now forward a book for the enrolment of the men, and also two books of forms of oath.

I desire to intimate to you that the Government have decided to fix the following standards for admission into the force, by which you will be good enough to be guided in future:—

Artillery Volunteers—Age, 18 to ; height, 5 feet 6 inches; girth of chest, 32 inches.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

Captain E. L. CROWTHER, Hanby Villa.

*Southern Tasmanian Volunteer Artillery Corps,
Orderly Room, 25th April, 1878.*

SIR,

IN regard to your letter of the 23rd instant, forwarding standards of measurement for the members of the Artillery Corps, I have the honor to say that for new members they will be strictly applied: but before recruiting I beg to ask for information as to the exact number of effective strength the Artillery is to consist of, a record of which, I trust, Colonel Scratchley has left for the guidance of the Administration.

I have, &c.

EDWARD L. CROWTHER, *Captain.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 27th April, 1878.

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of the 25th instant, I have the honor to inform you that at present the effective strength of the Artillery Corps for Hobart Town, as recommended by Lieut.-Colonel Scratchley, is fixed at Two hundred and ten officers and men.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

Captain CROWTHER, Hanby Villa.

*Southern Tasmanian Volunteer Artillery Corps,
Orderly Room, 2nd May, 1878.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to request that the Government will supplement with a sum of money the prizes of the Corps, to be competed for on the 24th instant by those members (120) who are sufficiently advanced in their drill. In former days the Government did so, and if at the present time they revived the practice by ever so small an amount it would have an encouraging effect upon the Volunteer movement.

The following private citizens have offered money and trophies for the shooting in question :—
Mr. J. Bidenscope, an electro cup; Mr. T. B. Way, two cups (silver); Mr. W. H. Burgess, eleven silver medals; Mrs. E. L. Crowther, £10; and I therefore hope the Government will second their efforts in the manner requested, placing their conditions upon the awards.

I have, &c.

The Hon. WM. MOORE.

EDWARD L. CROWTHER.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 9th May, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, requesting the Government to supplement the prizes to be competed for by the Volunteer Artillery Corps on the 24th instant by the grant of a sum of money.

In reply I have to inform you that the Government are compelled to decline acceding to your request on the present occasion; but, at the same time, they desire to inform you that they propose, when submitting to Parliament a vote for the maintenance of the Volunteer Force, to include an amount for prizes, to be apportioned between the different branches of the force as may be hereafter determined.

I have, &c.

Captain CROWTHER, S.T.V.A. Corps.

WM. MOORE.

ENROLMENT OF RIFLE REGIMENT.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 8th April, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to authorise yourself and Lieut.-Colonel Windle Hill St. Hill to take the preliminary steps for organising a Volunteer Rifle Corps, under the provisions of "The Volunteers Act, 1863," 27 Victoria, No. 23, a notification of which will appear in to-morrow's *Gazette*.

I have, &c.

The Hon. Sir JAMES MILNE WILSON, M.L.C., Melrose.

WM. MOORE.

[*Similar to Lieut.-Colonel WINDLE HILL ST. HILL, Government House.*]

Colonial Secretary's Office, 11th April, 1878.

SIR,

WITH reference to my communication of the 8th instant, conveying to yourself and Lieutenant-Colonel St. Hill the authority of His Excellency to take the preliminary steps for organising a Volunteer Rifle Corps, under "The Volunteers Act, 1863," I have the honor to inform you that the Government have decided to recommend to Parliament that a capitation allowance of £2 10s. be granted to those Volunteers who may render themselves "efficient," to the number of three hundred infantry, for the protection of Hobart Town, as proposed by Sir William Jervois in his Memorandum on the Defences of Tasmania.

I have, &c.

The Hon. Sir JAMES M. WILSON, M.L.C., Melrose.

WM. MOORE.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 3rd May, 1878.

MEMO.

THE Colonial Secretary has the honor to forward herewith to His Excellency the Governor a communication dated the 2nd instant, received this morning from the Honorable Sir James Milne Wilson and Lieutenant-Colonel St. Hill.

WM. MOORE.

His Excellency the Governor.

Hobart Town, 2nd May, 1878.

SIR,

WE have the honor to report, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that in compliance with the notification in the *Gazette* of the 9th April, 1878, authorising us to take the necessary preliminary steps for the organisation of a Volunteer Rifle Corps under the provisions of "The Volunteers Act, 1863," for the protection of Hobart Town, in accordance with the recommendation of Sir William Jervois in his report on the Defences of Tasmania, we proceeded without delay to discharge the duty thus devolved upon us, which, in consequence of the ready response accorded to our invitation, we were enabled to do in the short space of two days.

Herewith we transmit the Books containing the enrolment of the names, and the oaths of allegiance taken and subscribed by three hundred persons before Mr. H. M. Hull, J.P., in conformity with the provisions of the Act, each of whom was in the first instance passed by the Medical Officer, Dr. Turnley.

The three hundred persons in question now offer, through us, their services to the Governor under "The Volunteers Act, 1863," as a Volunteer Rifle Corps; and it will be gratifying to His Excellency to be informed that a much greater number than the prescribed limit presented themselves for enrolment, and whose names were placed on a Reserve List as future members of the corps.

We cannot doubt that His Excellency will appreciate the patriotic enthusiasm evinced by those who volunteered in at once offering their services to their Sovereign, as another illustration of the loyalty of the people of Tasmania.

We have, &c.

J. M. WILSON,

W. H. ST. HILL, *Lieutenant-Colonel.*

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

MEMO. for the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

THE Governor willingly accepts the services of the three hundred Volunteers who have been enrolled in Hobart Town by the Honorable Sir James Milne Wilson and Lieutenant-Colonel St. Hill under "The Volunteers Act, 1863," and in doing so he desires the Colonial Secretary to convey to them his high appreciation of the public spirit and loyalty which has induced them so readily to come forward and offer their services.

