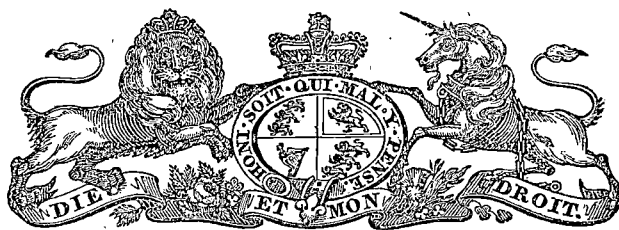


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T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

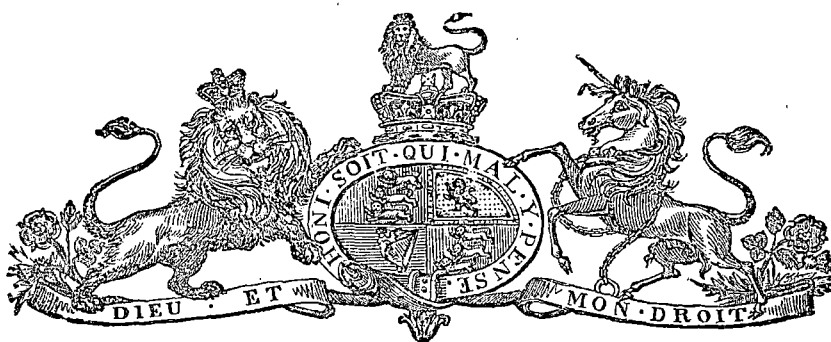
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V O L U N T E E R   F O R C E.

REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION.

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Laid upon the Table by Sir R. Dry, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
August 20, 1867.



Board Room, 22nd May, 1867.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to enclose the Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the present condition of the Volunteer Force, &c., and documents connected therewith.

I also beg to enclose a Resolution recommending allowance to efficient Volunteers for the present year.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. DWYER, *Lieut.-Colonel 14th Regiment,*  
*President.*

*His Excellency the Governor.*

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*Resolved*, That, inasmuch as the Volunteer Force has been continued since 1st January, 1867, and will most likely be maintained until the end of the year, and as this has occasioned expense to the Volunteers for uniforms, &c., we recommend that half the usual capitation allowance (say £1) per man be granted to each efficient Volunteer.

J. DWYER, *Lieut.-Colonel 14th Regiment, President.*

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*REPORT of the COMMISSION appointed to inquire into the present Condition of the  
VOLUNTEER FORCE in TASMANIA.*

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MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

HAVING taken into consideration the various matters remitted to us in the Royal Commission, bearing date the twenty-sixth day of March, 1867, and having examined several witnesses, as well as a mass of correspondence and documentary evidence bearing thereon, we are of opinion that the Volunteer Force of this Colony is in an unsatisfactory state, from the following causes:—

1st, and chiefly. From a want of support on the part of the community in general, and a portion of the Legislature. It has been clearly shown in evidence that the rejection by the late Parliament of the vote for Volunteer purposes, and certain disparaging remarks as to the usefulness of the Force, have had a depressing influence on the zeal of its members, and consequent damaging effect upon the attendance at drills.

2nd. From the difficulty of working the present Volunteer Regulations, which appear to be too stringent, especially with regard to Recruits, who are deterred from joining the Force by the length of time it takes them to obtain a "certificate of efficiency."

3rd. From the opposition of some employers to allow those dependent on them to join the ranks, and of others to afford them the time to go through the necessary course of instruction.

4th. From the expense to which Volunteers are subject for uniforms, accoutrements, and ammunition,—an expense which prevents many young men from joining the Force.

5th. From the absence of any prospect of reward in recognition of long and efficient service in the Volunteer Ranks.

We therefore beg to bring the following recommendations under Your Excellency's consideration :—

1. That as it has been conclusively proved, by the unanimous evidence of all the witnesses examined, that from the causes above stated the present Volunteer Force is in an unsatisfactory and inefficient state, we recommend that it be disbanded.

2. That, concurrently with such disbandment, Volunteers should be invited to join a new Force, to be composed and organised upon the Strength, and under the Regulations, hereinafter mentioned.

3. That, taking into consideration on the one hand the great value of Artillery for the defence of the Colony, and on the other the possibility of the sudden removal of the detachment of Her Majesty's Troops, and the evidence before us that certain Rifle Volunteers are unwilling to become Gunners, we recommend that the new Force should consist in the Southern Division of Two Corps, to be called "The Hobart Town Artillery," and "The Hobart Town Rifles;" and in the Northern Division of One Corps, to be called "The Launceston Artillery," which should also be trained in Light Infantry Drill.

4. That the strength of such Force should be :—

<i>For the Southern Division.</i>	
<i>Artillery.</i>	<i>Rifles.</i>
1 Field Officer.	1 Captain.
2 Captains.	2 Subalterns.
4 Lieutenants.	1 Surgeon, Honorary.
3 Surgeons, Honorary.	1 Quartermaster, &c.
1 Quartermaster, &c., and	Not exceeding 100 Non-Commissioned
2 Batteries not exceeding 200 Non-Commissioned Officers and Gunners.	Officers and Volunteers.

*For the Northern Division.*

1 Captain.  
 2 Lieutenants.  
 1 Surgeon, Honorary.  
 1 Quartermaster, and  
 80 Non-Commissioned Officers and Gunners.

5. That the Permanent Staff shall consist of—

- 1 Inspecting Field Officer (Commanding the Regular Troops).
- 1 Volunteer Field Officer Commanding both Divisions.

*Southern Division.*

- 1 Sergeant Instructor of Artillery and Master Gunner.
- 1 Assistant to ditto for employment in Batteries.
- 1 Armourer for the entire Force.
- 1 Sergeant Instructor of Musketry and Orderly Room Clerk.

*Northern Division.*

- 1 Instructor of Artillery and Musketry and Orderly Room Clerk.

6. That the Officers of each Division should be appointed by the Governor as Captain-General of the Colony, and that all should pass examinations as to their fitness and qualifications for their respective ranks.

7. That the men should be enrolled for a period of not less than Two years and a half; and that they should be at once supplied by the Government with Uniforms, in accordance with the Scale laid down in the Estimate (B.) appended, upon their signing an undertaking to return them into Store in the event of their leaving the Service prior to the expiration of the said term.

8. That the present Regulations as to efficiency should be modified in accordance with the recommendations contained in our Report (A.).

9. That every man when reported efficient shall be entitled, besides his Uniform, to an Annual Allowance of Rifle Ammunition free of cost for private practice.

10. That every Volunteer shall be entitled, at the end of Five years' efficient service, to a Grant of Agricultural Land, according to the following Scale :—

Field Officers, 200 Acres.  
 Captains, 150 Acres.  
 Subalterns, 100 Acres.  
 Sergeants, Artillery, 85; Rifles, 75 Acres.

Other Non-Commissioned Officers, Artillery, 70; Rifles, 60 Acres.  
Volunteers, Artillery, 60; Rifles, 50 Acres.

And that, in computing the said Five years, Two years and a half or any less period of efficient service in the old Force shall be allowed to count.

11. With a view to render these grants not merely a prospective advantage but a present benefit to such of the old Volunteers as may join the new Force, we further recommend that, whenever a Volunteer shall be deemed to have completed under the conditions of the above Resolution one half of the said term of Five years' service, he shall, on demand, be entitled to receive a licence to take possession and occupy, either by himself or other person on his behalf, free of all rent, the section of land to which his rank may entitle him: Provided, that in the event of such Volunteer quitting or being dismissed the Service before the completion of his full term of Five years' service he shall forfeit all claim to a grant for the said section, and the same shall at once revert to the Crown with all improvements thereon: Provided also, that in the event of any Volunteer being found guilty of any gross breach of discipline or any other serious misconduct, it shall be competent for the Court before whom he is tried to suspend the issue of the said licence or grant for any term not exceeding twelve months.

12. In case of the death of any Volunteer after he shall have completed three years efficient service, his representatives shall be entitled to one-half the grant of land; and after he shall have completed four years efficient service, to three-fourths of the grant of land he would have become entitled to had he served his full period of five years.

13. That any Volunteer entitled to receive any such Grant shall be permitted to select the same from any Agricultural Lands which may at the time be surveyed and open for sale.

14. That, as it has been clearly shown that the indisposition of masters to permit men in their employ to become Volunteers, or to attend the Drills and Parades of their Companies, has operated as one of the principal obstacles to the attainment of efficiency, we strongly recommend the introduction of a Militia Bill as a means of enabling the Executive Government to compel all classes of citizens to turn out for the defence of the Colony either as Militiamen or Volunteers.

15. That we feel bound to point out that so long as Sandy Bay is in its present unprotected state, no force, however efficient, can be of any avail in defending the City from the attack of an enemy's ship of war; and we strongly recommend that immediate measures be taken for the erection and armament of the proposed battery at the end of Mona-street.

16. That we desire to point out that the present Rifle Butts are unsuitable in position and dangerous to the public; and we feel convinced of the necessity for a longer and better situated range.

We beg to append an Estimate (B.) of the cost of the Force as proposed.

J. DWYER, *Bt. Lieut.-Colonel, President.*  
F. R. CHESNEY, *Lieut.-Colonel.*  
R. C. D. HOME, *Lieut.-Colonel Commanding Volunteers, N.D.*  
JAMES MILNE WILSON, *Major.*  
W. TARLETON, *Capt. H. T. Artillery.*  
JOHN DAVIES, *Capt. 2nd Rifles.*  
P. O. FYSH, *Capt. H. T. V. Artillery.*  
ALFRED KENNERLEY, *M.L.C.*

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## *APPENDIX to Report of the VOLUNTEER COMMISSION, 1867.*

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### A.

#### EFFICIENCY REGULATIONS.

1. The Volunteer Force of Tasmania will henceforth be governed by the following Regulations, which it is to be understood will be strictly adhered to.

2. For the purposes of these Regulations the following terms shall have the respective meanings here assigned to them; viz.—

“*Parade*” shall mean any assembly of the Corps in uniform for exercise by order of the Commanding Officer.

“*Drill*” shall mean any muster of the Members of the Corps for Company, Squad, or Gun Drill.

“*Official Inspection*” shall mean the half-yearly inspection by the Inspecting Field Officer.

“*Annual Course of Musketry*” shall mean the Course of Musketry Instruction fixed for the year by the Officer Commanding the Volunteers.

“*Recruit Drill*” shall mean 12 drills of one hour each, either great gun or infantry.

