

going on beyond a distant range of hills. Speaking of the probable future of military development, the distinguished author of the article says:—

“Small and large armies have each had their day. The present age is one of large masses of fairly trained soldiers, but it is by no means certain to me that the time may not yet come again when all nations will once more resort to small standing armies of the most highly trained and disciplined soldiers. We may find that the soldier, to be at his best, or to be even thoroughly efficient, will require such long, and above all things, such constant training, that an army consisting of a people in arms will be impossible. In fact, we may find out by-and-by that a comparatively small standing army of carefully selected men, the flower of the nation, highly skilled in all manly exercises, in all military arts, and kept in a constant state of perfect training, is a more effective weapon for fighting purposes than the slow-moving or more or less unwieldy armies of the present day.”

Lord Wolseley refers to the present position of England and to our military and naval condition in the following terms:—

“The torrent of anarchical Democracy lately let loose upon England is undermining, and must eventually destroy, that fabric of military and naval strength upon which our stability as a nation rests. With its destruction, hundreds of millions of money, now invested in British enterprises, will be removed to some country with an executive government strong enough to maintain order and secure the rights of property at home, and strong enough, in a military sense, to hold its own against all foreign aggression. Our recent naval manoeuvres will certainly cause all Europe to question our naval strength, even if it does not open the eyes of our own electorate to the very disagreeable truths long known to every one not seated on the ‘front benches.’”

The Naval and Military Resources of the Colonies.

(Concluded.)

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(Admiralty and Horse Guards Gazette.)

The chief force, the Militia, consists of about 4,500 non-commissioned officers and men, composed of different arms, as given in the preceding list. Engagement is for a period not exceeding five years, but members may, with the sanction of the commandant, re-engage during the last year of their service for a further period of one, three, or five years. Any person so engaged may (with the approval of the Governor in Council, if an officer, or of the commandant if below the rank of an officer) resign from the militia, but not without paying a certain sum, according to the number of years served. A man to be engaged must be a British subject, and between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five; but men who have previously served in the British Regular or Auxiliary Services, or in any Colonial Militia or Volunteers, may be enrolled if under the age of forty-five.

The standard of height for each arm of the service is, with proportionate chest measurement, as follows:—Cavalry, 5ft. 6in. to 5ft. 11in.; Artillery—gunners, 5ft. 7in. and upwards; drivers, 5ft. 5in. to 5ft. 8in.; Infantry and Engineers, 5ft. 6in. and upwards.

Exceptions to the standard of height may be allowed by the commandant. There are besides some special regulations concerning the establishment of members of the Torpedo Corps, of boys, musicians, etc., which it is unnecessary to detail here; of course the usual medical examination is requisite. After being passed into the ranks, members of the force—officers and men—are entitled to payment for attendance at parades and drills, according to a fixed scale; recruit drills are also paid, but at a reduced rate. The parades are distinguished as: A whole day parade, not less than eight hours; a half, not less than three hours; and a night drill, not less than one hour and a half.

All combatant ranks on the roll (commanding officers of corps and brigade and regimental staff excepted), in order to be classed as effective, must attend in each year three whole days, fifteen half days, and twenty-four night drills; and must undergo the prescribed gunnery or musketry course. Any officer who does not qualify as an effective is not, except under special circumstances, allowed to retain his commission. In like manner, any non-commissioned officer who does not qualify is reduced to the ranks. Any member of the force absent without leave for a period of three months is liable to dismissal.

Officers are appointed by the Council of Defence recommending (on the nomination of the commandant) to the Governor in Council competent officers, who have previously served in the British regular or auxiliary forces, or in any colonial militia or volunteers, who may be considered suitable for employment. All such officers are posted on probation of six months, during which time they must pass such practical examination as may be directed, failing which their commissions are not confirmed. Every other candidate for a commission must pass through

the school of instruction, which institution is now under the able management of the assistant adjutant-general. On selection, the candidate is posted by the commandant on probation for six months, and has to pass certain technical and practical examinations.