The Governor is also much gratified to learn that a yet larger number are ready to serve if required, and to them also his thanks are due.

The Colonial Secretary is also requested to express to the Honorable Sir James Milne Wilson and Lieutenant-Colonel St. Hill the Governor's thanks for having freely placed their services at the disposal of Government for the enrolment of Volunteers, and his gratification at the success of their efforts.

FRED. A. WELD, *Governor.*

Government House, 3rd May, 1878.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 3rd May, 1878.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, reporting, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that you have been able to enrol in two days three hundred men as a Volunteer Rifle Corps for the Defence of Hobart Town who, through you, tender the offer of their services to His Excellency. You also state that a much greater number than the prescribed limit presented themselves for enrolment, and that their names have been placed on a reserved list as future members of the Corps.

I immediately forwarded your communication to His Excellency, and I am now instructed to inform you that the Governor willingly accepts the services of the three hundred Volunteers who have been enrolled in Hobart Town under "The Volunteers Act, 1863;" and in doing so, he desires me to convey to them, through you, his high appreciation of the public spirit and loyalty which has induced them so readily to come forward and offer their services.

The Governor is also much gratified to learn that a yet larger number are ready to serve if required, and to them also his thanks are due.

I am, at the same time, requested by His Excellency to express to you his thanks for having freely placed your services at the disposal of the Government for the enrolment of Volunteers, and his gratification at the success of your efforts.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

The Hon. Sir JAMES MILNE WILSON and Lieutenant-Colonel ST. HILL.

LAUNCESTON VOLUNTEER RIFLE CORPS.—ENROLMENT.

Launceston, 16th March, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, in forwarding the enclosed list to you for presentation to His Excellency the Governor, to inform you that it is only a preliminary list; and I believe at least fifty additional Volunteers are ready to join so soon as the formation of the Corps is authorised.

I may observe that there is an exceedingly good spirit amongst the young men of Launceston, and a strong desire to enrol themselves as Volunteers; but very many are unable to afford the cost of uniform, and many others refuse (as they allege) on principle, believing that uniform should be found by Government.

If I may so far trespass, I would suggest that a great impetus would be given to the Volunteer movement were Government to announce that they would be prepared to recommend to Parliament a capitation allowance of say £2 per annum in aid of uniform for all Volunteers obtaining their "efficiency" certificates by a fixed date, to be specified by regulation.

I have, &c.

THOS. C. JUST.

*The Hon. WM. MOORE, M.L.C., Colonial Secretary.**Launceston, 16th March, 1878.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, by request of the persons signing the enclosed Roll, to forward the same to you, and through you to tender the services of such persons to His Excellency the Governor, to serve as a Volunteer Rifle Corps, under the Act, 41 Vict. No. 25—"An Act to amend the Volunteer Corps Act, 1863."

I have, &c.

THOS. C. JUST.

The Hon. WM. MOORE, M.L.C., Colonial Secretary.

VOLUNTEER RIFLE CORPS.

WE, the undersigned, hereby agree to join a Volunteer Rifle Corps, to be formed under the Act, 41 Vict. No. 25, and to find such uniform as may be agreed on; cost not to exceed £2 10s.

[Here follow 54 signatures.]

A list of Volunteers for the Band containing 20 names is also appended.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 3rd April, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th ultimo, tendering the services of certain persons signing the Roll enclosed by you to His Excellency the Governor to serve as a Volunteer Rifle Corps under the Act 41 Victoria, No. 25.

Before replying to your letter I was anxious to receive from Lieutenant-Colonel Scratchley a programme promised by him, showing how the scheme of Defence recommended by His Excellency Sir William Jervois can be best carried out. This programme has not yet reached me. Colonel Scratchley hopes to be in Hobart Town "early in April," and I expected his report before he arrived here.

The Governor will be prepared "to accept and avail himself of the services of such persons as may be willing to serve as Volunteers without receiving any pay, &c." in accordance with the provisions of "The Volunteer Act, 1877," 41 Vict. No. 25.

The Government are of opinion, however, that in the present disturbed state of affairs it would be better for the Volunteers to enrol themselves under the old Act, namely, "The Volunteers Act, 1863," 27 Vict. No. 23; and, in the event of their doing so, the Government will be prepared to recommend to Parliament that a capitation allowance of £2 10s. be granted to those Volunteers who may be found efficient.

The Governor will be prepared to accept the services under the provisions of "The Volunteers Act, 1863," of the number of Volunteers recommended in Sir William Jervois' Memorandum (copy enclosed), subject to the inspection and approval of a Military Officer appointed by the Government.

I have, &c.

THOMAS C. JUST, Esq., M.H.A., Launceston.

WM. MOORE.

Launceston, 5th April, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 3rd instant in reply to mine of 16th ultimo, "tendering the services of certain persons signing the roll enclosed by me to His Excellency the Governor, to serve as a Volunteer Rifle Corps under the Act 41st Vict. No. 25," and apprising me that His Excellency the Governor will be prepared "to accept and avail himself of the services of such persons" under that Act, but that the Government are of opinion "it would be better for the Volunteers to enrol themselves under the old Act, namely, "The Volunteers Act, 1863," (27 Victoria, No. 23), and in the event of their doing so, the Government will be prepared to recommend to Parliament that a capitation allowance of £2 10s. be granted to those Volunteers who may be found efficient." Also, informing me that "the Governor will be prepared to accept the services of the number of Volunteers recommended in Sir William Jervois' Memorandum," which, as regards Rifle Volunteers for Launceston, I find to be 100 men.

