

occupation and equipment returns from the several Barrack Masters direct."

But the Quartermaster-General distinctly tells us he has no power to interfere—that all he can do is to forward these applications to the War Department, where they are read and minuted by the junior clerk and gradually make their way upwards. Now, who, in the present instance, will probably be the person whose decision will be final and who will his consent to an additional supply of what the Quartermaster-General terms "miserable tallow candles?" A clerk to the Director of Stores, who, in the name of the Secretary for War, will write back to the Quartermaster-General to state the supply is sanctioned, and write to the commissariat on the spot to issue. Now, putting routine on one side, who is the person most capable giving decision? Lord Seaton, commanding in Ireland, on the report of the Deputy Quartermaster-General in Ireland, or a clerk at the War Office, who has most probably never been in Ireland, and who has not the slightest idea of why or wherefore the extra supply is wanted? We say putting routine on one side, because it is very clear that if a general officer abroad can have such trust confided in him, and give an order on his own authority without disarranging the machinery of the War Department, and without endangering the financial calculations of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, it is, we think, a deduction that the same authority might be given to the officer commanding the forces in Ireland; and we really think that such a man as Lord Seaton would have as due regard to economy, and take quite as great an interest in reducing the expenditure of this country, as a clerk in the Store Branch. But then would it not be too simple? Lord Seaton having received the report of his Quartermaster-General, would give his sanction, and report what he had done to the Secretary for War. At present, Lord Seaton has to direct his Deputy Quartermaster-General to report to the Quartermaster-General in England, who has to report to the War Department; all which correspondence might be carried on very well by a couple of clerks at 5s. a day, and we might dispense with the services of two Quartermaster-Generals, if they are only to be made use of as clerks. This want of simplicity and of trust is nowhere felt more than in the attempt to provide the soldier with the necessaries of life. The commissariat, the Accountant-Generals, one and all, are fully aware of it. They tell you it forms a perplexity of accounts and of correspondence, which is perfectly stultifying. One would think that if anything had induced the War Department to retain so cumbersome a piece of machinery, it would have been the repeated wish of the Treasury.

But it would seem that nowhere is the system accounted more unsatisfactory than by the Treasury. We find in the Appendix No. 28, in the Report of the Commission, a most remarkable proof of this in a memorandum by Sir Charles Trevelyan; and we all know that the Treasury and Sir Charles are in many matters pretty much one and the same thing. Now, what does he say?

"The regulations under which the pay of the army is issued and accounted for, urgently stand in need of reform. The stoppages from the pay of the soldier for the rations supplied to him involve settlements of account of so operose and cumbersome a nature, that, although they are gone through in time of peace at the cost of an enormous waste of labour, the whole system is immediately abandoned at the breaking out of a war. In the Kaffir wars, our commissariat officers reported that they had been unable to keep up the calculations which the system required in reference to the pay of every individual soldier belonging to the numerous detachments moving over the face of the country; and in the late Russian war the attempt was not even made, the Treasury having, at the commencement of the war, authorized the issue of the net regimental pay, calculated on the aggregate number of men present with each regiment, without requiring any subsequent detailed settlement. When the soldier was charged with the actual cost of the ration a periodical adjustment of the sum due by him was necessary, but he now pays a fixed amount for his ration, both at home and abroad, and detailed adjustment is therefore no longer required. The practice has survived this occasion for it. A machinery applicable to a bygone state of things ought to be discontinued, and our arrangements

should be adapted to the actual fact,—which is, that soldiers' wages consist of a net rate of pay, a free ration, free lodging, and various other advantages which are provided for him at the cost of the public."

We have already seen in what consists the free lodging accompanied by the advantage of any amount of foul air; let us now see in what the free ration consists. A ration at home, by an order dated 1813, consists of 1lb. of bread and ½lb. of meat uncooked. If encamped, each man gets, by a warrant dated February, 1833, ½lb. of bread in addition. If abroad, he gets 1lb. of bread or ½lb. of biscuit, and 1lb. of meat, either fresh or salt, the additional ½lb. being given to compensate for the inferior quality of foreign meat. By a warrant dated 1850, the soldier pays for his ration 4½d. at home, and 3½d. abroad; that is to say, he is charged the same everywhere for his ration, as at home he gets an additional penny, called "beer money." It is perfectly unnecessary to say that a man having to undergo great bodily exercise, and having frequently to be up all night, cannot live upon ½lb. of uncooked meat, which generally boils down to less than ¼lb., and 1lb. of bread per diem. Soldiers have found it necessary, for their own preservation to get something more; and by clubbing together some 2½d. each themselves with breakfast, and occasionally with tea; a practice so judicious, that commanding officers are enjoined by the authorities to see that their men are supplied with a third meal, provided always the stoppages do not exceed 3½d. a day in the Guards and infantry, and 10d. a day for the cavalry and artillery, including washing. This washing is 3½d. a week for the infantry, 6d. for the Guards and cavalry, and 7d. for artillery.

