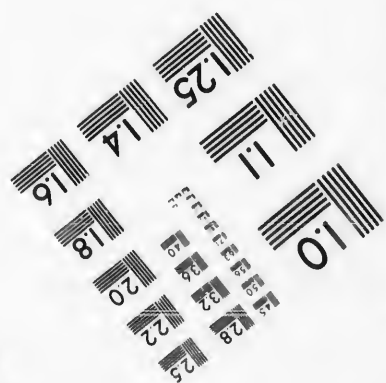
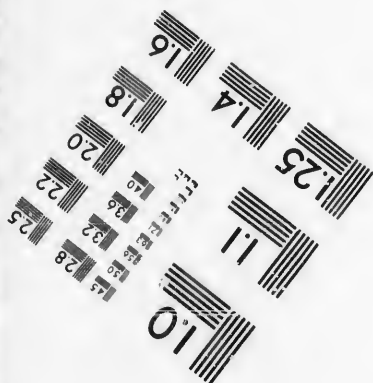
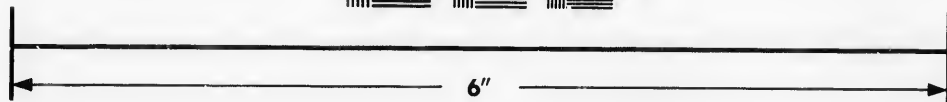
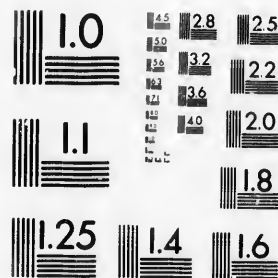


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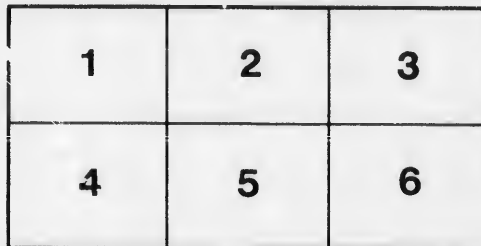
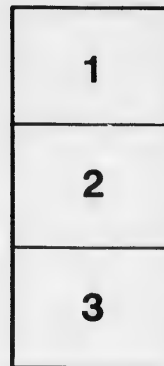
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R E P O R T

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

COLONIAL MILITARY EXPENDITURE;

TOGETHER WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND AN APPENDIX AND INDEX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
4 August 1835.

Mercurii, 4^o die Martii, 1835.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to consider the Military Establishments and Expenditure of the British Empire in the Colonies, in completion of the Inquiry which was commenced in the last Session of the last Parliament, and to report their Observations thereupon to The House.

And a Committee was appointed, of—

Mr. William Gladstone.	Mr. Shaw Lefevre.
Lord Viscount Ebrington.	Captain Gordon.
Lord Stanley.	Lord George Bentinck.
Sir Henry Hardinge.	Sir Charles D'Albiac.
Mr. Spring Rice.	Colonel Grey.
Mr. Herries.	Mr. Gisborne.
Mr. Ellice.	Major Fancourt.
Sir Rufane Donkin.	Sir Harry Verney.
Mr. Hume.	Mr. Grote.
Sir John Byng.	Colonel Evans.
Sir Henry Parnell.	Colonel Leith Hay.
The Earl of Darlington.	Mr. Robert Gordon.
Colonel Fox.	Mr. Bonham.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, That Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Mercurii, 18^o die Martii, 1835.

Ordered, THAT Mr. Grote be discharged from any further attendance on the Committee; and Mr. Guest be added to the Committee.

Veneris, 22^o die Maii, 1835.

Ordered, That Sir George Grey be added to the Committee.

Veneris, 3^o die Julii, 1835.

Ordered, That Sir Rufane Donkin, Colonel Leith Hay, Mr. Leader, Mr. Hindley, Colonel Verner, Captain Berkeley, Mr. Talbot, Mr. Chalmers and Mr. George Byng, be added to the Committee.

Martis, 4^o die Augusti, 1835.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to report their Opinion, together with the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them.

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R E P O R T.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to consider the MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS and EXPENDITURE of the BRITISH EMPIRE in the COLONIES, in completion of the Inquiry which was commenced in the last Session of the last Parliament, and who were empowered to report their Opinion thereupon, together with the MINUTES OF THE EVIDENCE taken before them to The House;—HAVE considered the Matters to them referred, and agreed to the following RESOLUTIONS:

1. RESOLVED:

THAT it appears to this Committee that the Numbers of Rank and File in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, varied in amount from 572 in 1816 to 722 in 1820; from 1,002 in 1821 to 1,200 in 1825; and from 1,569 in 1826 to 2,133 in 1834. The Committee consider that the peculiar circumstances, frequently changing in the Distribution and Penal Discipline of Convicts in these Colonies, justify them in declining to offer any suggestion respecting the exact Amount of Military Force or Staff to be there maintained. The Government alone are competent to decide on the necessary Establishment.

2. RESOLVED:

That the Committee have no suggestions to offer relative to Reductions in the Amount of Force maintained in the North American Provinces.

3. RESOLVED:

That the Committee have pursued their Inquiries into the Accounts of the Commissariat, the Ordnance and Barrack Establishments in the Colonies. They are of opinion, that important Reductions may be made in many of these Establishments without detriment to the Public Service; but consider, that before recommending particular Alterations or Reductions, reference should be had to the nature and extent of the several Duties of each Department, and how far the same may be consolidated or abolished; and, that as a full Inquiry for this purpose cannot be made by this Committee, they recommend that the Government should forthwith institute the requisite examination.

4. RESOLVED:

That the Committee are of opinion from the Evidence taken, and to which they refer, that the Indian Department may be greatly reduced, if not entirely abolished, and they therefore call the attention of The House to the same; and also to the expenses of articles annually distributed to the Indians, and whether any arrangement may not be made to dispense with such distribution in future, or to commute the presents for money.

5. RESOLVED:

That the advanced period of the Session renders it inexpedient for the Committee to inquire into the Establishments of the Mauritius or the West Indies; that it be recommended to the Government to cause inquiries to be made on the following points:

The comparative casualties of Troops in those Colonies for the last seven years, with remarks on the effects of climates, and the results that have followed the change of stations, with reference to health.

The propriety of substituting native corps, or corps partly composed of the inhabitants of the Mediterranean Colonies for British Troops, with reference to health, efficiency and expense.

4 August 1835.

 MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Jovis, 19^o die Martii, 1835.

SIR JOHN BYNG, IN THE CHAIR.

Robert William Hay, Esq., called in; and Examined.

1. YOU are Under Secretary of State of the Colonies, are you not?—I am.

2. Will you inform the Committee what steps have been taken by the Government to carry into effect the recommendations of the Committee on Colonial Military Expenditure?—The Committee are aware that the greater part of these recommendations relate to prospective reductions, which apply, in most instances, to distant quarters of the world. All that could be done, therefore, in most cases, was to send out provisional instructions, and I understand the Treasury have recently issued a Minute calling the attention of the departments under their control, to the Resolutions which relate to the different branches of the public service. As far as relates to the department of the Secretary of State, I may state to the Committee, taking the Resolutions in the order in which they stand, that with reference to the Fifth, an arrangement has been made at Gibraltar, which, although not precisely enjoined, yet is in the spirit of this Resolution. The inspector of health has recently come home in a state of health which renders it unlikely he will be able to return, and the lieutenant-governor has been instructed, in case of a vacancy occurring, to revert to the former practice, by which the charge of inspecting the quarantine was left to the senior medical officer of the garrison. By the Ninth Resolution it is recommended, that the present amount of force in the Ionian Islands should be diminished by one regiment, whenever the military defences of Corfu should be completed. I have to state on this point, that since the last meeting of this Committee an engineer officer of experience and great local knowledge has been sent out to Corfu to report upon the extent to which the military works there ought to be carried, and on the amount of the future expense: that report is now under the consideration of the Government. But in the meantime it may be right that I should inform the Committee, as it is a measure which will advance the object which their Resolution had in view, that the Lord High Commissioner who is going out to the Ionian Islands has been instructed to organize an Ionian battalion in the islands: into the details of the scheme I cannot enter, because the measure has only very recently been decided upon; of course it will not have the effect of facilitating any immediate reduction of the forces in that quarter. With regard to the Tenth Resolution, I presume it is known to the Committee that Major-general Sir Howard Douglas, who is going out to the Ionian Islands as Lord High Commissioner, has also been appointed to the command of the troops. The staff in that quarter is also to be reduced to the scale recommended by the Committee. In conformity with the object aimed at in the Thirteenth Resolution of the Committee, a proposition was last year made to the Ionian government to commute for a given sum the various charges which they have paid hitherto under different heads for the military protection of the islands. The agreement by which this commutation is to be effected, has not as yet been finally concluded, but the sum to be paid by the Ionian government will

*Robert Wm. Hay,
Esq.*

19 March 1835.

Robert Wm. Hay,
Esq.
19 March 1835.

probably be 35,000*l.* a year, and its appropriation be brought annually under the revision of Parliament. With regard to the Twentieth Resolution, it is right that I should observe, that at the time when the Committee last sat it depended upon the result of a reference to the island whether a regiment could not be dispensed with from Ceylon. It has been found impossible to reduce the force; for, independent of the ordinary duties of the island, a degree of discontent has been created among some classes in the island by the abolition of forced labour, which made it inexpedient to withdraw any part of the force. I am not aware that there are any other points adverted to in the Resolutions upon which I have anything further to state.

3. What is the order in which it is proposed to examine the Returns which have been prepared for the Committee?—It would be most convenient to the Colonial Office, and would not, I apprehend, be otherwise to the Committee, that the colonies should be taken in the following order: in the first instance, the Australian provinces; from thence to proceed to the North American, and then to conclude with the West Indies and the Mauritius. The Returns are all to be found in the Appendix to the Report of the Committee, and of course it will be for the Committee to suggest, should any additional Returns be wanted.

4. Be good enough to inform the Committee the names of the governors, former and present, their salaries and emoluments?—Captain Phillip was the first governor of New South Wales, who went out in 1788, and who appears to have enjoyed a salary of 1,000*l.* a year; to him succeeded Captain Hunter, with a salary of 1,800*l.* a year; the next governor was Captain King, appointed in 1806, with a salary of 2,000*l.* a year; Captain Bligh was the next, enjoying the same salary; to him succeeded Colonel MacQuarrie, in 1810, who enjoyed the same salary, with appointments on the staff, amounting to above 1,000*l.* a year; the next governor was Sir Thomas Brisbane, appointed in 1821, whose salary did not exceed 2,000*l.* a year in the outset, but who was also appointed major-general on the staff; his salary was increased in the year 1824 to 2,500*l.*, with an additional salary from the Colonial Fund, making in the whole 4,801*l.*; to him succeeded General Darling, in 1825, whose pay and emoluments altogether amounted to 5,363*l.*; and when General Bourke, the present governor, went out, his salary was fixed at 5,000*l.* per annum, without any other emoluments whatsoever.

5. Has the governor a house provided for him?—There is a government-house in Sydney, but it has been for some years past in such a dilapidated state, that the governor has been obliged to reside at Paramatta, which is 16 miles distant from Sydney. General Darling went out to New South Wales in 1825; he was empowered to take measures for repairing this house, or to build a new one; but it appeared to him that other public buildings were more urgently required, and they were undertaken in preference; he residing out of the town. Since General Bourke went out, it has been decided that the government-house shall be commenced, for the building of which, necessary estimates have been sent home, and agreed upon by the Treasury, the funds arising from the sale of land in the town. The governor will then give up the residence at Paramatta, and be confined to one house in town.

6. Has not the governor also 292*l.* a year, unattached pay?—Yes, he has.

7. Then the arrangement that he is to have 5,000*l.* a year for his allowance, does not exclude his unattached pay as a general officer?—No; in no case.

8. You do not consider, then, that the arrangement has been departed from?—In no degree.

9. How is the rent of the house at Paramatta paid for?—It is Government property, and will be disposed of for public purposes.

10. Now, will you answer the same question with respect to the governors of Van Diemen's Land?—The first lieutenant-governor was Colonel Collins, who was appointed in the year 1804, with a salary of 450*l.* a year. Colonel Collins died in 1810, and was succeeded by Lieutenant Lord, Captain Murray, Colonel Greils, until Lieut.-Col. Davey assumed the government in 1813. During the greater part of this period, a salary of 450*l.* per annum was also provided on the Parliamentary Estimates, for another lieutenant-governor at Port Dalrymple, on the northern side of the island. Colonel Sorel was appointed governor in 1817, with a salary of 800*l.* a year, which in January 1823, was raised to 1,500*l.*, and in 1824 to 2,500*l.* Colonel Arthur, the present governor, was appointed in 1824, with a salary of 1,500*l.*, which in 1825, was raised to 2,500*l.*, which is his present salary. Colonel Arthur enjoys no other emolument, except an allowance

19 March 1835.

in lieu of forage for three horses, and provisions in kind, and an allowance of fuel and light. I have thus given the list of the governors of Van Diemen's Land.

11. By the Returns of the effective force in the Australian provinces in 1833, it appears that the total was 2,107, which is 303 less than the preceding year?—It is so.

12. Can you account for that diminution?—The amount of troops in the Australian provinces is subject to fluctuation, as from thence, at certain periods, the embarkation of a regiment for India takes place.

13. Since these Returns were printed, an additional force has been applied for, and has been given to New South Wales; can you state the reason for that?—On his arrival in the colony, General Bourke made such earnest representations to the Secretary of State, as to the necessity of an increased force, that in December 1833 it was decided to send out another regiment, and the 50th has accordingly been dispatched there by successive detachments. The whole amount of the force in the Australian provinces is about 2,864 men.

14. That includes the whole?—Yes; I apprehend the whole regiment has by this time reached the colony.

15. Can you give any information to the Committee respecting the force which is settled as the body-guard at Sydney?—The governor's body-guard was instituted by Capt. King in 1809, and consisted originally of seven soldiers, who were taken from the ordinary military force on the spot, to whom was granted the difference between their regimental pay and the pay of dragoons; this increased pay and the expense of their clothing being charged upon the colonial revenue. The Secretary of State, at a later period, objected to this guard, and he was induced to allow its continuance upon the representation that a certain number of mounted men was necessary as expresses, and to attend the governor upon his journeys into the interior; and General Bourke was instructed, when he went out in 1831, to consider the propriety of reducing the governor's body-guard, and his attention was called to the subject by the late Secretary of State. It appears, however, by a despatch which was received in December last from General Bourke, that he had taken measures for abolishing the body-guard, and for substituting mounted orderlies in lieu of that force; but as it appears that this arrangement will not be attended with any economy, instructions have been sent out to General Bourke to get rid of that force altogether.

16. The mounted orderlies?—Yes; which have been employed as substitutes for the governor's body-guard.

17. What is the amount of the governor's body-guard?—At one period it amounted to 12 men and two serjeants, at an expense of 430 *l.* a year.

18. What was the amount in the year 1834?—The expense of the mounted orderlies, we find by the last accounts to amount to 459 *l.*

19. The amount of force which you have stated, includes the troops at Van Diemen's Land and Swan River also, does it?—It has done so hitherto, but it is now intended, the troops which will be required for the service of Swan River should be detached from St. Helena, to which island a regiment is to be dispatched in the course of a very short time.

20. General Bourke reported that he had not sufficient force to send the troops from Swan River to New South Wales, did he not?—He did so; but Colonel Arthur felt more immediately the inconvenience arising from that, because the Swan River detachment was sent from Van Diemen's Land, and the communication between those points is very unfrequent and difficult to accomplish.

21. Can the actual distribution of the troops be furnished to the Committee?—Yes, up to the 1st of May 1834.

22. What penal settlements are now kept up in our Australian colonies?—They have been reduced to two; namely, Norfolk Island, and what is called Tasman Peninsula, in Van Diemen's Land.

23. The amount of force for New South Wales has always been of the same description of troops, regular troops, has it?—Yes, with the exception that, on two occasions, veteran companies were raised for that particular service, but they have not been found to answer, and have been disbanded.

24. What is the mounted police at New South Wales?—The mounted police was originally established by Sir Thomas Brisbane, to check the outrages of the bush-rangers; the police force is necessarily very large, and is paid by the colony.

4 MINUTES OF EVIDENCE BEFORE SELECT COMMITTEE

*Robert Wm. Hay,
Esq.*
19 March 1835.

25. What is the amount of the force?—They were increased by General Darling to 100 men.

26. There is no force of that description in Van Diemen's Land at all, is there?—There is no mounted police in that island.

27. What is the amount of the colonial revenue of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land?—The average in New South Wales is 130,000*l.* a year, and that of Van Diemen's Land about 80,000*l.* a year.

28. Is that the gross amount or the net amount?—The net revenue.

29. Is there any militia?—There is none; the project of raising a corps was suggested some years ago, and the governor was directed to report upon the practicability of the scheme; but the settlers were stated to be so unwilling to leave their farms, in consequence of the convict population, that the scheme went no further.

30. Is there any government debt in either of the colonies?—None whatever.

31. Are troops regularly sent out with the convicts?—The force is kept up by occasional detachments in each convict ship.

32. Will you state to the Committee the population of New South Wales?—The population of New South Wales is upwards of 60,000, of which more than 24,000 are convicts, according to the last census in 1833. In Van Diemen's Land there has been no census since 1830; the population of that island is upwards of 30,000, of which more than 12,000 are convicts.

33. Do you conceive the increase to have been very considerable in Van Diemen's Land since?—I should think so; the number of emigrants has been considerable in both colonies.

34. Has the number of convicts, according to your belief, increased or decreased, having relation to the entire population?—It has increased by a late regulation, by which the hulks system has been abolished.

35. So as to occasion a more rapid increase in the convict population than in the other portion of the population?—Yes.

36. That new regulation with respect to the hulks has not operated, with respect to the two numbers you have given, has it?—No; it has no reference to those Returns, because neither Return is later than 1833.

37. Can you inform the Committee what is the number of emigrants that have been sent out by the Government, of late years?—The number of persons who have been sent out since the formation of the Emigration Commission, in the year 1831, upon loan, is 3,460, and of unmarried females, sent out by the Government, 2,115 for the same period.

38. That is generally to New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, is it?—To the Australian provinces; the Custom-house Returns for the years 1833 and 1834 make a total of 6,893, but from that must be deducted some portion of the first class whom I have mentioned; those that go out in Government vessels are not reckoned in the Custom-house Returns.

39. With reference to the amount of the commissariat force, do they not provide for the convicts as well as the troops?—They have to provide for the maintenance of the convicts also.

40. Is there any medical staff establishment?—No, there is not.

41. Is there any ordnance establishment?—No; but it is proposed shortly to send out an ordnance officer to take care of the public buildings. The late Board of Treasury suggested that 25,000*l.* per annum should be taken from the colonial revenue of New South Wales, and 12,000*l.* per annum from that of Van Diemen's Land, to assist in defraying the charges connected with the convict establishment, of which the chief are the police, the goals and other similar public buildings, and the colonial marine, which is employed in conveying convicts from one part of the coast to another.

42. Is there any increase or decrease of the staff contemplated at the Colonial office, in New South Wales?—There are no staff appointments there which would admit of reduction.

Lieutenant-General *Ralph Darling*, called in; and Examined.

*Lieut.-Gen.
Ralph Darling.*

43. THE Committee understand that you have lately held the government of New South Wales?—Yes; I was relieved at the end of the year 1831; I left on the 22d of October 1831.

44. How many years did you hold that government?—Very nearly six years; within two months of that period.

Lieut.-Gen.
Ralph Darling.
19 March 1835.

45. Do you remember what was the amount of regular force at the period at which you left the colony?—I have got a statement here; I think the garrison of New South Wales consisted of about 1,300 men, rank and file. The military command extended also to Van Diemen's Land.

46. Are they not the same government?—No; I had a distinct commission, as governor, for each.

47. Do you consider, at the time when you came away, that the force then was sufficient, and as large as was required?—No, it certainly was not.

48. Had you applied for an increase?—No, I had not; but the Lieutenant-governor of Van Diemen's Land had applied repeatedly; and I received an intimation from home, signifying, that it would occasion great inconvenience the sending additional troops, and desiring that I would assist him, as far as I could, and I did so; for on one occasion, when he was obliged to take the field, in consequence of an irruption of the natives, I sent him a large detachment from my own garrison.

49. The force, during the period that you held the government, varied from time to time, did it not?—It must have done so, from the nature of circumstances in New South Wales.

50. You went to New South Wales in the year 1824, did you not?—No; I arrived there in December 1825.

51. By a Return now before the Committee, the number of troops in the year 1825 appears to have been 1,280, and when you quitted it, which was in the year 1831, it appears to have amounted to 2,568?—I think that must be a mistake.

52. Can you explain the distribution of the troops, so as to make out the difference between the number of 1,280 and 2,568, which appears in the Return before the Committee?—It appears that 2,568 was the number on the 1st January 1831; but the 57th regiment was then under orders, and had proceeded to India before I left New South Wales, which was the end of October 1831. According to the Memorandum which I have here, there were 2,049 altogether, when I left the command; 746, rank and file, of that number being stationed at Van Diemen's Land. This appears by the Memorandum which I took from a Return yesterday at the Adjutant-general's office.

53. That was the last year you were there, was it?—It was at the time of my departure from New South Wales.

54. Does that include some little local detachments?—It includes a company of veterans, since disbanded. There was also a detachment belonging to regiments in India, which had been sent out as a guard over convicts.

55. What was the body-guard?—The body-guard consists of a non-commissioned officer and six men; at least that was the number in my time. The body-guard and mounted police are formed from the corps composing the garrison.

56. Can you state the cause of the great variation which appears in the amount of force? Will you inform the Committee how it is occasioned?—The regiments are sent to New South Wales intermediately on their way to India, by small detachments, 30 men, as a guard with each convict-ship, and thence to India in larger bodies, one third of a regiment at a time.

57. Will you state how they proceed from thence to India?—The orders were, that when the half of a regiment furnishing guards for the convict-ships should have arrived, the regiment which had been the longest in the command should be sent on to India. But, from the insufficiency of the garrison, it was never in my power to send away more than a third of a regiment at once. The change of troops is therefore almost constantly going on, and the strength of the garrison is consequently fluctuating.

58. Are there many detachments from New South Wales besides what go to Van Diemen's Land?—A great many detachments are employed in the interior and on the coast of New South Wales.

59. Are there many besides?—No; there is no island dependant on New South Wales but Van Diemen's Land and Norfolk Island.

60. What are the interior stations where detachments are placed?—They are very numerous; when I came away there were about 18. By the Return I saw yesterday that number appears to have been reduced a little.

61. The Swan River was not founded when you came away?—Yes, it was; but it was totally independent of New South Wales, although the garrison was taken from one of the corps under my command.

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62. Did you include the Swan River among those detachments?—No; that detachment was sent out direct from England.

63. Are you aware that within the last year or two there has been an increased demand for detachments in the Swan River colony?—No, I am not.

