

TO MORROW.

To day can sing of yesterday,
Songs tender, tinct with sorrow;
But mute she comes along the way—
All-beautiful To-morrow!

Her face is full of prophecies
Her lips have still withhelden,
And gazing in her radiant eyes
Songs turn to silence golden.

Hope rapt beside her pathway stands,
Asks nothing but the vision,
And turns at night with empty hands,
Still dreaming of fruition.

Ah, beauty! soon as present, gone,
Most fleet and most beguiling;
Why are our hearts forever drawn?
By that strange, far-off smiling?

Why is it that from new delays
New faith they still can borrow?
Oh, is it that among the days
Comes Heaven's first good-morrow?

She will come in with no alarms,
Under this same low portal,
And clasp us in mortal arms,
And we shall turn immortal!

—CARL SPENCER, in *Harper's Magazine for March*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON REORGANIZATION OF THE BRITISH ARMY.

With reference to the Secretary of State's proposal to form local depots or centres, as the mode of bringing a closer connection between the Regular Army and the Reserve Forces with Militia and Volunteers, I think the following plan should be adopted:—

1. Double battalion regiments to be worked as one corps, to be formed into three distinct bodies,—one battalion abroad at whatever fixed establishment may be required, with 1 lieutenant-colonel, 2 majors, 8 captains, 16 lieutenants and sub-lieutenants, 1 adjutant, 1 quartermaster, and 1 paymaster, one battalion for home service at a reduced home establishment, with 1 lieutenant colonel, 2 majors,* 8 captains, 14 lieutenants and sub-lieutenants, 1 adjutant, 1 quartermaster, 1 paymaster. The depot centre to be formed by two companies from each of the two battalions, with 1 captain and 1 subaltern to each company.

2. The local or depot centre to be in charge of a lieutenant-colonel, assisted by a substantive major, 1 quartermaster, 1 paymaster.

Two Militia regiments to be included in each district, with the Volunteer corps of the district, and the Army Reserve men and Pensioners making up the entire force of the local centre. The two Militia adjutants and the permanent Militia sergeants to do duty with the depot centres, when their regiments are not embodied or out for training.

Each Militia regiment to have its sergeant major, quartermaster sergeant, and orderly-room clerk as part of its fixed establishment of non-commissioned officers.

The depot companies to have one colour and one company sergeant at all times distinct from the Militia regiments.

3. All other regiments to be linked together by brigades of two and two, and to be in every respect organized as the double battalion regiments as regards one regiment at home, one abroad, and with a combined depot centre as specified above.

4. (a) The present number of battalions of the army, 141, to be maintained as at present, and the regiments linked to be continued as separate corps for the officers, and made to act as much as possible in mutual support. The majors for the depot centres to be taken from the home regiment or battalion, and to take this duty in alternation by periods of two years.

4. (b.) All recruits to be raised and drill

*One Major attached to Depot Centre.

ed both for the Line and the Militia at the depot centres, and to be passed from these as rapidly as possible into the two service battalions or the Militia regiments as the exigencies of the Service require; but in cases of war and Militia embodiment these depot centres to be the nucleus for the formation of a local Reserve battalion. The Reserve men in each district to be trained equally for a certain number of days in each year at these depot centres.

The present accommodation to be thoroughly examined into and made available for the above purpose, and supplemented whenever necessary by additional accommodation.

5. The first battalions for foreign service to be on an increased establishment, and those to form the first *corps d'armee* for service abroad.

(Signed) G.

REPORT ON DETAILS INVOLVED IN THE ABOVE MEMORANDUM.

The essential idea expressed in the memorandum on organization by His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commander-in-Chief is that of territorial districts, each to contain two Line battalions, two Militia infantry battalions, and a certain quota of Volunteers formed into an administrative brigade, the whole to rest on the brigade depot or centre.

2. The state of things with which the committee, has had to deal, is that of 141 battalions distributed as follows, viz:—

In India.....	50	} 63,590 Rank and file exclusive of Guards.
In Colonies.....	22	
At Home.....	69	
Total.....	141	

By dividing the British Isles into seventy districts, therefore, it would be possible to apportion two line battalions to each district, leaving one odd battalion.