It is clear that were the Government to undertake to provide three meals for the soldier, and deduct his 8d. or 9d. a day, they could provide him with a far better article for his money than the soldiers now gets by clubbing some dozen together, and going to this or that shop. From the evidence of Commissary-General-Adams, it seems that such a system would not only entail no additional expenditure, but would not even give additional trouble. For this money the commissariat could supply what appears now to be unknown—a chance of diet, together with vegetable diet; and we should not then see, what we now see, the soldier being offered boiled mutton for twenty-one years consecutively, and gradually attaining that state of bodily discipline, which is described by Commissary-General-Adams "as soldiers being not very great eaters." The real fact being, that getting but little to eat, they get in the habit of staying their appetite by smoking or chewing on an empty stomach, either of which is exceedingly prejudicial to the constitution. Indeed, this want of proper nourishment has been considered by one of the highest medical authorities in this country, Dr. Christison, of Edinburgh, as the primary cause of the great mortality in the Crimea. In a memorandum submitted to him by Sir John Mac-Neal, for improving the dietery of the British soldier, he says:—

"Dietaries ought never to be estimated by the rough weight of their constituents, without distinct reference to the real nutriment in these, as determined by physiological and chemical inquiry. Keeping these principles in view, and with the help of a simple table, it is not difficult to fix the dietary advisable for any body of men, according to their occupation. It is also in general easy to detect the source of error in unsuccessful dietaries. For example:—any scientific person, conversant with the present subject, could have foretold as a certain consequence, sooner or later, of their dietary, that the British troops would fall into the calamitous state of health which befell them last winter in the Crimea. Soldiers in the field will be more efficient the nearer they are brought to the athletic constitution. But as the demand for protected, unusual exertion occurs only at intervals, the high nutritive athletic dietary is not absolutely necessary. Some years ago, when I was appointed to inquire into certain points relative to the management of the prison, there were several men employed at the pumps for raising water daily from the Tay for prison use, an occupation requiring much expenditure of muscular strength. These men were, without exception, compelled to desist when fed 24ozs. a-day, an addition 8ozs. of meat and 6ozs. of bread was found necessary, and

then they all worked vigorously."

Nobody will suppose that for the sum of 7d. an overwhelming amount of food will be obtained, and there is no fear of the men suffering from dietary excess. But if by an arrangement the health of the men can be improved, if it be possible to get the soldier to live in the same rational way, and partake of the same meals as other Englishmen, we have no doubt that there would be far less for the medical man to do; and any little expenditure which such a system may give rise to will be amply compensated by the saving in the inspection of the present accounts, owing to the system of stoppages for rations when the soldier is on the march or on board a ship. Thus, in making up the the Crimean accounts, and doubtless at the present day many of the Indian accounts, we find that the soldier, the day previous to his embarkation, was paying 4s. a-day for his commissariat, and 3½d. to his regimental messing. On board the ship he paid 6d. if he took grog, or coffee in lieu of grog, or 5d. if he abstained; in Bulgaria, on arrival, he paid 3½d. for his commissariat ration, and 3½d. for his regimental messing; and when the system broke down through the absence marked from which the men could supply themselves, the stoppage paid to the commissariat rose to 4½d., whilst that to the messing was reduced to nil. But if a man were sick, and was sent down to Scutari to hospital, he then reverted to a 3½d. stoppage, having again paid 5d. or 9d. as the case might be, on board the ship that conveyed him thither. No wonder that even Sir Charles Trevelyan found the system of check more expensive than any attempt to have provided the soldier honestly and liberally. A very few years ago a great deal was said by the public against the extraordinary system of clothing colonelcies, and it was thought that if the Government would undertake to provide for the clothing of the men, they would be more fairly dealt by; and in proof of this; it was shown that the Ordnance corps, then supplied by the Government, had far better cloth issued to them—a fact perfectly correct. The Government did take the clothing in hand, and what says the Quartermaster-General in the result? "I think," he says, "that all our cloth is bad, and I think that the boots are bad. The last issues were improved, but it is a hard and unpleasant cloth for a man to wear; it chafes him, and it does not wear well either; it is full of size and stiffening." Pray is the Government aware that, by giving the soldier indifferent cloth and indifferent boots, they are simply robbing him? It is part of the wages that he should receive a pair of trousers, and a coat, and a pair of boots, yearly, and these are supposed to last him for the year; and if they do not last him, he is provided with others, for which he is put under stoppages.