64. In point of fact, out of the 2,049 troops, did you include any detachments at Swan River?—No, none.

65. Was there any attempt made during the time that you were there for the purpose of embodying any militia force?—No, there was not; but Lord Bathurst mentioned to me, when I was going out, that it had been suggested by a gentleman then in England, Major M'Arthur, and his lordship desired that I would consider it, and let him know if I thought it at all advisable: it certainly appeared to me not to be advisable.

66. You do not consider it desirable, then, to form any local force, do you?—I should say not, from the composition of the population of the colony.

67. What are the peculiar features which you refer to in the population of the colony?—From there being so many convicts who are servants to the settlers. If a militia were formed, and the settlers in the course of duty taken from their homes, their convict servants, being free from control, would in many cases plunder and perhaps ruin them during their absence. The constant residence of the settlers on their property is an object of great importance in such a colony.

68. It appears from the population Returns before the Committee that about two-fifths are convicts, and the remaining three-fifths settlers?—The remaining three-fifths are not all settlers; for instance, a very large proportion are children under 12 years of age. I am speaking of embodying the settlers and employing them as militia. Every settler having a number of convict servants, the probability is they would plunder their masters' property, and consequently abscond, which would occasion at least great confusion in the colony.

69. Will you look over this Return and see if there is any appointment that you think can be dispensed with, having regard to the public service?—I should say, certainly not; I think the staff in New South Wales requires being increased.

70. Looking at that paper and comparing it with the staff of New South Wales during the time you were there, is there a diminution or an increase?—It seems to be precisely the same. Here is an officer, Lieutenant-colonel Morrisett, who is styled commandant; the fact is, the situation of commandant of a penal settlement is purely of a civil nature, it being a place of confinement, where prisoners under colonial sentences more especially are sent. Colonel Morrisett's salary was paid in the same manner as the expenses incurred on account of the convict establishments generally.

71. It is put down as paid out of the Parliamentary grant?—That is a grant to provide for the expenses consequent on the transportation of convicts.

72. As regards the number of officers, is there any situation that could be reduced?—Certainly not; I think they are on the lowest possible scale.

73. Is there any thing else you can suggest to the Committee upon any of these points?—I have a paper here which I have drawn up, containing some suggestions, which, if the Committee will allow me, I will put in.

[The following Paper was then put in and read.]

MEMORANDUM respecting the STAFF and GARRISON of New South Wales.

THE troops employed to garrison New South Wales are dispersed over a very considerable extent of country, and occupy not less than 16 different stations. This necessarily involves a great deal of detail, and occasions a great deal of correspondence. In the interior the relief of the troops is periodical, yearly.

At the penal settlements and stations, to which the convicts are sent by the sentence of the courts of justice, the change of the troops is constantly going on, all prisoners being sent under escort; as these escorts arrive a proportionate number of the soldiers who have been longest at the station are returned to head-quarters, with the prisoners whose sentences have expired.

The head-quarters of one regiment is stationed at Parramatta, 16 miles from Sydney; and another regiment is employed at Van Diemen's Land, with which colony there is a constant correspondence, partly in consequence of the guards arriving with the convicts, which belong to corps in New South Wales, being landed there, and various other matters arising out of the nature of the command.

The general orders issued at New South Wales are communicated to Van Diemen's Land, and from the peculiar nature of the command these orders are numerous. In addition to which, the periodical Returns of the troops in Van Diemen's Land are embodied in the general Returns of the command, which are made up monthly at the head-quarters in
New

New South Wales, and forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Horse Guards and the War Office.

It is evident that the duties imposed by the foregoing arrangements and details, must occasion as much business as any one individual can properly attend to; still, for all these duties, which include those of both the Adjutant and Quartermaster-general's Department, there is but one officer, a major of brigade, who besides has to attend to the duties of the Garrison of Sydney, parading and superintending numerous daily guards, the various duties of the town, &c. which, from the composition of the population, a large proportion being convicts and their descendants, cannot but require much personal exertion, and occasion no little anxiety of mind.

I am, therefore, of opinion that the efficient and proper discharge of the several duties to be performed by the Staff of New South Wales would require,

- 1 Assistant Military Secretary.
- 1 Deputy Adjutant or Deputy Quartermaster-general for the general duties of the command.
- 1 Commandant for the Garrison of Sydney.
- 1 Town or Garrison Adjutant for the duties of Sydney.

In apportioning a Staff to any particular command, the nature of the command should be considered. The extent of the Staff cannot always be determined by the number of troops employed; local circumstances should be taken into account. Out of a population of 60,000 persons, at which that of New South Wales may be stated in round numbers, according to the census taken in 1833, more than one-third appear to be actual convicts, men under sentence; and five-sixths of the whole number are probably convicts, or the descendants of convicts.

As the convicts are dispersed over the colony, and the worst characters employed in large gangs in making and repairing the public roads, it becomes necessary to spread the troops and occupy various stations, with a view of keeping the prisoners in subjection. Several of the stations are much more than 100 miles, in the interior, from head-quarters; while others are accessible only by water. The multiplication of stations and posts adds materially to the duties of the Staff; that is, a large body of troops, when concentrated, may not require a more extensive Staff than a much smaller body which is widely dispersed.

I would also respectfully submit the expediency of appointing a Staff Surgeon and two assistants to New South Wales. I apprehend there is no command of that magnitude without an officer of rank of the General Hospital Staff. New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land are undoubtedly both very healthy stations, but the dispersion of the troops renders it impossible for the Regimental Medical Staff to attend to the detachments of its own corps; and it does not appear consistent that the medical officers of four different regiments should act independently, without any immediate chief or head. They should be under the control of a superior, whose duty it would be to report to the general officer in command, rather than leave him to superintend details, of which he cannot be a competent judge, or have time to attend to.

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R. D.

N.B.—The scale I have proposed does not exceed the Staff allowed for colonies similarly circumstanced. The Cape of Good Hope, for instance, which, from local circumstances, is perhaps more on a par with New South Wales than any other command. At the Cape the following Staff appears to be employed: viz.,

- 1 Assistant Military Secretary.
- 1 Deputy Quartermaster-general.
- 1 Major of Brigade.
- 1 Acting ditto.
- 1 Town Major.
- 1 Commandant, at 20s. per diem.
- 3 Ditto, at smaller salaries.
- 1 Deputy Inspector-general of Hospitals.
- 5 Assistant Surgeons.

A Commandant is as necessary at Sydney as he is at Cape Town, as the Governor cannot conduct or attend to the details of the garrison of the town.

R. D.

74. Did the regiments going from New South Wales to India go bodily or by detachments?—Not bodily, as it was never in my power, as I have stated, to detach so large a number as a whole regiment at once; I therefore sent about a third of a regiment away at a time, and as other guards arrived from England availed myself of such addition to the garrison to forward the remainder of the corps to India.

75. With regard to the commissariat, do you consider it either sufficient for the purpose or more than is necessary?—The commissariat establishment always appeared to me to be very large, and I took every possible pains to reduce it; I recollect appointing a Board on one occasion, and I was very much surprised to find it stated, when going into the examination, that there were several tons of

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accounts and vouchers for examination which were put away in a room; yes, as I understood, several tons by measurement.

76. Did that board report upon the state of the commissariat to you?—Yes, they did, and I sent the report home; and I think that the Treasury, in consequence, dispensed with those accounts being examined in New South Wales, and desired that they should be sent home. Their examination on the spot would have interfered so much with the other duties of the department, that the greatest inconvenience must have resulted from it; in short, it could not have been effected without a large augmentation of the establishment.

77. Your opinion was, when you left the colony, that the commissariat establishment was not disproportionate to the duties it had to perform?—I cannot say it was, presuming that the individuals employed discharged their duty with diligence. It supplies all the convict establishments, as well as the military, and therefore their duties are very extensive.

78. That is from the number of stations?—Yes; there were about 18 military posts when I came away, besides the head-quarters, and a considerable number of convicts to victual, who are dispersed in gangs all over the colony.

79. Would not their duties be increased by the constant arrival and departure of troops?—They would.

80. Do you recollect what was the number of deputy-assistant commissary-generals you have had?—It varied a good deal; first there was a smaller number, then I think the Treasury adopted a plan, as a measure of economy, of bringing several deputy-assistants from the half-pay and employing them, instead of persons who did not belong permanently to the service.

Martis, 24^a die Martii, 1835.

SIR JOHN BYNG, IN THE CHAIR.

Lieutenant-General *Ralph Darling*, called in; and further Examined.

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81. DO you wish to state anything in addition to your former evidence?—I should beg to explain the evidence I gave respecting Norfolk Island. I was asked whether I had any observations to make with respect to the officers enumerated in a list which was shown to me, and as there was no sum stated opposite to that of commandant of Norfolk Island, it did not occur to me to say anything upon the subject. I wish to observe, that the officer who held that situation, Lieut.-colonel Morrisset, an unattached officer, received a salary of 600*l.* a year. Now my opinion is, that that appointment may be very well dispensed with, and that the duties, as formerly, can be performed by the officer commanding the detachments, who received 10*s.* a day in addition to his military pay. The duties are of a civil nature, and the salary or allowance is paid from the money that is granted by Parliament for the transport of convicts and the expenses attending the establishments, for their superintendence and maintenance.

82. Will you have the goodness to explain the nature of the duties to which you refer?—To superintend the discipline and employment of the convicts who are sent there under sentence of the courts.

83. And you are of opinion that a military officer liable to be changed from time to time, is as fit for the performance of that duty as a fixed civil officer?—Yes; should an officer prove unfit for the charge, the governor could remove him and appoint another to the situation; Colonel Morrisset was unattached, and sent out from this country as commissariat of Norfolk Island.

84. You stated he had since sold out?—Yes; and I believe the vacancy at Norfolk Island has not been filled up.

85. And therefore though a military officer, he was to all intents and purposes a civil superintendent?—Yes; but being a military officer, although not belonging to the corps doing duty in the island, he had also the command of the troops stationed there. My opinion is, that the two situations should be united as heretofore in the senior officer of the detachment; the duties of both would then be more advantageously performed.

86. The

86. The question the Committee addressed your attention to was, whether you thought a military officer, whose appointment was to command a detachment only, and who was liable to be changed from time to time, was as fit to exercise those civil duties as a person entirely devoted to it?—I think he is; for if the governor finds him well qualified for the situation he can retain him, if not he can remove him; this cannot always conveniently be done in the case of a person receiving a permanent appointment.

87. You think there is nothing in the duty which a military officer could not transact?—No; the military officer at Moreton Bay, the other penal settlement, performs both duties. It may not be irrelevant to add, that by the proposed arrangement, there would be a saving of at least 300 *l.* a year.

88. And you propose that the officer commanding the detachment should have an addition of 10 *s.* per diem to his pay, in consideration of that duty?—Yes. The way I acted was this: when the penal settlement at Moreton Bay, for instance, was in its infancy, and the number of convicts did not exceed 500, the allowance to the officer was 10 *s.* a day: when the numbers increased (and there were occasionally 1,000 there), the allowance was increased by the authority of the Secretary of State, to 300 *l.* a year. The duties are of a very arduous nature.

89. With reference to the immense number of unsettled accounts which you mentioned in your former evidence were in arrear, and which were sent home to England, were any means afterwards taken to have the settlement of the accounts more regular?—Means were taken by increasing the establishment of the commissariat. When I went out, the commissariat consisted of one deputy, one assistant, and six deputy assistants: it afterwards received an addition of an assistant and 10 deputy assistants. That was the establishment, both for the store and account branches; and in consequence of its being so small, it became impossible to examine the accounts. As I stated in my former examination, the stations are very numerous, and the commissariat have to victual and provide, in every respect, both the military and the convicts; therefore, from the insufficiency of the department, having had only six deputy assistants, the accounts fell so much in arrear, that they could not be examined: if it had been attempted, the current business of the department must have been neglected.

90. Is the Committee to understand that the deputy assistants you adverted to, all acted as clerks, and that they had no clerks besides?—There were clerks besides.

91. Are you of opinion that any decrease in the present strength of the commissariat may be effected, with due regard to the public service?—I should think not; presuming, as stated in my former examination, that the several individuals employed are diligent in the discharge of their duty, of which, however, a governor has no means of judging. The commissariat act under instructions from the Treasury.

92. Could the establishment be decreased at any one of the stations?—It is not in my power to enter into the details of the several stations: the officers, &c. are detached, as the head of the establishment finds it necessary for the conduct of his department.

93. Why is the strength of the commissariat so much greater in New South Wales than it is in any of the other colonies?—Because they have a considerable number of convicts to provide for, as well as the military force; several thousand convicts.

94. Do the commissariat provide for the whole, or only a portion of the convicts?—For the whole that are under punishment, or have been returned to the government by the settlers. I do not know whether it immediately applies to the question, but I wish to observe, that there are a great many convicts who are provided for by the government, who are not retained by it through choice, but necessarily maintained as prisoners, under colonial sentence. I have in my hand the Third Report of the Commissioners of Colonial Inquiry, on the Australian Colonies, which sat in the year 1830, and I see there are nearly 5,000 convicts stated to be attached to the government. There are some observations connected with this statement, from which it might be inferred, that they were retained solely for the service of the government, when in fact they were a very serious burthen to it.

95. Was that a Committee of the House of Commons?—No, a Special Commission of Inquiry, appointed by Government.

96. What is the greatest number of convicts you have known under charge of the

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the Government of New South Wales?—The statement in this Report has reference to the year 1829; it specifies 4,879, and I am not aware that there was at any time a greater number than this.

97. It seems that there are 4,879 convicts, and there are 2,107 rank and file, making altogether in round numbers, about 7,000 persons, for whom the commissariat has to provide; how comes it to be necessary that there should be an expenditure upon the commissariat department in Australia of 16,455*l.*, and that there should be 84 commissariats and clerks, while in Ceylon, where there are 4,825 rank and file, which is more than half the whole establishment for which the commissariat has to provide in Australia, the whole expense of the commissariat in Ceylon is only 3,699*l.*, and the whole number of commissaries and clerks 17?—I can only observe, that the military posts and stations where the convicts are employed are very numerous both in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, and every station necessarily occasions additional expense. Where there are 50 or 60 convicts assembled, they have to be victualled and provided for. The convicts under punishment, as stated in my former evidence, are kept in gangs and worked on the roads, &c.

98. Is the providing for and provisioning a certain number of convicts more laborious to the commissariat than that of making provision for regiments?—I am not aware that it is.

99. It appears that in the Ionian Islands there are a great number of stations, and it is stated that there are no clerks, and but seven commissaries to supply 2,983 rank and file, yet the whole expense of the commissariat there is 2,712*l.*; how do you account for the difference?—I cannot pretend to account for it; my general answer would be, that it is from the nature of the colony and the duties consequently required. In Australia the convicts are dispersed all over the colonies. They are employed in working-gangs in every direction, as I have stated, and they are to be supplied and provided for at the respective stations.

100. Is it your opinion that the constant arrival and departure of troops, and the constant arrival of convicts make it requisite to keep up so large a commissariat establishment?—These circumstances render a larger establishment necessary than if the numbers were fixed and not constantly fluctuating.

101. Do you consider the governor's body-guard at Sydney as absolutely necessary?—I beg to give in this memorandum, which I drew up on the subject in consequence of the questions that were put to me when I was last before the Committee, which will furnish an answer to the present question.

[The following Memorandum was given in, and read, as the Witness's Answer.]

"The governor's body-guard, as it is termed, or mounted orderlies, consisted during my government of one non-commissioned officer and six privates, which number is, in my opinion, sufficient for every necessary purpose. These men are soldiers of the garrison, and the only expense attending the establishment is a small allowance in addition to their military pay, and their clothing as light dragoons. The total annual expense of the establishment, as stated in the Third Report of the Commissioners of Colonial Inquiry, dated 1st November 1830, was 103*l.* 10*s.* 2 1/2*d.* Independent of the policy of distinguishing the governor in some degree by the attendance of a mounted orderly, the duties which they perform are not altogether unimportant. They furnish two orderlies daily at the government house, which orderlies would otherwise be taken from the garrison; these orderlies take letters, &c. to the several public offices and to individuals in the town. When dispatch is necessary, they are sent with orders and other communications into the country. Two generally attend the governor when making his inspection of the detached stations, and are, in fact, necessary as a guard when he is travelling to the remote districts. I believe there is a similar establishment in most, if not all the colonial governments. There was at Mauritius when I held the administration in the years 1819 and 1820."

102. Are you aware that that force has been augmented since that time?—I think Mr. Hay told me it had been augmented since I came away.

103. Are you of opinion that one non-commissioned officer and six privates are quite sufficient?—Yes.

104. Are the non-commissioned officer and privates taken from regiments belonging to the garrison?—Yes, from regiments in New South Wales.

105. Has it been much the practice to employ military officers commanding military detachments in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, in the performance

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formance of civil magisterial duties?—It has; and I should say with very great advantage.

106. Have they generally had an extra allowance per diem for performing these civil duties?—They have.

107. Are not these military officers, considering the mere question of expense, cheaper as civil officers than civilians would be sent out from Europe as such, and taken as civil servants?—I should say so, certainly.

108. Are these military officers generally efficient in the discharge of their civil duties?—They have been particularly so. The governor of course, as I did myself, takes pains to select the individuals best qualified for the office.

109. Then, if they are both efficient and economical, are you of opinion that the investing of military officers with civil authority may, in very many cases in the colony under consideration, be advantageous to the public service?—I think particularly so.

110. Since the increase in the commissariat establishment, have the accounts been regularly made up?—I conclude they have, not having heard to the contrary.

111. Before that period they were in arrear?—It appears by what precedes, that they were very much so.

112. Were they in arrear when you came away?—I do not know that they were; my presumption is that they were not in arrear.

113. Have you any observations to offer generally for the information of the Committee?—I would merely state, that in the staff proposed it was intended that the appointment of brigade-major should be discontinued, and that the commandant recommended for Sydney should be the senior regimental officer of that garrison, and not a permanent appointment, as in that case a smaller allowance would suffice.

Major *Joseph Wakefield*, 39th Regiment, called in; and Examined.

114. HAVE you served some time in New South Wales?—I have served for six years in New South Wales.

115. How long have you been returned from it?—Three years; I left New South Wales in July 1832, for India.

116. The regiments there are greatly detached, are they not?—Very much; very distant from head-quarters, and very small detachments too.

117. Is the requisite duty there hard upon the troops?—Yes, I think it is upon those in the interior, particularly if stationed over road-gangs.

118. Upon an average, how often are they called upon to mount guard?—I really do not know, but I think very frequently they have not more than two nights in bed; often only one; perhaps sometimes they may have three.

119. At the time you were in New South Wales, it appears there were but three regiments?—Two in New South Wales, and one in Van Diemen's Land.

120. Are the duties required not only numerous but various?—The duties are various and numerous. A great deal of escort duty is required, which is very fatiguing.

121. It appears that there is a great number in the commissariat department in New South Wales; are their services much called for there?—Yes; but I am not acquainted with any commissariat department in particular; I do not know what number they have.

122. What detachments over convicts are there in New South Wales?—There are convicts where most of the detachments are; but Moreton Bay and Norfolk Island are the penal settlements of New South Wales.

123. What is generally the relative strength of the detachment and the number of convicts at each station, upon an average?—I will state the force at the stations at which I was; at King George's Sound, where I was for two years, (I went there when it was first settled) I had a serjeant and 20 rank and file, and about 30 convicts, but they were men of better character than you generally meet with, picked men on purpose, that they might clear the ground, raise huts, and act as mechanics. I was 15 months at Norfolk Island, and I think there were about 300 convicts there at that time. When I first went down, the strength of the detachment was about 64 rank and file; it was afterwards increased, and I believe it is now 120, or perhaps a few more. The convicts had no barracks, nor had the soldiers, so that I required at that time rather a strong force for the number of prisoners.

Major
Joseph Wakefield.

Major
Joseph Wakefield.
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124. You have spoken of the comparative strength of the troops and convicts at the different stations; it appears that at Long-bottom, Springwood, and Weather-bourne, at each of these places there is one single soldier, and no other military person; on what duty do you suppose that individual soldier can be employed?—I cannot say; one man would be perfectly useless; perhaps he may be left in charge of the barracks vacated by the detachment, or be a mounted police-man stationed on the road.

125. Are they ever allowed to be servants to civilians?—No.

126. Do you know the strength of the governor's body-guard?—I do not know the strength. I think there were about 12 or 14 mounted in Sydney; but I do not know.

127. Have they much duty to perform?—I am not aware of any duty except attending the governor, and carrying despatches occasionally between Parramatta and Sydney. I am not aware that they perform any other duty.

128. What is the whole extent of coast of New South Wales, which the troops have to guard?—I think from Sydney to Moreton Bay is about 300 miles to the north eastward. King George's Sound, I believe, is 1,500 miles to the westward, upon the southern coast.

129. How far does the guard extend internally?—I do not know the extent of it, never having been along the boundaries myself. There is a strong detachment at Bathurst, which is 120 miles in the interior of the country, to the westward.

130. Were you ever at Van Diemen's Land?—I have been there three times, but never quartered there to do duty.

131. Is the duty there equally severe upon the troops as in New South Wales?—I cannot say.

Captain *Henry Smyth*, 39th Regiment, called in; and Examined.

Capt. *Henry Smyth.*

132. HOW long have you been in the service?—Since 1804, in the 39th regiment.

133. How long were you stationed in New South Wales?—From the latter end of 1826 to December 1832.

134. During that period were you often in detachments?—Almost the entire of the time.

135. In command of detachments?—Yes.

136. Is the duty severe upon the troops there?—I think it is rather severe. I have always fancied there was a paucity of troops in the stations where I have been, for the duties they had to perform. My first station was forming a new settlement at the northern extremity of New Holland, called Raffles Bay, which was afterwards abandoned, and I think, with that of Melville Island, concentrated in the one now formed by Captain Stirling at Swan River; both those settlements were abandoned about the latter end of 1828. Subsequently I was sent to Port Macquarrie.

137. As you have served in so many places, do you consider the comparative duty in New South Wales is more hard or more light upon the soldiers than in other stations where you have been?—It is much harder, I conceive.

138. Does that include Van Diemen's Land?—No, I know nothing of Van Diemen's Land. I am now speaking more particularly from the soldiers' frequent complaints to me of the hard duties they had to perform, especially at Port Macquarrie, where they had only a night, or a night and a half in bed. It is customary for soldiers so to express themselves. I frequently made applications for relief; but as the men were sent to head-quarters, the number of the detachment was allowed to diminish; none were sent to supply their places. Subsequently Port Macquarrie was made a free settlement.

139. How many nights in bed had the several detachments, upon an average?—They had not two nights in bed certainly in Raffles Bay or Port Macquarrie, but I think they had two nights in bed at Sydney. I am not aware how far the duties of the other detachments go, but should consider they were pretty equal in point of duty, for that distribution would naturally take place at head-quarters.

140. Is not the climate in some parts of the year very oppressive?—I never found it so; now and then, perhaps, when a particular wind is blowing, somewhat like the sirocco in Malta, it is rather oppressive, but not to affect the constitution in any way.

141. The troops are generally healthy there?—I think particularly so; what sickness

sickness there is with them, I fear too commonly arises from their own indiscretion ; Capt. Henry Smyth.
there is too great a facility of obtaining what soldiers generally like, spirits. 24 March 1835.