3. For the first year's service Volunteers shall be deemed efficient who have obtained a Certificate of Efficiency in the old force, or who as Recruits shall be declared by the Official Instructor and their Commanding Officer to have completed their Recruit Drill. After the first year Volunteers shall be deemed efficient—

*As Artillerymen.* { If they shall have attended 24 Gun-drills and Parades within the year, and shall be certified by the Official Instructor to be competent to perform the duties of every number at either Garrison or Field Gun.

*As Riflemen....* { If they shall have attended within the year 24 Drills or Parades, and shall have completed the Annual Course of Musketry;  
and if, in either Service, they shall have passed an Official Inspection during the year.

4. Every efficient Volunteer shall be provided by the Government with the following articles of Clothing, in addition to his Arms and Accoutrements:—

One full Dress Suit.  
One Undress Suit.

These will be required to be returned into store in case of his leaving the Corps within Two and a half years from the date of his enrolment, and every Volunteer on receipt of the said Clothing shall sign an undertaking to that effect.

5. Volunteers who have served as “Efficients” for a period of Five years will be entitled to free grants of Agricultural Land according to the following scale:—

Field Officers, 200 Acres.  
Captains, 150 Acres.  
Subalterns, 100 Acres.  
Sergeants, Artillery, 85; Rifles, 75 Acres.  
Other Non-Commissioned Officers, Artillery, 70; Rifles, 60 Acres.  
Volunteers, Artillery, 60; Rifles, 50 Acres.

In computing the said Five years, Two years and a half or any less period of efficient service in the old Force shall be allowed to count.

6. In the event of an Officer or Non-Commissioned Officer not having served for Five years in the grade in which he may be when he leaves the service, the number of acres to which he will be entitled will be computed in proportion to the time which he has served in each of his ranks.

7. Prizes for Artillery Practice and Rifle Shooting will be given annually by the Government; but no Volunteer will be allowed to compete for these who is not efficient, or, in the case of the Rifle Prizes, who has not gone through his Annual Course of Musketry.

8. Efficient Volunteers who shall have gone through their Course of Musketry shall be entitled to an annual allowance of 100 rounds of ammunition for private practice.

9. Efficient Volunteers will be entitled to wear a distinguishing chevron of gold or silver lace.

10. The best Marksman of each Division will be entitled to wear on the right arm a rifle embroidered

horizontally and surmounted by two stars, in addition to any medal he may have gained in the annual competition for prizes.

11. The second best Marksman in each Division will be entitled to wear a similar honorary distinction surmounted by one star.

12. The two next best Marksmen in each Division will be entitled to wear a similar honorary distinction, omitting the star.

13. The Officer inspecting a Volunteer Corps, at the second half-yearly inspection of the Corps in any year, shall have power to direct the withholding of a Certificate of Efficiency at the end of that year from any Volunteer or Volunteers belonging to the Corps on account of their want of proficiency in drill or instruction.

## FORMS OF CERTIFICATES OF EFFICIENCY.

### (Form A.)

#### FOR ARTILLERY VOLUNTEER CORPS.

WE hereby certify :—

- (1.) That A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ was enrolled in the Artillery Volunteer Corps on the \_\_\_\_\_ 18 .
- (2.) That he attended during the last Twelve months 24 drills or parades ordered by the Commanding Officer.
- (3.) That he attended the gun practice of his battery, and possesses a competent knowledge of the general duties of a gunner.
- (4.) That he was present at the last half-yearly inspection of the Corps.\*

\_\_\_\_\_ Commanding Officer.

\_\_\_\_\_ Official Inspector.

Head Quarters, \_\_\_\_\_

1st January, 18 .

Certificate confirmed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Commanding Division.

Head Quarters, \_\_\_\_\_

\* If absent, it must be so stated, and also whether with the leave of the Commanding Officer, or through sickness, duly certified.

### (Form B.)

#### FOR RIFLE VOLUNTEERS.

WE hereby certify :—

- (1.) That A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ was enrolled in the Rifle Volunteer Corps on the \_\_\_\_\_ 18 .
- (2.) That he attended during the last Twelve months 24 drills or parades ordered by the Commanding Officer.
- (3.) That he has gone through the preliminary course of musketry instruction for the year.
- (4.) That he possesses a competent knowledge of squad and company drill, including the manual and platoon exercises, and skirmishing as a company, as laid down in the Field Exercises of Infantry.
- (5.) That he was present at the last half-yearly inspection of the Corps.†

\_\_\_\_\_ Commanding Officer.

\_\_\_\_\_ Official Inspector.

Head Quarters, \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate confirmed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Commanding Division.

If absent, it must be so stated, and also whether with the leave of the Commanding Officer, or through sickness, duly certified. In case of Recruits this Certificate to be altered to suit the circumstances.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE VOLUNTEER FORCE.

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### CONSTITUTION AND ESTABLISHMENTS.

1. The Volunteer Force of Tasmania is maintained under the Act, 27 Victoria, No. 23, intituled *The Volunteers Act*, 1863. The several Corps and the general Force are subject to the provisions of that Act, and to all Regulations which have been or shall be made with regard to them by the authority of His Excellency the Governor.

2. Volunteer Corps when called out for actual Service by Order in Council or Proclamation, as provided by Section 20 of *The Volunteers Act*, 1863, are liable to serve in any part of the Territory of Tasmania and its Dependencies, and are subject to the provisions of *The Mutiny Act* and "Articles of War."

3. The Volunteer Force consists of—

- a. The Permanent Staff; and
- b. Volunteer Corps of the following Arms; namely :—  
     Artillery Volunteers.  
     Rifle Volunteers.

4. The Volunteer Force is commanded by a Field Officer Commanding Volunteer Force, Tasmania; who, with such Sergeant-Instructors and Armourers as may be appointed to each Division, constitute the "Permanent Staff."

5. The Establishment of the Southern Division for 1867-8 is fixed on the following scale :—

#### *Staff.*

- 1 Inspecting Field Officer Commanding Troops Tasmania.
- 1 Field Officer Commanding both Divisions.
- 1 Sergeant-Instructor as Sergeant-Major to the Division and Orderly-room Clerk.
- 1 Sergeant-Instructor of Artillery and Master Gunner.
- 1 Armourer-Sergeant.
- 1 Assistant to Master Gunner for employment in Batteries.

#### *Corps.*

- 1 Artillery Volunteer Corps of two Batteries of 100 each; not exceeding 200 enrolled Gunners.
- 1 Rifle Volunteer Corps; not exceeding 100 enrolled Volunteers.

The Establishment of the Northern Division is fixed on the following Scale :—

#### *Staff.*

- 1 Instructor of Artillery and Musketry and Orderly-room Clerk.

#### *Corps.*

- 1 Artillery Volunteer Corps; 100 enrolled Volunteers.

6. Each Volunteer Corps may consist of—

- Enrolled Volunteers; and
- Honorary Members, or persons contributing to the funds of the Corps, but not enrolled for service.

7. The Service designations of the several grades of the Volunteer Force are the following :—

- Officers,
- Non-commissioned Officers, and
- Volunteers.

### PRECEDENCE.

8. The Volunteer Force takes precedence immediately after the Militia of Tasmania. By *The Volunteer Corps Act*, 1863, Officers of the Volunteer Force take rank with Officers of Her Majesty's Regular and Militia Forces, within the Territory of Tasmania and its Dependencies, as the youngest of their respective ranks; but no Officer of Volunteers can take rank above any Field Officer of Her Majesty's Regular Forces, or of the Militia of Tasmania.

9. The different Arms of the Volunteer Force rank in the following Order :—

- Artillery Volunteers.
- Rifle Volunteers.

10. The Southern Division takes precedence of the Northern Division.

11. The relative precedence of Officers of the entire Volunteer Force is determined solely by the rank and date of their Commissions in that Force.

12. The relative precedence of Officers of different Corps, holding Commissions of the same rank and date, is determined by the relative precedence of the Corps to which they respectively belong.

13. The relative precedence of Officers of one Corps, bearing Commissions of the same rank and date, is determined by the order in which the appointments are inserted in the *Government Gazette*.

14. The relative precedence of Medical Officers in the Volunteer Force is regulated by the same rule as that prescribed for Medical Officers of the Army.

#### COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

15. The Commissioned Officers of the Volunteer Force shall be appointed by His Excellency the Governor.

16. When any Commissioned Officer exchanges into a different Corps, he may be allowed to retain, in the General Service, the date of his former Commission.

17. The Commission of any Officer of substantive rank cannot be vacated except by promotion, resignation, deprivation, or death.

18. No Officer holding an Honorary Commission can, by virtue of it, take precedence of any Officer holding a substantive Commission of the same rank.

19. Every Officer is required to possess a competent knowledge of his duties, and to give a proper attendance to the drills of his Corps.

20. Any Officer who does not attend the number of drills prescribed for the enrolled Members of his Corps to qualify them for Certificates of Efficiency, or who fails in any year to obtain a Certificate as an "efficient" Volunteer, will not be allowed to retain his Commission.

21. His Excellency will grant exemptions from this obligation only in cases where the Officer commanding the Division represents that there are special reasons for a relaxation of this regulation.

22. Previous to their appointment or promotion, candidates for Commissions or Officers will be required to undergo an examination by a Board appointed for that purpose by the Officer Commanding the Volunteers as to their competency for the rank they seek. At such examinations candidates for appointment as Subaltern Officers will be expected to be able to exercise a Company in Squad and Company Drill; and candidates for the rank of Captains will be examined in addition as to their proficiency in the evolutions of a Battalion.

Officers of Artillery will be examined as to their knowledge to a similar extent of the drill and duties of Officers of a Battery of Artillery.

Officers' competency may be ascertained by practical, as well as by oral examination.

Officers must also be acquainted with *The Volunteer Act* in force for the time being, and with these Regulations.

On passing the Board of Examination candidates and officers shall be entitled to receive a Certificate of their qualification for the rank as to which they have been examined.

#### NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

23. The Non-Commissioned Officers of a Corps are appointed by the Commanding Officer from among the "efficient" Members of the Corps.

24. Lance-Sergeants and Lance-Corporals may be appointed by the Commanding Officer.

25. A Non-Commissioned Officer may be reduced to the ranks for any sufficient cause, after the circumstances have been duly investigated and recorded by a Court of Enquiry.

#### ENROLLED MEMBERS.

26. No person below the age of 17 years is to be enrolled in any Volunteer Corps.

27. Boys of 14 years of age and upwards may, if the authority of His Excellency be first obtained, be enrolled for the purpose of being trained as Buglers and Trumpeters.

28. Apprentices are not to be enrolled without the consent of their masters.

29. No Member of a Volunteer Corps can be enrolled in another Corps until he has legally ceased to be a Member of the former Corps.