3. It will be observed that the battalions now serving abroad are seventy-two whilst those at home are sixty-nine. In order to equalize, therefore, and to give England an advantage of the extra battalion, it would be necessary to bring home two battalions from abroad, which would result in seventy-one at home and seventy abroad.

4. When it came to the detail of partitioning the country into brigade districts, and allotting to each district a minimum of two Line battalions; and taking into account the deficiency of Militia as compared with Line battalions; it became apparent that the 60th and Rifle Brigade, at their present establishment, could more conveniently be treated outside the district organization, in the same sense as the Guards are outside that organization.

5. By the detail annexed, marked (A), it will be seen that, while Ireland is divided into eight districts, and Scotland into 9, England is divided into forty-nine districts, four of which are comprised within the metropolis, giving a total of sixty-nine districts—a distribution which does not include the 60th and Rifle Brigade.

6. The basis of the calculation has been that 100,000 male population should furnish a Militia battalion of 1,000. And as, when the organization is perfected, each district would comprise two such Militia battalions; the districts have been divided as nearly as possible so as to contain each about 200,000 males.* In Scotland most of the districts

*Twenty-six districts in England and Scotland have each two Militia battalions apportioned to them; twenty-seven have only one battalion in each, but with establishment varying from 1,000 to 1,250 rank and file; in these cases it will probably be easy to expand the single battalion into two battalions of 800 each.

fall below that population. In England the proportion has been pretty equally preserved. In Ireland it is largely exceeded.

7. In order to make allowance for Militia Artillery, however it is submitted that the Militia Infantry quota of each district in England should be fixed at two battalions, of a minimum strength of 750 rank and file; and for Scotland, at two battalions of a minimum strength of 650 rank and file.

In either case, it would evidently be easy to form one Militia Infantry battalion of 800 rank and file for embodiment in each district on the occurrence of an emergency.

8. Of the forty-nine English districts, four are allotted to the metropolis; and it would be very difficult to increase the forty-five rural districts which remain by the four districts, which would be required to accommodate the eight battalions of the 60th and Rifle Brigade, on the same plan as that applied to the remainder of the army.

It is therefore suggested that the depots of the Rifles be grouped at one depot centre (as was formerly the case at Winchester), the station for which might be either Parkhurst or Winchester; the recruiting of these regiments being general as for the Guards.

9. By the detailed distribution given in Appendix (A) it will be apparent that each of the sixty-nine districts proposed for Great Britain and Ireland has two Line battalions allotted to it with the exception of one district which has three battalions. This arrangement was imposed by the fact that the infantry battalions of the army form, including eight rifle battalions, two pairs of seventy and one odd battalion, and by the necessity of giving to the odd battalion a territorial home. The odd battalion thus becomes a floating battalion, and may be employed in any manner that may be thought desirable without interfering in the smallest degree with the working of the general system.

10. The result of the system when brought into complete operation would be that in all the districts of Great Britain and Ireland—save the exceptional one to which three Line battalions have been allotted—one Line battalion would be always abroad, the other battalion always at home. And the object sought to be attained by this arrangement is that the battalion at home may serve as a feeder for the supply of casualties in the twin battalion of the same district serving abroad.

11. In this view the linking of the line battalions by pairs, as shown in Appendix (A) was a problem of considerable delicacy and difficulty, the following data of which required to be considered and reconciled so far as possible, viz:

The nominal connection of particular regiments with particular counties.

The susceptibilities of particular regiments.

The dress and facings of particular regiments.

The fact that many regiments, though nominally connected with particular counties, have a more real connection through recruiting with other counties. And last, not least, the exigencies of the roster, so that the new system might be brought into complete operation in the shortest possible time, and so that regiments now at home should not be sent abroad without some reference to their term of service at home.

12. The scheme of linking detailed in Appendix (A) has been carefully framed, so as to reconcile as far as possible the foregoing considerations, which are to some extent conflicting among themselves; and so as to ensure the new system being brought into