142. What stations have you held the command of during the period you were in New South Wales?—Raffles Bay and Port Macquarrie only.

143. Were you ever at Van Diemen's Land?—Merely in the harbour, and that was on my passage out ; I was on shore.

144. Are you acquainted much with the duties which the commissariat are called upon to perform in New South Wales?—Not much beyond that which particularly appertained to my own stations.

145. I suppose there is an officer or clerk of the commissariat department at each station?—There were two with me, a clerk and an assistant.

146. Were both necessary?—I think quite so. It was an extensive settlement ; I had from 200 to 300 prisoners, also some female convicts in a factory there. The out-stations were very wide asunder, and the duties of the commissariat of course on an equally extensive scale ; even then, with all the vigilance they could adopt, depredations were occasionally committed.

147. Did you ever hold a civil office connected with your military command?—Yes, I was appointed a magistrate at Port Macquarrie ; the duties were chiefly with the convicts.

148. Had you extra pay for that?—I had 10 s. per diem.

149. In addition to your military pay?—In addition to my military pay. The appointment of a military office to that station ceased with me. B. Solivan, Esq., succeeded me as magistrate there.

150. Were there any complaints with regard to the barrack department, as to the maintenance of the barracks, where you were quartered? In what way are they kept up?—Yes. They are within the military walls ; they are carried on in the same sort of way as usual.

151. Under the colonial government, are they not?—Yes.

152. Do you consider that system answers well?—It never appeared to me that the barrack system was a good one, but I am not prepared to say why ; it appeared to be always in some degree disorganised.

153. Was there any want of barrack utensils or barrack furniture?—Yes, I do think there was a great deal ; and it appeared to me the restrictions on the barrack-master were more than usual in such situations, and that he was not on that respectable footing which is generally the case.

154. You have been in other colonial stations besides those two?—Not in New South Wales.

155. You have been in other colonies?—I have been in Malta, Sicily, the Peninsula, Canada, Ireland and India.

156. Then you do not consider the barrack department so well managed under the Colonial government as under the Ordnance?—Certainly not, in my opinion.

157. Were you stationed at Sydney during the time you were in New South Wales?—A very short time ; it was merely during the period between my return from Raffles Bay and my going to Port Macquarrie.

158. Do you know anything of the duties of a mounted body-guard?—There was one, I think, a serjeant and 12 privates ; I frequently used to meet them on the road between Sydney and Paramatta ; their duties, I believe, were principally taking despatches to out-stations.

159. Paramatta is the governor's residence, I believe?—The governor has a residence at Paramatta, but Governor Darling generally resided in Sydney ; Governor Bourke, I believe, prefers Paramatta.

160. Is there any other information which you can give the Committee?—No. I beg to say with respect to the barrack department, there appeared to me to be a want of comfort and a want of regularity which did not exist in those I have seen at other places, but that is merely a matter of opinion ; I had no facts upon which to form my judgment, but it appeared to me that the barrack department in general was not conducted with the best regularity.

161. Was the commissariat department satisfactorily conducted, as regards the officers and men?—I think particularly so. Sometimes the contractor for bread did not issue that of the best quality, and complaints were then made, but they were remedied ; generally speaking, the bread they supplied was very good, and the meat also was very good.

162. Had you any opportunity of judging whether it was economically conducted,

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ducted, with reference to the public service?—I had no opportunity of judging to a certainty, but there appeared to me to be nothing to the reverse.

163. Or whether its establishment was large relatively to the duties it had to perform?—I did not consider it extensive. There appeared to me to be a great deal of regularity and a great deal of attention in that establishment.

164. And you have had great experience in the supply of troops by the commissariat?—I had. In going out to Raffles Bay, I was unfortunately supplied with some very indifferent salt meat, but that was the only instance.

165. In point of fact, the establishment there is larger, relatively to the number of persons for whom they have to provide, than you have known them at other stations? There are a great number of individuals employed in the commissariat there?—Yes, I think it is very possible there may be; but the commissariat have to supply an immense number, the troops and convicts together.

166. Then you do not think the establishment too large for the number they have to provide for?—No; I think they are very actively employed.

167. But you think the barrack department is ill regulated, or might be better organised?—Yes.

168. Do you think it would be improved, supposing it was transferred to the Ordnance?—Yes, I have not a doubt of it.

169. There are a great number of public stores, are there not, under the charge of the commissariat?—Yes, there are.

170. Do you think their diffusion over a great extent of country renders a greater number of commissariat officers necessary?—Yes, that is the reason. There is a difficulty in the transport of provisions to out-stations, and when sent in any magnitude, should be taken charge of by one of the department. It is very difficult even with a serjeant who has only 12 men to perform that duty. He may be supplied by a contractor near to his station, and then he may do very well, but he could not do it where there were a couple of hundred people to provide for without commissariat assistance.

171. How long did you serve in the Peninsula?—From the latter end of 1810 till our arrival at Bordeaux and Pauillac in 1814.

172. During that period you had pretty good experience of what was required in the commissariat department?—Yes, I had.

173. With reference to what you said before, that a serjeant and 12 men might have the charge of stores and provisions, should you not think that at Bong Bong, where there are only 12 men, the deputy-assistant commissary-general might be retrenched?—If that is the only duty he has to perform, he might. That is a direction in which I have not been, but I think there are various stations concentrated in one commissariat duty, and somewhere in that neighbourhood.

174. You have stated the duties of the commissariat with regard to the convicts; then I suppose you by no means look on the commissariat as exclusively a military establishment?—No, certainly not; I consider it includes the whole.

175. By which you mean, that if there were no convicts there, the troops would not require anything like the present establishment?—Certainly not.

176. May I ask whether you consider the convicts under the charge of government would require a larger number of commissaries to provide for them than the same number of King's troops would?—I do not perceive why they should, as the distribution is nearly the same; in fact, as no spirits are issued to the convicts, there is rather less duty in providing for them.

177. Are there not superintendents over the convicts?—Yes, selected from themselves, in some instances; in fact, in many instances it is indispensable, such a number as there are in the road-gangs, who have only to throw down their spades and step out of sight immediately; it requires a great deal of attention to keep these men in order.

178. It has been stated by General Darling that the number of convicts under charge of the governor is about 5,000, so that the convicts and King's troops together amounted to between 7,000 and 8,000; it also appears from this Return that the number of commissaries and clerks amounted to between 80 and 90 in the Australian colony, whilst at Ceylon, where the troops are very numerous, 5,000 rank and file, there are but 17 commissaries and clerks; why is there so much difference in the amount?—I should think the extent of the distribution is much greater in New South Wales. The extent of country is very considerable. Bathurst is upwards of 100 miles; Norfolk Island, Moreton Bay and Port Macquarie are at a great distance; various other stations are very much distributed and difficult to communicate with.

Robert William Hay, Esq., Under Secretary for the Colonies, called in; and further Examined.

179. WHAT is the present amount of the body-guard in Sydney?—The body-guard has been superseded by a certain number of orderlies, as General Bourke has reported in a despatch which was received from him in December last. The Secretary of State has since directed that the expense of these orderlies should be reduced, conceiving that they were only a substitution for the body-guard, which was considered unnecessary.

180. What Returns relative to Nova Scotia do you propose to lay before the Committee?—I propose to produce the Returns which were printed last year. It has not been thought necessary to reprint them, because the changes which have taken place since the last year I shall be able to explain to the Committee. I should wish to confine the examination to-day, if possible, to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward's Island, although Newfoundland is included in the Nova Scotia command, and therefore appears at the head of this Return. Bermuda is a separate command; but I should propose that Newfoundland and Bermuda be taken together on a future day.

181. Can you furnish a Return of the effective force in Nova Scotia up to a later period than 1833?—I have obtained from the Adjutant-general's office a Return of the effective force up to March last, as far as it can be ascertained (see printed Paper in Appendix.) It contains the amount of force for the last year in all the colonies, as well those which have been under examination as those which are to be examined into; it is supplementary to that Return which is before the Committee, in the Appendix to the printed Papers.

182. There is no material alteration between the force in 1833 and 1834?—The amount in 1833 appears to have been 2,151, now it is 2,030.

183. Can you inform the Committee as to the distribution of the force belonging to the Nova Scotia command?—This paper (see printed Paper, Appendix) contains the distribution of the force according to the latest Returns.

184. Have any applications for an increased force in that quarter been made to the Government?—The only application of late years was from New Brunswick, in consequence of the unsettled state of the boundary question. It was then determined that some additional force should be sent out, and that was dispatched in February 1834.

185. Who is the present governor of Nova Scotia?—Major-general Sir Colin Campbell.

186. Can you inform the Committee as to the amount of pay and emoluments of the present governor and his immediate predecessor?—Sir Colin Campbell enjoys a salary of 3,500 *l.* a year along with his staff pay as a major-general; his immediate predecessor was Sir Peregrine Maitland, who enjoyed considerably more originally, and was reduced in the latter part of his government to 3,000 *l.* a year, and the government of Annapolis, without any staff appointment. Sir James Kempt, who preceded him, had larger emoluments still, but these are to be found in the Report upon Army and Navy Appointments, and are stated by Sir James Kempt himself in his evidence; they amounted altogether, I perceive, to upwards of 5,000 *l.* a year.

187. What was the total of Sir Peregrine Maitland's emoluments, including Annapolis?—£. 3,000 a year, colonial salary, and 967 *l.* for Annapolis; he had also the emolument of colonel of a regiment; but these are taken into account in all cases, and therefore I have not stated them.

188. Will you inform the Committee the amount of pay and emoluments of the lieutenant-governor of New Brunswick?—The lieutenant-governor of New Brunswick has 3,500 *l.* a year, colonial salary, and is not upon the staff. It is intended that the future salary attached to that government shall only be 3,000 *l.*

189. Can you inform the Committee of the amount of pay and emoluments of the lieutenant-governor of Prince Edward's Island?—£. 1,000 a year, with 100 *l.* fees, making 1,100 *l.*; he is not upon the staff, and does not command the troops.

190. Is there a government-house in each of these colonies?—Yes, there is.

191. Out of what fund is the governor paid in each colony?—In Nova Scotia the colonial salary is in part derived from the sum of 2,000 *l.*, which the Assembly agreed to give in the course of last year as a commutation for quit rents due to the Crown. It will be necessary, I believe, to apply to Parliament to make up the deficiency not only of the lieutenant-governor's salary, but to provide for the

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arrears which have accrued in consequence of the discontinuance of the vote of Parliament. The salary of the lieutenant-governor of New Brunswick, &c. is paid from the Crown revenue of the colony, and that of the governor of Prince Edward's Island from the Parliamentary vote, which appears upon the estimates.

192. Is there any Parliamentary vote for Nova Scotia?—It has been discontinued, but I apprehend it will be resumed, for the reasons which I have just stated.

193. What is the amount of revenue in each province?—The revenue of Nova Scotia, independent of the casual and territorial revenue, amounts to about 68,000 *l.*; that of New Brunswick, independent of the casual revenue, amounts to 38,000 *l.*; and that of Prince Edward's Island to about 12,000 *l.*

194. What is the state of the militia in these provinces?—The militia act under certain provincial laws, which vary in some degree in each province, but generally, I may say, they assemble but rarely. In New Brunswick, for instance, there is only one training day annually: in Nova Scotia there are four. They are without pay or clothing in New Brunswick, although there are a certain quantity of arms in case they should be wanted. All persons between the age of 16 and 60 are liable to serve. There is a sum paid by each colony for officers to train and to inspect the militia. In Nova Scotia it is 1,457 *l.*; in New Brunswick, 1,506 *l.*; and in Prince Edward's Island, 114 *l.*

195. Paid to field-officers of the army?—They are officers selected on the spot, and generally, I presume, field-officers of the British army.

196. Are there forts or other public works to be kept up?—There is no work of which I am aware in progress which requires any expense, except the citadel of Halifax, for which a sum is taken this year, in the Ordnance Estimate, of 3,000 *l.*

197. Did the Government take any steps for strengthening the province of New Brunswick, in consequence of the Report made from the Military Commissioners in 1825?—The erection of this citadel, to which I have just alluded, is part of that scheme. A military road was also commenced (though it has been discontinued for the present) between Frederick Town and the Great Falls on the St. John, and another was begun some years ago in the province of Gaspé, which was intended to cross the frontier at the head of the Bay of Chaleurs.

198. What is the amount of the population in each province?—In Nova Scotia, 142,000; New Brunswick, 72,000; and Prince Edward's Island, 24,000.

199. The militia have not been for any period employed, have they?—No, they have not.

200. Then, in fact, they are merely on paper, with an occasional muster?—Yes, and that but rarely; three or four times in the year in Nova Scotia; but according to the present law, there is only one training day in New Brunswick, where the military system is by no means popular, according to the report of the lieutenant-governor.

201. Is there any amount of police in either of the provinces?—None.

202. Is there any reason assigned why the militia should be unpopular?—None, except that I presume they are unwilling to leave their other occupations.

203. In fact, there has been no increase of force since 1824?—No; the regiment I alluded to as having been ordered out last year went out at the time when one of those quartered at Halifax was ordered off to Bermuda, in consequence of the state of the West Indies, so that, in point of fact, the force remained very much as it was.

204. Has the appointment of deputy adjutant-general been discontinued, or is it not about to be discontinued?—The office of deputy adjutant-general has been abolished.

205. Since when?—Since the last year.

206. Are any other reductions of a similar description in contemplation?—I am not aware that any are practicable. The military secretary has been reduced to an assistant secretary, and one aide-de-camp has been taken off from the military staff of Nova Scotia, in consequence of the reduction in the rank of the officer commanding.

207. You said just now an application had been made for an increase of force in New Brunswick, in consequence of a boundary dispute, but there has been no increase of force in point of fact, because although a regiment was sent out another regiment was removed?—Yes; but the question put to me was, whether any application had been made for an additional force in Nova Scotia, and I said, that

that in consequence of the application of Sir Archibald Campbell, a regiment was sent out. I did not state that an additional force appeared in the Return.

208. When was that?—In 1833.

209. In consequence of which application, however, no increase has taken place?—No; as the emergency at the same time arose elsewhere, and a regiment was taken away from Halifax for other duty.

210. Would the present state of the boundary question suggest considerations against a reduction?—I should think it very unwise to reduce the force; the frontier to be guarded is a very extensive one.

211. Has there been any reduction in the staff in New Brunswick within the last year?—None, as far as I am aware.

212. Have there been any disturbances in these colonies which require troops to act upon any particular occasion?—It had been for some time reported that the militia were organising in the province of Maine, and the governor strongly urged the necessity of having an additional force on his own frontier.

213. If the militia was organised on a better footing, and a strong civil police established, might not that admit of a reduction of the troops?—I should apprehend the regular force would be more likely to conduct themselves with propriety, and there would be less chance of bringing on a collision than if militia were opposed to each other on that frontier.

214. I think you said the militia force was not popular?—No, it is not at all popular in the colony.

215. If they were employed would they be nearly as expensive as the regular troops?—I should imagine that they would be.

216. Do the troops in Nova Scotia receive rations?—Yes, they do.

217. For which they pay 6*d.* a day?—I believe it is now reduced to 5*d.* in most quarters.

218. You stated that the revenue of Nova Scotia was 68,000*l.* a year, and yet that it is necessary to come to Parliament to provide for the pay of the governor; would it not be practicable to make some retrenchments in the expenditure of the colonial revenue, so as to prevent the necessity of coming to Parliament?—The government has no control over that portion of the colonial revenue which is at the disposal of the Assembly.

219. The necessity arises from the deficiency of that revenue; and is it not right that Parliament should have some means of preventing an application of that sort arising?—That revenue is under the control of the Assembly, and they dispose of it as they think best.

220. But without some limit or control we might be placed under the necessity of granting much more?—It would be very desirable to make some arrangement with the Assembly, if possible, by which they might take a larger portion of the expenditure upon themselves; but it has not hitherto been found practicable to accomplish this object.

221. Suppose Parliament should refuse to grant what it is proposed to ask for the governor?—The result would be that a governor with smaller emoluments must go out, and the present governor come home.

222. Do you conceive there might be any retrenchment made in their colonial expenditure?—I find that large sums are expended in making roads and bridges.

223. They expend large sums on their own property, and seek to make good the deficiency by a grant of money from this country?—The chief items of their expenditure appear to be for local improvements.

224. Would it not be calculated to create dissatisfaction in the colony to call upon them to give up a part of what they appropriate to local improvements, towards the emolument of a governor from this country?—It would be a very unpopular measure; much discussion has already taken place in their Assembly as to the amount they would be disposed to give towards the civil establishment.

225. How is that amount raised, the amount which they give; is it by taxes absolutely imposed by them on the colonists?—It arises principally from duties of excise and customs raised in the colony.

226. How is the amount determined of the sum appropriated by them to civil works?—The Assembly determine as to the amount to be expended by them for provincial objects.

227. I think you said 2,000*l.* quit rents was assigned to the pay of the governor?—*l.* 2,000*l.* was specially assigned by the Assembly to this object, the sum

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to be granted as a commutation for the quit rents; it is in part only of the governor's salary.

228. Is that a fixed permanent agreement now?—As far as it goes, it is.

229. Has the Crown surrendered all its claims to quit rents on that condition, that 2,000 £ should be assigned to the pay of the governor?—Yes.

230. Was the Crown of opinion that it could require no larger sum than 2,000 £ for the salary of the governor?—No, the Crown was glad to get what it could; the collection of quit rents being a most unpopular measure in the province, and one which had not been resorted to for some years past.

231. Has it always been the practice to make good the governor's salary by a grant of 2,000 £ in that province?—No; this arrangement first took place in last year.

232. When did this at first begin?—The whole of the governor's salary was paid by this country until a very late period; the Parliamentary vote was first discontinued in 1833.

233. The whole of the governor's salary was paid by Parliament?—Yes, the whole of the governor's colonial salary appeared on the estimate; he also enjoyed the emoluments arising from the government of Amnopolis, and a sum in commutation for the fees on land patents; a vote of Parliament is apt to be considered by colonists as a link in the connexion with the mother country, and it is not willingly relinquished.

Jovis, 26^o die Martii, 1835.

SIR JOHN BYNG, IN THE CHAIR.

Thomas Archer, Esq. called in; and Examined.

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234. ARE there not 20 commissaries and deputy-commissaries, and 61 clerks of various descriptions, in the Australian provinces including Van Diemen's Land?—I am not prepared to speak of Van Diemen's Land at this moment; I thought the inquiries of this Committee would be confined to New South Wales, for which colony I am prepared to give information.

235. Will you state what has been the reduction in New South Wales?—I will. At the time the Return was prepared and submitted to the Committee of last year, the department, as far as was then known at the Treasury, consisted of the number specified in that Return; but by subsequent information, it appears that in the course of the year 1833 the number in New South Wales was reduced to 38 persons, having been previously 51.

236. Are you speaking of commissaries now?—I am speaking of the department collectively.

237. Including issuers, storekeepers, and overseers and messengers, and so on?—No; I am speaking of commissaries and clerks; from the 1st of March 1834 the number was further reduced to 29 persons.

238. The Committee observe that the whole expenditure of the commissariat in New South Wales, in the Return of 1833, was 10,714 £; how much is that expenditure reduced?—The reduction which took place in the year 1833 as to numbers, would be found, I believe, to be about seven or eight persons less than the number returned in the paper which the Committee have before them. The further reduction in the year 1834 produces an annual saving of 1,025 £, but this is the diminished charge upon the last reduction of number. The reduction in the year 1833 effected a saving, but I am not prepared to say what is the amount of that saving.

239. With all these reductions, there still seems to be a great disproportion between the expense of the commissariat staff in the Australian provinces and the other staffs; the medical staff, for example, as compared with other colonies; how do you account for that?—The service in the colony of New South Wales is peculiar: the commissariat are employed in a variety of duties which are not allotted to commissaries on other stations.

249. Will

240. Will you specify them?—Perhaps it will be satisfactory if I put into the hands of the Committee a paper which is explanatory of the duties.

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[The Witness delivered in the Paper, which was read as follows:]

The duties performed by the commissariat at New South Wales are much more extensive and widely different from those of other stations; so that they require the assistance of a greater number of persons than would be requisite if the service were purely military, and the expenditure more than double what it now is; because the arrangements made with regard to the troops will in very few, if any instances, apply also to the convict establishments: a fact which the following observations will no doubt exhibit. The necessity of making separate and distinct arrangements, both as to accounts and other matters connected with the convicts, entails on the commissariat at least double the duty which might be imagined by those who look at the military force only as the criterion by which to judge of its extent, in comparison with other stations.

Independently, therefore, of the duties which devolve on the commissariat as connected with the military force, (duties which are greatly multiplied by the peculiar service on which the troops are engaged), it is the province of that department to make and carry into effect all the arrangements consequent on victualling and clothing from four to five thousand convicts in the immediate service of the Crown, besides providing and supplying the stores, tools and implements necessary to their various occupations. If all the convicts were concentrated in only three or four different establishments at no great distance from each other, these duties would be comparatively light, and their performance would require only a few hands; but it is to be borne in mind that they are widely scattered over an immense tract of country, and divided into a great many gangs, parties and establishments; that, with a view to the maintenance of proper discipline, it is absolutely necessary to keep them at all times well and regularly supplied; that the state of the colony has not admitted of trusting altogether to contractors for such supplies,—a fact which the failures in 1829 and 1830 will fully establish; and that it has been consequently highly expedient to keep up at convenient situations depôts of provisions and stores, under the charge of competent officers, whose duty it is to enforce the due fulfilment of contracts, to be prepared with supplies in the event of any failure, to conduct all payments and other expenditure, and to act as a check on the issue of rations; a check without which either the convicts would not be duly supplied, or the public would in all probability incur a serious loss. These circumstances are stated in answer to any inquiry that may be made as to the reason why contracts have not been universally adopted. With the exception also of arms and ammunition, everything required for Ordnance services is procured, supplied and appropriated through the medium of the commissariat.

At Sydney, as the head-quarters, all the general arrangements of the departments are of course first made, and there the duties are divided so as to ensure efficiency in their performance. In the first place, the officer in charge has an office, to assist him in generally superintending and controlling the service under his direction.

There is also an establishment for the receipt, custody and issue, both in bulk and in detail, of not only the provisions required at Sydney but at all the different out-posts; a duty which is at once very responsible and requires several competent persons to perform it. Apart from this, there is a depôt of stores, tools, implements and clothing, which could not be altogether dispensed with under the supposition that such supplies could be more advantageously procured on the spot by contract.

The cash-office is another branch through which all the numerous and complicated transactions have to pass, and from which the important accounts of the money expenditure have to be rendered in a fit state for audit. The additional duty which devolves upon this office as connected with the convicts is very great, having to pay all the salaries and other expenses appertaining to that service, and render detailed and very particular accounts of the same. Although most of the payments are now made by cheques on the colonial banks, still the duty is not much diminished, as the accounts, which although they are as simple as they can be reduced, require equally as much attention as before.

At Parramatta, which is the next station in point of importance, and distant 15 miles from Sydney, the convict and other establishments are extensive and numerous, not only in the town but for many miles round the neighbourhood.