30. A Member of a Volunteer Corps can only be transferred to another Corps with the consent of his Commanding Officer and the approval of the Commanding Officer of the Division in which he serves.

31. Persons dismissed from a Volunteer Corps for misconduct are not, in any case, to be enrolled in another Corps without the special sanction of His Excellency signified through the Commanding Officer.



32. The Commanding Officer of a Corps is to give to any Volunteer who voluntarily quits it a certificate of discharge, on a Form supplied by the Volunteer Office, when requested to do so by such Volunteer. This Certificate must bear the signature of the Commanding Officer.

33. After the Annual Inspection in each year, whenever the number of "efficients" returned on the nominal Roll of any Corps shall be below 40, the services of such Corps shall be dispensed with.

34. All Members of Volunteer Corps who are classed as "non-efficients" will not be entitled to any of the exemptions mentioned by *The Volunteer Act*, 1863, Part IV., Sect. 32.

#### HONORARY MEMBERS.

35. Honorary Members may be attached to any Volunteer Corps without special authority, but must not be included in any Muster Roll of the Corps to which they are attached.

36. They are not subject to Military discipline, nor allowed to interfere with the Military duties of the Corps; but they are permitted to wear its uniform, unless there is a special rule of the Corps to the contrary.

They are not liable under any circumstances, to be assembled for actual service.

#### RULES.

37. Volunteer Corps may make Rules subject to His Excellency's approval for their internal discipline and management, but only so far as they may be in accordance with, and are not repugnant to, the provisions of *The Volunteer Act* and the tenor of these Regulations.

#### ASSEMBLIES FOR DRILL, REVIEW, OR RIFLE SHOOTING.

38. When Corps of any arm or arms of different Divisions wish to assemble together for drill, a joint notification of their desire to do so must be sent by the several Commanding Officers to the Officer commanding the Division for approval.

The command of the Brigade, while drilling, will devolve upon the senior Officer present.

39. A Volunteer Corps is not to quit, as a military body, the Division of the Colony to which it belongs without the sanction of His Excellency the Governor.

40. Volunteer Corps are not to assemble under arms for any purpose unconnected with military parade, drill, or rifle practice, except with the approval of the Governor, granted on the recommendation of the Officer commanding the Division, or for any purpose whatsoever without the order of the Commanding Officer.

41. When Volunteers belonging to one or more Corps are brought together under arms at Rifle Shooting Matches, or other occasions, the senior Officer present in uniform is to be considered in command of all the Volunteers on the ground; and although his position in this respect does not involve any authority for his interference in the arrangements of the meeting, yet he is held responsible for the due maintenance of order and discipline among the Volunteers under arms.

#### CLOTHING AND ACCOUTREMENTS.

42. Every Volunteer Corps will receive its clothing from the Government.

43. The distinctions in Uniform and appointments which are prescribed in Her Majesty's Regular Forces to denote the rank of the wearer are to be strictly observed by Volunteers of the various grades, as far as they are applicable to the Volunteer Force. In this respect the Drill Regulations for the Army are to be taken as a guide.

44. The Pouches worn in Corps of all arms of the Force should be capable of containing Forty rounds of ammunition.

45. Commissioned Officers and Sergeants alone are permitted to wear side arms when off duty, and these only the authorised weapons of their respective ranks.

#### SERGEANT INSTRUCTORS.

46. Sergeant Instructors are Non-Commissioned Officers of the Permanent Staff; and are under the orders of the Officer commanding the Division to which they are attached.

47. The Sergeant-Major of the Permanent Staff is to have access to the Muster Rolls of all the Corps composing it, which are to be kept at the Volunteer Office.

48. Every Instructor is required to keep a diary of the instruction imparted by him to Volunteers, according to the Form supplied from the Volunteer Office. This diary is to be certified by the Commanding Officer, and transmitted to the Colonial Secretary's Office through the Officer commanding the Division, on the 1st of each month.

49. He is also required to prepare and furnish, under the direction of the Officer commanding the Division, all such Returns as may, from time to time, be called for by the Colonial Secretary.

50. Sergeant-Instructors attached with the rank of Sergeant-Major to a Division, to which no Adjutant is appointed, are under the orders of the Officer commanding the Division, and will keep all the Roll Books of attendance at drills, as well as be responsible that all the Official Records of the Division are properly kept in the Volunteer Office.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

51. All official Correspondence from Volunteer Corps is to proceed from the Commanding Officer, or to pass through him.

52. All letters on military subjects are to be addressed to the Officer commanding the Division, who is the official channel of communication with the Officers Commanding Volunteers and the Government.

#### INSPECTION AND RETURNS.

53. Every Corps of Volunteers will be inspected once in each half year by the Inspecting Field Officer.

54. After every inspection of a Corps, the Inspecting Officer will make a Return, and furnish a confidential Report to His Excellency, on Forms to be supplied from the Volunteer Office.

55. Commanding Officers of Corps are required to make an "Annual Return" of numbers, efficiency, rank, and arms, and to furnish a Nominal Return or Muster Roll of efficient and non-efficient, on forms supplied from the Volunteer Office, on or before the 30th November in each year.

56. These Returns must be transmitted in duplicate, through the Officer commanding the Division, to the Officer commanding Volunteer Force.

57. Commanding Officers of Corps are required to furnish Monthly States, on Volunteer Office Forms, of all Battalion Parades, Parades of the Corps, Inspection Parades, and Company Drills. These Returns will be made out from time to time in the Volunteer Office.

### B.

#### *ESTIMATE of the Annual Cost of the proposed VOLUNTEER FORCE.*

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<b>UNIFORM.</b> —(To last Three Years.)									
One Dress Suit.....	4	10	0						
Undress ditto .....	1	10	0						
	6	0	0	for 400 Men.					
One-third of £2400 .....							800	0	0
<b>STAFF.</b>									
Inspecting Field Officer .....	50	0	0						
Sergeant-Major .....	150	0	0						
Sergeant Instructor of Artillery.....	100	0	0	} with Quarters.					
Additional, as Master Gunner in charge of the Batteries	25	0	0						
Sergeant Instructor at Launceston.....	75	0	0						
Armourer Sergeant .....	100	0	0						
Assistant to Master Gunner.....	50	0	0						
							550	0	0
<b>PRIZES.</b>									
For Artillery and Rifle Shooting, Northern Division	—			50	0	0			
Ditto, Southern ditto.....	—			150	0	0			
Champion Prize .....	—			20	0	0			
							220	0	0
<b>AMMUNITION.</b>									
Artillery.....	—			200	0	0			
Rifle .....	—			100	0	0			
							300	0	0
<b>MISCELLANEOUS.</b>									
Fuel and Gas .....	—			60	0	0			
Repairs to Butts and Labour.....	—			50	0	0			
Stationery .....	—			10	0	0			
Repairs of Arms.....	—			35	0	0			
Incidental and Unforeseen Expenses.....	—			75	0	0			
Travelling Expenses .....	—			25	0	0			
							255	0	0
							£2125	0	0

*PROCEEDINGS of the ROYAL COMMISSION appointed to enquire into the present Condition of the VOLUNTEER FORCE in TASMANIA.*

TUESDAY, 26TH MARCH, 1867.

*Present*—Lieut.-Colonel Dwyer, *President*, Lieut.-Colonel Chesney, Captain Tarleton, Captain Davies, Captain Fysh.

Royal Commission read.

Evidence of Lieut.-Colonel Home and Lieut.-Colonel Chesney and Sergeant Roblin, H. T. V. Artillery, produced before Commission.

Resolved, on the motion of Captain Tarleton, seconded by Captain Davies, "That the Commission sit on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, at 4 o'clock."

Papers Nos. 1 to 10 laid before Commission by Lieut.-Colonel Chesney.

WEDNESDAY, 27TH MARCH, 1867.

*Present*—Lieut.-Colonel Dwyer, Lieut.-Colonel Chesney, Captain Tarleton, Captain Fysh, Mr. Kennerley.

Evidence of Bombadier Hogg, H. T. V. Artillery, Volunteer Kirk, and Sergeant Owers, 2nd Rifles, taken.

THURSDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1867.

*Present*—Lieut.-Colonel Dwyer, Lieut.-Colonel Chesney, Major Wilson, Captain Tarleton, Captain Davies, Mr. Kennerley.

Evidence of Sergeants Shaw and Henn, City Guards, taken.

Resolved, That a Progress Report be forwarded to the Government, recommending that the sum of £40 be given at once to be competed for by those men who have passed their Musketry Course; and that a further sum not exceeding £35 be set apart to be appropriated for Prizes to those who shall go through the Musketry Course before the 10th of May next.

FRIDAY, 29TH MARCH, 1867.

*Present*—Lieut.-Colonel Dwyer, Lieut.-Colonel Chesney, Major Wilson, Captain Tarleton, Captain Davies, Captain Fysh.

Evidence of Lieut. O'Boyle, H. T. V. Artillery, taken.

Resolved, That the following be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor:—

PROGRESS REPORT of the Commission appointed to enquire into the present state of the Volunteer Force, &c.

*Board Room, 29th March, 1867.*

Your Commission having it in evidence before them that it would give great satisfaction to the members of the Volunteer Force if the Annual Prizes for Rifle Shooting were granted, and taking into consideration the lateness of the shooting season, beg to recommend that a sum of Forty Pounds be at once appropriated to be competed for by those Volunteers who have already passed through the Annual Course of Musketry Instruction; and that a further sum not exceeding Thirty-five Pounds be set apart for Prizes to be competed for by all Volunteers who shall have passed through their Course of Musketry Instruction prior to the 10th of May next.

(Signed) J. DWYER, *President*.

*His Excellency the Governor.*

Resolved, on the motion of Lieut.-Colonel Chesney, seconded by Captain Davies, "That the deliberations of this Commission are to be considered confidential until the Report is brought up."

TUESDAY, 2ND APRIL, 1867.

*Present*—Lieut.-Colonel Dwyer, Lieut.-Colonel Chesney, Major Wilson, Captain Tarleton, Captain Davies, Captain Fysh, Mr. Kennerley.

Letter received from the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, enclosing correspondence *re* probable allotment of two extra Companies of Infantry to Tasmania.

Evidence of Lieut. Greig, 2nd Rifles, taken.

WEDNESDAY, 3RD APRIL, 1867.

*Present*—Lieut.-Colonel Dwyer, Captain Tarleton, Captain Davies.

Letter received from the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, notifying His Excellency's approval of the recommendations contained in the Progress Report of Commissioners, and instructions given for a copy of the same to be forwarded to Lieut.-Colonel Chesney, Commanding Volunteers, S.D., for his information.

