

preparation, and above all were the officers of the entire force equal to the duties of instruction and command, the case would be very different. All would then be done in regard to *personnel*, which the circumstances of the colony require, for it is at present neither possible nor desirable for her to maintain a very large standing army. Her gigantic neighbour has but a small number of regular soldiers, and they are chiefly occupied on the Indian frontier. While, therefore, it need not be regarded as foolhardy to fix the strength of the active army at forty-three thousand, or even at thirty thousand men, in the time of peace, that number ought really to present the appearance and exhibit the qualities of soldiers. The organization, equipment, arms, and clothing of this small army ought to be in perfect order; but we learn from the Report that it is far otherwise. Major General Selby Smyth, the Commander of the Forces, states that in the most cases the officers and sergeants are inadequately instructed, that the army has no Engineer corps, that the whole fabric is in danger of dissolution from want of a regimental staff system, that the arms are in many cases badly cared for, that the reserves both of rifles and ammunition are insufficient, and that the care of the clothing calls for immediate attention. The General has arrived at the conclusion that the stores are not kept as they ought to be, and he has a strong suspicion that the arms are occasionally used for "sporting purpose." In one instance he found the arms "placed in stands for the winter, at full cock," in another he went "all over the storehouses, containing several hundred pounds worth of government property, without the care-taker being aware that he was in the town, till afterwards." He found in a certain town the stores in a "disgraceful state," and the Brigade Major admitted that "other armouries in his Brigade might be in the same condition." It appears from the reports sent in by the Deputy Adjutant-Generals of Districts, that the troops are much in want of a suitable head-dress, and that the clothing is frequently quite unfit for the uses to which it is put. We read of Artillery drivers in serge trousers, without foot-straps or spurs, of teams badly and incompletely harnessed, and of an utter ignorance of the regimental system of driving. In the Garrison Artillery a knowledge of gun-drill is, of course, universal, but there is little acquaintance with ammunition, or the numerous important duties which