The magazine at this station being a very good one and eligibly situated, is used as a receptacle for the grain periodically received from contractors; a circumstance which enhances the importance of the station.

Windsor is situated 36 miles from Sydney and 21 from Parramatta, in a district where there are several convict and other establishments.

Bathurst, the principal inland station, 126 miles from Sydney, is where all the duties connected with the convict and other establishments westward of the Blue Mountains are conducted, and which could not be blended with any other station.

Bong-Bong is a station 80 or 90 miles south-westward of Sydney and eastward of the Blue Mountains; and is the centre of an extensive district (the southern part of the colony) where there are several convict and other establishments, all of whom have to depend upon the public stores for their subsistence.

Newcastle is a sea-port 60 miles north of Sydney, and forms an opening to the extensive district of Hunter's River, where there are troops, convicts, mounted police and surveying parties dependent on Government for their subsistence.

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Port Macquarrie is about 130 miles further north, and forms an outlet to the settled country in the vicinity of the river Hastings, where there are also troops and convicts depending for subsistence on the public stores.

Moreton Bay and Norfolk Island, the former about 400 miles northward and the latter about 1,000 miles north eastward of Sydney, are now the only two penal settlements. At each of these there is a large establishment of convicts, together with their superintendents, overseers, and a considerable body of troops. Every individual is of course entirely dependent on the public stores for all his supplies, as no other than government vessels are allowed to visit these settlements.

Each of the divisions at Sydney as before described is, with regard to the extent of duty and responsibility, quite equal to an out-station; and as each must, together with the several out-stations, render a separate and distinct set of accounts if anything like regularity is to be observed, and a due adherence to established regulations maintained, there cannot be a question that in charge of every such division and out-station a responsible and efficient officer should be placed. This inference scarcely needs confirmation further than by stating that it would be impossible to properly blend, consolidate or make more simple the accounts and services referred to, so long as the colony remains constituted as it now is; and therefore any alteration could not emanate in the first place from the commissariat, but must be consequent on a totally different system adopted by the colonial government.

In Sydney four separate and distinct sets of accounts have to be rendered: viz.

The cash accounts - - - - -	- - - - -	Monthly.
Account of stores, implements, tools and clothing - - - - -	- - - - -	Quarterly.
Accounts of the general provision depôt - - - - -	- - - - -	Monthly.
Account of transport.		

There is also the deputy commissary-general's office for conducting the general duties and superintending and controlling the department.

The peculiar distribution of the troops may be considered with reference to the stations of the convicts, where they are invariably required as guards.

241. You have stated in the paper which has been read to the Committee that a considerable portion of the accounts are now paid by cheques upon the bank; when did that alteration take place?—I think it commenced to take effect early in the year 1833.

242. Is it now complete, and do the bank accounts in fact form a check upon the department?—The payments are principally effected through the medium of the banks; there are two banks employed, each of which has, to a certain extent, the funds of the commissariat.

243. You have very clearly stated, in the paper which you have put in, that were New South Wales to be considered without reference to convicts, the present extent of establishment of the commissariat need not to be maintained; would you, either at present or at a future time, be enabled to furnish the Committee with an estimate of what might be the probable expense of the commissariat, cleared from any convict arrangements, and what is the balance between that estimate and the present expense?—I have no doubt that an estimate upon tolerably fair grounds might be prepared; but even an estimate of that description must depend so much upon local circumstances, upon the distribution of the troops principally, that it would be difficult to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion.

244. Will you be good enough to prepare such an estimate as well as you can?—Yes, certainly.

245. You have spoken in that paper which has been read of the additional duties which are thrown upon the commissariat by reason of the present mode of supplying provisions and stores for non-military purposes, and of the difficulty of making provision for the service by contract; are you in possession of any Treasury letter that will show the efforts that have been made for the introduction, as far as practicable, of a contract system, and thereby diminishing the amount of stores sent from this country, and reducing to some extent the commissariat service?—I have not that paper, but I will procure it. An extract of an official letter from General Bourke, which I now produce, has reference to that subject.

[The Witness delivered in the same, which was read as follows:]

EXTRACT of a Letter addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury, by Major-General Bourke, dated New South Wales, 8 January 1834.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31 December 1832, to which I have been long in replying, though I have lost no time in making the necessary arrangements for carrying into effect the instructions which it conveys. I should indeed observe, that a considerable part of what that letter directs to be effected, had been previously accomplished. The number of persons, for instance, in the commissariat department,

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ment, which it is stated was fixed by my predecessor at 51, had been reduced at various times subsequent to my arrival in this country, so as to consist at the time of the receipt of your letter of 38 only. In consequence of the arrangements directed by that letter, I anticipate a further reduction on the 1st March next, upon which the commissariat establishment of New South Wales will consist of no more than 29 persons.

The principal matters to which you have been pleased to direct my attention, are the discontinuance of the general depot of stores, the suppression of the military chests by transferring the funds to the banks, and a less minute examination of certain accounts in the commissariat office here.

With respect to the first, namely, the discontinuance of the depot of stores, the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury may have observed that the requisitions have of late contained fewer articles of some descriptions, and a much less amount of others, than used formerly to be the case. Tenders have been called at various times, either for the whole or for some portion of almost every article required by the commissariat; and requisitions have been made on the Treasury for the supply of such articles only as could not be had here, or as were offered at an unreasonable price. Their Lordships, however, are quite right in supposing that the rapidly-increasing commerce of the colony will shortly enable the commissariat to procure every necessary article by means of contracts made on the spot.

Their Lordships must be aware, that in a widely-extended and thinly-populated colony, such as this is, it has been necessary to proceed with caution in arrangements upon which the regular supply of food to the troops and convicts mainly depended.

With respect to the third point adverted to in your letter, namely, the superfluous examination of accounts in the deputy commissary-general's office, I have communicated with Mr. Laidley upon the subject; and their Lordships will perceive, by the Return of persons intended to be retained on the commissariat establishment from the 1st March next, that the numerous clerks hitherto employed in the examination of these accounts have been reduced.

I have to add, that the permanent establishment of the commissariat of accounts has been fixed as directed by your letter; but it has not hitherto been found possible to appoint the provisional board which you authorized for the examination of the arrear store and provision accounts between the 25th December 1828 and 24th December 1830.

The attention of the assistant commissary of accounts was directed to this object very shortly after the receipt of your letter; but his best endeavours have not been able to engage the assistance of persons qualified to undertake such a task. The reduction in the commissary of stores' department, to which I have alluded, will probably place out of employment some persons whose previous habits and knowledge of business may enable them to proceed advantageously and expeditiously with the proposed examination. I shall not lose sight of any means of carrying it into effect without further loss of time, and, as nearly as circumstances will permit, in the manner which their Lordships have pointed out.

I beg leave to observe, that I have not only found the greatest readiness on the part of deputy commissary-general Laidley to carry the reductions recommended by their Lordships into effect, but that he has himself been the promoter and adviser of most of those which took place previous to the receipt of your letter; and that he has, on all occasions, manifested the greatest desire to conduct the business of his department with the least possible expense; so much so, indeed, that I have found it at times necessary to restrain his wishes in this respect, lest the public service should suffer by too rapid a reduction.

246. You state that there is a great difficulty in completing contracts in the colonies?—There has been; and in the years 1829 and 1830, to which that paper refers, there were very considerable failures on the part of the contractors, and but for the foresight of the officer at the head of the commissariat, the military would have been put to very great inconvenience; but feeling it a difficult matter for the contractors to carry their engagements into effect, he had provided supplies in case of emergencies, and those supplies were very provident, and neither the troops nor the convicts sustained any inconvenience in this respect.

247. Then you think it is doubtful whether such a plan would answer?—The colony is so much improving, and persons of property and substance are now induced to undertake the contracts, that there is a prospect of the system obtaining generally with advantage.

248. The letter which you have put in is a reply to a Treasury letter of 1832; can you furnish a copy of that letter?—I can.

249. You advert in the memorandum to the peculiar nature of the duties on which the troops are engaged; can you state distinctly to the Committee the peculiarities of the duties of the troops in New South Wales, which render a greater amount of commissariat necessary?—The allusion has a twofold bearing, partly to the peculiar duties of the military which are consequent upon the custody and control over the convicts; all gangs of convicts are necessarily guarded and watched by parties of military, and as they are distributed about in various directions, the expense and difficulty of maintaining the troops, as well as the convicts, is of course considerably augmented.

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250. And that is the peculiarity in the service of the troops to which you advert?—It is peculiar, inasmuch as there is no other of our colonies which is a convict colony.

251. Do you conceive that the troops are distributed in smaller parties in New South Wales and in Van Diemen's Land than in the rest of our colonies?—I imagine it is so in New South Wales, because I apprehend that there are more detached stations for military parties in that colony than there are in other colonies.

252. Taking the number of troops, you consider that they are broken into smaller bodies in those two colonies than they are generally?—I believe that to be the fact.

253. You also state that everything required for the ordnance service is supplied by the commissariat, except arms and ammunition?—The commissariat department has hitherto been charged with the care of military and other buildings; and as no ordnance department has been established in New South Wales, duties very much like the duties of the ordnance department have been fulfilled in that colony by the commissariat, and the department have been required to provide, either by contract or by purchase in the market in detail, all articles required for buildings for public works.

254. Is not that the case in the colonies generally?—It is the case in the colonies generally that the commissariat provide building materials, &c. upon the spot, but the duty has been more considerable in New South Wales in consequence of the numerous buildings which have been commenced there, consequently requiring a larger supply of those articles, and distributed in different directions.

255. So that that creates a substantial distinction in point of quantity between the duties of the commissariat in New South Wales and elsewhere?—It does.

256. Has there not been an engineer officer sent out to take charge of the civil buildings?—The arrangement is just now completed.

257. Do you consider that the 4,800 convicts under the care of the commissariat in these two colonies require more duty from the commissariat than an equal number of troops would require?—Decidedly. I will give one instance: the rations of the convicts are of seven different descriptions, and each of those seven rations is under modifications according to circumstances. Heretofore the difficulty and embarrassment arising out of the supply to convicts has been a subject of very great loss to the public, inasmuch as it was almost impossible to give a correct account of the subsistence of the convicts, from so much confusion that was unavoidable in the issues, and consequently in the accounts.

258. Does nothing of that kind apply with reference to the military?—No; the military are all supplied with one particular ration, from which there is no deviation.

259. And consequently to observe and regulate those variations constitutes a very considerable portion of the duty?—It has in former times been productive of very great embarrassment, but the plan of subsisting the convicts has been brought into a certain degree of form and system within the last few years, which has in a great degree removed the difficulty.

260. Are there any other duties which the commissariat discharge with reference to convicts, and not with reference to troops?—All the supplies that are required for the convicts are provided by the commissariat upon the spot.

261. Including many that are not provided for the troops?—Yes, certainly, clothing and implements; the convicts being many of them employed upon the roads and public buildings, and all the tools and implements required have been provided through the commissariat.

262. Can you furnish the Committee with a copy of one of the requisitions from New South Wales, taking such an one as will afford a fair specimen of the articles required in that colony?—Certainly. I believe the Committee are aware that by recent arrangements many of those articles will no longer be required from this country; but in fact the labour of the commissariat will be increased upon the spot, by their purchasing there what would be otherwise sent out by cargo from this country.

263. Have the commissaries any duties to discharge connected with the officers who are placed over the convicts?—No; they have no control over the arrangements of the convict service: that department is under the management of a superintendent of convicts.

264. As regards the pay of those officers?—I am not prepared to answer as to the pay

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pay of those officers; all the money necessary to the convict service is supplied through the commissariat.

265. In fact you consider the establishment as low as it can possibly be for an effective discharge of duty, taking all circumstances into consideration?—I think so. The officer at the head of the commissariat is an officer of approved talent, upon whose discretion the Treasury may reasonably rely; and as has been observed in General Bourke's letter, he is himself particularly anxious to make every fair reduction of which the service is susceptible.

266. In the Return which is before the Committee in the Appendix of the Report of last year, the value of the provisions and stores for military purposes is stated; can you furnish the Committee with the amount of expenditure carried on through the commissariat, for convict and other civil purposes?—It appears from an estimate prepared in the colony, prospectively for the year 1833, that the gross amount for convict expenditure in the colony is upwards of 82,000*l.* Against that sum of 82,000*l.* it was expected that there would be recovered from the colonial government, or from other sources stated in the estimates, 23,485*l.*, leaving the net convict expenditure 58,560*l.*

267. You have stated already that you consider the care of 4,800 convicts, supposing that to be the number, much more than equivalent to the care of 4,800 soldiers?—I think so, certainly; if it were only in reference to the difference of the rations.

268. Can you give the Committee an idea of the proportional difference between the care of 4,800 convicts and the care of as many soldiers?—It would depend so much upon local circumstances that it is difficult to say; it must depend so much upon the dispersion of the troops.

269. Taking them dispersed as they are?—I think an estimate might be prepared; I will endeavour to form one as well as it can be prepared.

270. Have you any further paper to put in before you conclude your evidence?—As explanatory of the passage in General Bourke's letter, I wish to put in the following paper.

[The Witness delivered in the same, which was read as follows:]

PROPOSED DISTRIBUTION and APPROPRIATION of the COMMISSARIAT DEPARTMENT, for the Year 1834, viz.:

SYDNEY.

Deputy Commissary-general James Laidley	- - -	General superintendance.
Office of the Deputy Commissary-general:		
Deputy Assistant Commissary-general Howard	- - -	Treasury department.
Deputy Assistant Commissary-general Jones	- - -	Local correspondence.
Commissariat clerk Hickey	- - -	Schedules of tenders and returns.
- - Ditto	- - -	Copying clerk.
General Accounts, both arrear and current:		
Commissariat clerk Moodie Wilson	- - -	Cash accounts.
- - Ditto	- - -	Provision and stores.
Cash office:		
Assistant Commissary-general Miller	- - -	Accountant.
Deputy Assistant Commissary-general Walker	- - -	Pay lists and pensioners.
Deputy Assistant Commissary-general Lamont	- - -	Books.
Commissariat clerk J. S. Hindmarsh	- - -	Copying clerk.
Provisions:		
Deputy Assistant Commissary-general Arnold	- - -	Accountant.
Commissariat clerk Tyre	- - -	Sydney and out-station accounts.
- Ditto	- - -	Elder
- Ditto	- - -	R. Hindmarsh
- - -	- - -	Storekeeper.
Dry Stores:		
Deputy Assistant Commissary-general Stafford	- - -	Accountant.
Commissariat clerk Halloran	- - -	Bookkeeper.
- Ditto	- - -	McDonald
- Ditto	- - -	Green
- - -	- - -	Ditto.
Superintending officers at out-stations:		
Deputy Assistant Commissary-general Bowerman	- - -	Districts of Paramatta, Liverpool, Myrtle Creek, St. Vincent and Illawarra.
Deputy Assistant Commissary-general Birch	- - -	
		Blue Mountain district, Windsor and Lower Hawkesbury.
		Deputy

24 MINUTES OF EVIDENCE BEFORE SELECT COMMITTEE

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Deputy Assistant Commissary-general Goodsir - - District of Bathurst.
Deputy Assistant Commissary-general Paty - - { Lower and upper district of
Hunter's river.
Penal Settlements:
Moreton Bay { Deputy Assistant Commissary-general Owen - - - In charge.
Commissariat clerk Welman - - - Storekeeper.
Port Macquarie { Deputy Assistant Commissary-general Aekroyd - - - In charge.
Commissariat clerk Still - - - Storekeeper.
Norfolk Island { Deputy Assistant Commissary-general Vaux - - - In charge.
Commissariat clerk Stevenson - - - Storekeeper.
Commissariat-office, Sydney, } (signed) *James Laidley, D. C. G.*
19 December 1833.

On the arrival of Deputy Assistant Commissary-general Kent at head-quarters from Moreton Bay, another clerk will be discharged.

(signed) *J. L., D. C. G.*

271. Can you furnish the Committee with a Return of the strength of the commissariat from the year 1828 up to the present time?—In the year 1828, the number of persons employed in the commissariat was 65; in the year 1831, the number was reduced to 51; in the year 1833, further reduced to 38 persons; and from the 1st of March 1834, a still further reduction to 29 persons, being less than one half of the number employed in the year 1828.

272. Is it capable of further reduction?—It is possible that some small reduction may be made when the ordnance arrangements are matured; an ordnance establishment is about to be formed in the colony, and the commissariat may thus be relieved, but not much, for they will have still to make all the purchases required for the ordnance.

273. Can you prepare any similar statement with reference to Van Diemen's Land?—I can.

274. Are you aware whether there have been any material reductions there?—No, there have not been, within my recollection, material reductions.

275. Do you suppose that any excess prevails there?—Probably some reductions may be effected, but the Treasury have not lately given any instructions to that effect, because it was in contemplation to establish an ordnance department there; and it would depend much upon the mode in which that department was to be established, what effect it would have prospectively upon the commissariat.

276. Is that measure likely to be taken soon?—It is now in the course of adoption.

277. As the number in the commissariat department has diminished materially from 1828 to 1834, has the number of convicts diminished in the same degree?—The number of convicts has always had a tendency to increase rather than diminish; the reduction of the commissariat has arisen mainly out of improved arrangements in the mode of conducting that branch of the service.

General Sir *Peregrine Maitland*, called in; and Examined.

General
Sir P. Maitland.

278. YOU were for some time the Governor of Nova Scotia?—From August 1828 to January 1834.

279. You see from the returns the amount of the staff and the force in Nova Scotia?—Yes.

280. Is it your opinion that any reduction in either is practicable, with a due regard to the efficiency of the service?—I think, scarcely. The force there is not so large as it was before the last war with America; there were then stationed there four regiments above 1,100 strong, now there are four regiments on the present reduced establishment.

281. From the four regiments in that command, you furnish one to New Brunswick?—Yes.

282. A detachment to Prince Edward's Island?—Yes.

283. Do you furnish anything to Newfoundland?—Nothing to Newfoundland; a detachment to Cape Breton.

284. Is the necessary duty required of the troops in that command severe, or is it comparatively slight to what it is at home?—During the term of my command the soldiers had generally, but not always, three nights in bed. A regiment has since that period been removed.

285. But

285. But the posts have been diminished since that period?—Yes, of necessity, since the regiment was taken away.

286. You said that there were scarcely any reductions that could be made with justice to the public service; did you mean that there were any reductions of any kind that could be made?—The matter duly considered, any reduction could, I think, scarcely be deemed expedient. I am not aware of any that I could recommend.

287. Are there troops generally stationed at Annapolis?—Yes.

288. To what amount?—There are about three companies at Annapolis, sometimes more, and there is a detachment of artillery generally there; the amount of force at the post varies a little according to the strength of the regiments, and it is sometimes influenced by other circumstances: the strength of the detachments has probably been reduced since the removal of the 8th regiment.

289. So that with this reduction you think they have hardly so much as three nights in bed?—I think not more.

290. But under the circumstances you have mentioned, you consider the force as not disproportioned to the duties to be performed, and not larger than is absolutely necessary?—I think not.

291. Will you look at the printed Return for the ordnance department, and say whether you think that there is any reduction that could be effected in that establishment with advantage?—I cannot say that there is: the ordnance department is so little under the control and inspection of the general officer, that an officer of the artillery or engineers would be more competent to answer this question.

292. Will you look over the return for the barrack department, and say whether you think there is any reduction that can be effected in that department?—That is in the same manner under the ordnance.

293. With respect to any of the establishments at New Brunswick, are you able to speak as to the propriety of making a reduction?—My former answer will apply equally to New Brunswick.

294. What is your opinion with regard to the necessity of keeping up the posts which have been reduced, taking the safety of the colony into consideration?—I think that there is not too large a force in the colony, more especially while the boundary question remains open.

295. Independently of the boundary question, do you consider that the colony is overstocked with troops?—No.

296. Contemplating a period of profound peace in Nova Scotia, do you consider that the posts might be reduced so as to diminish the amount of force necessary for that colony?—Profound peace may terminate suddenly. I should say, if reference is not to be had to the local situation of the North American colonies, and peace could not be interrupted, still the reduction could not be material.

297. Will you have the goodness to explain that answer with regard to local situation?—I allude to the extensive and exposed frontiers of the North American colonies.

298. Are the military employed with regard to local gaols?—Yes; in Halifax and some other towns.

299. Do you think that necessary?—Prisoners have frequently escaped from the colonial gaols, sometimes aided from without. Prisons better constructed would diminish, no doubt, or remove the necessity.

300. What is the amount of force that is employed over the gaols?—It varies according to circumstances.

301. Is it the system of the colonies to employ the troops to guard other posts than those required for army purposes and army stores?—I have stated that they furnish sentinels over the gaols when required by the civil authorities to do so.

302. Are the military employed in Nova Scotia, taking the question generally, to perform duties which civil officers are here employed to perform?—The military in the colonies, as in Great Britain, may be required to act in cases of riot. They assist (and have rendered most important service) when fires occur. May be called on to assist in the apprehension of smugglers, and such other duties, whatever they may be termed, as the military are required to perform in Great Britain.

303. If the colonial government were to provide for the due custody of the prisoners there, and for the ordinary police purposes, might not a considerable portion of the troops that are employed now be dispensed with?—No.

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304. Do you think the amount of nearly a regiment is employed in those duties?—No, not in guarding the gaols; nothing like it; perhaps 20 men.

305. There are 50 men on detachment at Annapolis; is that detachment necessary?—Yes, I think it very necessary.

306. There is a detachment of 275 at Fredericctown; do you consider that necessary?—Yes, certainly.

307. There are 200 men at St. John's, New Brunswick; do you consider that necessary?—Yes, certainly.

308. There is a detachment of 27 men at St. Andrew's, New Brunswick; do you consider that necessary?—Yes.

309. There are 49 men at Cape Breton; are they necessary?—Yes.

310. There are 64 men at Prince Edward's Island; do you consider that necessary?—It is a separate government, and the governor reports that he could not do with less. He asked for an addition when the number was less.

311. Do you consider that 1,300 or 1,400 men are too many for Halifax and its dependencies?—No.

312. Are those answers given with reference to the present duties and employments of military in that country, considering civil as well as military duties?—Those answers are given in reference to the state of things as I left them.

313. Could not a reduction of about 50 or 60 men be made if the colonial government were to take charge of the gaols by a local police or otherwise?—Taking into consideration that you must always have troops off duty ready to act in case of fire, disturbance, or other casualties, I think not; for the reasons also of a more general nature which I have given.

314. That is embracing in your view the circumstance that New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are not insular in their position, but as being continental states, you do not think that any reduction could be safely made?—I think not.

315. Is there not an effective and popular force in New Brunswick called out on emergencies?—I conclude this question points to the militia. The militia of New Brunswick assemble one day in the year. They had four days in the year assigned for training; the legislature has reduced the number of days to one only. This is the amount of time allotted to their instruction.

316. Have you any knowledge of the circumstance as to whether the Americans on the other side of the frontier have an equal or superior description of popular force disposable?—I think that our militia is fully equal to the American militia; of course the latter is far more numerous.