In the opinion expressed by Government as to enrolling under the Act of 1863, I entirely concur. As the author of the Act 41 Vict. No. 25, I only intended and desired that its provisions should be applicable so long as Government and Parliament refrained from putting the Act 27th Vict. No. 23 into operation, and for that reason I included the provision for incorporation contained in Clause 4.

I have called a meeting of the persons signing the roll referred to, and of such other persons as may desire to join the proposed Corps, for Monday next, 8th instant, when I shall have the honor to submit your letter, and to recommend immediate enrolment under the provisions of the Act of 1863, in accordance with the desire of the Government.

As much of the success of a Volunteer Corps depends upon the spirit and promptness with which all matters pertaining to it are carried out, permit me to suggest that you should immediately authorise some one to act as Enrolling Officer, and that a Medical Officer should also be requested to pass the men.

Dr. William Mason, J.P., of Launceston, is one of those signing the roll, and has informed me that he will be happy to attend the meeting on Monday evening, and to examine any Volunteers who may present themselves should you desire it. Dr. Mason is an ex-Staff Assistant Surgeon of the Royal Horse Artillery, served through the Crimean War, and carries the Sebastopol and Turkish Medals. He is therefore fully qualified for the duty.

The Mayor of Launceston and other Magistrates will be present, and ready to administer the oath to the Volunteers.

A sufficient number being enrolled, arrangements will—with your approval—be made for a meeting at a subsequent date, at which rules and regulations will be considered under Part IV. Section 26 of the Act 27 Vict. No. 23; and Officers will be nominated for recommendation to His Excellency the Governor, under Part I. Section 4 of the same Act.

Should you assent to the programme thus sketched, will you kindly intimate your approval by telegram, in order that necessary arrangements may be made for giving effect to it.

I have, &c.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary.

THOS. C. JUST.

Launceston, 10th April, 1878.

SIR,

BEING without reply to mine of 5th instant I was unable to do more at the meeting on Monday evening than to read your letter of the 3rd instant, and to recommend those wishing to volunteer to do so under the Act 27th Vict. No. 23.

The meeting was a large one, and those present were very enthusiastic. Nearly all on the original roll agreed to serve under the Act of 1863, but one or two preferred joining the Artillery. There are now 82 names on the Rifle Corps roll, and many others are ready to join so soon as Government take measures for their enrolment. (Copy of roll enclosed.)

I again urge on Government the desirability of appointing an Enrolling Officer for Launceston without delay.

I have, &c.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary.

THOS. C. JUST.

ROLL of Persons volunteering to serve as a Rifle Corps at Launceston, under "The Volunteers Act, 1863," 27 Vict. No. 23.

[Here follow 82 Signatures.]

Colonial Secretary's Office, 12th April, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 5th and 10th instant, on the subject of the enrolment of persons volunteering to serve as a Rifle Corps at Launceston, under the Provisions of "The Volunteers Act, 1863," (27 Victoria, No. 23); and, in reply, have to inform you that the necessary forms are now being prepared and printed, and it is arranged that Lieutenant-Colonel St. Hill will visit Launceston at an early day next week, of which due notice will be given, for the purpose of enrolling Volunteers under that Act.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

THOMAS C. JUST, *Esq., M.H.A., Launceston.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, 15th April, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to authorise your taking the necessary steps for the organisation of a Volunteer Rifle Corps in Launceston under the provisions of "The Volunteers Act, 1863," (27 Vict. No. 23).

The Government have decided to recommend to Parliament that a capitation allowance of £2 10s. be granted to those Volunteers who may render themselves efficient to the number of one hundred Infantry for the protection of Launceston as proposed by Sir William Jervois in his Memorandum on the Defences of Tasmania.

I shall feel obliged by your informing me when you will be prepared to proceed to Launceston, so that I may communicate with those gentlemen who are taking an active part in connection with the movement.

A notification of the above authority will appear in to-morrow's *Gazette*.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

Lieutenant-Colonel St. Hill, Government House.

Government House, 16th April, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter of 15th instant.

I shall be ready to proceed to Launceston on Tuesday next, the 23rd inst., and will be prepared to commence enrolling on the afternoon of that day.

I have, &c.

W. H. ST. HILL, *Lieut.-Colonel.*

The Hon the Colonial Secretary.

TELEGRAM.

Launceston, 26th April, 1878.

CAN you authorise Col. St. Hill to enrol 20 bandsmen in addition to 100 Volunteers? Please reply.

THOS. C. JUST.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

TELEGRAM.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 27th April, 1878.

GOVERNMENT approve of enrolment of ten bandsmen in the Rifle Corps and ten in the Artillery, in addition to the strength already authorised.

They must qualify as efficient in their respective Corps.

The uniform for the entire number to be the same, and to be agreed upon by the two Corps jointly.

WM. MOORE.

T. C. JUST, *Esq.*

TELEGRAM.

Launceston, 3rd May, 1878.

ROLL of Infantry Corps full. A number first-class men offering. Can you authorise Fifty more? Make two skeleton Companies.

THOS. C. JUST.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary.

TELEGRAM.

3rd May, 1878.

GOVERNMENT think it not advisable at present to enrol more than One hundred men ; these can be formed into two Companies and the numbers of each increased should the necessity arise. Band no included in above.

WM. MOORE.

T. C. JUST, *Esq., M.H.A., Launceston.**Launceston, 4th May, 1878.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward by this day's post the nominal roll of men enrolled in the Launceston Rifle Corps. You will find I have accepted 10 emergency men, subject to Government approval, with a view to make good deficiencies by retirement or otherwise.

I have written the Hon. Colonial Secretary requesting permission to enrol 150 men in all.

Will you kindly tender the offer of service of these men to His Excellency the Governor as Volunteers under the Act 27th Vict. No. 23? All have been sworn in, and the Oath Book will be forwarded by Monday's mail.

I have, &c.

THOS. C. JUST.