Secretary instructed to return the Correspondence *re* probable allotment of two extra Companies of Infantry to Tasmania.

Evidence of Lieut. Lewis, 2nd Rifles, and Lieut. M'Pherson, City Guards, taken.

THURSDAY, 4TH APRIL, 1867.

*Present*—Lieut.-Colonel Dwyer, Major Wilson, Captain Tarleton, Captain Davies, Mr. Kennerley.

Resolved, on the motion of Major Wilson, seconded by Captain Davies, "That the Commission adjourn till Tuesday next, at 4 o'clock, and that the Members of the Commission be specially summoned to consider Resolutions to form the basis of the Report."

TUESDAY, 9TH APRIL, 1867.

*Present*—Lieut.-Colonel Dwyer, Lieut.-Colonel Chesney, Major Wilson, Captain Tarleton, Captain Davies, Mr. Kennerley.

The Resolutions annexed marked A. were submitted by Captain Tarleton.

No. 1. Passed with Amendment. See Paper marked B. annexed.

No. 2. Passed without amendment.

No. 3. Postponed at the request of Captain Fysh.

No. 4. Ditto.

No. 5. Ditto.

No. 6. Amended as shown in Paper marked B.

No. 7. Passed without amendment.

No. 8. Postponed at the request of Captain Fysh.

No. 9. Amended as shown in Paper marked B.

Resolved, on the motion of Lieut.-Colonel Chesney, seconded by Captain Davies, "That the reasons for the unsatisfactory and inefficient state of the Volunteer Force be set forth in the Report."

Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Kennerley, "That the Commission meet at 3 o'clock for the future."

The Commission then adjourned till Wednesday at Three o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, 10TH APRIL, 1867.

*Present*—Lieut.-Colonel Dwyer, Lieut.-Colonel Chesney, Major Wilson, Captain Tarleton, Captain Davies, Mr. Kennerley.

Resolutions submitted by Captain Tarleton discussed.

No. 10. Passed as amended. See Paper marked B.

No. 11. Ditto. Ditto.

No. 12. Ditto. See No. 13, Paper marked B.

Resolutions 12 and 13 in Paper marked B. passed.

Resolutions 3, 4, 5, and 8 again postponed, Captain Fysh not being present.

THURSDAY, 11TH APRIL, 1867.

*Present*—Lieut.-Colonel Dwyer, Lieut.-Colonel Chesney, Major Wilson, Captain Tarleton, Captain Davies, Captain Fysh, Mr. Kennerley.

Resolution No. 3, as submitted by Captain Tarleton, discussed, and the following amendment moved by Lieut.-Colonel Chesney, seconded by Captain Davies, "That the Commission is of opinion and recommends that there be only Two Corps in the Southern Division, to be called 'The Hobart Town Artillery' and 'The Hobart Town Rifles.'"

Amendment put.

*For.*  
Lieut.-Colonel Chesney.  
Major Wilson.  
Captain Davies.

*Against.*  
Captain Tarleton.  
Captain Fysh.  
Mr. Kennerley.

The votes being equal, Lieut.-Colonel Dwyer, as President, gave his casting vote in favour of the amendment.

Amendment carried.

Resolution No. 4, submitted by Captain Tarleton, discussed and passed as amended, Captain Tarleton dissenting.

Nos. 5 and 8 passed. See Resolutions 3, 4, 5, 8, Paper marked B.

FRIDAY, 12TH APRIL, 1867.

*Present*—Lieut.-Colonel Dwyer, Lieut.-Colonel Chesney, Captain Tarleton, Captain Davies, Mr. Kennerley.

Resolved, That Lieut.-Colonel Dwyer, Lieut.-Colonel Chesney, and Captain Tarleton be appointed a Sub-Committee to prepare the Report and frame Regulations for the proposed New Force, and also to suggest necessary alterations in "The Volunteer Corps Act."

Resolution No. 15, Paper marked B., passed, on the motion of Captain Tarleton, seconded by Lieut.-Colonel Chesney.

Resolution No. 16 passed, on the motion of Mr. Kennerley, seconded by Captain Davies.

Copy of letter of Commanding Officer, Royal Engineers, Tasmania, respecting the Rifled Guns ordered for the Colony being placed in position, read by Lieut.-Colonel Chesney.

The Commission adjourned until Report of Sub-Committee is prepared.

FRIDAY, 26TH APRIL, 1867.

*Present*—Lieut.-Colonel Dwyer, Lieut.-Colonel Chesney, Major Wilson, Captain Tarleton, Captain Davies, Captain Fysh, Mr. Kennerley.

Report of Sub-Committee brought up, and Clauses from 1 to 8 passed.

Commission adjourned till Wednesday next, 1st May, 1867.

WEDNESDAY, 1ST MAY, 1867.

*Present*—Lieut.-Colonel Dwyer, Lieut.-Colonel Chesney, Captain Tarleton, Captain Davies, Mr. Kennerley.

Remaining Clauses of Report of Sub-Committee agreed to, and Commission adjourned to enable the Sub-Committee to prepare the Regulations for the future government of the Volunteer Force.

THURSDAY, 16TH MAY, 1867.

*Present*—Lieut.-Colonel Dwyer, Major Wilson, Captain Tarleton, Captain Davies, Mr. Kennerley.

Efficiency Regulations submitted by Sub-Committee considered and amended.

Estimate of expenditure agreed to.

Resolved, on the motion of Captain Davies, "That inasmuch as the Volunteer Force has been continued since the 1st January, 1867, and will most likely be maintained until the end of the year, and as this has occasioned expenses to the Volunteers for Uniforms, &c., we recommend that half the usual capitation allowance (say £1 per man) be granted to each efficient Volunteer."

Commission adjourned until Saturday, at a quarter to one.

SATURDAY, 18TH MAY, 1867.

*Present*—Lieut.-Colonel Dwyer, Captain Tarleton, Captain Fysh, Mr. Kennerley.

Report signed, and Secretary instructed to forward it to Lieut.-Colonel Home for his signature.

## A.

### *RESOLUTIONS for consideration by the Volunteer Commission on Tuesday, the 9th April.*

1. That as it has been conclusively proved, by the unanimous evidence of all the witnesses examined, that the present Volunteer Force is in an unsatisfactory and inefficient state, the Commission recommends that it be at once disbanded.

2. That, concurrently with such disbandment, Volunteers should be invited to join a new Force, to be composed and organised upon the Strength, and under the Regulations, hereinafter mentioned.

3. That as the number of the Regular Troops stationed in the Colony is about to be increased, the Commission is of opinion that there is no present necessity for Volunteer Infantry, and recommend that the new Force should consist exclusively of Artillery.

4. That the strength of such Force should be :—

For the Southern Division—

1 Field Officer.  
2 Captains.  
4 Lieutenants.  
1 Surgeon.  
1 Quartermaster, &c., and  
200 Non-Commissioned Officers and Gunners.

For the Northern Division—

1 Captain Commandant.  
1 Captain.  
2 Lieutenants.  
1 Surgeon.  
1 Quartermaster, and  
80 Non-Commissioned Officers and Gunners.

5. That the Permanent Staff shall consist of—

1 Inspecting Field Officer (Commanding the Regular Troops).

#### *Southern Division.*

1 Sergeant Instructor of Artillery and Musketry.  
1 Assistant to ditto for employment in Batteries.  
1 Armourer.

#### *Northern Division.*

1 Corporal Instructor of Artillery and Musketry.

6. That the Commanding Officer of each Division should be appointed by the Governor as Captain-General of the Colony, without reference to the Ministry of the day; that the other Officers should be nominated by the Commanding Officer, and confirmed in like manner by the Governor; and that all should pass examinations as to their fitness and qualifications for their respective ranks.

7. That the men should be enrolled for a period of not less than Two years and a half; and that they should be at once supplied by the Government with Uniforms, upon their signing an undertaking to return them into Store in the event of their leaving the Service prior to the expiration of the said term.

8. That the present Regulations as to efficiency should be modified, and that every man should be deemed efficient when he shall have proved himself competent to fulfil the ordinary duties of a Gunner, and shall have gone through Squad and Company Drills.

9. That every man when reported efficient shall be entitled, besides his Uniform, to a small Annual Money Grant, say , for the purpose of defraying the cost of Rifle Ammunition and other petty expenses.

10. That every Volunteer shall be entitled, at the end of Five years' efficient service, to a Grant of Agricultural Land, according to the following Scale ;—

Field Officers, 200 Acres.  
Captains, 150 Acres.  
Subalterns, 100 Acres.  
Sergeants, 75 Acres.  
Other Non-Commissioned Officers, 60 Acres.  
Gunnery, 50 Acres.

And that, in computing the said Five years, Two years and a half or any less period of efficient service in the old Force shall be allowed to count.

11. With a view to render these grants not merely a prospective advantage but a present benefit to such of the old Volunteers as may join the new Force, the Commission further recommends that, whenever a Volunteer shall be deemed to have completed under the conditions of the above Resolution one half of the said term of Five years' service, he shall, on demand, be entitled to receive a licence to take possession and occupy, either by himself or other person on his behalf, free of all rent, the section of land to which his rank may entitle him : Provided, that in the event of such Volunteer quitting the Service before the completion of his full term of Five years' service he shall forfeit all claim to a grant for the said section, and the same shall at once revert to the Crown with all improvements thereon.

12. That as it has been clearly shown that the indisposition of masters to permit men in their employ to attend the Drills and Parades of their Companies has operated as one of the principal obstacles to the attainment of efficiency, the Commission strongly recommends the introduction of a Militia Bill as a means of enabling the Executive Government to exert a pressure upon all classes, by compelling them to turn out for the defence of the Colony either as Militiamen or Volunteers.

## B.

### *RESOLUTIONS passed by the Volunteer Commission.*

1. That as it has been conclusively proved, by the unanimous evidence of all the witnesses examined, that from a variety of causes, which will be found more fully set forth in our Report, the present Volunteer Force is in an unsatisfactory and inefficient state, the Commission recommends that it be at once disbanded.

2. That, concurrently with such disbandment, Volunteers should be invited to join a new Force, to be composed and organised upon the Strength, and under the Regulations, hereinafter mentioned.

3. That the Commission is of opinion, and recommend, that the new Force should consist, in the Southern Division, of Two Corps only, to be called "The Hobart Town Artillery," and "The Hobart Town Rifles;" and in the Northern Division of One Corps, to be called "The Launceston Artillery."

