

## OUR COLONIAL FORCES.

In the "Army List" for the current month some additional information was given, which, though it appears several years after date, is none the less welcome. After a vast amount of discussion, and wo underrstand, opposition, it has been ruled that the forces of our colonies should be recognized in the pages of the "Army List," and the result is that at the end of the book about a dozen sheets are now devoted to a list of officers of the "Colonial Reserve Forces." Why this term has been applied to the Colonial troops it is difficult to understand, for the word "Reserve" implies the existence of other troops, to which the colonial corps would act as a support. As a matter of fact our colonies are now, almost without exception, left to their own military resources, and therefore Colonial Forces would seem to be at once a more simple and more correct description of the armies in question. This, however, is a point of detail, and could no doubt, if officially raised, be justified with equal official acumen by the competent authorities. The lists, however, speak for themselves, and convey to the British public a good deal of new and interesting information.

Arranged in alphabetical order the Militia of Antigua occupies the first place, and appears to consist only of Yeomanry Cavalry and a battery of Artillery. British Guiana, however, makes a better show, for in addition to a staff, in which an adjutant-general very properly occupies the first place, there are cavalry, artillery, rifles, and Line companies. The local forces at the Cape of Good Hope are out of proportion to the extent and importance of the colony. They consist exclusively of volunteers, and number but half a dozen companies. The sojourn, however of royalty at Cape Town has left its mark, for one corps boasts the title of "Prince Alfred's Own," while another, presumably of more recent existence, is designated by "Duke of Edinburgh's." Malta in addition to its Fencible Regiment, which ranks with the regulars, has a few Militia companies. Natal, which comes next on the list, has a somewhat pretentious force. There are regiments of Carbineers and Hussars, in addition to Yeomanry, Cavalry and Mounted Rifles, the Line Companies bearing the title of "New Germany Rifles." New South Wales seems to possess a considerable Volunteer Force, which, as far as it is possible to judge from its appearance on paper, would be carefully organized. The existence of a "Staff" and a "Volunteer Staff" would seem to imply the existence of a Militia; but of this latter service no mention is made.

It is, however, the army of New Zealand which takes the place of honour amongst the colonial forces whose existence is recorded in the monthly "Army List." Nor is it difficult to understand why New Zealand should possess a more considerable army than the other colonies. The island has unfortunately received a practical lesson in the art of self defence—and has evidently profited accordingly. The Militia of course comes first, and would really appear to be a very important force. The names of upwards of sixty field officers head the list, and there are two hundred captains, and twice as many more subalterns, all apparently available for "general service," for the list is not divided regimentally. The force moreover, possesses a sufficiently numerous medical staff, and some quartermasters also would appear to have served their apprenticeship in the Queen's Service. The

New Zealand Volunteers, however, are organized in the same manner seemingly as our own. About twenty troops of light horse head the list, and these are supplemented by a fair proportion of Artillery and Engineer corps, and at least seventy rifle companies. The administration of the volunteers would appear to be left to the Militia staff, for there is no Volunteer staff, and no officer of superior rank to that of major. Next in order and importance too, to the New Zealand force, comes that of Prince Edward Island, consisting of a few companies of "Militia Volunteers," and fifteen very substantial regiments of Militia. All of these are infantry battalions, however, and there is no Cavalry, Engineers or Artillery. St. Christopher has three troops of Militia, and St. Helena, both a Militia and a Volunteer corps; Singapore has a single company of Volunteers, and Turk's Island only a couple of officers. The Victoria force is evidently arranged on the same model as that of New South Wales, except that it is more split into companies; but it is numerically stronger, and the staff would seem to be more complete. Three companies of Western Australian Volunteers, under the command of a brigade Colonel, complete the Reserve Forces.

