

---

There are also eight 9-pounder muzzle-loading rifled guns in possession of the permanent "A" and "B" Batteries Schools of Gunnery.

The Infantry is calculated at 55 per company, making a total of 37,320, to which extent they are armed; but recent reductions have placed the companies at only 42 each which causes a corresponding total in the number now only biennially trained.

The Reserve Militia, in three classes by the Militia Act, comprises 655,000; in round numbers the total force by law liable for the defence of the country is 700,000, between the ages of 18 and 60. I regret, I can say little as to the Reserve. It is duly regimentalized and in some measure efficient, but it has not been mustered since 1873. I trust a new muster may soon be made, and if it be possible, that both officers and sergeants be annually trained. I have before recommended that a reliable officer of the Reserve should be every year sent through each regimental division to ascertain that each man on the rolls is effective and not fictitious. I believe that in a floating population such as we have, this mode would be more satisfactory and economical than periodical musters at long intervals. It would also tend to keep alive the feeling of general liability for national defence. Upon this subject I venture with respect to submit the following suggestions:—

By the present Militia Law, a large number of persons are exempt from service in the Militia, and the only contribution made by those persons towards the defence of the country is the payment of their respective shares of general taxation.

The 43,729 men of the Active Militia not only contribute towards the defence of the country in the same ratio as the privileged class above alluded to in the general taxation, but they may have to give their personal service should occasion demand it, in addition.

The Reserve in like manner, though their services would be contingent upon the magnitude of any national disturbance, are equally liable to contribute both in purse and person towards the defence of the State, while the remainder of the community only pay with the purse, and that not in a higher proportion than the others.

The pressure of taxation upon the community at large by different classes is therefore unequal. No calling or profession from the Bishop to the peasant, should exempt any man of any degree whatever, who lives and pursues his vocation under the national flag, from bearing a share in monetary contribution proportionate to that of other members of the community who have to protect them and pay besides.

There are in every country certain sects of persons who have either penurious, conscientious or prejudiced scruples against contributing towards the maintenance of any military force. There are some who having lived an every day-life of