4. That the strength of such Force should be :—

#### *For the Southern Division.*

<i>Artillery.</i>	<i>Rifles.</i>
1 Field Officer.	1 Captain.
2 Captains.	2 Subalterns.
4 Lieutenants.	1 Surgeon, Honorary.
3 Surgeons, Honorary.	1 Quartermaster, &c.
1 Quartermaster, &c., and	Not exceeding 100 Non-Commissioned
2 Batteries not exceeding 200 Non-Commissioned Officers and Gunners.	Officers and Volunteers.

#### *For the Northern Division.*

1 Captain.  
2 Lieutenants.  
1 Surgeon, Honorary.  
1 Quartermaster, and  
80 Non-Commissioned Officers and Gunners.

5. That the Permanent Staff shall consist of—

- 1 Inspecting Field Officer (Commanding the Regular Troops).
- 1 Volunteer Field Officer Commanding both Divisions.

*Southern Division.*

- 1 Sergeant Instructor of Artillery and Master Gunner.
- 1 Assistant to ditto for employment in Batteries.
- 1 Armourer for the entire Force.
- 1 Sergeant Instructor of Musketry and Orderly Room Clerk.

*Northern Division.*

- 1 Instructor of Artillery and Musketry.

6. That the Officers of each Division should be appointed by the Governor as Captain-General of the Colony, and that all should pass examinations as to their fitness and qualifications for their respective ranks.

7. That the men should be enrolled for a period of not less than Two years and a half; and that they should be at once supplied by the Government with Uniforms, upon their signing an undertaking to return them into Store in the event of their leaving the Service prior to the expiration of the said term.

8. That the present Regulations as to efficiency should be modified in accordance with the recommendations contained in our Report.

9. That every man when reported efficient shall be entitled, besides his Uniform, to an Annual Allowance of Rifle Ammunition free of cost for private practice.

10. That every Volunteer shall be entitled, at the end of Five years' efficient service, to a Grant of Agricultural Land, according to the following Scale:—

- Field Officers, 200 Acres.
- Captains, 150 Acres.
- Subalterns, 100 Acres.
- Sergeants, Artillery, 85; Rifles, 75 Acres.
- Other Non-Commissioned Officers, Artillery, 70; Rifles, 60 Acres.
- Volunteers, Artillery, 60; Rifles, 50 Acres.

And that, in computing the said Five years, Two years and a half or any less period of efficient service in the old Force shall be allowed to count.

11. With a view to render these grants not merely a prospective advantage but a present benefit to such of the old Volunteers as may join the new Force, the Commission further recommends that, whenever a Volunteer shall be deemed to have completed under the conditions of the above Resolution one half of the said term of Five years' service, he shall, on demand, be entitled to receive a licence to take possession and occupy, either by himself or other person on his behalf, free of all rent, the section of land to which his rank may entitle him: Provided, that in the event of such Volunteer quitting or being dismissed the Service before the completion of his full term of Five years' service he shall forfeit all claim to a grant for the said section, and the same shall at once revert to the Crown with all improvements thereon: Provided also, that in the event of any Volunteer being found guilty of any gross breach of discipline or any other serious misconduct, it shall be competent for the Court before whom he is tried to suspend the issue of the said licence or grant for any term not exceeding twelve months.

12. In case of the death of any Volunteer after he shall have completed three years efficient service, his representatives shall be entitled to one-half the grant of land; and after he shall have completed four years efficient service, to three-fourths of the grant of land he would have become entitled to had he served his full period of five years.

13. That, as it has been clearly shown that the indisposition of masters to permit men in their employ to become Volunteers, or to attend the Drills and Parades of their Companies, has operated as one of the principal obstacles to the attainment of efficiency, the Commission strongly recommends the introduction of a Militia Bill as a means of enabling the Executive Government to compel all classes of citizens to turn out for the defence of the Colony either as Militiamen or Volunteers.

14. That the reasons for the unsatisfactory and inefficient state of the Volunteer Force be set forth in the Report.

15. That the Commission feel bound to point out that so long as Sandy Bay is in its present unprotected state, no force, however efficient, can be of any avail in defending the City from the attack of an enemy's ship of war; and we strongly recommend that immediate measures be taken for the erection and armament of the proposed battery at the end of Mona-street.

16. That the attention of the Government be called to the unsuitable position of the present Rifle Butts, and to the necessity for a longer and better situated Range.

*EVIDENCE taken before the ROYAL COMMISSION appointed to enquire into the present Condition of the VOLUNTEER FORCE in TASMANIA.*

LIEUT.-COL. HOME, being requested to give his opinion of the present condition of the Volunteer Force in the North, produces the evidence given by him before the Select Committee (Paper No. 97), and states that it is now in a more inefficient state than he then represented it.

In answer to queries, Colonel Home states that the two Launceston Corps were united about a month or two after the amalgamation of the Artillery and Rifles in Hobart Town, and now form the Launceston Artillery Corps. There are at present no regular musters, nor has there been an assemblage of the Corps lately. Two gun detachments meet periodically for drill; with that exception there are no meetings of the Corps, neither has there been more than one parade for some months. An Officer occasionally attends those drills: there are only four Officers in the Corps altogether.

On the 1st of March, 1866, the strength as on the Roll of the Launceston Artillery was five Officers, and seventy Non-Commissioned Officers and Gunners, and a Band of twelve not included in the sixty. The only other Corps in the North are the Longford and Deloraine Rifles. As a Corps, I do not consider the Launceston Artillery efficient; a portion of them are. All have been drilled, and 32 have gone through this Season's course of Musketry Instruction. They are inefficient from non-attendance, and several have left the country. If I mustered the Launceston Corps to-morrow I do not think I would have from 30 to 35 on parade, exclusive of the Band. There is a paid Instructor attached to the Northern Force. He receives £100 per annum. He acts as Musketry Instructor and Drill Instructor as well as Artillery Instructor. He is a Volunteer.

As a defensive Force, that now under my command is in its present state altogether useless. To be of any service, the Artillery Force in the North should, I think, consist of 100 enrolled Members, two Companies 50 strong officered in proportion. Were it possible to command a full attendance of enrolled Volunteers on a parade, a smaller number than 100 might suffice; but with that strength on paper, I consider I could rely on 60 or 65 as an average regular attendance. There are two 32 pounders now in position in the new Battery at Thomson's Point, about three miles down the river. The strength I propose for the Artillery would be sufficient to work the Battery, and to act as a small Land Force, which I also consider necessary. All the Artillerymen should go through Musketry Instruction and Light Infantry Drill.

The condition of the clothing is very bad, and being almost worn out is one of the reasons why the men will not come on parade.

As regards the re-organization of the existing Force, I would most strongly recommend that it be entirely disbanded; and that a new one be raised on a more effective footing, under a better and more concise code of Rules and Regulations, which ought to be framed by a body of competent Officers, and promulgated before the enrolment of any Volunteers; who before taking the Oath of Allegiance will thus have the Rules by which they are to be governed, as well as the duties they have to perform, clearly put before them. Inducements should be held out to the Volunteers to join the Force, as also some prospective advantage to be derived by his continuance in it. His clothing ought to be supplied by the Government. I would suggest that the capitation allowance of £2 annually be discontinued: in lieu thereof that every Volunteer, after passing his Recruit Drill, be furnished with uniform which should last him two years. Such uniform, I believe, could be contracted for at the rate of £4 4s. per man; a less sum would suffice after the first issue as the same Busby would serve for several years (I am presuming that the Tasmanian Volunteer Force, North and South, be an Artillery one). Half the sum might be made chargeable in 1867, the other in 1868. As a further inducement to join, I would propose that every Volunteer, on being returned efficient, should be exempt from serving on all Juries. It would also encourage the movement if greater facilities were given for the purchase of ammunition at a cheaper rate than at present. But what I consider would impart more vitality to the Volunteer movement than anything else, or would tend in a greater degree to render the Force a permanent and an efficient one, would be the grant of a remission order in the purchase or lease of land from the Crown to every Volunteer whose name is returned in the Roll of Efficient for five consecutive years. I would suggest that, if the Force is to be reconstructed, the past service of those Efficient who rejoin it should be allowed to count to such an extent as may be deemed desirable. I make these remarks on re-organization with reference to the Tasmanian Force generally; but I may pretty confidently assert that if the course I have proposed be adopted, and such concessions be granted, little if any difficulty would be experienced in raising and maintaining in an efficient state an Artillery Force of 100 strong in the Northern part of the Island.

As regards the appointment of Officers, I am decidedly of opinion that such should rest with the Governor. I would take the power of election entirely out of the hands of the Volunteers, and no Commissions should be granted until the candidate has been subjected to, and has passed, an examination. All the Officers should be required to go through a course of Musketry Instruction and Gun Drill as well as the men. I may mention with reference to popular elections that such have operated much to the detriment of the Force in the North.

As to the expense of maintaining a Force of Artillery in Launceston, 100 strong, I should think £480 would be required:—

	£
1 Musketry and Artillery Instructor .....	100
Ammunition—Drill and Gun Practice .....	130
Clothing—100 men at £4 (half chargeable to 1868) .....	200
Government Prizes .....	25
Gas and Incidental Expenses .....	25
	<hr/>
	£480
	<hr/>

I am decidedly of opinion that no pay should be granted to Volunteers for their attendance at their drills or parades.

In the proposed estimate I make of the necessary expenditure I have purposely omitted any outlay for the Staff, excepting for the Musketry Instructor. As far as I am myself personally concerned, all I have to say is that



if I can be of any use in forwarding the views and wishes of the Government, I shall be happy to place my services at their disposal gratuitously.

It is, I think, indispensably requisite that in Launceston at all events there should be a Commanding Officer of the Force there; and taking so lively an interest in the success of the Volunteer Movement, it will give me much pleasure to render it every assistance in my power.

LIEUT.-COL. CHESNEY, being requested to give his opinion of the present condition of the Volunteer Force, Southern Division, produces a Memorandum giving the past history of the Volunteer Force, and causes of the decline of the movement, and states—I think there should not be less than 160 Artillerymen and 140 Riflemen total strength in the Southern Division; there should be two Instructors; and I am of opinion that if the Force is to be kept efficient the Grant should be increased. I do not think that Riflemen should be trained to heavy Gun Drill. The Artillery is the principal Force for Hobart Town, and I am of opinion that it should be supported by Riflemen. I would recommend that the whole Force as at present constituted should be disbanded; and that the Regulations should be amended, so that men joining should understand the terms upon which they enter the Service. To the new Force I think that rewards for good service might take the form of a Land Grant, say a certain number of acres for a service of Five years—past services should not be ignored. I think that past services should count from the date of the Efficiency Regulations, one year to count for two. This to apply only to those who have obtained the Certificate of Efficiency, and from the date of that Certificate. I think further that Volunteers should be exempt from Tolls when in uniform, and from serving on Juries; and also that the Government should pass a Militia Bill, with power to put it in force by proclamation at any time. I should say that the Officers should be appointed by the Governor, not the Governor in Council. I would take the power from the Corps. The appointments should be in the Crown alone. I think that all Officers before receiving Commissions under a new organization should pass an examination. I think that in future £2000 would be a fair sum for 400 men—300 for Hobart Town, and 100 for Launceston. I think that with due economy the grant of £1500 for this year will be sufficient. I do not think that the Rifle Clubs being assisted by the Government is at all detrimental to the Volunteer Force. I think it would be much more economical for the Government to provide the Uniform. I think that the Uniform should be issued when the Recruit showed by his attendance at drill that he was in earnest. I think they should all be clothed uniformly.