The first reflection, however, that occurs on looking through the list of our "Colonial Reserve Forces" is, what has become of the Canadian Militia, no mention of which is made? The omission, too, is the more remarkable, as the Canadian Militia ranks first in importance amongst Colonial armies—numbering in the ranks of the Active Militia, no less than 43,184 men, and in the Reserve Militia no less than 694,000 men. How is it that this body should be left out of the Army list, when the Volunteer companies of Turk's Island and Antigua are officially recognized, we are at a loss to understand. The ways of the authorities, however are inscrutable, and we will not attempt to solve the problem. But in the meantime we would point out that the ignoring of the Canadian Militia may tend to create some disappointment if no stronger feeling in the bosoms of the loyal inhabitants of the Dominion; and if we may presume to counsel the War Office, we cannot but suggest that it would have been better to defer all mention of Colonial Forces for another month rather than present an incomplete list to the public. It is indeed difficult in any reasonable way to describe a justification for what appears to be a very improper and unnecessary bungle, for Canada is but twelve days distant from Pall Mall, as against the twelve weeks which a letter takes to reach New Zealand; but we must conclude that the authorities have acted after mature consideration, and if it was intended to offer a deliberate insult to the Canadian Militia, there is reason to fear that they have but too successfully achieved their purpose.

It is not, however, to point out the deficiencies and absurdities in the arrangement of the "Army List" that we refer to the innovation in the August issue. Enough that we are glad to see the colonial forces properly recognised, and if the recognition is somewhat tardy, it is none the less acceptable alike to the colonist and British public. We shall, however be glad to see the list properly completed, more especially as in the case of the Canadian Militia the omission will not be probably regarded by the Canadians in its probably true light of a reprehensible clerical error, but as an unwarranted and impolitic snub on the part of the Imperial Government.

Perhaps we cannot do better, in order to

supply our readers with some idea of the patriotic exertions of the Canadians and of the military power they are capable of developing, than to print the two returns which appear in the "Report of the State of the Militia of the Dominion of Canada for the year 1871," lately presented to the Canadian Parliament. One of the men (see column 257) presents us with a tabular view of the strength and organization of the active Militia of Canada, on the 31st of Dec. 1871, and the other with a view of the Reserve Militia enrolment of 1871. The active Militia is shown to consist, including all ranks, of 43,174 officers and men. Out of this number 34,413 (officers and men) have performed the annual drill for the military year 1871-72, of which 22,544 (officers and men) with 1096 horses, were assembled at divisional or brigade camps of exercise, for sixteen days continuous drill, paid, supplied and maintained as if on actual service. 5210 (officers and men) with 319 horses, were assembled in camps which were only in operation for eight days, under the ordinary regulations, relative to pay and supply; the remainder of the active Militia, numbering 8,700 (officers and men) performed their annual drill either at the headquarters of corps or, as in the case of many batteries of Garrison Artillery, at certain forts where instruction in gunnery could be more advantageously afforded, and shot and shell practice properly carried out.

Three batteries of Garrison Artillery in the province of Ontario embarked in succession on board the gun boat *Prince Alfred* for eight days, and were practised at "gun drill," firing shot and shell, the vessel during the period cruising on Lakes Erie and Huron.

1180 cavalry and the whole of the Field Artillery (ten batteries, with 42 field guns) have performed their drill for 1871-72 in the different camps of exercise.

The second return alluded to is that which shows the result of the enrolment of 1871, of the Reserve Militia, in the nine military districts, comprising the four provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia—from which it will be seen, that in these four provinces alone there are nearly 700,000 men, within the fighting ages, liable by law to military service in defence of the Dominion; thus proving that there is in the country itself an ample supply of the most important element viz, *men*. By this return it will also be seen that there is a total increase of 38,942 men in the Reserve Militia since the first enrolment under the present law, a period of only two years:

The total number of Militiamen in all classes, according to Enrolment of 1871.....	694,008
Do do do do 1869.....	656,066

Total increase 1871..... 38,942

These figures will we trust tend to reassure those of our readers who might otherwise have been affected by the most dismal anticipations from the absence of all record of the Canadian Militia amongst the other colonial forces in the pages of our Imperial Army List. With seven hundred thousand fighting men capable of being placed in line of battle for the defence of their homes, Canada need have little fear of American annexation. On the other hand, what with the Chinese difficulty, the Negro difficulty, the Irish difficulty and the free trade and protection difficulty, the United States will for many a long day be more interested in suppressing difficulties at home than in creating them abroad; and if ever annexation