And we know no better way of exemplifying the correctness of the Quartermaster-General's statement about the clothing, than by reference to the account-books of any regiment, or any company of a regiment, and the result will be perfectly startling. Numbers of men never get any pay all, for once in debt he is scarcely ever out of it; and out of his 13d., what with his rations and his stoppages, he scarcely ever sees anything but the 1d. which, in the Mutiny Act, he must be allowed. As to the great coat, that supposed covering from the night air in this rather humid climate, the Commission merely observes, "It is good for nothing."

A fact known to the soldier for many a long year; and there is not an old woman in the Highlands that would weave such stuff.

In the report a comparison has been instituted between two classes of force, both employed in the public service—the military and the police force; in the latter of which the morality is about one-half of what it is in the former; The soldier is generally a boy from the class of the labourer, or the mechanic, who, having been out of employment for some time, or inclined to be idle, gets attracted by the recruiting placard gets into conversation with the recruiting sergeant, whose interest it is to tell him every lie he can invent, at the rate of 5s. per man, and finally enlists. He is sent off with a bath of other stupid to join the dépôt, and he is there put through a course of instruction which brings into play muscles and nerves he has never made use of before.

The exercise he gets is arduous, and in the cavalry and artillery it is arduous. And there is a regularity in his exercise, though

not in his meals, which tries the constitution to a great extent. He is told that he is a soldier, and that he must not mind standing at attention on parade of a cold winter's morning that he must not mind the stock and knapsack on the hot summer's day, and that he must not mind the thin cloak during his sentry hours, in the depth of winter. His leisure is spent in the public, and his night, when at home, in the unwholesome barrack-room. And there is nothing whatsoever, at least in infantry regiments, to occupy his mind. Drill under the sergeant-major when everybody is to blame; drill under the adjutant, when nothing is right; picquet, guard, fatigues, and roll-call occupy the steady soldier's time; the order-room drill, and cells, the man who is unsteady. But, once a soldier has been three months with his regiment, he has learned all his lessons, and he finds he is in for it for ten or twelve years. He knows his clothing is bad, and that he must pay for more.

He knows he must sleep in the barrack-room, whether he likes it or not, and that he must live on one monotonous diet. Now the policeman is on the average a man of twenty five years of age. He has looked about him, and he knows that if he can possibly get into the force, he is entering a good service. His duty is to a certain degree and independent one, and one which gives the mind constant occupation. It is true that he must attend to his parade regularly, and take up his post regularly, and he is visited during the course of that duty by his sergeant and inspector. But nevertheless he is, to a great extent, his own master. So long as he is on his beat, he may walk in what direction of it he likes, and there is no one bickering at him, and telling him to keep his toes together, or to hold his head up. Then his pay makes him comfortable.

On going into the force he gets 19s. per week. He is allowed good clothing and plenty of it, viz., one body coat, two pairs trousers, and two pairs boots yearly his great coat, and a cape, once in two years. The single man is given his full allowance of 450 to 500 cubic feet to sleep in, for which he pays 1s. a week, and arrangements are made for the single men to mess together. City force, a testimonial is required from two respectable householders. The policeman, moreover, may marry when he thinks fit, and the soldier may not. Indeed, matrimony in the army has not only every obstruction put in the way of it, but it is considered unmilitary, and perhaps properly so.

Soldiers are always moving about from station to station, and if a mass of women and children had to be moved along with them, it would be most expensive. Besides, marriage unsettles the soldier. He fancies then he has some sort of a home, something to care about, and is no longer so careless of his existence as he ought to be. At the same time, to reconcile him to this state of single blessedness, the State has introduced a clause into the Mutiny Act which frees the soldier from the liability of having to support any family which he may accidentally have obtained: and commanding officers consider that with such an advantage, he suffers no great hardship by being refused leave to marry. What is termed refusing leave to marry, is this. The soldier is bound to live in barracks, so have so much deducted from his pay for his rations and stoppages and it depends upon the commanding officer whether he is allowed to live in barracks, and receive his pay in full, which may help towards keeping a family. At least, this is the system in better regulated regiments. But so ably do the present habits of the soldier tend to brutalize his feelings, that in many regiments the meaning of leave to marry, is leave to bring the woman into barracks, where, with the help of a bit of curtain, she creates a matrimonial chamber in the midst of a room occupied by some twenty men; and commanding officers under these circumstances very properly refuse leave to marry as often as they can. Such a system is a very great saving to the State, for the only way in which military matrimony could be recognised would be by erecting model lodging-houses close to the barracks, where married men could live without undergoing the penalties of starvation, or shocking the common decencies of life. Yet perhaps it would be as well if this were done, for, by a most singular oversight, chaplains are appointed to inculcate into the soldier's mind that the attempt to elude the responsibilities of mankind is quietly damning