Lieut.-Col. ST. HILL.

FORWARDED to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, to whom this communication should have been addressed.

W. H. ST. HILL.
6. 5. 78.*Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 8th May, 1878.*

MEMORANDUM.

THE Colonial Secretary has the honor to forward, herewith, to His Excellency the Governor the accompanying "Offer of Service" on the part of the men lately enrolled in Launceston with the object of forming a Rifle Company.

WM. MOORE.

His Excellency the Governor.

I ACCEPT the services of the Volunteers enrolled in Launceston under the Act 27 Vict. No. 23 ; and I request the Colonial Secretary to inform them that I highly appreciate the public spirit and zeal for Her Majesty's service which has induced them to come forward.

FRED. A. WELD.

*8th May, 1878.**Colonial Secretary's Office, 9th May, 1878.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, addressed to Lieutenant-Colonel St. Hill, tendering to His Excellency the Offer of Service of the men whose names are included in the Roll which accompanied your letter as Volunteer Riflemen under "The Volunteers Act, 1863."

Having forwarded your letter to His Excellency, I am directed to inform you that the Governor is pleased to accept the services of the Volunteers enrolled in Launceston under the Act 27 Vict. No. 23; and His Excellency requests me to inform the members of the Corps that he highly appreciates the public spirit and zeal for Her Majesty's service which has induced them to come forward.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

THOMAS C. JUST, Esquire, M.H.A., Launceston.

Launceston, 4th May, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your telegram in reply to mine of yesterday's date :—

"Government think it not advisable at present to enrol more than one hundred men. These can be formed into two companies, and the number of each increased should the necessity arise. Band not included in the above.

(Signed) WM. MOORE."

I communicated this to a number of those interested, and a general hope is expressed that Government will review their decision, and authorise the enrolment of the additional fifty men. The authority to form two companies has given much satisfaction, and the men now enrolled are very anxious to commence drill as speedily as possible.

We have about twelve additional men on the roll taken *conditionally on Government approving*. Some of these would be very desirable men as Volunteers, and I trust they will be permitted to remain. It would be well, under any circumstances, that the skeleton companies should be fifty (50) strong, exclusive of officers and non-commissioned officers.

A committee of enrolled members met last evening to consider the propriety of framing Rules and Regulations under Section 26 of the Volunteer Act, (27th Vict. No. 23,) but, after discussion, it was resolved that the matter should stand over until Government has decided on the question of organisation. Should regimental organisation be approved, Government will of course frame Regulations for the control of the Regiments, and Companies will simply have to make Bye-laws. For your information I enclose a copy of the Regulations issued under similar organisation by the South Australian Government in 1861, with a copy of the Bye-laws of the Company I had the honor to command. These may prove of service to you. I shall be obliged if you will return them when done with.

A general desire prevails amongst the Volunteers that Government should decide upon organisation and uniform without delay. Nothing will tend more to maintain a feeling of enthusiasm amongst the men.

I have, &c.

THOS. C. JUST.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 31st May, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, to which I should have replied earlier but for my absence from Hobart Town.

With regard to the number of men, as you are aware, the authorised strength has been increased to 150 as recommended; and as respects Rules and Regulations, this subject, and that of organisation, is now receiving the consideration of the Government; and if you can spare the South Australian Regulations, which accompanied your letter, for a short time longer, they may prove of service in preparing the code for the government of the Force in this Colony.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

Captain THOMAS C. JUST, Launceston.

LAUNCESTON VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY CORPS.—ADDITION TO THE STRENGTH.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 3rd April, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that the Governor will be prepared to accept the services of any persons who may be desirous of offering themselves as Volunteers under the provisions of "The Volunteer Act, 1863," (27 Vict. No. 23).

The Government will feel obliged if you will be good enough as soon as possible to take the necessary steps to enrol additional Volunteers in the Launceston Volunteer Artillery Corps, up to the number of fifty; and they will be prepared to recommend to Parliament that a capitation allowance of £2 10s. be granted to every Volunteer on his obtaining a certificate of efficiency.

I enclose, herewith, a printed copy of a Memorandum by His Excellency Major-General Sir W. F. Drummond Jervois, K.C.M.G., C.B., on the Defences of the Colony, and it is proposed that the thirty Artillery referred to therein as required for Launceston, should be selected from your Corps by a Military Officer appointed by the Government.

I have, &c.

Captain HARRAP, L.V.A.C.

WM. MOORE.

Launceston, 9th April, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, in reference to enrolling fifty additional Volunteers for the Launceston Artillery.

At a special meeting, held at the Volunteer Building last evening, thirty young men enrolled themselves, and I trust to have the required number in the course of a week or two, when all will be ready to take the Oath of Allegiance, a form of which I shall be glad to receive from the Government as early as possible.

I have, &c.

ALFRED HARRAP, *Captain L.V.A.*

The Hon. Colonial Secretary, Hobart Town.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 24th April, 1878.

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of the 9th instant, I have the honor to forward, herewith, one Book for the enrolment of Volunteers in the Launceston Volunteer Artillery Corps, and one book containing Forms of Oath.

I have, &c.

Captain HARRAP, Volunteer Artillery Corps, Launceston.

WM. MOORE.

TELEGRAM.

27th April, 1878.

GOVERNMENT approve of enrolment of ten bandmen in the Rifle Corps and ten in the Artillery, in addition to the strength already authorised.

They must qualify as "efficients" in their respective Corps.

The uniform for the entire number to be the same, and to be agreed upon by the two Corps jointly.

WM. MOORE.

Captain HARRAP, Volunteer Artillery Corps, Launceston.

Launceston, 17th May, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report for the information of His Excellency the Governor that, in compliance with instructions received from the Hon. Colonial Secretary, under date 3rd April, I have enrolled the Fifty young men, and Ten also for band, for the L.V.A. Corps. The men are now progressing very favourably with their drill, and are ready for their uniform. Will you inform me in what manner the uniform is to be obtained?

