

terrible ideas of continental militarism, simply because the French, German, and other armies were organised in such bodies. But all the scheme aimed at was to assimilate peace and war conditions; and group units in peace time in the same formations and under the same leaders as in war time. It in no way touched the organism, numbers, or recruiting of the army; and, even if it had been as bad as it was painted, it did not possess the same powers for good or evil as the schemes of his successor.

But, owing to a complete misapprehension of its effects, it became unpopular. Still, in spite of many defects, the military machine at that time was settling down fairly well after the strain of a great war; though the unwise plan of reducing the period of service to three years gave serious cause for alarm and anxiety.

In the autumn of 1903 Mr. Arnold Forster succeeded, and about the same time the now celebrated Committee of three was appointed to reconstitute the War Office system. This Committee, contrary to what it should have been, was by no means an expert one, even its one military member had little experience of practical army matters. He was an Engineer officer, who even amongst his brother officers had had much less real military experience than usually falls to their lot. He had been secretary to the Colonial Defence Committee, which is not, strictly speaking, military work; head of the carriage factory at Woolwich, and a Colonial Governor, and in no sense could he be called a practical soldier.

The schemes of the Committee were hastily devised, and drastic in the extreme. They carried out the ideals of the Hartington Commission by abolishing the Commandership-in-Chief, and creating an Army Council and an Inspector-General of the Forces, the first two of which were undoubtedly sound as far as they went. They distributed the work of the War Office on a new plan, and recommended the appointment of Directors in order to relieve the members of the Army