#### MEMORANDUM.

THE Tasmanian Volunteer Force commenced in December, 1859. The Hobart Town Artillery were the first body of men whose services were accepted as Volunteers; after which several Rifle Corps were formed: the dates of acceptance of service being as follows:—

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION.

##### *Corps in Hobart Town.*

	DATE OF ACCEPTANCE OF SERVICE.	TOTAL STRENGTH ON 31 DECEMBER, 1860.
Hobart Town Artillery .....	10 December, 1859	126
{ Masonic Rifles .....	{ 7 February, 1860 }	66
{ Name changed to 1st Rifles .....	{ 4 December, 1860 }	
{ Odd Fellows Rifle Company .....	{ 23 March, 1860 }	56
{ Changed to 2nd Rifles .....	{ 7 December, 1860 }	
{ Manchester Unity Rifle Company .....	{ 8 June, 1860 }	70
{ Changed to 3rd Rifles .....	{ 6 November, 1861 }	
City Guards .....	22 October, 1860	250
Total all ranks in Hobart Town .....		568

##### *Suburban and Country Corps.*

Buckingham Rifles; Head Quarters, New Town, about 2 miles from Hobart Town .....	16 June, 1860	70
Derwent Rifles; Head Quarters, New Norfolk .....	15 June, 1860	32
Kingborough Rifles; Head Quarters Kingston, 10 miles from Hobart Town .....	23 July, 1860	53
Huon Rifles; Head Quarters Franklin, 26 miles by land, and 60 miles by water, from Hobart Town .....	—	52
Total Southern Division .....		775

#### NORTHERN DIVISION.

Launceston Mounted Rifles, afterwards called 1st Light Cavalry .....	17 November, 1860	43
Launceston Artillery .....	6 June, 1860	186
Launceston Rifles .....	May, 1860	109
Longford Rifles .....	28 October, 1860	28
Westbury and Deloraine Rifles .....	July, 1860	35
Total Northern Division .....		401
Total Southern Division, brought down .....		775
Total enrolled Strength in Tasmania on the 31st December, 1860 .....		1176

All Country Corps, except the Huon Rifles, have since been disbanded; and Rifle Clubs have been formed in those Districts. The following is the strength of Divisions, as per returns, on the 31st December in each subsequent year; viz.—

	1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.
North.....	330	No Return in this Office.	303	No Returns.	No Returns.	102
South.....	806		495	428	370	319
TOTAL .....	1136	—	798	—	—	421

A Return was laid before Parliament in July, 1864, showing the numbers enrolled and resigned up to 30th June, 1864; the strength of the entire Force was then—

South .....	469
North.....	275
TOTAL.....	<u>744</u>

The 3rd and Buckingham Rifles have been disbanded since that time, and the 1st Rifles amalgamated with the Hobart Town Artillery in February, 1866.

Alterations in the Southern Division from 30th June, 1864, to 31st December, 1866:—

	JOINED.	RESIGNED OR QUITTED.
Artillery prior to amalgamation .....	23	24
1st Rifles ditto .....	18	26
Artillery since amalgamation.....	9	9
Total Artillery and late 1st Rifles .....	50	59
2nd Rifles.....	31	41
City Guards .....	43	79
Totals joined and resigned in Hobart Town.....	124	179*
4th or Huon Rifles (Country Corps).....	29	26
Allow for disbandment of Buckingham and 3rd Rifles .....	—	102
Total alterations to date .....	153	307

Strength of Southern Division, exclusive of Staff, on 30th June, 1864 ....	469
Add since joined.....	153
TOTAL .....	622
Deduct since left the Force .....	307
Total strength, exclusive of Permanent Staff, on 31st December, 1866....	<u>315</u>

In the latter part of the year 1863 a considerable reduction took place in the Volunteer Force from various causes,—a great number (including two Officers who have very recently returned to the Colony) having enrolled themselves for service in New Zealand. For alterations since that time see the above Table, on reference to which it will be perceived that there has been a gradual falling off since the promulgation of the Volunteer Regulations of the 7th April, 1864, which have been found to be too complicated, and in some instances impracticable, for this community.

Another great drawback to the attendance at drill, &c. has been caused by the uncertainty of the organisation of the Force. For the last three Sessions of Parliament it has been understood that the Force was either to be disbanded or re-organised, which caused a continued uncertainty as to the fate of the movement; and Volunteers declined to attend parades, unless upon very special occasions, until something definite was known.

The letter from the Colonial Secretary of the 25th September last has caused great dissatisfaction among the Rifle Volunteers. Previously to the publication of that letter, stating “that there were no funds available for the usual ‘Annual Rifle Prize Competition,’” a great number had commenced the Annual Course of Musketry; but I regret to say that many members of the Rifle Corps neglected to further pursue the Annual Course of Musketry, they seeming to think that the services of the Rifle Companies were to be entirely dispensed with—more especially

\* With reference to the 179 members who have quitted the Force in Hobart Town, 7 have died, 53 have left the Colony, and the remaining 119 are still residing in Hobart Town, and were all efficient Volunteers (except the late Sergeant Balmforth, who is reported to have been rendered unfit for employment through an injury by accident to his right hand when on duty as a Volunteer); in fact some of them were highly efficient Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers.

The alterations in the strength of the Huon Rifles may be accounted for by the fact of its members having removed to various parts of the Colony, when employed on the different Public Works; but many of those (26) who resigned have rejoined, and are included in the number (29) shown above.

Many of those members who formerly belonged to the Buckingham and 3rd Rifles have also rejoined, and are included in the number (124) referred to above.

seeing that a list of prizes had been published in the *Hobart Town Gazette* for Rifle Clubs' competition, the Artillery (Howitzer) prizes having been granted and competed for as usual, and the late 1st Rifles having been clothed to the end of 1867 out of the Grant in aid for 1866: these, and various other items of expenditure from the Volunteer Grant, are the topics of discourse at present amongst Volunteers; and I doubt much, in the *present state of things*, if ten members of the Rifle Corps could be induced to attend a parade.

I beg to suggest that the present unworkable Regulations be revised; that Volunteers be not called on to be at expense; that only two Corps be kept up, the Hobart Town Artillery and Hobart Town Rifles, the latter to be enrolled from the City Guards and 2nd Rifles, which might be disbanded,—the City Guards falling to pieces for want of Officers.

There are many Volunteers who would join a Rifle Corps but are not desirous of being Gunners; the services of such should not be lost to the Country for want of encouragement.

F. R. CHESNEY, *Lieut.-Colonel Commanding Volunteers, S.D.*

24th January, 1867.

THOMAS ROBLIN, examined, says—I am a Sergeant in the Hobart Town Volunteer Artillery. I was enrolled in the 1st Rifles in 1861; and I joined the Artillery Corps about 18 months ago, retaining the rank of Sergeant, which I held in the 1st Rifles. I think there are many good and efficient men in the Corps to which I belong; and many who do not attend the drills as often as they ought. The only reason I can give for it, is apathy on the part of the men. The action of Parliament had considerable effect upon the minds of men; they did not think it worth while to attend drill in consequence of the uncertainty of the existence of the Force. Many disparaging remarks have been made in Parliament, which the Volunteers did not like. The apathy has manifestly increased since the action of Parliament. The action of Parliament damped the zeal of the Volunteers. I am not in a position to give an opinion as to the feeling respecting the Efficiency Regulations. I think the non-attendance is caused very often by the unwillingness of the employer to permit those in his employ to attend. I have not heard of any dissatisfaction expressed about the Officers or the Instructor appointed by Government. There may occasionally be a little jealousy about appointments of Non-Commissioned Officers. I am not aware of any justifiable ground of complaint. I have been an efficient in both branches of the Service. I have not found any difficulty in becoming an efficient. I am Curator of the Royal Society's Museum. I find no difficulty in getting sufficient time to qualify myself. I am aware that others have not so much time as I have; they would have a difficulty in becoming efficient under the Regulations, not being able to get away without pecuniary loss. I think in some cases the Efficiency Regulations might be relaxed. I think that Regulation requiring so many men present on parade might be dispensed with as far as Artillery are concerned. I am aware that if 28 are on parade they get no credit for a drill, in consequence of the absence of two. I think a modification would be desirable. If Volunteers got credit for the drills they attended it would be more satisfactory. I am of opinion that there would be an opposition to giving up the election of Officers by the Corps. I think it would be a desirable change to do away with the election, and let the appointments be in the hands of the Governor. It has been productive of great heart-burnings. Had it not been for the remains of ill-feeling caused by elections of Officers, the 1st Rifles would have joined the Artillery some time before they did. I believe a small number would leave if such a change were made. I think it possible others might be gained, and the force would on the whole gain in efficiency. I think so, because no one but a good man would be appointed. I am of opinion that the Governor alone should appoint the Officers. Dissatisfaction exists in my Corps in consequence of no prizes having been given this year. According to the present Regulations, a man is not entitled to clothing until he is an efficient. In my Corps it takes many months before a man can make himself efficient—the consequence of that is, that if a man enters the Artillery he has to provide a large sum out of his pocket for his uniform. I believe that has deterred many men from joining. It would be better if the Government took the clothing of the Volunteers into their own hands. A recruit having gone through his recruit drill should be furnished with a suit of uniform, and that in the event of his leaving the Force he should return it to the Government. If such a plan had not been adopted with the 1st Rifles, many of them would not have gone over to the Artillery. The Artillery service is peculiarly destructive to clothing. If a serge jumper and trousers were given the uniform would last much longer. I think it would last three years. It would be convenient also for rifle practice. I think it would be a saving to the Government if the undress uniform were provided. I am of opinion that in the first instance the Force was split up into too many companies. I think there should be one Rifle Corps and one Artillery Corps. I think both are necessary; that many would join a Rifle Corps who do not care for Artillery. I do think decidedly that the amount expended by Volunteers for ammunition, repairs to arms, and clothing, &c. is greatly in excess of the amount granted by Government. I think that the amount given for rifle prizes should be divided into a greater number of prizes; a greater number of men would render themselves efficient, and a greater amount of satisfaction would be given generally. I think also that second-class prizes should be given. I would also give a recruit prize to men who had joined the Service too late to pass their musketry course of instruction. I think offers of grants of land would induce men to join, and promote the zeal of those in the service. I think the back service of Volunteers should be allowed to count to a certain extent—ignoring past services would give great dissatisfaction. I think passing a Militia Act would cause men to join the Volunteer Force. It would operate as a pressure upon the employers. I know many employers who would discharge their men, if they knew they joined a Volunteer Corps. I know of one instance where a man joined the Volunteers, and was told that if he remained he would lose his situation. I think exemption from juries would be an inducement to men to join the Volunteer Force. The system of fines has failed to command the attendance of Volunteers. I know of nothing which would assist in arriving at that steadiness, attendance, and discipline attained by the Regulars. I think the opinion of the steady men in the Force would be sufficient to keep anything very gross in the way of insubordination from taking place. I am not aware of any cases having occurred. I am of opinion that Artillery Volunteers should not be allowed to compete for any Volunteer prizes unless they are efficient, both in gunnery and rifle practice. I think a liability to be drafted into the Militia would strengthen the authority of the Officers, and induce men to make themselves efficient as Volunteers. I think that not more than one drill a week should be required. I think a man's absence for a certain time should disqualify him from further service. I think the establishment of a good rifle range would be productive of much good. I do not think Volunteers should be called out on public holidays except the Queen's Birthday. I think it would tend materially to the advancement of the Volunteers if they were drilled occasionally with the Military. In the event of the present Force being totally disbanded, I think many men would leave. Many would say, "There's an end of it; I have had enough of it, and I'll leave." I would join again. I think you would lose good and bad men.