I have, &c.

ALFRED HARRAP, *Commanding L.V.A.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Hobart Town.

Launceston, 31st May, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit for His Excellency's approval the names of two gentlemen who have joined the Launceston Volunteer Artillery, the members of which are anxious they may be gazetted as under :—

George Thomas Collins, Solicitor, as Paymaster, *vice* — Robertson deceased.

James Arthur Hardy, Surgeon, as Assistant-Surgeon.

Surgeon-Major Miller being absent from the Colony, Dr. Hardy, at my request, attended on Her Majesty's Birthday during the firing the Royal Salute.

I have enrolled to this date altogether Eighty men, and have to request I may be allowed to increase the strength of the Battery to One hundred men.

My letter of the 15th instant to the Hon. Colonial Secretary, asking in what manner the uniform was to be obtained, is still unanswered. May I be allowed to call for tenders in Launceston at once, as the men are now quite ready to receive it?

I have, &c.

ALFRED HARRAP, *Captain Commanding L.V.A.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Hobart Town.

THE following appointments in the Launceston Volunteer Artillery Corps are submitted for the approval of His Excellency the Governor:—George Thomas Collins as Paymaster (Honorary Captain), *vice* James Robertson deceased; James Arthur Hardy, M.R.C.S. Eng., as Surgeon (relative rank Captain).

WM. MOORE.
1st June, 1878.

APPROVED.

FRED. A. WELD.
3rd June, 1878.

REFERRED to the Staff Officer with regard to the two last paragraphs of this letter.

WM. MOORE,
27. 6. 78.

FORTY Volunteer Artillery have been considered sufficient for the proper defence of Launceston by competent authority. I could not, therefore, take it upon myself to recommend any further increase of the Force.

E. M. TUDOR BODDAM, *Captain, Staff Officer.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, 3rd July, 1878.

SIR,

WITH reference to the enquiry contained in your letter of the 31st May, whether you may be allowed to increase the strength of the Battery from Eighty to One hundred men, I have the honor to inform you that your communication has been referred to the Staff Officer, who, in his reply, states "Forty Volunteer Artillery have been considered sufficient for the proper defence of Launceston by competent authority; I could not, therefore, take it upon myself to recommend any further increase of the Force."

The Government, under the circumstances, are not prepared to sanction any addition to the present strength of the Artillery Corps.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

Captain HARRAP, Commanding L.V.A.C., Launceston.

DEFENCES OF THE COLONY.

In continuation of Paper No. 37.

[Laid on the Table by the Colonial Secretary, and ordered by the Council to be printed, 30 August, 1878.]

12th July, 1878.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I SUBMIT for the consideration of Your Excellency and of the Government of Tasmania a Memorandum relating to the organisation for the Local Forces, more particularly the Permanent Force, recommended by His Excellency Sir W. Jervois in connection with the defences of the Colony.

I have the honor to be

Your Excellency's most obedient Servant,

P. H. SCRATCHLEY, *Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.*

*His Excellency F. A. WELD, Esq., C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.*

MEMORANDUM FOR MINISTERS.

I TRANSMIT to Ministers a Memorandum in reference to the organisation of the Local Defence Force by Lieut.-Colonel Scratchley, R.E., and commend it to their careful consideration.

It is now probable that time will be afforded for systematic organisation. A few years may probably elapse before the outbreak of a great war; but no one can look at the present state of Europe without feeling that nothing but a spark is needed at any moment to light a wide-spread conflagration.

What are the probabilities of the next few years? England, we may anticipate, will maintain her present naval supremacy; but it is quite possible that the advance of science may once more revolutionise the art of naval construction, and that once more she may have to build a new fleet and elaborate new naval tactics. Party considerations, too, may influence her policy, and peace may again lull her energies; and it is not impossible that she may once more be found unprepared at the outset for war. Other nations are likely to make great efforts to counterbalance the preponderance which England (this time ready for war) has resumed in the counsels of Europe. One thing is morally certain: firstly, that Russia, and possibly other Powers, will have in a few years a more assured base of operations and naval power so placed that it may more readily be brought to bear in the Pacific Ocean; and secondly, that the British Australasian Colonies will be far richer, possess a far more extensive commerce and commercial marine, and be in every way far more worth plundering. Very valuable and a mine of riches indeed would they be to annex and tax at pleasure under the fiscal system usually applied to Colonies by Continental Powers and great despotisms, were such a thing possible.

But there is another thing yet more certain. It is, that in a few years British Australasia will be strong enough, especially if united, to keep herself perfectly safe in the case of any temporary failure of Imperial assistance; and even more than that, she will be able, and I believe will be proud, to show that she is in the first rank of young countries in war as in peace. Other nations may have strong military and naval settlements in this part of the world in the North and South Pacific, but they will be merely military or naval Government-settlements; and no mere bureaucratic settlement of that kind can hold its own against a people, young it may be, but rich, progressive, full of life, free, self-supporting, and deeply attached to the Mother Country, so long as that people is true to itself and does not take up defence questions on emergency in a panic, but looks on them in a business-like manner as part of every-day duty.

