

The Naval and Military Resources of the Colonies.—VI.

By Robert O'Byrne, F.R.G.S., in A. and H. G. Gazette.

[In reproducing this interesting series of papers we omit that having reference to Canada, which immediately preceded the paper now published, and consisted merely of extracts from the last annual reports of the Department.—ED. C. M. G.]

It will be well, before proceeding further with this subject, to give our readers a general view of our colonial possessions, with their area, population, date of acquisition and form of government.

Our oldest possession in Europe is Gibraltar, which we finally captured in 1704. It is small, its area in square miles being only $1\frac{7}{8}$, with a population of 24,139. In 1800 we acquired Malta and Gozo, with an area of 117 miles and a population of 159,231. Heligoland, which we acquired in 1807, has an areage of three-quarters of a square mile, with a population of 2,001—thus making our total European possessions of a colonial character $119\frac{5}{8}$ square miles in areage and 185,371 in population.

Asia supplies us with an areage of $1,845,366\frac{3}{4}$ miles and a population of 261,201,491. Our oldest possession is that of India, which we commenced to acquire in 1625, going on adding thereto till 1885, and bringing our areage to 1,064,720 square miles and a population of 201,755,993. Next comes the Straits Settlements, in 1785, with an areage of 1,472 square miles and 506,000 population; Ceylon, 1796, areage 25,364, population 2,850,000; Aden, 1838, areage 66 miles, 34,711 population; North Borneo, 1840, areage 27,500, 175,000 population; Hong Kong, 1843, areage 30 miles, population 200,990; Labuan, 1846, areage $30\frac{1}{4}$ miles, population 6,298; Perim, 1855, areage $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles, population 150; Keeling Islands, areage 8 miles, population 400; Cyprus, 1878, areage 3,584 miles, population 186,173.

Africa represents a total areage of 429,183 and a population of 2,799,999, the details of which are as follows:—St. Helena (acquired 1651), areage 47 miles, population 5,085; Sierra Leone, 1787, areage 468, population 60,546; Mauritius, 1810, areage 708 miles, population 361,404; Tristan d'Acunha, 1818, areage 45 miles, population 94; Ascension, 1815, areage 35 miles, population 200; Gambia, 1831, areage 69, population 14,150; Natal, 1838, areage 18,750, population 442,697; Cape of Good Hope, 1806-77, areage 219,700, population 1,252,347; Gold Coast, 1861, areage 15,000, population, 400,000; Lagos, 1861, areage 10,711, population 87,165; Socotra, 1875, areage 1,000, population 4,000; Bechananaland, 1885, areage 162,000, population 44,135.

America yields us an average of 3,648,140, and a population of 6,215,005, viz.: Newfoundland (1583), areage 40,200, population, 197,335; Barbadoes (1605), areage 166, population 173,522; Windward Islands (1605-1803), areage 623, population 149,535; Bermudas (1609) areage 20, population 15,177; Canada (1623-1760), areage 3,470,392, population 4,450,000; Leeward Islands (1626-1763), areage 479, population 122,769; Jamaica and Turk's Island (1629-55), areage 4,424, population 585,582; Honduras (1783-86), areage 7,562, population 27,452; Trinidad (1797), areage 1,754, population 178,270; Guinea (1803), areage 109,000, population 270,042; Falkland Islands (1833) areage 6,500, population 1,800.

Australasia shows a grand total of 3,270,232 square miles, and a population of 3,667,811, thus distributed: Victoria (1787), areage 87,884 square miles, population 1,003,043; New South Wales and Norfolk Islands (1787), areage 325,000 miles, the population 1,001,966; Western Australia (1829) areage 1,060,000 miles, population 39,584; South Australia (1836) areage 903,690 miles, population 312,758; Tasmania (1803), areage 26,215, population 137,211; New Zealand (1841), areage 104,458 miles, population 589,386; Queensland (1859), areage 668,497 miles, population 322,853; New Guinea (1884), areage 86,457, population 135,000.

The Empire of Great Britain holds in its Colonies and Dependencies 9,193,041 $\frac{3}{8}$ areage of square miles, and a population of 274,069,677.

Gibraltar, a rocky promontory commanding the entrance to the Mediterranean, is held merely as a place of arms, there being no trade, and is governed by the General commanding the garrison, who usually has under his orders from 5,000 to 6,000 British soldiers.

Malta, an island of the Mediterranean, fifty-eight miles from Sicily, with an excellent harbour, is garrisoned by 5,880 men.