317. Our popular force then being equal to the popular force of the Americans, have the Americans an equal or inferior regular force to ours upon the same line?—The amount of their regular force stationed on the line varies; but it must be recollected that our American colonies present a frontier of about 2,000 miles in extent: that an enemy can concentrate and make his attack on any part of that frontier when and where he pleases.

318. Are you not of opinion that it may be economical with regard to the whole of the armed force, not considering who is to pay them, and expedient, to embody for certain periods of the year part of the militia force of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia?—Labour is so valuable in the colonies, that with the pay you must give the militia to make it proportionate, I think it would not be economical.

319. Would it be expedient, bearing in mind the efficiency?—They certainly would not be as efficient as a regular force; but I consider the plan as altogether impracticable.

320. Did your experience in New Brunswick lead you to believe that that species of force was unpopular with the people of New Brunswick?—The people of New Brunswick constitute that force. The neglect of their farms and their fisheries, which the embodying of it would necessarily involve, is an obstacle to its being popular with them.

Martis, 31^o die Martii, 1835.

SIR JOHN BYNG, IN THE CHAIR.

Lieut.-Colonel *Horatio George Broke*, called in; and Examined.

321. YOU have been some time on the staff at Nova Scotia?—Yes.
322. How long?—I was there from October 1831 till the end of July 1834; nearly three years.
323. In what situation?—As deputy quartermaster-general.
324. You have also been for some time on the staff of that department in other stations?—I have.
325. From your staff situation in Nova Scotia you are of course aware of the distribution of troops in that province?—Yes, I am.
326. You are aware of their precise amount?—I could speak to them nearly, I should say.
327. Are you of opinion that any of them could be reduced, either in amount of force or entirely?—No; I think they are all as low as they ought to be kept; all the detachments are decidedly as low as they ought to be, and it has been the object to keep them so.
328. When did you leave Halifax?—I left Halifax on the 1st of August last.
329. At that time had the 8th regiment been removed to the West Indies?—It had been removed a twelvemonth or more.
330. Did the removal of that regiment occasion a difficulty in the performance of the requisite duties?—Very great difficulty; so much so that the detachments that were absolutely necessary to be kept up were obliged to be reduced more than I believe they had ever been; some of the detachments that had always been considered desirable to be kept in the country were altogether called in at that time, and the artillery were called upon to take that share in the duties of Halifax itself, and the harbour posts, which they had never done before.
331. Was an application consequently made by Sir Archibald Campbell to have that regiment replaced?—An application was made immediately by Sir Archibald Campbell.
332. Did the 83d regiment arrive previous to Sir Colin Campbell's arrival?—Yes, the 83d regiment arrived before Sir Colin Campbell.
333. When did Sir Colin Campbell arrive?—Six or seven weeks before I left.
334. What are the number of regiments now in that command and its dependencies, including New Brunswick?—In Nova Scotia and its dependencies, including New Brunswick, there are four regiments.
335. In the amount of the military staff there do you think any reduction, however small, would be practicable?—I think it is utterly impracticable since the reduction of the deputy adjutant-general. I think it is impossible that the staff duties can be carried on with any further reduction.
336. There are several charges for boats and boats' crews; are they absolutely necessary?—I do not think there is a boat employed which is not necessary. They were all under my control, as having the charge of the harbour posts.
337. There is an allowance of 720*l.* for clergymen for performing divine service; at how many stations is there a clergyman?—I am not aware of the number of clergymen; I know there is a clergyman at Halifax. I am not able to say whether there is any military chaplain appointed at other stations besides Halifax; but I know that at each station divine service is performed.
338. What posts were discontinued when the number of troops were reduced by the departure of that regiment?—That at Annapolis, for a time; (it had been replaced when I left Halifax;) and that at Windsor, which had not been replaced; and I beg also to observe, the duty of the detachment at York Redoubt was taken by the artillery. That is a harbour post.
339. How many men were employed generally at York Redoubt?—They averaged generally 20 men; a subaltern and 20 men.

Lieut.-Col.
Horatio G. Broke.
31 March 1835.

Lieut.-Col.
Horatio G. Broke.

21 March 1835.

340. How long did any outposts continue unoccupied?—Annapolis and Windsor continued unoccupied from the departure of the 8th regiment, about June or July, till the arrival of the 83d regiment in July in the following year, when Annapolis was re-occupied.

341. They were vacant a year?—Yes.

342. Did any inconvenience arise from these posts being vacant during that time?—No inconvenience arose during that period.

343. How many men were employed in Windsor?—A subaltern and 20 men only.

344. There were no complaints in consequence of these posts being unoccupied?—No.

345. No inconvenience having arisen during the time they were unoccupied, do you consider it is absolutely necessary that they should be occupied?—I consider it extremely desirable that Annapolis should be occupied. It is at a very considerable distance, a distance of 120 miles, from Halifax; and in the event of military assistance being required, all that country at that distance being so far removed from Halifax, of course a considerable length of time would elapse in sending troops; and in the event of any additional assistance being required in St. John's or New Brunswick, they can be immediately passed over by steam-boats across the Bay of Fundy to New Brunswick.

346. You have given an opinion that no reduction should take place in the number of troops employed in Nova Scotia; is that with reference to the internal wants of the colony itself, or with reference to external affairs?—It is with reference to the wants of the colony and its dependencies. There is always a captain's detachment at Prince Edward's Island, and a captain's detachment at Cape Breton: with these and the other detachments, there are not more men left at head-quarters than there ought fairly to be, to take the duty without its pressing too hard upon the men.

347. Then the opinion has no reference at all to any question of hostilities with any other power?—Decidedly not.

348. Do you think 1,400 men are required at Halifax for the duties of that station?—Decidedly.

349. Without reference to the line of frontier which it is necessary to guard?—Yes, without any reference to the frontier.

350. Were the militia called out during the time you were there?—No, they were not; except for one or two days, to be inspected by the inspecting field officer.

351. You have never seen them?—I have seen only the militia of Halifax; I have seen the Halifax militia occasionally, when they have volunteered their services on occasions of sham fights. On such occasions they have taken a part in the sham fight.

352. Do you know whether there is any regular force on the American frontier?—They have a post on our frontier. What the number of men is I do not know; I imagine not more than 300.

353. On the whole line of frontier?—Yes, on the frontier of New Brunswick. I speak not from having been there myself, but from having heard it repeatedly from officers who have been to the posts.

354. Have they any militia force on the frontier?—No, they have no militia force embodied.

355. Is the militia force a popular force in Nova Scotia?—I should say it is, certainly.

356. How are the officers and men paid when embodied?—They are paid by a vote of the House of Assembly.

357. At what rate?—I cannot say; I have never known them embodied at all.

358. Could you, except by compulsion, obtain their services at the same rate of pay which you give to British soldiers?—Not the whole body of them, I should think, but I conceive that in the event of a war you would always be able to raise voluntarily a very considerable force of the militia. I do not imagine the whole body would turn out at that rate of pay.

359. Is not the pay very inferior to that which they can obtain by labour or by any work as artificers or labourers?—The pay is very inferior to what can be earned by artificers. Up the country there is so great a scarcity of money that the agricultural labourers are always obliged to receive a very considerable portion of their pay in goods.

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360. Are there not a considerable number of persons unemployed as artificers or labourers during a portion of the year, from the severity of the climate?—
Yes, during the winter season.

361. Are there not also a considerable number of unemployed emigrants who would be glad to enlist in the militia force?—The greater portion of the emigrants who visit Nova Scotia are Irish, and arrive there under very mistaken ideas of what they are to find. I have no doubt a proportion of them would readily enlist in the militia, in any way in which they could get immediate provision. They arrive out there in considerable numbers, being totally mistaken as to what they are to expect, for in fact there is nothing to be done for emigrants in Nova Scotia. There are a great number who arrive there every year, who come direct, and there are many more who are driven there by shipwreck off Cape Breton and the eastern coast, all of whom find their way to Halifax, and as there is no possible employment for them in the province, they are obliged to be pushed on as fast as possible. These who have money generally make their way to the United States; but as that is the case with few of them, it is a heavy tax upon the inhabitants of Nova Scotia to provide for emigrants of that description, and therefore a great number of them would readily enlist as a matter of desperation; but if they had any money they would not.

362. Then taking that into consideration, and taking into consideration the difficulty of finding employment for emigrants or other labourers at all seasons of the year, in consequence of the climate, do you think there would be any doubt of finding a sufficient number of men for the militia at as low a rate of pay as British soldiers?—Emigrants without money would enlist; but I think it would be against that feeling of independence which the old colonists have, to enlist, unless war were to break out. I think then there would be a very strong feeling, a feeling of attachment to their country, which would induce them to enlist, independent of the pecuniary inducement.

363. Bearing in mind that the service required would not be a permanent service as in the line, but merely for a limited period as in the militia, do you think there would be any difficulty in obtaining persons to enlist?—To what period does the question refer?

364. Say five years?—I think there would be more difficulty than in this country. I think it would be more difficult, because those persons who would readily enlist are chiefly to be found about Halifax. They are not to be found in the country.

365. Do you mean to say the facility of raising any militia would not be among the natives, but the strangers of the colony?—Certainly, except during a war.

366. And that facility would naturally be very precarious?—Certainly.

367. Supposing the experiment were tried, and it succeeded to any extent in obtaining the service of a number of persons in the militia, do you, in a military point of view, see any objection to employing a proportion of that force, and releasing an equivalent proportion of the regular force of the country?—If it were possible to have the militia as perfectly trained as our militia were during the late war, I should see no objection to a certain portion, but I doubt that being practicable. I do not think you could find officers qualified for the militia; and for that reason I have very strong doubts indeed about their becoming efficient.

368. Was not the excellence at which the militia arrived in the late war occasioned by their being embodied for several years?—Unquestionably.

369. Was it ever suggested to you, or have you ever turned your attention to the point as to the practicability of raising a colonial corps in the Canadas for the services of the colonies exclusively?—No, I never considered that question.

370. What is your opinion of the practicability and efficiency of a corps raised in Canada for the especial service of that colony?—I should very much doubt whether the duties could ever be carried on so satisfactorily as by the troops of the line.

371. Will you give your reason?—I think the duties would always be better carried on in a young colony by troops of the line, who have not any of those local feelings or attachments which might occasionally influence the militia.

372. Supposing a corps were raised of emigrants or other persons who would enlist for the special service of the colony alone, do you think there would be any difficulty in raising such a corps; and if raised, would there be any objection in employing them to a certain extent with the troops of this country?—If they were

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well officered, and in a small proportion to the troops of the line, I then should see no objection, but everything depends on the officering. If I understand the proposition, it appears to me, if they were raised from those emigrants who in going out there find they are mistaken in their views, and would be ready to enter the service, it would amount very much to enlisting the same class of men that you would probably get by enlistment in this country.

373. Do you see any objection in a military point of view to the employment of such a force, if it was sufficiently officered? Do you think such a force could be raised for the service of the colony?—I think it would be very objectionable; I think it would be very difficult to bring a corps so composed into discipline. I think the class of persons from whom you would be obliged to raise that corps are men who go out with the idea of feeling themselves perfectly at liberty, most of them glad to throw off the restraints of society which they are subjected to in their own country, and I think there would be extreme difficulty in disciplining a corps so composed.

374. Would not generally those who enlist be the least industrious and the worst characters?—Certainly.

375. And consequently less desirable and less serviceable?—Certainly.

376. From your experience as a military man, have you not found that when persons of that character have enlisted, their habits are so changed by the discipline of the service, that they become totally different characters to what they were before they enlisted?—As long as they are under regular discipline; but it will be recollected that generally, except on those occasions where regiments of men are raised at once, when old officers and non-commissioned officers are sent to them, our men come in by small numbers at a time into the regiments of the line, where discipline is throughout thoroughly established, and they find themselves obliged at last to bow to that discipline. There is no question in that case, that many of those who have any natural good sense about them, from seeing the example before their eyes that those who are well conducted and who are amenable to discipline get forward, while, on the contrary, others are constantly subjecting themselves to punishment, would become reformed and exceedingly good soldiers and good members of society.

377. Are the class of emigrants who come out, of that description, that either from age or size you would object to enlist in this country generally?—There are plenty to whom one would make no objection as to age or size coming from Ireland, but a great number of them with large families; and if you enlist these men, every man who is enlisted entails an additional burthen upon the country.

378. Are there not a number of young men attached to the families who come out, who might probably enlist? Is it not the practice for families that all its members, young and old, come out together?—I believe it is in many instances.

379. Are there not young men in those families who would be likely to enlist in the King's service?—There are some, but the proportion is not large.

380. Do you think it probable that the young men who go out, or that the emigrants who go out to Nova Scotia, would volunteer at the pay of the regular troops?—Some of them, who have no money.

381. Supposing Government should decide on trying the experiment, do you see any military objection to the nature of the force?—One great objection I see arises from a doubt whether, embodying the corps at once from those materials, you could ever have them efficient, so as to take the place of regiments of the line.

382. Are many of the King's troops now in Nova Scotia employed in duties which in this country are considered civil duties; such as guarding gaols, as police, or anything of that description, foreign to anything that is generally considered military duty, as guarding stores or as guards?—I here are some guards over gaols, but there are not many men so employed.

383. You have stated, that in your opinion a corps might be raised of the unemployed emigrants in Nova Scotia?—Yes, it might be raised by degrees.

384. Those unemployed emigrants are persons who have gone out from this country under the influence of false expectations?—Precisely.

385. Consequently, when they arrive in the colony they are disappointed men?—Yes.

386. What, in the present state of affairs, when they are not enlisted in the military force, usually becomes of these persons?—They become a severe tax, mainly upon the town of Halifax: during the summer there are constantly subscriptions made, with a view of getting these men sent forward. There are exertions

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exertions made to send them into different parts of the country, where they may procure labour; but those who are really disposed to assist themselves by any means, keep working on until they get generally through New Brunswick into the United States. There are subscriptions made constantly, and individuals give assistance to families to send them out of the country into the United States; so that they find that generally by the close of autumn, there are not a great many that have arrived in the spring or summer that have not somehow or other found their way out of the country. Those who remain invariably find their way to Halifax in the winter, knowing it is the only place where they can look for charity, and become an extremely severe tax upon the inhabitants.

387. Adverting to the circumstance that the great body of them escape from Nova Scotia, and find their way into countries where labour is dear, and where consequently they can turn their labour to advantage, do you think that the condition of that class of emigrants would be improved by the adoption of the plan which has been suggested, namely, their enlistment in a colonial corps?—I should say that it would take a considerable time to form a colonial corps, inasmuch as you would only induce those to enlist who found that they had no possibility of getting inland, inasmuch as they come out to be independent; and if they possibly can be independent, they will not enlist. I am disposed to believe that if you enlisted 50 men in the spring, you would lose 25 within the next six months by desertion. I believe the majority of all the men you would enlist in that way would, whenever they had money in their pockets, desert, and would eventually entail a very severe expense upon the Government.

388. You have stated that a number of desertions would probably take place in the event of the formation of a colonial corps; can you quote any historical circumstance in support of that opinion?—There are too many desertions from the regiments of the line stationed there; and it is considered not right to keep a regiment in New Brunswick, being close to the boundary, more than three years, and by the expiration of that time it is found that they begin to desert, sometimes in numbers; and therefore I am satisfied, if that is the case with the regiments of the line, that it would be in a tenfold degree the case with men who are generally emigrants of the lowest class of society, and who have gone to that country with a view of getting in any way they can into the back settlements of the country, and being independent. I am satisfied that whenever those men had 5*s.* in their pockets, they would desert.

389. Are you aware that a regiment was raised in Nova Scotia during the late war?—I am not aware of that.

390. Do you conceive that the employment of such a colonial corps would be less costly than the employment of British soldiers?—Decidedly not: much more expensive.

391. Under any circumstances?—If you are to pay them as British troops, I am satisfied the desertions alone would render them infinitely more expensive than the employment of regiments of the line from this country.

392. Would not those desertions be confined to the stations in New Brunswick more than to any other part?—Certainly not; there would be more desertion from New Brunswick, but there are plenty of facilities for getting out of Nova Scotia.

393. Do you think there would be any difficulty in raising a certain number of men in Ireland for a colonial corps of that sort for a limited service, to go out for 10 or 12 years?—I dare say it would not be difficult, but that corps must be kept a very considerable time in this country, I should say several years, before it could be considered fit to send out there; and I do think it would be a very unadvisable measure, inasmuch as I believe that the majority of people who enlisted in that corps would enlist with the positive intention to desert when they got out to Nova Scotia.

394. Supposing a colonial corps were established with the same pay as a British corps, does it not follow as a matter of course that, taking into consideration the relief necessary for British troops, there must be a considerable saving to this country from the employment of such a colonial force?—The only expense saved would be simply the conveyance of the regiment.

395. Do you not take into consideration also the number of troops in this country which are necessary to be kept up in order to relieve the troops in the colonies?—If you have four regiments of the line in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and if you withdraw one and establish a colonial corps, and pay that at the same rate, I see no diminution of expense.

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396. How often are the regiments of the line relieved in Nova Scotia?—In about 10 years; I believe the 96th, which is coming home this year, has been out 10 years.

397. Would not the organization of such a corps at once begin with the expense of organizing a new regiment, and the bounty of enlistment?—Yes, certainly.

398. Would it not also add the reduction of a regiment of the line, and their several pensions?—Certainly.

399. Supposing the officers not to have their half-pay, but to be transferred to the new regiment?—The expense would then be reduced in proportion to the number of officers transferred.

400. Are you acquainted with the constitution of the commissariat establishment at Nova Scotia?—I know exactly the composition of it.

401. What class of persons are appointed commissaries-general in that country?—One of the regular deputy commissary-generals is sent out there from this country. It is a deputy commissary-general's post.

Robert William Hay, Esq., Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies;
further Examined:

R. W. Hay, Esq.

402. WHAT is the amount of force of Newfoundland?—The amount of force for the year 1833 was 292 rank and file. In the year 1834, as appears by the Consolidated Return which is before the Committee, it was lower; 276 rank and file.

403. What is the distribution of force in Newfoundland?—I have obtained this distribution from the Adjutant-general's office, and I will now give it in.

[*Vide Appendix.*]

404. What is the governor's salary of Newfoundland, and that of his immediate predecessor?—The governor's salary of Newfoundland at present is 3,000*l.* a year; that of Sir Thomas Cochrane, his immediate predecessor, was 4,200*l.* until 1828, when it was reduced to 3,000*l.* Before that time Newfoundland was a naval station, and the command was conjoined with that of the admiral. The salary, therefore, as governor was small, varying from 500*l.* to 1,000*l.*

405. Does that salary include all professional pay?—The officer who commands there is a captain in the navy, who does not enjoy his half-pay.

406. Is there a government house?—There is a government house at Newfoundland, the building of which commenced as far back as 1825. In consequence of a report from the governor as to the dilapidated state of the house, an estimate was sent home, but rejected as being too high. A subsequent estimate was sent in, which amounted to between 8,000*l.* and 9,000*l.*, and that was agreed to. It was afterwards ascertained that there were so many accessories required to complete the house, which had not been included in the original estimate, as would amount to a sum of nearly equal, viz. 8,000*l.* or 9,000*l.* That was greatly objected to, and the major part of the second additional estimate was taken off. Still there were some items which had not been taken into account, and which must be paid for. The whole expense of that house has been considerable; I should say not less than 15,000*l.*

407. Was it furnished?—There are certain rooms furnished in the government house in all our colonies; the rooms for presentation, and those only.

408. The rest are furnished at the expense of the governor?—They are.

409. From what fund is the governor's salary paid?—The governor's salary is paid from the customs' duties.

410. Is there not a vessel or yacht for the governor's use at Newfoundland?—Yes, there is, and it was first established when the admiral who commanded at Newfoundland, ceased to be the governor also. It was then determined, as it was intended that a King's ship should no longer be kept permanently on the station, that it would be found necessary to have a vessel of some size under the governor's orders, to enable him to communicate with Nova Scotia and with the distant parts of the government, there being no roads or next to no roads in the island; and also to convey the judges on their circuits, more especially to the coast of Labrador.

411. What is the amount of expense?—The contract for the vessel is 2,300*l.* a year.

412. Could not a smaller vessel, one of less cost, suffice?—I think it not impossible

possible that a smaller vessel might answer the purpose; and it may perhaps be done at this time, though not so easily until this period, since it is understood that the assembly of Newfoundland have decided on dispensing with the services of the judge at Labrador, so that it will no longer be necessary to keep up a regular communication with that quarter. I should think that a smaller vessel with fewer hands might be employed.

413. What amount of saving do you think it is possible might be effected in that?—It would depend on the number of hands, and the description of vessel which might be substituted. I should suppose a schooner with 10 or 12 men would answer the purpose.

414. What is the size of the vessel now?—The vessel is a brig of 170 tons.

415. How many hands has she on board?—She has 21 hands.

416. Then you think half the size of the equipment would be sufficient?—That is my impression; but at the same time I should wish the late governor to be examined on this subject, who has more local knowledge than I possess.

417. What is the amount of the colonial revenue?—About 16,000 *l.* a year.

418. What is the amount of the population?—The population is upwards of 60,000; but it varies, from the circumstance of its being a fishing station.

419. Are there any public works going on at the expense of this country in Newfoundland?—I am not aware that there are, of any extent.

420. Are there any reductions that you can propose in that command?—I am not aware of any, except that in the vessel which I have already alluded to. I think that might be reduced.

421. Is there a lieutenant-governor of Newfoundland?—No.

422. Was there not a correspondence or proposal made by the colonial government to pay all the expenses attached to this colony, if they were allowed some contingencies?—I presume the arrangement is alluded to by which the colonial assembly was given to the province of Newfoundland.

423. Did not they offer then to pay all the expenses?—They held out the strongest hopes that they would be able to pay all the expenses of the civil establishment, but they have not succeeded in doing so. If the Committee will refer to the colonial estimates for the year 1833, they will find a letter from the Colonial Department on the subject, in which the whole case is explained; and they will see that although no distinct pledge was given by the province, yet that an expectation was held out that if the wishes of the colonists were complied with in regard to a legislative assembly, they would provide for the civil establishment out of colonial funds.

424. Has that expectation been urged upon the colonial assembly?—It has in the strongest way; but the assembly have urged that they had no means of meeting the expense of the civil establishment, the customs' revenue having fallen off considerably, and they have therefore entreated aid from the British Parliament.

425. In short there is a question of considerable difficulty pending in reference to that?—Yes; the question is now under the consideration of the Government.

426. What is the amount of force at Bermuda?—The amount of force for Bermuda for the year 1833, was 575 rank and file. In the two preceding years it was considerably more: in 1831, 1,081; in 1832, 1,145. That in 1834 appears in the Consolidated Return now printed for the use of the Committee.

427. What was the reason of the force being so large in 1831 and 1832?—It arose from an apprehension of mutiny on the part of the convicts.

428. What is the distribution of force at Bermuda?—I will deliver the distribution, which I have obtained from the Adjutant-general's office, and which is made up to the latest period.