Holding these views, I need hardly say that I attach great weight to Colonel Scratchley's suggestions regarding unison of system in view of future federation. I have already publicly spoken upon that subject, and the representative of Tasmania at the late Intercolonial Conference has since obtained an affirmation of that principle. It was not too soon, for it seems to me that the material progress of these Colonies is apt to outstrip foresight; and though to be practical, a statesman should not be too far in advance of his times, he should at least be so far to the front as to be able to cast a forward glance into the dimness of the future. A most valuable suggestion of Colonel Scratchley's is that of Reserves. He has there touched the very essence of the question. These Colonies do not want a large permanent force, but we do want, on emergency,

to be able suddenly to increase it. We want to have a considerable body of trained reliable men available when wanted. I would go beyond him and allow a certain number of the Volunteers also, who would take pay, to pass into the Reserve. I have already often made suggestions similar to those contained in his memorandum regarding the Police, and with respect to the consideration of military service as a first step to certain civil appointments. I have also pointed out how in Tasmania small swift steamers might be employed in time of peace for survey work; for the prevention of smuggling; for police and lighthouse work in the islands, and occasionally on our west coast; and that they then might be utilised as torpedo-boats, gun-boats, and look-out boats in time of war.

I further hold that military exercises and military spirit throughout the Colony should be encouraged. The basis and support of military organisation is a wide-spread patriotic and military spirit.

The financial question is for Tasmania, of course, an important one. I, as Governor, should be hardly justified in treating it in detail. I may, however, express views as desirable in the abstract and in general terms; and I will record a confident hope that the natural development of the now proved great resources of Tasmania, if aided by a wise policy, will enable this Colony to carry out a system of defence organisation that will not unduly press upon its means, and that will free it for ever from war panic, or from the fear of that collapse of financial credit that would inevitably be the consequence of even a temporarily successful hostile raid, or even of the probability of its success.

FRED. A. WELD, Governor.

Government House, 24th July, 1878.

MEMORANDUM BY LIEUT.-COLONEL SCRATCHLEY, R.E.

SUGGESTIONS in reference to the Organisation of the Local Forces required for the Scheme of Defence, recommended for Tasmania by His Excellency Major-General Sir W. JERVOIS, R.E.

No system of defence can be considered to be complete which does not provide for the maintenance of such bodies of trained men as may be necessary for its proper working. The question of organisation for the Australian Local Forces is surrounded by many difficulties, but it has been generally admitted that the broad principles laid down by Sir W. Jervois in his defence reports form a good basis upon which to work. At present the Australian Governments are, of necessity, acting independently in defence matters; but this is no reason why an effort should not be made, as far as local circumstances will permit, to bring the organisations adopted in the several Colonies into harmony with each other, in order that, when the proper time arrives, the whole of the defensive arrangements may be placed upon a federal footing and entrusted to the control of an Imperial officer, who should be periodically removed.

The advantages to be gained from such a combination of the Australian Colonies—as for instance: complete co-operation in time of war, security for efficiency and progress in keeping up with modern improvements, consequent upon the periodical removal of the officer at the head of affairs,—are so obvious as not to need demonstration. There is little doubt that arrangements could be devised for the efficient working of a federal system of defence, but it would be out of place in this memorandum to do more than refer to the subject. One important fact should not, however, be lost sight of as an argument in favour of uniformity of organisation, and it is that the railways, which are in progress or in contemplation for connecting the capitals of the several Colonies, must directly strengthen the defensive power of the country against foreign aggression, and render it practically impossible for an enemy to retain a permanent footing on the Australian continent.

Sir W. Jervois has detailed the forces to be maintained for each place, and generally he has advocated the establishment of a permanent nucleus of highly trained artillery-men, to be supplemented by auxiliary forces, such as Naval Brigades for service afloat, Torpedo Corps to manage the submarine defences, and bodies of Cavalry, Artillery, Engineers, and Infantry, to act as a field force in each Colony. He has endeavoured to dispel the prevalent impression that large numbers of men are necessary for the protection of each Colony; and the leading idea of his recommendations has been, that, with so extensive a seaboard, the measures for the defence of the Australian Colonies should not be confined to *fixed* defences* supported by land forces, but that they should comprise *floating defences*, in the shape of sea-going war vessels capable of co-operating with the fixed defences to defeat any attempt at invasion, besides affording protection to commerce generally and rendering a blockade of the Australian ports impracticable. He has, moreover, insisted upon the necessity of making the batteries erected on shore completely self-defensible, and independent of the support of a land force, which would thereby be released for operations in the field.

In reference to the organisation for the paid Force, which Sir William Jervois proposes should be composed entirely of artillery-men, he observes as follows:—In the Tasmanian Report—"It is desirable that an arrangement should be made, by which men who enlist in the Permanent Artillery may, after a certain period of military service, obtain appointments in the Police, and employment in the Government Departments, as for instance letter-carriers for the Post Office, messengers in the Public Offices, and porters on Railways. By thus holding out inducements to well-conducted men in the Artillery, a superior class of recruits will be obtained, and at a lower rate than would otherwise be possible." In the Victorian Report:—"The present arrangements by which men who enlist in the Artillery obtain appointments in the Police, and as warders of Gaols, might probably be extended with advantage to such employments as porters on the Government railways, letter-carriers for the Post Office, and messengers for the Public Offices."

With regard to the Auxiliary forces, he remarks in the Victorian, New South Wales, and other reports, that "the following points should be borne in mind in the organisation of a force required for purely military purposes. It is essential that powers should be obtained for retaining men for a fixed period of service, for continuous training in daylight during a certain number of days in the year, beside a certain number of drills at detached periods, for their permanent embodiment during war, for the strict enforcement of discipline, and for the appointment of officers only after passing a proper examination."

Before proceeding to consider how far these recommendations can be followed, it will be advisable to glance at the present condition of affairs in the several Colonies.

* By "Fixed Defences" I mean forts, batteries, and defensive torpedoes; commonly termed Submarine Mines.