In order to insure a flow of promotion among the officers, lieutenants must retire at forty years of age, captains at forty-five, majors at fifty, and lieutenant-colonels at fifty-five. But the Governor-General may, nevertheless, on the recommendation of the commandant, require any officer who would otherwise so retire, notwithstanding his age, to continue to perform his duty.

Naturally one of the chief considerations in establishing a force in Australia is how to preserve discipline in it. It is at once apparent that the code and general system which control British regular troops living together in barracks, and having while with the colours no other occupation than military, could not possibly be applied to the militia, which forms the bulk of the Victorian Army, nor even to the permanent force without some modification. What has been done in this. The groundwork of the British regular code has been taken and altered or modified as required. The following paragraph occurs in the Victorian Military Regulations:—

“The Queen's Regulations, and the customs of the Imperial military Service, when not inconsistent with ‘The Discipline Act, 1870,’ and Acts amending the same, and any regulations made thereunder, will be taken generally as a guide in all matters of discipline affecting the permanent force,” and in the main this applies also to the militia—the alterations lately made, and now in course of development in the English army, for giving non-commissioned officers and men much more freedom than formerly, are all in a direction to suit the Australian forces. The men comprising which are, as before remarked, very intelligent, for the greater part of their time free from any restraint of military discipline, and, be it remembered, not dependent upon the Service for a living. As regards ideas and habits of military discipline, the men of the Victorian militia are about on a par with our volunteers in England. Like them, they do not habitually live together in any military organization; like them they are intelligent, and amenable to reason; but unlike the English Volunteer, the Victorian militiaman is paid for each parade he attends. “Point d'argent, point de Suisse” is an idea he has borrowed from the old world. So that the authorities have more hold on the Australian militia than we have on our home volunteers, and hence most of the punishments take the form of fines. Here is a specimen:—

FINES WHICH MAY BE LEVIED BY COMMANDING OFFICERS.

	£	s.	d.
For appearing on parade improperly dressed, arms, etc., dirty, inattention..	0	2	6
Neglect to notify change of address within fourteen days of such change...	0	2	6
Leaving ranks without permission.....	0	7	6
Drunkenness on parade or duty, or in camp, or elsewhere in uniform.....	0	10	0
Minor cases of insubordination.....	0	10	0
Failing to become effective.....	1	0	0
Being absent from annual inspection.....	1	0	0

The amount of some of these fines gives an idea of the pecuniary circumstances of the Australian private soldier.

The uniform of the artillery and infantry, as we have said before, resembles the British. The infantry is armed with the Martini-Henry rifle.

There is also a militia reserve not liable to be called on for service except in case of national emergency, notified by proclamation in the *Government Gazette*. For the last two out of the five years for which recruits are sworn in they would be in the reserve; but they may be permitted by the commandant to serve the whole five years in the militia. Members desirous of leaving the militia may be allowed (in lieu of paying fine) to serve the remainder of their time in the militia reserve, provided they have not less than six months' effective service. There are also certain regulations under which a militia reserve man can return to the militia, or re-engage in the militia reserve, provided he is not over forty-five years of age. The men of this reserve receive no pay for any drills or rifle practice they may attend, except when called out by proclamation; but they have certain facilities for the purchase of rifles and ammunition, and are eligible for musketry prizes at the annual musketry course of their corps.

There is a regular Chaplains' department; also a regular Medical branch of the service under the orders of a Principal Medical Officer. The members receive certain pay for certain duties, but have other practical besides military. They are guided, as far as possible, by the regulations of the Medical department of our own army.

The gunnery and musketry practices are arranged and carried out as nearly as possible on the same lines as ours. All ranks, cavalry, infantry and artillery, appear to take great interest in these practices, and also in the theoretical instruction, of which they receive a fair share. One great advantage the Australians possess over the soldiers in Great Britain is the vast amount of open space available for ranges. At