[Vide Appendix]

429. What is the governor's salary, and that of his immediate predecessor?—The governor has 2,195 *l.* upon the colonial estimates, and 585 *l.* from the colonial fund. He receives no staff pay, although he is a major-general, but allowances to the amount of 252 *l.*

430. Making how much in the aggregate?—Rather more than 3,000 *l.* a year.

431. Is there a government house?—There is a government house.

432. Is that furnished for him?—Only in the same degree as in other colonies.

433. What is the amount of the colonial revenue?—The colonial revenue is about 10,000 *l.* a year there.

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434. What

34 MINUTES OF EVIDENCE BEFORE SELECT COMMITTEE

- R. W. Hay, Esq.* 434. What is the amount of population?—The population is rather above 9,000.
- 31 March 1835. 435. Does that include the convicts?—No.
436. What are the number of convicts by the last return?—The number of convicts by the last return was 1,100.
437. Are there any public works going on at Bermuda at the expense of this country?—Bermuda is a great naval station, and there are certain fortifications in progress which were considered necessary for its security: 7,000 *l.* is proposed in the ordinance estimate this year for this work. The original estimate was 129,000 *l.*, of which 98,000 *l.*, including the proposed vote of this year, has been already granted, leaving 31,000 *l.* to be provided in future years.
438. Is there any yacht or vessel attached to the governor of Bermuda, as at Newfoundland?—No, there is no vessel appropriated to his use.
439. Can you propose any reductions in the island of Bermuda?—I am not aware that there are any practicable. The governor has been written to in consequence of the instructions sent out last year on the appointment of this Committee, and he has been unable to propose any.
440. I think you said there was 2,000 *l.* odd paid to the governor; does that include the sum paid to him out of the 4½ per cent. duties?—He has no longer any sum paid to him out of the 4½ per cent. duties. That is paid by Parliament. It was in consequence of a report upon civil government charges in 1831, that the salaries of certain West India governors, and that of the governor of Bermuda, hitherto paid out of the 4½ per cent. duties, were put upon the colonial estimates.
441. Would it not be possible to make an arrangement by which the governor's salary should be paid altogether out of the colonial fund?—I should apprehend the colony is not rich enough to do that.
442. Do you know what they do with the rest of the money, after paying the part of the salary he receives from them?—No, I am not aware of the details; but the sum which the assembly have at their disposal after paying the civil establishment is very small.
443. From what source does that fund arise?—Chiefly from customs' duties.
444. The whole military and civil establishment, and the expense of these works, is paid by this country, by the Treasury here?—Not the whole of the civil establishment, only that portion of it which is paid by a parliamentary vote. The estimate for military expenditure is a separate matter.
445. Do you know what proportion of the civil expenditure of Bermuda is paid by the Treasury of this country?—The expenses of the civil government are about 10,000 *l.* a year, and the parliamentary grant is about 4,599 *l.*
446. Does it come into your department to consider the relative general expenditure of this colony as compared with other colonies?—No doubt it does.
447. Why is the general expenditure of this colony so extensive as compared with other colonies, taking the whole expenditure of the colony at 10,000 *l.* a year?—I am not aware that the general expenditure of the colony is extensive as compared with others. The 10,000 *l.* a year to which I alluded is to defray the expenses of the civil government.
448. That has nothing to do with the expense of troops?—Nothing whatever.

Martis, 7^o die Aprilis, 1835.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR JOHN BYNG, IN THE CHAIR.

General Sir *Hilgrove Turner*, called in; and Examined.

General
Sir H. Turner.

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449. YOU were some time Governor of Bermuda, were you not?—Yes.
450. Will you state from what time, and until what time?—I was appointed in the autumn of 1825, or rather I was appointed before, but I set out to go in the autumn of 1825 to Bermuda. I embarked in December, and landed in Bermuda in the month of February 1826.
451. What was the amount of force at the time you assumed the command?—It was increased afterwards; but at the time I assumed the command, there was

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one regiment of infantry, two companies of sappers and miners, and a very small portion of artillerymen.

452. Was that force afterwards increased?—Yes; there was another battalion of the line sent, and there was a company of artillery, with a lieutenant-colonel commanding it. It was made necessary on account of the ill-behaviour of the convicts.

453. What was the greatest amount of force you had at any one period during your command?—There were two regiments of infantry, two companies of sappers and miners, and a company of artillery; and while the fleet was there, there was a naval force. They were not under my command, but they certainly very materially assisted me while I was there, in respect of the convicts.

454. Are the convicts together in a kind of barrack?—No; they are all afloat.

455. But they are landed daily for the works?—Yes.

456. And require a guard for their superintendence?—There was always a guard stationed near their work; but at one period, when they got to be so very disorderly and mutinous, I was obliged to put a guard on board one of the ships. Indeed, the keeper refused to go unless I did. Though I was cautioned from the Home Department not to put soldiers as guards, yet the exigency of the case was such, that I was obliged to do it.

457. What is the duty required at Ireland Island?—There was always a detachment there; a battalion that was part of the force of St. George's was in Ireland Island on account of the convicts. The detachment consisted sometimes of one company and sometimes of more, but that depended upon the commissioner of the dockyard requiring troops.

458. What were the duties required to be done by the troops at Ireland Island?—There was no further duty for the military there than as a guard over the convicts.

459. What is the necessity of a station at Mount Langton?—No more than that it is the governor's residence. There was a small detachment of a serjeant and 12 men.

460. It appears in the return of the staff there are three town-serjeants in Bermuda; are they all necessary?—The only officer that I had as assistant was a brigade-major, who certainly was assisted by a town-serjeant; but the extreme dispersion of the troops might have required more officers than would otherwise be necessary. Those parties that were in Ireland Island, and those that were in St. George's, and latterly, those that were in Hamilton, might have required them. I had but one officer to assist me.

461. At how many stations in the island is divine service performed?—Where there were troops. There was a battalion in the barracks of St. George's; there were small barracks in Ireland Island previous to those that were afterwards fitted up with the fortifications; and there was a hired barrack at Hamilton. Those were the three places where divine service was performed.

462. Was the extra regiment that you applied for sent out before your departure from this country?—Yes, it was.

463. Was that removed before you left the island?—No.

464. In what year did that extra regiment arrive in Bermuda?—I should suppose that it was about two years there. All my papers I left at my office at Bermuda, but as far as I can guess, I should say two years.

465. In what year did you leave the island?—I left the island on the 2d of April 1832. I was relieved before that; but as I had been so long in a hot climate with my family, I did not like bringing them home in February. I was relieved in February 1832, but I was detained a month or two in consequence of not liking to bring them home at that season.

466. With respect to the clergyman, Ireland Island is entirely under the superintendence of the commissioner of the dockyard?—The naval chaplain is entirely under the commissioner.

467. Are the duties of the naval chaplain so great at Ireland Island, that the detachment from St. George's might not attend divine service at that chapel without paying another clergyman?—Certainly, they might.

468. It appears there is another clergyman at present paid for that duty?—Yes, there is; Mr. Mantack.

469. He receives an allowance at present for doing the duty of the troops at Ireland Island?—Yes.

470. But the clergyman who is at the dockyard might discharge the whole?—There was some reason for appointing an additional clergyman; whether the

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chaplain at the dockyard could not do the whole duty, or what, I do not exactly know the reason why, and I thought it might have been done by one clergyman for the whole; but whether there was no church, or what, I do not know. There was some reason for it; but certainly one clergyman could do the duty for the troops, though at the same time, I must say, not that of the convicts: being obliged to be at the different ships, that service required a great deal of time and labour. This is entirely under the commissioner.

471. The soldiers in Ireland Island, when they are sick, are sent to the naval hospital?—They are.

472. And are visited by the naval chaplain?—They are.

473. On board how many ships are the convicts placed?—I think there are five; but whether it is four or five I am unable to say positively. It is now three years since I left the island, and that part of their arrangements I did not have much to do with, so long as they were kept in order; it was under the commissioner.

474. Are Gibb's-hill, Fort Cunningham, Hen Island and Fort George, signal stations?—Yes, and Mount Langton and the Admiralty House, but not Hen Island.

475. And there is an officer in charge of those stations?—A non-commissioned officer, I believe.

476. Do you think the situation of the officer in charge of those signal stations is indispensable?—They are island situations chiefly. It is necessary that some one should look over them, and that the duty should be left to a non-commissioned officer. The officer did not reside there, I know, except when they wanted the barracks at one time. They were under the superintendence of some of the officers; but that is an island situation, that of superintending the signals.

477. It appears that there is an allowance of 252 *l.* per annum for clergymen; how many clergymen are allowances made to? It says allowances to clergymen, but it does not specify the number?—With respect to the clergymen, I must say that the convict duty brings on a great deal of labour for them, whatever duty belongs to the dockyard.

478. Do you happen to know the number of clergymen who are in receipt of this allowance, which is stated at 252 *l.*?—There are but two that were ever appointed to Ireland Island, one immediately under the commissioner, who was stationed as a naval chaplain, and another clergyman that I had allowed for the detachment there, besides the regiments at St. George's and Hamilton.

479. Does it appear to you that either of these clergymen could be got rid of?—If it is thought that the convicts could do without divine service, they could be got rid of.

480. Does it appear to you that there was adequate employment for the clergymen who received these allowances?—I think so, when you recollect that we could not have above two convict crews in one ship to hear divine service.

481. Was service performed in each of the convict ships?—Not in all the ships, because by putting two crews of convicts in one ship, that made but one service for two.

482. Are you of opinion then that any reduction can be effected in that particular item of allowances to clergymen without detriment to the performance of the duty?—I think not. Service in a hot climate like that is ten times more difficult than it is in our own.

483. Those two clergymen were clergymen of the Church of England, and educated as gentlemen?—Yes.

484. And they had to perform the service for 1,100 convicts in four or five convict ships?—Yes.

485. As well as for the troops?—Yes, as well as for the detachment of troops that were on shore at Ireland Island; besides, the whole of the dockyard attended of course, for they had no other church to go to.

486. Are we to suppose that 252 *l.* a year was the entire amount that was paid to the clergymen for overlooking the convicts?—That was not in my department. One of them was entirely in the naval department, which I had nothing to do with, and the commissioner was to let the other clergyman go to assist there for the service of the convicts; but it was only upon sufferance that our troops went to their church when they had no other.

487. Then does some part of the charge consist of an allowance paid to the naval

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naval chaplain?—I suppose so; it did not go through my hands; this is the first time I have ever heard the amount.

488. Are you of opinion that any of the religious services which are performed by these clergymen might be dispensed with without detriment?—No, I am not.

489. With respect to the staff-assistant surgeon there; are his services necessary, considering the medical staff that is with the regiment?—At some periods certainly, and at other periods not. It depends upon the health of the garrison.

490. Is there not a medical officer with the artillery?—Yes.

491. Do you consider that the services of the staff-assistant surgeon as well as of the medical officer of the regiment and of the artillery are requisite?—It depends upon the health of the garrison. If there is much sickness in the garrison, certainly the staff-surgeon is necessary then; but there are periods when he certainly is not necessary; when there is but little sickness.

492. Are the troops generally healthy, or not?—I cannot say they are in general healthy. The quantity of rum they drink is so very prejudicial, and particularly since they made that change in the allowances, for formerly they used to give a gill of rum to each soldier with the three waters the same as they do in the navy, and that was put with his mess in the barracks.

493. Does the staff-assistant surgeon attend the convicts?—No.

494. There is a separate medical establishment for them?—Yes, entirely for them. The convicts are entirely under the commissioner, except as relates to keeping them quiet.

495. What is the necessity for a naval tank-keeper?—Wherever there is a tank there must be a tank-keeper, otherwise it will be injured and robbed, water is of so much value.

496. I perceive the payment for it is 79*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* I would ask whether you think that duty might not be done by some one of the garrison with a small remuneration in addition to his pay?—Certainly.

497. By a non-commissioned officer or a steady man in the regiment at 6*d.* a day?—Yes, and giving him his lodging, because the tanks they had at St. George were very extensive indeed, and they very frequently were broken open, in consequence of which there is a small house that the tank-keeper has.

498. Is it required that he should be a mechanic at all?—No; he should understand the turning of the cocks and the water, which I do not think there is any difficulty in understanding. I think 6*d.* a day would not be sufficient, for the duty is important; he must give up his whole time to it.

499. I see there is a garrison boat kept at an expense of 77*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.* per annum?—Yes, a sailing boat.

500. It is called a garrison punt, with a pilot and two boatmen?—Yes.

501. Is that absolutely necessary?—Yes, absolutely necessary, for with the continued water-carriage they have there, they would be cut off from all means of sending assistance or provisions, or any thing else. It is made up of small islands.

502. In addition to that there is 203*l.* 4*s.* for four labourers and boatmen in the department of the storekeeper of the Ordnance?—If it is in the Ordnance department, I do not think that boat so necessary as the garrison boat. It was kept so completely to themselves that I never could benefit by it myself. They never would let me touch it.

503. There are four boats altogether; one belonging to the engineers, one to the garrison, one to the ordnance, and one to the commissariat department?—There are.

504. Are they all necessary?—If they were put under a proper regulation, so that they could be under one head, and that they could be used for His Majesty's service, I think they would be useful; but if the whole four draw one way, and another another, they are not of much use. I never could send the garrison boat at a time it was absolutely necessary to be taken up. It was constantly on the water, and the others I had nothing to say to. The commissariat let me have theirs more than the other departments.

505. Are you aware that there is an allowance to the storekeeper of the ordnance department of 24*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* per annum?—Yes; for a horse.

506. It is stated to be for travelling allowance?—As that gentleman never would allow me to have his boat, I rather wonder how I signed that; but the commissary brought me the allowance for the horse, and as the storekeeper never had a horse, and never used a horse, and kept the boat to himself, I thought there was no reason why he should have that allowance, and I struck it off.

General
Sir H. Turner.

7 April 1835.

507. There is also an allowance to the servant of the storekeeper of 27*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per annum?—I do not know of the custom of the artillery in these respects, and, therefore, I cannot answer that.

508. It appears that the charge of 24*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* for the storekeeper is not for horse hire, but travelling expenses; and if he has no horse, his travelling expenses would be more considerable from his not having a horse?—He has his boat, which is far more convenient. In fact, he could not go with his horse to several of the places, because they are islands.

509. The travelling expenses may have reference to the boat, or the charges for horse and travelling expenses?—I did not know that was allowable to any of the officers that were sent round, for travelling expenses. If I sent an officer to Ireland Island or elsewhere, no expenses were charged; but I do not know what is the custom in the ordnance. I should not have permitted or allowed travelling expenses for any department belonging to me.

510. I believe Mr. Phillips, the storekeeper, is an elderly person, and has been a great many years in the service?—He is certainly a much younger man than I am; but still he may be to a certain degree elderly. He was at Newfoundland before he came to Bermuda.

511. I believe he has been a storekeeper since 1798?—I did not understand that. He may have been so, because what happened out of the island, or before I arrived, I am not acquainted with.

512. Might not the barrack-master do the duty of storekeeper, or the storekeeper do the duty of barrack-master?—I should think not all. The storekeeper has a great deal to do with the navy.

513. Do you consider an assistant commissary-general and two deputy assistants necessary?—That is a department that communicates with the Treasury. I had nothing to say to them any more than to the ordnance.

514. Can you inform the Committee whether they are necessary, from the duties they had to perform?—No; I am not aware of the duty they had to perform.

515. Has not the storekeeper considerable duties to perform where there are 1,100 convicts?—The storekeeper has nothing to do with the convicts.

516. Are you aware that the barracks now are all under the ordnance; and, therefore, the barrack-master and storekeeper need only be under one department?—I am aware that was so, and in respect of several circumstances that happened, to my great regret, that were prejudicial to His Majesty's service.

517. That would do away with the objection that the barrack-master and storekeeper would be under two departments?—Yes; the barrack-master is now entirely under the ordnance.

518. The barrack-master and the ordnance storekeeper are under one department?—Yes; there would be nothing to clash otherwise; there would not be two masters.

519. Can you give the Committee any information respecting the bakery, as there appears to be a great number of bakers?—They have so much to do with contracts and in money matters of various kinds, that I cannot very well answer as to the duties of the commissariat.

Colonel William Smelt, called in; and Examined.

Col. Wm. Smelt.

520. YOU were some time in Bermuda, were you not?—Yes.

521. Commanding a regiment?—Yes.

522. From what period to what period?—From November 1830 to November 1832.

523. At the time you were there had you one or two regiments of the line?—Two regiments.

524. Was the duty required such as to make that force necessary?—No, I do not know that it was at that time; but I believe before we went the convicts were breaking out. They were rather alarmed about them, and we were sent as an augmentation regiment in consequence of the state of the convicts there.

525. That second regiment has subsequently been withdrawn?—It has.

526. What is the daily amount of force required for the duties there?—At St. George there are only two sergeants' guard, for the barracks guard and the town guard. Then there is Ireland Island, which is a distinct place, about 18 miles distant, where the naval department is. Their guard was about a sergeant and 17 men, in general.

527. The duties are quite sufficient to require a whole battalion there?—I should think they were, of the present strength of the battalion, six companies.

528. Do you consider that the medical staff assistant-surgeon is necessary, considering there is the medical staff of the regiment and a medical officer of the artillery?—I should think he was necessary for Ireland Island, because a large detachment goes there, and in case of sickness they would require a medical man.

529. Would not the assistant-surgeon of the regiment go there?—Yes; but in case of sickness they would be without a surgeon at St. George.

530. Where are the artillery station, &c.?—The artillery used to be stationed at Fort Cunningham; but they have been at the Royal barracks since I came away.

531. Then you are of opinion that one staff assistant-surgeon is necessary?—I think so.

532. Is it necessary to have an officer in charge of the signal station?—No, I should think not. There was none in charge of the signal station when I was there; the fort adjutant had charge of it.

533. It appears that he received double pay for that?—He had charge of the signals and other things, and I believe he had to keep it in repair; to provide the halyards or ropes.

534. Are you aware that there are four different boats kept by the government, for the different departments?—There were three, I think, when I was there.

535. Are they all three necessary?—During the time the works were going on at Ireland Island I should think they were, for there is a great deal of communication required between the Island and St. George.

536. Are there not constantly works going on there?—There was during the time I was there, and I believe even now. I believe the military works may be finished; but I heard that the naval works were not to be finished for some years to come.

537. Are you of opinion that an assistant commissary-general and two deputy commissary-generals are necessary?—The assistant is necessary, but perhaps one of the deputy assistants is sufficient; though there again you must have somebody at Ireland Island to issue and to take charge.

538. For what service is the bakery employed?—For the troops generally. I do not know whether it is employed for the navy or not.

539. I believe in most garrisons abroad the bakers are chosen from the regiment; soldiers are employed as bakers?—If they have them, they generally take them.

540. Are the troops generally healthy in Bermuda throughout the year?—Yes, I should say they were.

541. I believe there is one season of the year when there is a Bermuda fever?—I was fortunate enough not to be there at that time, but I have heard there is.

542. Are spirits given with the rations to the troops?—They were when we first went there, but they were discontinued.

543. Finding it affected the health of the troops?—I do not know. I rather think it was better for the troops to have that quantity, for many reasons.

544. For what reasons?—In the first place, we had so little fresh provisions; we only had fresh provisions twice a week, and the water is very bad at times. The system I adopted was to have spirits mixed under the officer's eye, and issued at dinner time, and then it prevented the men from going into the canteen between that and parade; and they were quite satisfied with that. It certainly prevented the men from going to the canteen during the day.

545. Are spirits not used to excess there?—Yes, and everywhere else, I am sorry to say.

546. Are spirits very cheap in Bermuda?—Yes, very cheap; cheaper than they are in the West Indies.

547. They are brought from the West Indies?—Yes.

548. Are the barracks very extensive there, and has the barrack-master very heavy duties to perform?—I should think, very; they are very extensive at St. George's and Ireland Island.

549. Quite sufficient to occupy one person?—Yes, and a great deal more so. Sometimes they cannot communicate; the communication is cut off between Ireland Island and St. George's.

550. Do you happen to know whether the duties of the storekeeper are very considerable

Col. *Wm. Smelt.*

7 April 1835.

considerable?—Yes, I think they are. He has charge of the naval stores as well as of the military stores.

551. Is it your opinion that it is possible for the same officer to perform the duties of storekeeper and of barrack-master?—No, I think not. I know the situation of barrack-master is a very difficult and arduous situation.

Captain *Sir Thomas Cochrane*, late Governor of Newfoundland, called in ;
and Examined.

Captain
Sir T. Cochrane.

552. YOU were for some time Governor of Newfoundland?—Yes.

553. When did you come home?—I returned home in the end of November last.

554. What was the amount of military force you had under your command?—The military force appropriated to the colony originally was three companies of veterans, (a veteran battalion, comprising three companies,) and a company of artillery.

555. Was that the amount of force you left there?—That was the nominal amount of force; but the number never was complete after the force was first sent out.

556. How long were you governor of Newfoundland?—I was governor nominally for near 10 years. I was actually there, with occasional leave of absence, nine years.

557. Can you inform the Committee whether it is practicable to make any reductions either in the military or civil departments of Newfoundland?—Certainly not in the military department; on the contrary, I think the military force at present there, as I have represented to the Government at different periods, inadequate to the proper performance of the regular garrison duty, and that it has fallen with undue severity upon those men who have been there. I think if the corps appropriated to Newfoundland were kept complete, they would be sufficient for the service required of them; but they have always been incomplete and inefficient, both in respect of the number and description of men.

558. What should be the number for the effective state of the corps?—The number for the effective state of the corps should be about 300 or 310, rank and file.

559. It appears that it is under 230?—Yes, it has been very low indeed. To give the men four nights in bed, which really is quite little enough in that rigorous climate, it requires 170 privates to give the proper relief; and supposing the corps complete, it will leave only 50 men for contingencies.

560. Are there any detached to different stations?—No, there are not; but it might become necessary to send a detachment to another district; and if so, the garrison, as now constituted, could not afford it. There are not men sufficient to do the regular garrison duty.

561. It appears from some evidence before the Committee, that there is a yacht kept for the use of the governor; do you consider it absolutely necessary that a yacht should be kept up, or so large a vessel as at present?—I think it is quite necessary that the vessel should be kept up. The size at present is not more than adequate for the purpose for which she is wanted. She is not wanted exclusively for the governor's use; she is required when necessary to send detachments of troops to different parts of the islands, and she should be able to carry them. She has also occasionally to go to Halifax for the mail, or in other services; she has had to go to England with despatches, and she has been sent to cruise when complaints have been made of the conduct of the French with respect to the fishery, and to prevent smuggling, and other duties. I do not think a smaller vessel would be sufficient. It was originally a question whether a man-of-war should be employed or a colonial vessel; and the Admiralty were very much averse, and I think with reason, to employing a man-of-war. The duties are irksome as well as troublesome, and the probabilities were that it would bring the governor and the captain of the man-of-war into conflict from his not being under his immediate command, and the service would not be as efficiently performed; and moreover, the expense of a man-of-war of the same description, or of that description which would be calculated for the service which the yacht has to perform, would be more than double that of the colonial vessel. I suggested to the Secretary of State there should be two colonial vessels, in which case the man-of-war which is annually sent there might be dispensed with, unless in some case of emergency;

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562. Is the yacht an armed vessel?—Yes, she is armed with eight small guns, and has 20 men altogether. In answer to the question, whether there is any possibility of reduction in the military establishment there, I am not aware of anything further, (particularly as I understand one commissariat officer has been reduced, and I think there was one more on that establishment than necessary,) excepting that it appears to me at present there is no necessity for a field officer of engineers there. I think a subaltern would answer the purpose. There are no works going on, and nothing for an officer to do.