In New South Wales the Local Forces are composed of—1. A paid Regular Force, raised somewhat upon the old English army system, the defects of which are perpetuated without any corresponding advantages. Although the force is almost everything that can be desired for fighting purposes, it possesses defects of organisation that must in the end, unless remedied, prove fatal to its maintenance. 2. A Naval Brigade governed by special regulations under the Volunteer Act, and intended for service afloat. 3. A Volunteer Force, enrolled on the principle of granting land orders for efficient service, a system which has been found not to give the desired result; consequently, without altering the Act, a revision of the regulations for the government of the Force has been proposed by Colonel Richardson, the Commandant, embodying Sir W. Jervois' recommendations. Under these regulations continuous training for a few days during each year, besides a certain number of drills in daylight, is rendered compulsory in return for a money payment. This reform will constitute a valuable experiment from which the other Colonies should profit.

In Queensland there is only a Volunteer Force, and the maintenance of a permanent nucleus has not yet been decided on. A bill is now before the Legislature, which embodies the suggestions made by Sir W. Jervois.

In Tasmania and South Australia paid Forces are about to be raised, and Volunteers are being enrolled, but the question of organisation is under consideration. In South Australia, the money payment system is already in force.

In Victoria the Local Forces comprise:—1. A paid Regular Force raised on the principle explained in this memorandum. 2. A Naval Reserve, governed by special regulations, but enrolled under the same discipline Act as the regular Force. 3. A Volunteer Force upon the purely voluntary principle. Land orders were tried without success and had to be abandoned. The re-organisation of the Forces has not yet been decided on by the Government.

On the whole, public opinion in Australia is, I think, tending towards the view that if the stringency of the regulations for securing efficiency is to be increased, the payment of fees for continuous training, and attendance at drill during daylight, may have to be conceded. At the same time, it is considered by many that the principle of payment is contrary to the spirit of a purely Volunteer Force; whilst, on the other hand, it is generally felt that the present unsatisfactory state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue.

My conviction is that Sir W. Jervois' proposal to have a nucleus of highly trained men, supplemented by auxiliaries enrolled on the Volunteer principle, fulfils the defence requirements in Australia. If economy has to be exercised I would give the preference to the paid Force—provided it was organised so as to create a reliable Reserve available in time of war—adopting for the auxiliaries the most inexpensive organisation.

With regard to the paid Forces, there can be no doubt that the principle upon which the Victorian Artillery is organised is thoroughly sound, but it requires a further extension, to which I will refer hereafter, and which so far has not been adopted, although the practicability of doing so has been fully recognised by the local authorities. In a Report addressed to the Victorian Volunteer Commission* of 1876, by the Commandant of the Local Forces of Victoria (Colonel Anderson, C.M.G.), that officer gives the following outline of the organisation at present in force:—"The organisation of the Victorian Artillery avoids many of the difficulties which must result from a small permanent force constantly remaining unchanged in *personnel*, and stationed in one quarter." "On the departure of the Imperial Troops the battery was formed from the candidates for the Police Force, the Government announcing that in future all the appointments to the Police were to be from its ranks; at the same time the high qualification for the Police heretofore in force was to be continued, recruits having to pass the same examination as to education, character, and physical fitness as former candidates had to undergo. The standard height is 5 feet 9 inches. Crime in the military sense is prevented by the dread of discharge, and so of forfeiting entry into the Police, and by the superiority of the class of men who alone can join. It is calculated that three years' service is the average a man will have to perform before passing on to the Police or Penal Departments. It is also calculated that by this system the Police, &c. will by degrees become serviceable in time of war; and it is possible that the system may be extended to other departments."

It is this organisation which I wish to see adopted wherever paid Regular Forces are maintained, but with this important improvement:—that the men on leaving the Force should pass into a Reserve, and remain liable for a term of years to be called out annually for continuous training during a few days, and permanently, if necessary, during time of war. It has been justly observed by an able advocate of army reform in England (Mr. Holmes, M.P.) that "it is the truest economy to make a man a perfect soldier while we are about it, and send him home practically a free man, except in time of war." This should be the aim of all organisations adopted in the Australian Colonies; but to carry it into effect the officers and non-commissioned officers must be highly

* The report of the Commission and the appendices attached contain a mass of very valuable information on all points of organisation, which I would recommend for perusal.

efficient, and to secure this efficiency they must be sufficiently paid. I am aware that there may be many difficulties in the way of keeping up the training of the men when in the Reserve, especially of those who may join the Police Force, but it is not unreasonable to insist upon the system being given a fair and lengthened trial when the advantages to be gained are so great. Indeed, I believe that the proposals submitted in this memorandum open the way to a complete solution of the question of providing a reliable force for the defence of the Colonies.

In Australia the difficulty of attracting to the ranks a superior class of men must be greater than in other countries; and it can only be removed by offering them sufficient inducement to serve for the brief term of three years, and continue in the Reserve for a further term. The inducement should be a promise, that all men, or a large proportion of them, who have fulfilled certain requirements as to good conduct, education, and physical fitness, shall be entitled to employment under the Government in the Police, Penal, Postal, Railway, Customs, and other Departments, whenever vacancies occur and provided they have served not less than three years; with the understanding, however, that the men at the same time consent to join the Reserve. It is to be expected that, in course of time, banks, insurance and other public companies, merchants, and others, will become candidates for the employment of these men; for it is evident that no better training for young men, nor a greater test of their qualifications, could be desired, than the three years discipline and healthy employment in the ranks of the Force.

Under such a system courts-martial, confinement in prison or cells for grave offences, would become unnecessary, for bad conduct would be punished by discharge, the power of dismissal being vested in the Commandant without any interference whatever. I may here mention that this is the practice in Victoria, and in the hands of a wise and conscientious officer the power is perfectly safe. On the other hand, if interference with his decisions be admitted the value of the power is gone. To this I attach great importance as the keystone of the whole system.

With the great inducements offered there should be no difficulty in obtaining candidates for admission to the Force. It would not be necessary to give high pay, on the contrary, it should be adjusted so as to make the men large gainers on leaving the Force. Marriage should be freely allowed, but the men should be required, as in Melbourne, to live in barracks, being granted special indulgences as to leave provided their conduct was satisfactory.