Heligoland is simply valuable to us as a *pied a terre* in the North Sea. Passing on into our Asiatic possessions, as we have already our military resources in India; we may consider Ceylon in its naval and military resources. The harbor of Trincomalee, on the West Coast, is the headquarters of the British fleet in East Indian waters. It is fortified, and the fortifications are being strengthened at the cost of the Imperial Government. The harbor of Colombo, on the West Coast, is also to be protected, the colony bearing the cost of the erection of earthworks,

and the Imperial Government supplying the armament. Ceylon has no naval forces of its own. The British troops are under the command of a major-general, and comprise a regiment of British infantry, artillery, and engineers. There is a volunteer force numbering 912 of all ranks, a force, considering its population, which might be considerably increased if required.

North Borneo, an independent territory occupying the northern part of the Island of Borneo, and situated nearly mid-way between Hong Kong and Port Darwin, in Australia, is a mountainous interior, one point being 13,700 feet high, but most of the surface is good. The ordinary revenue of the colony is derived chiefly from the excise licenses, which are farmed out, and from land revenue. The territory is under the jurisdiction of the British North Borneo Company, being held under a grant from the Sultan of Brunei. The cession was confirmed by royal charter in 1881; and the territory is administered by a Board of directors in London appointed under the charter. The appointment of a governor is subject to the approval of the secretary of state. For administrative purposes the whole district is divided into four provinces. About 200,000 acres have been alienated by the government on leases for 99 years. The revenue proper represented in 1884, \$82,449; in 1885, \$110,482; and in 1886, \$127,781. The land sales in 1884, \$16,458; in 1885, \$2,860; and in 1886, \$12,034. The expenditure in 1884, £242,450; in 1885, £241,898; and in 1886, £218,061. The exports in 1884, \$262,735; in 1885, \$401,641; and in 1886, \$524,724. The imports in 1884, \$481,443; in 1885, \$608,318; and in 1886, \$849,115. Most of the trade is carried on through Singapore with Great Britain and the colonies. The chief products are timber, sago, rice, gum, pepper, gumbia, gutta-percha, tobacco, tapioca, sweet potatoes. Coal and gold have been found. A flourishing timber trade is stated to have been opened with China. Shipping entered in 1886 represented 29,298 tons; cleared, 38,834 tons. There is no public debt.

The Straits Settlements, which comprise Singapore, Penang (including Province Wellesley), and Malacca, were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on April 1, 1867. The Colos Islands were placed under the Straits Settlements by letters patent, dated Feb. 1, 1886. The administration of the colony is in the hands of a governor, aided by an executive council, composed of the officer commanding the troops, the colonial secretary, the resident councillors of Penang and Malacca, the attorney-general, the treasurer, the auditor-general, the colonial engineer, and the commissioner of lands. The revenue in 1887 was estimated at £657,541, and the expenditure at £651,350. The public debt of the colony amounted to about £40,700, and the expenditure for military purposes to £43,189. The Straits ports are wholly free from duties on imports and exports, and their trade, centered at Singapore, is to a large extent a transit trade. The chief exports comprise tin, sugar, pepper, nutmegs, maize, sago, tapioca, rice, buffalo hides and horns, rattans, gutta-percha, india-rubber, gambia, gum, coffee, dye-stuffs, tobacco, etc. Of these the only articles produced to any considerable extent are gambia and pepper in Singapore, tapioca chiefly in Malacca and Province Wellesley; rice, in Madras and Province Wellesley; and sugar, in Province Wellesley. In the province an attempt has been made recently, and with some success, to cultivate the tea plant. Among the leading imports are cotton goods, opium, rice, tea, coffee, tobacco, hardware, copper, copra, etc., many of these, however, being again largely re-exported, as Singapore is mainly an emporium. The total number of vessels entered at the ports of the colony during 1886, exclusive of native craft, was 6,548, with a tonnage of 4,209,034 tons. The number of native craft was 9,744, with a tonnage of 265,914 tons. The number of vessels cleared was 6,487, with a tonnage of 3,970,199 tons, and the total number of native craft was 10,511, with a tonnage of 287,599 tons.

Personal.

Says the *Hamilton Times*:—"Colonel Villiers, the popular Deputy Adjutant-General of the 10th Military District, is here on a visit to his old friends. Colonel Villiers speaks most favourably of his new home (Winnipeg) and of the surrounding country. The gallant D. A. G. has two months' leave, which he will spend visiting friends in Ontario, a very large circle of whom are delighted to see him again."

Cap'tain McGlashan, of the 38th Dufferin Rifles, Brantford, has returned from Palestine, Texas, where he was hastily summoned to the death-bed of his father, Lieut.-Col. J. W. McGlashan. Deceased ran a rusty nail into his foot, the wound causing lock-jaw, from which he died in great agony the day before his son's arrival. He was a prominent contractor and superintendent of the Palestine waterworks, and leaves considerable property. The remains will be taken for burial to Montreal, the former place of residence of deceased, who was one of the leading members of the Prince of Wales Rifles.