563. You had a field officer, or captain, and a subaltern?—There is a field officer and a subaltern, no captain.

564. Are there any works going on now?—None whatever. There are works contemplated and planned, but I apprehend it will probably be a long period before they are undertaken.

565. Is Placentia in Newfoundland?—Yes, but that is an abandoned work.

Colonel *Thomas Burke*, called in ; and Examined.

566. YOU were for some time stationed at Newfoundland?—For seven years.

567. In what capacity?—I was commanding the troops there as senior officer.

568. At what period did you leave Newfoundland?—I left it in 1831.

569. What do you consider the amount of military force necessary for the duty of Newfoundland?—A little more than there is now. There are three companies of veterans now, but I never thought them sufficient ; the climate is so very severe I never thought them sufficient. I always thought there might be a fourth company there with advantage.

570. The climate during the winter is very severe upon the troops?—Very severe indeed.

571. They are chiefly veterans?—They are all veterans, except the artillery.

572. The troops receive their rations, do they not?—Yes, like the other troops of the army on foreign stations.

573. Do they receive spirits with their rations?—Yes.

574. Are they in general healthy?—They are. It is a very healthy place, but they drink too much ; rum is too cheap there. I have seen several brought to the hospital drunk, and die in an hour afterwards.

575. Are you aware of any reduction that can be made in the military staff attached to the government?—I am not aware that there may be any made. The staff is very small ; there are two engineers, two commissaries, and a fort major. There are no other officers.

576. What is the commandant of Newfoundland?—He commands the troops.

577. Were the two commissaries at Newfoundland when you were there?—There were three. One since that has been reduced.

578. Do you consider the two are necessary?—I believe so.

579. What have they to do beyond furnishing rations to the troops?—Nothing ; rations and pay to the troops. They formerly acted as treasurers for the issue of money, but they are not now so employed : a treasurer has been appointed by the legislative assembly.

580. Do you think that one commissary could not do all the duty?—I suppose he might ; I am not certain as to that.

581. Do you consider that a field officer of engineers might be removed, and the corps be left to the command of a junior officer?—If there are no works going on, then he might, but not otherwise.

582. Were there any works going on when you were there?—Not latterly.

Francis Robert Bonham, Esq., a Member of the Committee, Examined.

583. CAN you account for the amount of salary paid to Mr. Philips, storekeeper at Bermuda, amounting with allowances to 551 *l.* 4 *s.* 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* per annum?—Mr. Philips having been employed as storekeeper from the year 1798, is entitled to the highest salary of that rank ; having been appointed storekeeper at Bermuda in 1818, previous to the King's warrant of December 1825.

584. On his removal, what will his successor be entitled to?—His successor will be entitled to a salary of 250 *l.* per annum ; and whatever may be the length

Captain
Sr T. Cochrane.

7 April 1835.

Col. T. Burke.

F. R. Bonham, Esq.
M. P.

F. R. Bonham, Esq. of his services, the maximum of his increase will be 350*l.* In addition to that
M.P. Mr. Philips is entitled to 24*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* a year for horse-hire and travelling
 7 April 1835. expenses, by an old Ordnance regulation; and that warrant of 1825 entitles all
 storekeepers to a certain amount of travelling expenses. The allowances in fact
 for travelling expenses and servants are altogether 51*l.* 15*s.* That makes 511*l.*
 He has allowances in kind also; rations for himself and man servant.

Jovis, 9^o die Aprilis, 1835.

SIR JOHN BYNG, IN THE CHAIR.

Robert William Hay, Esq., again called in; and Examined.

R. W. Hay, Esq. 585. WHAT is the amount of force in Canada from the last returns we have in
 1834?—The amount of force in Canada appears to be 2,408 in the year 1834.

9 April 1835. 586. Can you give us the distribution of the forces?—I have a return from the
 Adjutant-general's office, made up to the end of March, and I now give it in.

[The Return was handed in.]

587. Have you the means of stating to the Committee the amount of forces
 kept up in the Canadas prior to 1816?—By a comparative return which I have
 before me, it appears that in 1792 there were 2,800 men in Canada, in the year
 1814 there were 16,288. The consolidated Return, which is already before the
 Committee, will furnish the number for subsequent years.

588. Does the command of the commander of the forces extend beyond the
 province?—Lord Aylmer, the commander of the forces, has command over the
 whole of the North American provinces.

589. And he is responsible for the proper distribution of forces?—No doubt
 he is.

590. What is the extent of frontier towards the United States?—I should
 suppose it must be nearly 1,000 miles.

591. What is the militia force in each province?—The militia force in the
 Lower province amounts to 94,000 men; that of the Upper, to 34,000 men.

592. Has any systematic plan been pursued for putting those provinces in
 a proper state of defence?—A military commission was appointed in 1825 for
 the purpose of inquiring into this matter; and a very full report on the subject was
 made to the Government by the engineer officers appointed to this duty.

593. Has that report been acted on to any considerable extent?—The com-
 missioners recommended that a citadel should be erected at Quebec; that certain
 works should be constructed at Point Henry at Kingston. The Rideau Canal,
 which forms a back military water communication between Lake Ontario and
 Montreal, formed part of the general plan for the defence of His Majesty's North
 American provinces.

594. Is the citadel at Quebec completed?—The citadel at Quebec is completed.

595. Did not the commissioners recommend the construction of a citadel at
 Montreal?—Yes, they did.

596. Has that been done?—It has not been done.

597. Is Kingston still kept up as a naval station?—It has been altogether
 abandoned as a naval station. The sum of 7,000*l.* is voted for fortifications there,
 in the ordnance estimates of this year.

598. Is the Rideau Canal now opened?—The Canal has been opened since the
 autumn of 1832.

599. Have you any return of the amount of tolls collected annually?—The
 amount of tolls between the 31st December 1832, and the same date 1833,
 amounted to 4,504*l.*

600. Were not the Indian tribes employed as allies in the wars of this country
 with the United States?—They were, in both the American wars.

601. Were they paid as soldiers, when so employed?—They received rations,
 but no pay, I believe.

602. Do they receive any pay or emolument in time of peace?—They receive
 no pay; but presents are issued to them annually.

R. W. Hay, Esq.

9 April 1835.

603. Of what do those presents consist?—Various articles of dress; clothes, blankets, needles, knives, tobacco, working utensils, beads, &c.

604. Has any attempt been made to substitute more useful articles?—It was at one time intended to commute the presents for money; but the governor of the province represented that such a plan would be extremely objected to. Since that time a certain quantity of implements of husbandry have been supplied in lieu of other presents: and this has been done with the view of improving their habits of life.

605. What is the salary and emolument of the present governor of Lower Canada?—The salary of Lord Aylmer at present is 4,500*l.* civil salary, and his staff pay as lieutenant-general, with allowances, amounting to nearly 2,000*l.* more. In 1832 he had the same allowance of civil salary, but his allowances as commander of the forces amounted to nearly 4,000*l.*; so that he has suffered a reduction lately of nearly 2,000*l.* a year.

606. What is the salary and emolument of the lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada?—Sir John Colborne, the present governor of Upper Canada, has 3,500*l.* a year as civil salary; he enjoyed, until the year 1834, 3,000*l.* a year civil salary, and his staff pay as major-general. It is not intended that the salary of his successor shall be more than 3,000*l.* a year.

607. Altogether?—Altogether.

608. What was the salary of their immediate predecessors?—Sir Peregrine Maitland had 3,000*l.* a year and his staff pay as major-general.

609. That is in Upper Canada?—Yes. Sir James Kempt, in the Lower province, had the same pay as Lord Aylmer, when he first took the command.

610. From what fund are the civil allowances paid?—The civil salary of the commander of the forces was, until 1832, paid from the proceeds of certain duties levied under the Act of 14 Geo. 3. When those duties were given up to the Assembly, it was expected that a civil list would be granted, from which this salary would have been paid. This not being acceded to by the Assembly, Lord Aylmer was directed to charge his salary on the land and timber fund. In point of fact, however, the Assembly having refused to pass any supply bill, Lord Aylmer has only been enabled to receive a proportion of his salary from the funds which are at the disposal of the Crown; the deficiency for the year 1833 was last year ordered to be made up from the military chest. In the Upper province, Sir John Colborne's salary is paid from the casual and territorial revenue.

611. What is the amount of the revenue of each province?—The revenue of Lower Canada amounts to about 130,000*l.* per annum; that of the Upper province to something between 70,000*l.* and 80,000*l.* per annum.

612. Have those revenues increased much within the last 10 years?—They have been in a course of progressive increase until lately.

613. What is the population of Lower Canada?—By the returns of 1833, the population of the Lower province is 368,449; that of the Upper province, of the same year, 296,544.

614. Is there any reduction contemplated by the Colonial Office in Canada?—I am not aware of any being in contemplation.

615. The appointment of governor and lieutenant-general, held by Major-general Strutt and Lieutenant-general Dilkes, will cease at the expiration of their lives?—Yes; they belong to the class of non-effective garrison appointments, and will not be renewed after the death of the present holders.

616. What is the sum allowed to the commander of the forces in America?—Lord Aylmer at present enjoys 4,500*l.* per annum civil salary, and allowances amounting to nearly 2,000*l.* per annum, as I have already stated.

617. Have you a return of the military appointments, corrected up to this period?—I have it as far as the names of the parties are concerned and their appointments; but it is not perfect with regard to their pay and allowances.

618. Will you give in a return as nearly as you can furnish it?—I will endeavour to have it prepared in sufficient time for the next meeting of the Committee.

619. With regard to the militia of the Lower and Upper provinces, I wish to ask if they are armed, clothed and available for service, if wanted?—They are not armed; but there are ample stores in the colony, from which they can be furnished with arms and accoutrements in case of emergency. They muster only one day in the year; they have no clothing.

620. In fact the militia is nothing more than the registration of able-bodied men,

44 MINUTES OF EVIDENCE BEFORE SELECT COMMITTEE

R. W. Hay, Esq.
9 April 1835.

men, who might be called out if wanted?—Yes, of all men between the ages of 18 and 60.

621. The arms which are in store, are they in stores where it would be possible to issue them at once to the different corps of militia throughout the provinces?—I take it they are in different depôts, in charge of the ordnance.

622. But not all kept in Quebec?—No; there are some also at Montreal and Kingston.

623. Is there clothing in store?—I do not know.

624. Are there muskets sufficient in store to arm the whole of their militia?—I apprehend there are only arms for a small body. It seems that in the Upper province the lieutenant-governor has commenced a plan of arming and training one company of each regiment, with the hope of creating an effective force of 4,000 or 5,000 men in case of emergency.

625. One company in each regiment, or one company altogether?—One company in each battalion.

626. Not each company in succession, but only one company?—One company in each regiment.

627. Then there is no portion whatever of the militia clothed, armed and regularly called out every year?—No, there is not.

628. Is the population enrolled in the militia so scattered as that they could not be easily brought together?—I imagine it would be impossible to collect them in a short time.

629. Would it be possible to collect them for the purpose of training once every year?—They are very unwilling to be taken from their farms and their own occupations. They have by law only one training day in the year.

630. Is there any other information you can give to the Committee respecting the Canadas?—I am not aware that there is any.

631. Do you consider that any reduction in the military expenditure can be made in the Canadas?—I think it will be found, when the Committee have examined the amended Return, that as much has been done in that way as is practicable.

Mercurii, 8^o die Julii, 1835.

ROBERT GORDON, ESQUIRE, IN THE CHAIR.

The Right Honourable General Sir *James Kempt*, called in; and Examined.

Rt. Hon. General
Sir *James Kempt*.
8 July 1835.

632. HAVING heard the evidence of Mr. Hay read, have you any observation with which you would be kind enough to favour the Committee, relative to the military stations in Canada, and of any reduction which may in your opinion take place?—It does not strike me that there is any material reduction that could take place. I concur in the evidence which Mr. Hay has given the Committee; he appears to me to have a correct knowledge of the country and of the present state of Canada. I can state from my own knowledge, that every Government for the last 10 years have been anxious to reduce the military expenditure of Canada, by abolishing, when practicable, staff appointments, or diminishing the regular force; considerable reductions have in fact taken place from time to time, and I am not aware that the present military establishments in Canada can be reduced in any material degree. Indeed, the regular force now in that colony is, I believe, less by several hundred men than it was in 1792, a year frequently referred to in Parliament, when the military establishments of the country come under its consideration.

633. Has it ever appeared to you that the militia force in Canada might be rendered more efficient, and by being rendered more efficient, that the military establishments and the regular army might with safety be diminished in number?

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—Canada is very peculiarly circumstanced; it has a most extensive frontier to the United States of America, open in every point, and is for six months in the year without any direct communication with England. I am of opinion, that even if a considerable portion of the militia were rendered efficient, the small regular force now in Canada would nevertheless be necessary to support and give confidence to the militia of the colony. There are large depôts of military stores to protect in Canada, and there ought to be at all times in the country a regular military force sufficient for the protection of the town and citadel of Quebec, the only stronghold in the Canadas at present.

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634. Does the plan that has lately been introduced into the Upper provinces, of training one company of each battalion of militia, meet with your approbation?—Perfectly; I believe training any portion of the militia under the authority of the Government is a judicious measure, and one which ought to be encouraged as much as possible.

635. Would you be induced to extend that same plan into the Lower provinces?—Unquestionably. In administering the government of Lower Canada, I did everything in my power to induce the legislature to pass an effective militia law; such as to afford the governor, at all times, the means of having a few thousand efficient militia in the event of any emergency; and I at one time entertained a hope that such a law would have been passed, it was thrown out however by the House of Assembly. The militia is a very formidable body upon paper, it consisting of the whole male population of the province between 18 and 60 years of age; but it cannot in its present state be considered a military force, for the existing law only requires that the companies shall be mustered once a year; and they are not trained in any way, or armed, or clothed, in time of peace.

636. Do you consider that the completion of the military works that have been constructed and are now constructing for the defence of Canada, when completed, will justify the diminution of the regular force of Canada?—I do not; I think the only works in progress at present are those at Kingstown, and when they are finished it will require the small number of troops that are stationed there for their protection.

637. So far from the military works, when completed, justifying the diminution of military force, you think that military force will be required to protect them?—Undoubtedly; these works are intended to cover our depôts, to keep up our communication, and to render the defence of the country more easy in time of war.

638. Look at the Return of the distribution of the forces, and see whether you think that in the detail any diminution could take place?—[The Witness looked over the Return.] The distribution is nearly the same as when I commanded in the Canadas, and is such as I approved of at the time; I am not of opinion that any material alterations can be made in it.

639. I think you gave an opinion just now, that the works at Canada did not tend to lessen the number of troops there?—The few military works in Canada will render a less number of troops necessary for the defence of the country in time of war; but they cannot be left unprotected in time of peace. Quebec is, in fact, the only place of strength in the Canadas.

640. Do you think the employment of an extra battalion more or less, could have any effect in regard to the question of peace and war in the United States of America?—Certainly not; if America was disposed to go to war, one additional battalion in Canada would, I apprehend, not prevent her doing so.

641. Suppose a question to arise between us and the United States of America, with regard to the boundary, would an extra battalion have any effect whatever in settling that question?—Certainly not in settling that question; but the officer commanding in New Brunswick would require the assistance of all the regular troops that could be sent him, to support the militia of that province; and the extra battalion would, I apprehend, be placed under his orders.

642. Would not that question, in a time of peace, be rather a question of negotiation than a question of opposition?—It is a question which will I trust be settled by negotiation between His Majesty's Government and the government of the United States of America. But the inhabitants of the State of Maine have shown a disposition to make inroads into the disputed territory, and the officer commanding in New Brunswick ought to have the means of repelling any attempt of that kind.

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643. What is your opinion with regard to the enlistment of emigrants who go out of this country; do you think it possible to enlist a number of emigrants, who are disappointed in their views of emigration?—The regiments do enlist men in Canada, whenever they are under their establishments; and any man who offers himself at the head-quarters is taken as a recruit, if fit for the service.

644. Do you think any great number of men could be raised for colonial service among these men?—No; they go out with a view of settling in the country and becoming farmers, and I do not think they are a good description of persons to enlist from.

645. Is it not the fact that a number of men go from England and are disappointed in their views of obtaining employment, and in consequence of not obtaining employment go over to the United States?—A great many go to the United States by way of Canada; I have no correct information with regard to the exact number, but I believe a considerable number do pass on to the United States.

646. Do you think it impossible to obtain a sufficient number of men of that description, English, British subjects, to form a colonial corps?—There would be no difficulty in forming a colonial corps in Canada, but it is a measure which I do not recommend; the military force kept in Canada ought, in my opinion, to be of the very best description of troops.

647. Do you think the class of persons that pass out from Canada to the United States, would prefer forming themselves into a colonial force in Canada, to going into the United States for the purpose of settlement?—No, I do not.

648. Do you see any objection in a military point of view to the employment of such a force, if it could be obtained?—The objection which I have to the employment of such a force is, that it would be very inferior to an equal number of troops of the line, and equally expensive to maintain. I fear that the officers and men, by being fixed in Canada, would become so connected with the people of the country, as to engage in occupations which would unfit them for their military duties; and as I observed before, the small force that is kept in Canada, in my humble judgment, ought to be of the very best description.

649. Do you think that, in such a force, the description of officers would be of an inferior kind?—I have no doubt that such would be the case; and considering the great extent of our foreign possessions, the whole British army ought to be for general service, and of the most efficient description, and be at all times kept in the highest state of discipline. It may frequently be necessary to withdraw a portion of the troops from one colony to render assistance in another, according to the emergencies of the service, and at a very short notice.

650. There would be no difficulty in removing them from one part of the province to the other, so as to get rid of the local prejudices?—None whatever in removing them from one part of the province to another. There were several fencible corps raised in the North American provinces during the last war, but they were very inferior to the regular regiments of the line, and equally expensive.

651. And would there not be a less degree of confidence?—Yes. The militia of the colony, when embodied, would have a much greater degree of confidence in regular troops, than in any other description of force: a certain portion of regular troops are as necessary in Canada, as the King's regiments are required in India, to support the native army of the East India Company.

652. Looking at their employment in time of peace, as a peace question, do you not think they would be sufficient for any purpose of the colonies in time of peace?—Colonial troops would be competent to perform the duties in time of peace; but as I before stated, they would be fully as expensive as troops of the line, and infinitely inferior to them in all respects. Quebec is now a very important fortress, and the small military force that is kept in Canada (now less than it was in 1792) ought to be of the very best description, and sufficient to protect it.

653. Are the troops in Canada at all employed in matters of police?—No; but a few are employed as guards on public gaols.

654. Are they employed in matters of police, in those situations in which common police are employed in this country?—No.

655. My question applies to the guarding of gaols?—The two principal gaols in Lower Canada are at Quebec and Montreal, and they have each a small military guard for their protection, to prevent the escape of prisoners; but the military have no charge of the persons confined in them, nor anything whatever to do with the interior management of the prisons.

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656. Are not felons confined in those gaols?—There are; turnkeys take care of them.

657. Are the troops not employed, to some extent, in performing those services which are in this country performed by the police?—No. The guards at the gaols are only employed in the manner I have before mentioned; but they have nothing to do with the internal police of the town. The military are liable (as in this country) to be called out by the civil authorities to quell riots.

658. In point of fact, men are employed in Canada in performing duties at a gaol, in which the military are not employed in this country?—Only as I have mentioned. In this country the gaols have, I believe, no military protection; a small non-commissioned officer's guard mounts daily at the two principal prisons in Lower Canada.

659. Is that owing to the comparative insecurity of the gaols?—Yes.

660. Might not those gaols be so improved as not to require a military guard?—Certainly; but the civil authorities of the country would, I think, nevertheless consider a small military guard necessary to prevent the escape of prisoners, I believe that in all the colonies such protection is afforded.

661. Would it not be very desirable that the gaols should be improved, so that it would not be necessary that they should be employed there?—The officers in the command of the troops are always desirous of diminishing as much as possible the military duties.

662. Was it ever brought under your consideration when you were there, whether it would not be more expedient to render the gaols stronger, and thereby to relieve the soldiers from the necessity of guarding them?—The improvement of the prisons at Quebec and Montreal was a subject which I brought under the notice of the legislature, and at my recommendation considerable sums of money were voted for that purpose.

663. In consequence of the sums of money being voted, did any reduction take place in the amount of troops required for the safe keeping of persons?—No. I think the gaol at Montreal was under repair when I left Canada; but a small guard, consisting of a sergeant and 12 men (to afford three or four sentries), will still be considered necessary.

664. At each gaol?—Yes; one at Montreal, and another at Quebec.

665. Do you not think gaols might be made sufficiently secure without the employment of troops?—Unquestionably they might.

666. Are they at present sufficiently secure?—I should say not, for prisoners did in fact escape both from the gaol at Montreal and Quebec when I was in Canada.

667. Do you think something ought to be done to prevent soldiers being employed in that service?—I think any measure that can diminish the extent of military duty is very desirable.

668. Would not that diminish it, so far as it goes?—The small guards that are attached to these two gaols at Montreal and Quebec would be saved by it.

669. Suppose a number of prisoners were obliged to be removed from one place to another, would a military guard be required?—I have no recollection of any thing of the kind happening. If the civil power made a requisition to the military authorities, that any number of men were indispensably necessary to remove prisoners, no doubt such demand would be complied with, but I do not recollect any such request being made while I was in Canada.

670. Is it the custom to call out a military guard at Quebec, in case of common disturbances in the town?—No.

671. Nor in such cases as police would be able to manage here?—No such thing took place during the time I commanded in Canada.

672. Even if the troops were not to do duty at the gaols, do you think it would be expedient to reduce the present force?—I think it would be highly injudicious, for the reasons which I have before stated, to reduce in any way the number of troops now serving in Canada. It might be possible to take away one battalion, if a certain portion of the militia were regularly trained and always kept in an efficient state; but withdrawing any portion of the regular force now in Canada would, in my opinion, have a bad moral effect, and induce His Majesty's Canadian subjects to think that Great Britain attached less importance to the colony than formerly.

673. I think you said that, although keeping on the establishment a regiment
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more or less, might not affect the general question of peace or war, still I suppose, if the reduction was carried below that point, below 2,400 men, which I think you stated as the amount of English in that country, might not that appear to betray a sort of weakness on the part of England?—I think it might have that effect.

674. Do you consider the troops necessary merely as a defence against the United States, and not as requisite for the internal peace of the country?—When I was in Canada, troops were not absolutely necessary to preserve the internal peace of the country; but in the position in which Canada is placed with respect to the United States, and seeing that there are very considerable depôts of military stores in the colony, and a fortress to protect, the force now there is highly necessary in my opinion.