The next point for consideration is the length of service and mode of training in the Reserve. I think there should be three classes—the first and second, each with five years as the term of service, and retaining fees of £10 and £5 per annum, in return for being called out annually; service in the third class to be optional, and for a further term of five or ten years without retaining fees. The men in this class would only be liable to be called out in time of war, when bounty could be paid to them whether they were embodied or not. The men in the Reserve, not in Government employ, should be free to reside wherever they desired, and to leave the Colony on giving previous notice, the payment of fees being regulated so as to be always six months in arrear. Much of the annual training, such as company drill, musketry instruction, &c. would have to be conducted by small detachments, excepting at the capitals and large towns, in order to lessen the inconvenience; but an effort should be made to get the whole force together for a few days in each year, by engaging substitutes to take the place of the Government employes when training. Officials in the employ of Government might also be induced by the payment of small retaining fees to qualify as officers for the Reserve Force. The training of the Police should be under the control of the Commissioners, and when brigaded with the paid Regular Force it should be under the command of its officers. In the large Colonies it might be advisable to attach permanently to the Force a section, commanded by a Police Officer, into which the men intended for the Police would be passed in order to undergo an intermediate training in police duties, and to which the Police in the Reserve would be attached for the annual training. This section could be utilised to reinforce the Police in times of pressure. In like manner, there would be no difficulty in imparting instruction to the men qualifying for other Government Departments.

The increased expenditure resulting from the adoption of the proposed organisation should be met by a reduction of expenditure on the Volunteer Force. It will be found to be the least costly of any mode of raising a force of *trained* men, possessing the advantage not to be had with any other system, of increasing year by year the defensive power of each Colony. It is in accordance with the views entertained by the leading Military authorities of the day, and is manifestly preferable to a system which maintains a costly Force without reserves supplemented by bodies of partially trained men; for, whatever may be done to improve the training of the Volunteers, they can never be expected to become more than valuable auxiliaries. This is not said in disparagement of a Force which I consider should be encouraged in every way, for military as well as other reasons; for, as Sir W. Jervois has justly observed, the value of a Volunteer Force to a Colony is not to be measured by requirements to oppose foreign aggression, as there are objects for which it may be desirable to maintain such Forces, irrespective of the necessity for preparation to meet external attack.

In conclusion, I offer the foregoing suggestions for the consideration of the Government of Tasmania, as embodying my views on the subject of the organisation best suited for the Local Forces of that Colony. No doubt some points may have been overlooked and reasonable objections may be urged against others; and I might have hesitated to press the adoption of such an organisation if there was not very strong evidence in Victoria that it can be worked with entire success.

Simplicity of organisation should be the principal aim. The elaborate administrative machinery, so necessary for the Army of the British Empire, would be entirely out of place in Australia, where the defensive requirements are simple.

June, 1878.

P. H. SCRATCHLEY, *Lt.-Col. R.E.*

TASMANIAN DEFENCE FORCE.

HEADS for reference in considering details of organisation for a paid Regular Force.

1. Force to be under a Discipline Act similar to that in Victoria. ^(a)
2. Men to enrol for 3 years, and if of superior attainments, to be allowed to leave after 2 years' service. ^(b)
3. 1st Class of Reserve, 5 years.
2nd Class of Reserve, 5 years.
3rd Class of Reserve, 10 years.
4. Pay to be , free rations, free kit.
5. 1st Class Reserve, £10 per annum and free kit.
2nd Class Reserve, £5 per annum and free kit.
3rd Class Reserve, bounty and free kit, whether embodied or not, in time of war.
6. Admission to force to be regulated by a Board composed of Commandant and Heads of Departments concerned.
7. After one year's service, any man may leave force on paying for his discharge; amount to be in proportion to the time he has served.
8. Entire freedom of residence whilst in Reserve. Any man can leave Colony by forfeiting arrears of fees.
9. Employment under Government promised, whenever vacancies occur, but subject to service in Reserve for ten years with fees already mentioned.
10. Drunkenness and insubordination to be considered the most serious crimes, and to be punished by dismissal.
11. Minor punishments, such as forfeiture of pay and confinement to barracks, for lesser crimes.
12. Commandant to have power of discharge without interference. ^(c)
13. No man dismissed from force to be taken into a Public Department. ^(d)
14. Police and other sections in barracks for intermediate training.
15. Drilling of Police, under Head of Police; when brigaded with paid Regular Force, Police to be commanded by its own officers. ^(e)
16. Substitutes to be engaged when necessary by Government to take the place of Government employés whilst training.
17. Train as Artillery when in Force, as Infantry when in Reserve, the latter arm being required in greater numbers. ^(f)
18. Officials in Government Departments to be encouraged to join as officers of the Reserve on receiving retaining fees. ^(g)

NOTES BY THE GOVERNOR.

(Published by request of Col Scratchley.)

- (a) The Imperial Mutiny Act seems preferable as a standard of uniformity.
 - (b) I have some doubts whether the discretionary provision may not create inconveniences and discontents.
 - (c) Very valuable as a general rule.
 - (d) Same observation.
 - (e) I concur as a general but not as an invariable rule that when brigaded they should be commanded by their own officers.
 - (f) Why necessarily as Infantry and not Artillery in Reserve.
 - (g) Only if their services in their civil capacity are such as can be dispensed with temporarily when their military duties may call them to active service.
- I should apply the principle of Reserves also to the Volunteers, by allowing any who wished and were efficient to join the Reserve after a certain time. Where the Permanent Force is very small I think this suggestion especially worthy of consideration; and it would give an opening for a greater proportion of our youth to pass through the Volunteers and obtain military training.—F.A.W.

JAMES BARNARD,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.