JAMES HOGG states—I am a Bombardier in the H. T. V. Artillery, and have served in that Corps between five and six years continuously. I consider the Volunteer Force in an unsatisfactory state compared to what it used to be, so far as regards numbers and attendance of members at drills. I consider that the efficiency of the men of the Artillery has greatly improved since the appointment of Sergeant Eccleston as Instructor. There are many good and efficient men in the Company and some useless members. The falling off in numbers has in some measure been caused by men leaving the Colony or the District. I do not think that there is the same amount of zeal amongst the Volunteers as there used to be, and more of apathy. The uncertainty of the retention of the Volunteer Force, and the prospect of being disbanded, which the action of Parliament has occasioned, would naturally give rise to some of the feeling of apathy I have spoken of; it would do so in my own case. I think a grant of land to Volunteers would act as a strong inducement to men to join the Force, and also to those at present in it to remain. I think if it came to a matter of option to join a Volunteer Force or the Militia that the Volunteer ranks would be strengthened. I think that when a recruit is found to be efficient that he should be allowed his uniform. That should be tested by his knowledge of drill, and not by length of service. I know that the indisposition of employers to allow those in their employ to attend drill operates injuriously to the Volunteer movement. I think employers generally discourage the movement. I do not think the Volunteer Force has met with moral support from the community. I think the Officers should be nominated by the Officer Commanding the Division to the Governor; that the appointment should rest with the Governor alone, not elective or political. I think that if the Government provided the uniform it would tend to increase the numbers. I think it would be better to increase the amount of the prizes, and give a greater number of smaller ones than at present. To an extent these prizes keep the Companies together. I think that the plurality of Companies did not act detrimentally to the Volunteer movement. In the event of the present Force being disbanded and re-organised under more favourable terms, one of those being a grant of land, I think some of them would leave, but I think that number would be more than compensated for by the accession of new members. I think that if their former service as efficient was allowed to count for grants of land that numbers of efficient men would remain in the Force. I think that great inducements should be offered to Volunteers to join the Artillery Force. There is a good deal of hard work connected with the drill, and it requires constant attention. The Artillery have fired all the salutes here for some time past. Many of those salutes have to be fired on working days. I think that there should only be one Rifle Company now and one Artillery.

ANDREW CHARLES KIRK says—I am a Volunteer in the 2nd Rifles. I have been in the Force since the formation of the 2nd Rifles in March, 1860. I do not think the discipline and state of efficiency of the Corps at present is satisfactory; the members do not attend drill as formerly; there is a sort of carelessness. The first cause of dissatisfaction was the appointment of Major Wilson over the senior Captain, Captain Solly. It caused political feeling amongst the men, introduced politics into the movement. There was one Corps looked upon very much as a political Corps, and the appointment alluded to strengthened that feeling. I think the action of Parliament caused great dissatisfaction and operated injuriously. The uncertainty of the existence of the Force, and the want of public encouragement, did great injury to the movement. The wealthy people do not give their support. The Volunteers are ridiculed by those who ought to respect them. I do not think the Efficiency Regulations are too strict. I have never read them, but I have heard of some of them. I think if some of them were relaxed, such as the necessity to go through Judging Distance Drill, and that rule requiring 30 men on parade, it would operate beneficially. I think that some of those who have resigned would rejoin if the employers would give countenance to the movement, and many new ones would come in. I think that the greater number of those at present in the Force would continue in it under any circumstances, whether any inducements were offered or not; but still I think an offer of a grant of land would be a great inducement to remain, and also to those outside to join. I think exemption from Juries would not be considered a boon by the Volunteers. I do not think it would make any difference what amount was offered for prizes. I think that Officers should be elected by the Company, for the Governor's approval. I think the Volunteers require a voice in the appointment of their Officers. The appointment of non-commissioned Officers as at present gives satisfaction. I do not regard the Volunteers now enrolled as efficient, for want of drill. I think that the amount expended by Volunteers in ammunition, repairs to arms, clothing, and time is much greater than the sum allowed by the Government.

WILLIAM OWERS says—I am Colour-Sergeant in the 2nd Rifles. I will be 7 years in the Force on the 30th March instant. I have served continuously. I do not think the Volunteer Force is satisfactory. I do not consider it efficient. The attendance at drill is bad. In my own Corps there has not been any drill lately. I attribute the indifference of the men to the uncertainty of the Force being continued, and the want of support from the Government. I think the present apathy commenced and has increased since the action of Parliament, about 3 years ago. Up to that time, that apathy had not manifested itself. I think that if some liberal Regulations were issued, and the Force made permanent, that the movement would revive. I think that numbers would join the Force if the Government promised grants of land for so many years' service; a portion of back service to count. I believe the Volunteers would give up their right to elect their Officers, leaving the appointment to the Governor alone. As far as I am concerned I would not object, but I would not answer for the other Members of my Corps. I think the present Regulations too stringent. In the event of an amalgamation of the Rifle Companies, I think that the men would serve without reference to who the Officers were to be. I think it would be better for the Government to clothe the Volunteers. A uniform would last three years if a fatigue dress were issued; two years without. No clothing is given to a man before he is efficient; a man may be 18 months becoming efficient: that is objectionable. I think if the Government gave the Recruit his clothing many would join. If employers gave more encouragement to the movement the numbers would be increased. I think a Militia Bill would bring pressure to bear upon the employers.

FREDERICK SHAW, examined, says—I am a Sergeant in the City Guards. I have been 6 or 7 years in the Corps. My opinion of the present condition of the Volunteer Force is, that it is in an unsatisfactory and disorganised state. I speak principally of the Corps to which I belong. The attendance at drills has been very bad. We have had very few drills lately. There are a good many efficient men belonging to the Corps. Nearly all the best are still Volunteers. I think the first cause of the non-attendance at drill was the daily expectation of being disbanded. The action of Parliament disheartened the men. The members have dropped off one by one, until now they are very few indeed. I have heard men say that they would not go to drill again, in consequence of remarks made in Parliament. No prizes having been given this year has given great dissatisfaction. Many men, believing that no prizes would be given, would not go through the course of musketry instruction. We have lost 4 Officers within the last 12 months. We have no Company Officer now since the death of Captain Kissock. I do not think the stringency of the Regulations has had anything to do with the dissatisfaction. I have not heard any complaints

in my own Corps about the musketry course or the clothing. None of our members paid anything for uniform; the Government grant paid for that. We were never called upon to supplement the Government grant; everything was supplied. We paid for our own ammunition. I never heard of any dissatisfaction at the way in which the prize money was distributed. I was the winner of the first-class prize last year. I prefer the carbine. I think the carbine has the advantage. If prizes are given this year as last for the long rifle it will give satisfaction. I think if time were given to those Volunteers who have not gone through the musketry course, in order to enable them to do so, and compete for the Government prizes, it would not cause dissatisfaction. I think a re-organisation of the Force desirable. I think many of those now in the Force would rejoin. If a grant of land were given for future service, allowing some of the past service, many of the best men would remain—the best-drilled men. Employers of labour do not like their men to go to drill, especially mid-day drill. Men like a public holiday to themselves; they would go out on the Queen's Birthday. I am not in a position to say whether it would be desirable or not to disband the present Force. I think if masters were liable to be called out as Militia, it would be advantageous to the Volunteer movement. I think that Officers should be appointed by the Governor, apart from political influence. I do not think the system of election by the Corps good. I cannot say why no Officers have been elected to succeed Captain Kissock and Lieut. Smith, except that we were under the impression that the Force was about to be disbanded. We have not attempted to replace them for that reason. The City Guards was the largest Corps in the Colony. We had no difficulty in complying with the Efficiency Regulations. Our clothing lasts for two years. If a serge smock and trousers were given, the uniform would last three years. I think the men would be glad of it, if the fatigue dress were issued. If the Force were disbanded, it would be better to have one Corps of Rifles, and one of Artillery. There are many men who would join the Rifles in preference to the Artillery. I do not think, as far as I know, that the men would object to learn the heavy gun drill, but I think it ought to be voluntary.

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LOUIS HENN, examined, says—I am a Sergeant in the City Guards. I have been in the Service nearly 7 years. I am of opinion that the Volunteer Force is not in a very flourishing state at present. I think the late action of Parliament is the cause. The manner in which the Volunteers were spoken of, and the uncertainty of the continuance of the movement, affected the men. They felt indignant, and would not attend drill. Many of them have long service—5 or 6 years. If they were encouraged by grants of land after some years' service, allowing some of the past service, I think the Volunteer Movement would revive. I do not know of any objection to the Efficiency Regulations, except that an alteration might be made disqualifying men from firing for prizes unless they attend a certain number of drills. That rule requiring 30 to attend a drill is very hard. I am aware that a Recruit has to serve 18 months before he gets uniform. A zealous man can be efficient in a great deal less time than that. When declared efficient by the Instructor he ought to be allowed uniform. In the event of the Corps being disbanded, the majority of the men would not rejoin. My Corps is very badly off for Officers. I think the Officers should be elected by the members of the Corps. I am not aware of any steps having been taken to replace Officers lost to the Company. Employers as a general rule set their faces against the movement. I think a Militia Bill might cause employers to look more kindly upon the Volunteer Movement. I think that if it came to a choice between the Volunteer Force and the Militia that employers would give more countenance to Volunteers. I think it would be better to have two Corps of Infantry. I do not think the Volunteers would work together in one: I mean the present Corps. It would be much better to have one Artillery and one Rifle Company. The men would be better drilled, because they would be all drilled together. I think that the returns and correspondence and the issue of circulars should be attended to at the Volunteer Office. I think the present system of annual grant works well. The uniform would last three years if a fatigue dress were given.

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JOHN O'BOYLE examined, says—I am a Lieutenant in the H. T. V. Artillery. I joined the Force early in February, 1860. My opinion is that the Volunteer Force is at present in a most inefficient state. That is in consequence of the non-attendance of Volunteers at drill, caused by the uncertainty of the continuation of the Force, and it being doubtful whether it was any use attending the drills. I think that if things had been allowed to go on as they were about three years ago the Force would have been in a much more satisfactory state. I allude to the action of Parliament in reference to the Volunteer movement. I am of opinion that if a Militia Bill were passed, and put in force as far as drawing the men, that the number of the Volunteers would be considerably increased. That would bring pressure to bear both upon employers and employed. I think that a grant of land after a period of four or five years service, part of the previous service being recognised, would be productive of good, and might cause new men to join the Force. I think all Officers should be appointed by the Governor, and not elected by members of the Volunteer Force. I am of opinion that if the Force was disbanded the men would not rejoin. I arrive at that conclusion from opinions expressed by many members of the Force who would avail themselves of the opportunity to leave. I do not think many new men would join even under more favourable terms of service. I think there should be one Artillery Corps, and a Rifle Corps for those who do not like the Artillery Service; both Corps should form one Battalion. I think the Efficiency Regulations are too strict, they ought to be relaxed. That Rule requiring 30 men on parade should be altered. I think that Government should supply the clothing, and that when Volunteers pass their Recruit Drill uniforms should be issued to them.

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CHARLES GRACE GREIG states—I am Second Lieutenant of the 2nd Rifles. I was previously in the 1st Rifles, and have been in the Service seven years. I do not consider the Volunteer Force at the present time in an efficient state. My opinion is that that is owing to the want of encouragement the movement has had from the Government and the public. I do not allude to any particular portion of the public. I think the uncertainty of the duration of service of Volunteers, the uncertainty of their position, has had all to do with its present state. I am sure that the rumour of its disbandment has had the effect of damping the zeal of men and prevented their attending drills: the impression having got abroad that their services were to be dispensed with at an early date, they thought it little use attending drill. I think the debates in Parliament, and the expressions used there, had the effect of discouraging the movement. I do not think the movement has had the moral support of the community. I am not aware of any part of the world except this in which Volunteers have not that support. The employers of labour as a rule have been fair in their support as far as my knowledge goes. I speak as an employer, and in reference to my own Corps. I have heard of establishments where Volunteers have been refused employment. I am not aware of any myself. I do not think the Efficiency Regulations are too stringent. I am aware that a recruit has to be 18 months in the Force and an efficient before he gets uniform. He might be efficient in six months or less. That rule requiring 30 to be on parade has a deterring influence upon the Volunteers; that should be altered. I think a grant of land to Volunteers for service, allowing a portion of back service, would be an inducement to Volunteers. I have heard men in my Company say frequently that they could not attend drill in consequence of their masters

not permitting them to come; that has been pleaded as an excuse for absence from drill. I think if the alternative were held out to employers either to let their men go to drill for 30 days consecutively in the Militia, and go themselves too, or join the Volunteer Force, it would act as a pressure upon them both, master and man, and be advantageous to the Volunteer movement. I think the system of electing Officers by the Corps has answered well. The members of the Force like to elect their own Officers. Under the existing Regulations a Volunteer when elected has to pass an examination before he gets his Commission. I do not think political influence in issuing Commissions has injured the movement. I think it would be better for the Government to take the clothing into their own hands. I think if the present Force were disbanded and called out again under improved Regulations, and a grant of land promised, the Force would gain more than it would lose, fifty per cent. more I think. I think one Corps of Rifles sufficient, it would be preferable to more. The men could then learn their drill together. Unanimity has generally prevailed amongst the Volunteers in this Division. I think that whatever alterations are made in the Regulations they should be such as to induce Volunteers to believe that they will be carried out, and also that they will be permanent.

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DAVID LEWIS says—I am 1st Lieutenant 2nd Rifles. I joined the Force in 1859 as an Artilleryman. I do not consider the Volunteers in general in an efficient state. I think there is a strong feeling amongst Civilians that there is no necessity for Volunteers, either Artillery or Rifles. I think the want of moral support is the cause of the inefficient state of the service. Employers are not disposed to give that amount of time to men which they require to attend Parades and Drills. I have found that in the 2nd Rifles, and have no doubt it would affect the Artillery. It is within my knowledge that certain masters in this Town have refused to employ Volunteers. I, as Adjutant of the 2nd Rifles, have had occasion to write pretty strongly to some of them on the subject. I think a Militia Bill giving the Governor power to call masters and men out would act as a pressure on both. I think some of the Resolutions passed, and some of the language used by certain Members of Parliament who have a feeling against the movement, have made the Members of the Force indignant. I think the Efficiency Regulations too strict. They have been prejudicial to the well-being of the Force. They ought to be amended. I think that men should get their clothing before they are compelled to go through the whole course of Musketry Instruction. I think they should be well drilled and set up, and not have the shooting forced upon them. That Rule requiring 30 on Parade should be altered. I think it would tend to keep up the Force if a grant of land for a certain number of years' service, some part of back service being allowed, were given to Volunteers. I think the Government should supply the clothing. I am of opinion that if the whole Force were disbanded and a new one raised, even with inducements of a grant of land and new Regulations, men would not rejoin. I think many men have remained in the Force merely for the sake of "seeing it out" as the saying is. I think that Officers should be elected by the Corps and approved of by the Governor, without reference to political influence. I consider that the fewer paid Officers there are the better. I do not think an amalgamation of the present Rifle Corps as at present constituted would be satisfactory. I think 250 men of Artillery and Rifles would be sufficient as the nucleus of a new Force—100 Artillerymen and 150 Riflemen.

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DUNCAN McPHERSON says—I am a Lieutenant in the City Guards. I joined in 1859. I was in the Artillery first. The force is not in a satisfactory state from various causes. I think the uncertainty of Government support being continued, and the want of support from employers and the public generally, are some of them. I think some of the Efficiency Regulations might be altered. That Rule requiring a Volunteer to serve 18 months before he gets uniform; also the Rule requiring 30 men on Parade before credit is given for a Drill. I think it would be better if the Government supplied the uniform. I know of cases in which men have been prevented joining the Force for want of means to supply themselves with uniform. I think it would be a great inducement if the Rules were modified, and grants of land given for certain service, part of back service being recognised. I know that men have been prevented joining the Force by masters. A Militia Bill would bring pressure to bear on masters and men, and strengthen the Volunteer Force. I think if the Force were disbanded and re-organised the majority would rejoin. I think it would be better to have one Rifle Corps, that is my own opinion. I think that the Officers should be elected by the Corps and approved of by the Governor alone, not the Governor in Council. We have no Captain in our Corps. I think a sufficient number of Officers could be found if the Force were disbanded. The uncertainty of the existence of the Force is the cause of no Captain having been appointed.

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*MEMORANDUM on the REPORT of the COMMISSION appointed to enquire into the present Condition of the VOLUNTEER FORCE.*

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The danger to Tasmania is that of an attack by an enemy's cruisers.

Against such an attack Artillery alone is available. The necessity for Artillery entails a necessity for batteries; but I observe that in Section 15 of the Resolutions the Commission recommend a battery at the end of Mona-street, but do not notice the two important positions selected by Commodore Sir William Wiseman and General Carey.

In this I do not concur with the Commissioners. I believe that the battery at Mona-street is desirable to complete the defences, but that if not covered by the two points above named it would draw an enemy's fire on the town, and not be powerful enough to drive him off. Sir William Wiseman proposes two revolving Towers, one to be placed on One Tree Point, Sandy Bay, and the other on a commanding position at Kangaroo Point. These two batteries he considers indispensable (and I concur with him), while there can be no doubt that a battery at Mona-street which would cross their fire would complete the defence of Hobart.

Each Tower would require to be armed with two powerful guns served by sixteen men, eight of whom should be experienced gunners and good shots, while the remainder might be working men roughly taught in a short time.

With such defences Hobarton would be safe against any but a serious attack by a Fleet : without such a defence I believe it would be impossible to prevent a couple of cruisers from destroying the town, and laying it under contribution.

Assuming this view to be correct, the Force required is an Artillery one only, and of this Force a small number ought to be not only trained gunners but good marksmen. Out of the two hundred Artillerymen proposed by the Commissioners there can be little doubt that some good marksmen will be found, and when found they should have practice and additional advantages.

It is said, however, that an Artillery Force requires to be protected by Infantry. Admitting the fact (though the position of the revolving Towers would scarcely admit of such assistance), Five Companies of Her Majesty's regular Troops are to be stationed in Hobarton, and will I trust remain here for some time ; added to which, the existing Rifle Clubs, if encouraged (as I trust they will be) would furnish a number of men admirably suited by the precision of their firing to act as an irregular Corps. In rifle-pits or behind other cover such a Force would offer serious opposition to any attempt at landing by the crews of an enemy's boats.

For the above reasons I think that the money proposed to be expended on a Rifle Corps might be turned to greater advantage in improving the efficiency of the Artillery and encouraging Rifle Clubs.

I think the period of service mentioned in Section 7 should be longer : and in Section 10, the proposed grant of land appears to be admirable ; but I doubt if the Legislature will grant so large a quantity amounting to 14,000 acres (about) every five years, without any security that the Volunteer (having acquired his land) will not leave the service or perform it inefficiently. Some means might be devised for securing a prolongation of service.

I entirely concur in the necessity for a stringent Militia Bill, which need not be enforced so long as the Volunteers are efficient.

T. GORE BROWNE.

*Government House, 29th May, 1867.*