675. You have said, that on account of the extent of frontier which you have to defend, that you consider that force requisite; and you afterwards said, you considered there were only troops requisite to defend the single garrison that exists there; explain that answer?—The extent of frontier was only alluded to, to show the facility of entering Canada from the United States; and having built, at great expense, a fortress to uphold our dominion in that part of the world, the colony ought not to be left so destitute of troops, as not to have the means of protecting it, in the event of any sudden invasion from the United States.

676. For the protection of the garrison, to prevent a surprise?—Yes.

677. Are you aware that the militia was called out and organized during the war with the United States?—Yes, a certain portion were called out.

678. When was that organization allowed to drop?—I suppose after the conclusion of the war; the training ceased, and the arms were returned into store.

679. Do you mean to say that, during the whole time you were in the country, the militia were not organized?—During my administration of the government of Lower Canada, I formed the militia into companies and battalions; but, as I before stated, they are totally inefficient as a military body; they can only by law be called out for muster in their respective parishes once a year, and are not trained to arms, or clothed.

680. Do you not consider that it would be more important to have an effective militia there, the same as they have in the United States, instead of trusting to 2,000 British troops?—It would be very desirable to have a well-regulated efficient militia force in Canada; but the British troops now there would still be necessary, in my opinion.

681. Do you consider that 2,400 British troops are now sufficient to protect the country, in the view you take of it, without an organized militia?—In the event of a war with the United States, the country can only be defended by a very considerable military force of regular troops and well-trained efficient militia; in such a case, the Canadians will, I have no doubt, evince the same loyalty and spirit that they did during the last war.

682. Did you represent to the Government at home here the necessity of organizing a militia?—I represented the total inefficiency of the militia force, and the Government were exceedingly anxious to have it placed upon a good footing.

683. Would the permanent organization of a militia force be a popular measure among them?—The militia is formed into battalions and companies, and is a formidable body upon paper, but the men are not in any way trained to arms, the law only allowing the governor to call them out for muster in their parishes one day in each year. The Canadians have a great desire to become officers of militia, but frequent trainings, such as would be necessary to render it an efficient force, would be an unpopular measure in time of peace: to that cause do I attribute the failure in the House of Assembly of the plan which I recommended for the improvement of the militia.

684. Did you allude to the present state of the representation, where 67 out of the 72 are in opposition to Government; did you allude to the state of the country as rendering it dangerous to leave it entirely to a militia?—In the present state of Lower Canada it would certainly be injudicious to put arms into the hands of the militia; and at no time should the colony be left for its protection entirely to a militia force, in my humble opinion.

685. Was the question of the expense of the payment of the troops ever yet under the consideration of the legislature in Canada?—Never; it would be quite hopeless to expect they would undertake such a charge.

686. For what reason?—Because they look to Great Britain to protect them.

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687. Do you not think it equitable and fair that the expense should fall on Canada?—I think it but fair that Canada and all the colonies should do so, as far as their ability goes; but I think it very unlikely that the House of Assembly would vote any money to pay the regular troops, even if the revenue of the colony would admit of it; it is almost altogether derived from custom-house duties, and every part of the revenue, not deemed indispensably necessary to defray the expenses of the civil government, is appropriated by the legislature to a variety of local objects connected with the improvement of the country; such as roads and bridges, building and improving gaols and court-houses, maintaining charitable institutions, &c. If the money thus appropriated were applied to the payment of the troops, the legislature would have to impose direct taxes upon the people for all the above services. There are no county assessments in Lower Canada, for any purpose whatever.

688. Supposing the question were put to them, either you must pay these troops or raise a militia to take care of your defence, would there be any difficulty in getting money from them?—I think there would; and it would be a very imprudent communication to make to the legislature, in my opinion.

689. You are aware the British troops in India are paid by the country?—Yes.

690. Ought not the same principle to apply in the one case as the other, considering the advantages Canada enjoys?—I should say so, were the two countries similarly circumstanced; for (as I before stated) I think colonies should defray the expenses for their defence, when they are able to do so; but India is an immense empire with a great revenue capable of maintaining an army for its defence, and that revenue is at the sole disposal of the East India Company: Canada, on the contrary, has a small revenue (nt the disposal of the colonial legislature), and I feel satisfied that the House of Assembly will never impose taxes for the payment of the King's troops in the colony.

691. During the time you remained there was any proposition made by the colony to raise two regiments, provided they were allowed to officer them themselves?—No.

692. Were no applications made to you to obtain commissions for the sons of the principal landed proprietors?—No such applications were made to me: if such had been made to me by any individual of that description, for a commission, I should certainly have forwarded it to the Commander-in-chief in England, and recommended it in the strongest manner to his favourable consideration. I may observe, there were several Canadian officers who distinguished themselves during the last war, particularly Colonel de Salabery.

693. Do you consider the number of artillery and engineers there merely the proportion which the number of the regiments of the line would require for ordinary service?—Considering we have an important fortress in Canada and works in progress, I consider the number of artillery and engineers now there necessary for the general service of the provinces.

694. Will you turn your attention to the Return which has been placed before you, page 37?—The two first in the list are sinecure appointments, viz. the governor and lieutenant-governor of Quebec, and will cease with the present possessors; all the others are necessary appointments, and have duties to perform.

695. Does it appear to you it would be advisable to diminish the number or the expenditure of any of those other appointments which are attached to the garrison of Quebec?—No, there are only two, viz. the town-major and the town-sergeant, and they are necessary for carrying on the duties of the garrison.

696. What is your opinion with regard to the military staff in that Return?—I am not aware that any reduction can be made in the military staff. The regimental officers who may happen to command the troops at Amherstburg, Penetanguishone, and several other small posts in Upper Canada, have a small allowance, charged as staff pay, to cover extra expenses to which they are subjected in the command. The town-major at Montreal is fully occupied with the duties of the garrison, and performs, in addition thereto, the duties of the quartermaster-general's department at Montreal, since the reduction of the assistant quartermaster-general who was stationed there.

697. Will you look at Fort George: you will see there are five individuals put down there as commandants; will you explain how that happens?—There must have

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have been five different commandants in the course of the year; the senior regimental officer for the time being is the commandant.

698. Then in fact you consider that that amount of 1,549*l.* for garrison staff-pay as necessary?—I do.

699. With reference to the military staff, amounting altogether to 6,325*l.*, do you consider the whole of that necessary?—The deputy adjutant-general and the deputy quartermaster-general are stationed at head quarters, to conduct the duties of those departments throughout the command: a general officer I think indispensably necessary, and also the other staff officers included in the list.

700. I observe there are three majors of brigade here?—There were three at that period acting, I presume.

701. Do you consider three aid de-camps necessary?—Lord Aylmer was entitled to three aid-de-camps as commander of the forces; as lieutenant-general of the staff, he is only entitled to two.

702. As major-general, how many would he be entitled to?—One.

703. What will be the reduction of the other staff officers, if the commander was a major-general instead of a lieutenant-general?—No reduction whatever; because the deputy adjutant-general and the deputy quartermaster-general are necessary to conduct the duties of their respective departments, whatever may be the rank of the officer in command.

704. Would not the commissariat allowances to Lord Aylmer of 567*l.* be reduced considerably?—Every officer of the staff gets forage for horses, and other allowances according to his rank, by War-office regulation; and a major-general receives less than a lieutenant-general, and a lieutenant-general less than a commander of the forces.

705. I observe there are five chaplains: are those five chaplains independent of the chaplains attached to the regiment; are they merely garrison chaplains?—I believe there is only one army chaplain now in Canada. I presume the persons stated to be chaplains, are the clergymen who may happen to perform divine service to the troops at the different stations.

706. Who is the chaplain?—Dr. Mills.

707. Does he not reside on the spot?—Yes, and performs the duties.

708. And does he draw the whole allowance, viz. 135*l.*?—I presume he draws the allowance to which he is entitled by the War-office regulations.

709. Where do the other chaplains reside?—Wherever troops are stationed the clergyman of the parish performs divine service to them, and the other duties of a chaplain, and receives an allowance according to War-office regulations.

710. If you turn over the page to 38, you will see "allowance to clergymen for performing divine service to the troops, 375*l.*," exclusive of that; also clerk to the chaplain?—I can afford the Committee no other explanation on that head than what I have already given.

711. Can you give any information to the Committee with regard to the medical staff?—The medical staff was so much reduced when I was in Canada that I was under the necessity of representing the necessity of sending out an additional assistant-surgeon, which application however was not complied with at home, the establishment voted by Parliament not admitting of it. The medical staff is, I believe, as low as it possibly can be.

712. Did you ever make any representations as to the necessity of reducing the military establishments, while you were in Canada?—No: I made minute inquiry into the business transacted by the different departments, and I satisfied myself at the time that none were kept upon the establishment except those that were necessary to transact the military duties of the command.

713. Did it ever occur to you that any consolidation could take place in any of the establishments by which a saving could take place: are the duties of the military secretary's department entirely distinct from the duties of the deputy adjutant-general and the deputy quartermaster-general?—The military secretary has most extensive duties to perform, and they are entirely distinct from those which the deputy adjutant-general and the deputy quartermaster-general have to perform. A consolidation of the military departments never came under my consideration; my attention was not called to it from home.

714. What are the duties of the military secretary, as contradistinguished from the duties of the adjutant-general?—Almost all the military correspondence passes through the hands of the military secretary, both with the Treasury, the War Office, and the Horse Guards, in England, and with the commissariat and the
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other departments in Canada; all matters regarding finance and allowances, estimates and contracts, requiring the approval of the general commanding, and letters on a great variety of subjects, which are constantly occurring, are submitted by the military secretary to the general, and his decisions are communicated by him to the parties concerned. The deputy adjutant-general's duties are confined to the promulgation of general orders, and to all matters touching the discipline of the troops, to their arming and equipment: on all these points he communicates personally with the general, and receives orders direct from him. The persons employed in the military secretary's office were very fully occupied when I was in Canada.

715. Is it your opinion the two departments of adjutant-general and quartermaster-general could not be consolidated or abolished, and the duties performed by the military secretary, seeing that the commander-in-chief has got three aid-de-camps?—The highest military authorities in this country have always had the greatest objection to blending the departments of the army; but in time of peace one chief might certainly conduct the business of the adjutant-general and quartermaster-general's department, with proper assistance.

716. Can you give us any information relative to the storkeeper's department?—There are several ordnance storekeepers in Canada, but no storkeeper's department.

717. Will you state for what purpose a coxswain and boat's crew are maintained for the general commanding, and sometimes one also for the quartermaster-general?—The quartermaster-general has a boat's crew to afford him the means of boarding vessels, and superintending embarkations and disembarkations; but I had very little use for a boat's crew, in fact I had none, when I was in Canada.

718. Can you give us any information relative to the commissariat department?—I was desired by the Government at home to make every practicable reduction in the commissariat, and I made minute inquiry into the nature and extent of the duties which the department then performed, particularly at Quebec, the headquarters, and the result was an impression that no reduction of any moment could then have been effected. The commissary-general has very extensive and responsible duties to perform, which require his unremitting attention; the military chest is under his charge, and the public expenditure of every kind (except the payments from the colonial revenue) passes through his hands. I found the accounts kept in Canada very voluminous, although they are transmitted to England in a very short and comprehensive form; and it is chiefly to keep them that so many persons are employed in the commissariat, for the issues of provisions to the troops is a very minor affair in Canada. As a matter of economy, deputy assistant-commissaries were kept on full pay to do the duties of clerks, under a Treasury minute; the pay of the latter being 7*s.* 6*d.* a day, while the difference between full and half pay of the officer is only 5*s.* The public by this arrangement saved 2*s.* 6*d.* per day on each individual: but as the expenditure in the Canadas has, I believe, been considerably reduced since I quitted the command, I apprehend that the commissariat department has also been in a corresponding degree reduced.

719. In addition to the storekeepers for the ordnance department enumerated here, is there also a storekeeper for the naval department?—None whatever, I believe.

720. Look at the Return of the commissariat department, there appears to be one commissary for every 10 men?—It may be so; but it is not in issuing provisions, but in keeping accounts, making payments, and purchasing whatever may be required by the public departments in the colony, that the commissariat were chiefly employed in Canada when I commanded there; and the forms required to be observed by the regulations of the Treasury occasioned much additional trouble.

721. Is it the duty of the commissary to purchase provisions and provide for the troops?—Yes, everything is purchased by him.

722. Is it done by contract?—All by public contract.

723. Where there are small bodies of 15, 20 or 40 men, do you consider it necessary that a commissary should be there: if a contract is entered into, would not a quartermaster-sergeant, or some such individual, be capable of receiving the rations from the contractor?—I believe there are very few such stations. An officer is, I apprehend, not necessary for the sole purpose of examining and issuing rations at small posts of that description; and under a different system of account, I should think that the number of persons employed may be diminished.

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724. It appears by the Returns that there are 40 men at Penetanguishone, and yet there are two deputy commissary-generals, at an expense of 273*l.* and 223*l.*; there is an issuer and a labourer at 79*l.*; making a total of 650*l.* for the mere commissariat: how can they be employed?—Penetanguishone is now the great depôt in Upper Canada, from whence presents are issued to the Indians; but that will not justify, in my opinion, keeping permanently there so great a commissariat establishment. The presents are issued at one period of the year, and I should think may be sent up annually.

725. Is there not a fixed quantity of stores given out each year to the Indians?—Yes, the presents are issued to the Indians under fixed regulations; but I may mention, that every pains has been taken of late years to reduce the expense of the Indian department, and to induce the different tribes to conform to the usages of civilized life, and to become farmers. Implements of husbandry and seeds have been in many instances issued to them with that view, in lieu of the usual presents.

726. Is there not a considerable force, and some officers appointed generally to superintend that department?—Yes.

727. Then if that is done annually, and the stores forwarded at that time, what use would there be for maintaining so large an establishment for a depôt?—There was no such establishment at Penetanguishone when I was in Canada, and I see no necessity for maintaining so large a one permanently there, as I before stated.

728. I think you stated in your evidence that you were commander-in-chief of Nova Scotia as well as Canada?—As commander of the forces, I commanded in both provinces.

729. Were you in the habit of passing any time in Nova Scotia?—I administered the government of Nova Scotia for eight years.

730. It appears, according to this Return, that the force in Nova Scotia and its dependencies, exclusive of Newfoundland, amounts to 2,036 men, rank and file; is it your opinion, from your long acquaintance with that colony and its dependencies, that that number of troops is absolutely necessary to be kept up there?—It is absolutely necessary, in my opinion, to have a respectable force of regular troops in that part of North America. New Brunswick is in the Nova Scotia command; and in the present unsettled state of the boundary question, I consider the number of troops now there indispensably necessary.

731. Having reference to the United States alone?—Yes.

732. Is there any militia force in Nova Scotia?—There is, and it is on a better footing than the militia of Canada; they have three days training in the year, and some of the regiments make a good appearance.

733. Do you speak generally, or of any particular district?—Throughout the province of Nova Scotia the militia force is upon a much better footing than in Canada.

734. Is it your opinion that the militia could and ought to be made more effective in Nova Scotia?—I think it exceedingly desirable, situated as our North American colonies are, in the immediate vicinity of the United States, that a certain portion of the militia in each province should be well trained to arms, and always kept in a state of efficiency.

735. Do you think if the militia of Nova Scotia and its dependencies were rendered effective, still it would be necessary to keep up the amount of regular British troops to the extent of 2,036 men?—Not to that extent; but a certain portion of regular troops would nevertheless be necessary, in my opinion, to support the militia; and under existing circumstances, I think the number of troops now there indispensably necessary. Great Britain has always afforded her North American colonies, even in time of peace, a certain number of troops for their protection; and were they to be withdrawn, or any considerable portion of them, I fear it would have (as I before stated) a very bad moral effect, and tend to weaken the attachment of the colonists to the mother country. Halifax is an important naval station, with a dock-yard and arsenal; the only one indeed which we have on the coast of America; and to preserve it is an object of great national importance, in my humble opinion.

736. Supposing the case of a contemplated rupture between this country and America, would there not be as much time afforded to us to send troops to Halifax, as there would be to the United States to attack it?—On the contrary, were the regular troops to be withdrawn entirely from Halifax, which is the head-quarters of the Nova Scotia command, it might be in the power of America, on a declaration

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of war, suddenly to embark a force at Boston, land near to Halifax in 48 hours, and to destroy the dock-yard by a *coup de main*.

737. What force of regular troops has the United States?—I do not know the exact number; but the destruction of our only naval station in North America would be so popular a service, that volunteers from the militia would in all probability be employed, as well as regular troops, to augment the attacking force.

738. Would not the militia of Nova Scotia be equally ready to come to the assistance of the garrison, as the militia of the United States to attack it?—Undoubtedly.

739. Looking at America as a great state, and looking at her complicated interests with this country, do you think it likely, or within the range of probability, that she would send a number of troops to Nova Scotia, without this country being aware of her intention so to do?—Upper Canada was invaded by the Americans at the commencement of the last war, when we were little prepared for it; and it can only be by a sudden attack (unexpected on our part) that they can hope to get possession of Halifax.

740. Suppose there were any division between this country and America, would there not be sufficient time to reinforce these garrisons of Nova Scotia and Canada pending these negotiations?—It appears to me reasonable to suppose that there would be sufficient time to send out a force from this country, to Halifax particularly.

741. Do you think it right to maintain a force in this country so large, for the purpose of meeting such a contingency?—Yes, I do, for the reasons which I have stated.

742. You mentioned that troops could be embarked from Boston; are you not aware that almost four-fifths of the regular troops of the United States are to the westward of that frontier, and not on the sea coast?—I am not aware of that circumstance. Previously to my leaving Canada the Americans sent a considerable body of regular troops near to the frontier of the State of Maine; I think about 1,200 men.

743. Were they regulars or militia?—Regulars, under a general officer.

744. Was not there at that time a disposition on the part of the inhabitants of the State of Maine to take possession of the district then disputed, and were not those regular troops sent to maintain peace?—Ostensibly, perhaps, to maintain peace; but I believe, to support the militia of the State of Maine was the real cause of their being sent there.

745. You are aware that a regiment was withdrawn from Nova Scotia for the period of a year?—I believe so, but not when I commanded there.

746. Are you aware of any inconvenience being suffered at Nova Scotia in consequence of the removal of that regiment?—No.

747. Do you know Annapolis?—Yes, it is a small post on the western coast of Nova Scotia. It was formerly the capital of the province, and a place of some strength, having a strong fort, which is now in ruins. There are in fact no regular fortresses or places of strength within the command. A citadel for the protection of Halifax is now constructing, but will not be finished for some years to come.

748. Do you consider the establishments at present maintained in Nova Scotia more than adequate to the performance of the duties required, and that it is in proportion to the establishment in Canada?—I consider them necessary for the performance of the duties required.

749. Are you acquainted with the post of York?—York is a small redoubt at the entrance of the harbour of Halifax, and a signal station from whence all vessels entering the harbour are hailed.

750. Is it necessary to keep that up?—Certainly.

751. There is Fredericctown, where there are 275 troops maintained; where is that situated?—It is the capital of New Brunswick, and where the legislature meet.

752. Is there any fort there?—None whatever.

753. It appears that in the number of men maintained in Canada and maintained in Nova Scotia, there is not a difference of more than 300 or 400 men; and yet it appears by the Returns that the difference in the whole commissariat of Nova Scotia is 4,930*l.*, whereas at Canada it amounts to 15,610*l.*: can you explain to the Committee the reason why there is so great a disproportion in the expense of the two commissariats for an army of nearly the same amount?—The only explanation I can give the Committee is, that the establishment of the commissariat

Rt. Hon. General
Sir James Kempt.

8 July 1835.

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depends very much on the amount of the expenditure in the colony: voluminous accounts are necessary to be kept in Canada, and I apprehend the great disproportion in the expense is owing to that circumstance.

754. But taking the number of troops to be the same, would not, in ordinary circumstances, the number of commissaries be nearly the same?—Undoubtedly; but it is the number of stations in Canada as compared to Nova Scotia, and the disproportion in the military expenditure, that gives rise to the increase of establishment in the former colony.

755. The same remark applies to the medical expenditure; can you account for that? In the one case, for Canada, the medical staff pay is 2,654 *l.*, and for Nova Scotia it is 1,530 *l.*; can you account for the difference?—It is owing to the number of military stations in Canada being much greater than in Nova Scotia.

756. The same number of troops are distributed into a greater number of quarters?—Yes.

757. During the time the militia of Lower Canada was called out at the war, were they not very effective and essentially useful to the defence of the country?—I was not in Canada during the war, at least only at the termination of it for a few months. I understood that the Canadian militia evinced great loyalty and spirit when called out; and that the portion of them that fought against the enemy in the field under Colonel de Salabery (an officer who had served in the British army), distinguished themselves very much.

758. You know of no reason why they should not be as efficient as the United States militia?—None whatever.

759. Is not the present force too great for peace and too small for war?—Considering the present state of Canada, the extent of its frontier, and the other circumstances to which I have before alluded in my evidence, I consider the present force not more than is necessary in time of peace, and much too small for a period of war.

760. Do you consider that those troops that you now require could at all keep the field against the Americans if they invaded that country, which they would not be disposed to do unless in great force; would not the whole of the troops be obliged to retire to some garrison or stronghold?—Were the Americans suddenly to invade Canada in very superior numbers, our troops, if unable to meet them in the field, would be obliged to retire upon Quebec, in the Lower province, and to some strong position in Upper Canada, until reinforcements arrived from England, and the militia were called out.

761. Could the whole force maintain themselves for six months in Quebec, without the militia to aid them?—If the regular troops in Quebec were left to themselves, unaided by the militia and the inhabitants of the country, they would not be able to keep Quebec for six months; but that is a state of things not likely to arise.

762. At the present moment there are no militia, consequently the present troops could not protect themselves if invaded?—But the governor would call out and arm a certain portion of the militia at the first moment of invasion; and with their assistance, Quebec could be protected until relief was afforded from this country.

763. And you consider Quebec to be the key of Canada?—Yes, I do.

Martis, 14 die Julii, 1835.

ROBERT GORDON, ESQUIRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Thomas Archer, Esq., called in; and Examined.

Thomas Archer,
Esq.

14 July 1835.

764. LOOK at the Returns; in page 42, you will find the amount of the expenses of the commissariat in Canada to be 15,688 *l.* 14 *s.* 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*; and if you will refer to the amount of the expense of the commissariat, in page 54, you will find the whole amount of the commissariat in Nova Scotia to be 4,930 *l.* 12 *s.* 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*?—Yes, it is so.

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765. It appears by the Returns that the number of troops in Nova Scotia and in Canada are nearly equal; that there is not a difference of above one between the amount of the troops in Canada and Nova Scotia: be kind enough to explain to the Committee why there is such a difference between the amount of the expense of the commissariat at Canada and at Nova Scotia; and state why it should be three times the amount at the one place as it is at the other, for nearly the same number of troops?—I apprehend the difference is chiefly in consequence of the distribution of the troops in Canada, the greater dispersion of the troops; in Nova Scotia they are more concentrated; wherever troops are more dispersed, of course it requires a greater strength of the commissariat establishment, there being consequently more business to be done.

766. Can you state any other reasons?—No other particular reason occurs to me at this moment, but the duties generally are more considerable. I beg, however, to remark, that the establishment in Newfoundland is included in the charge for Nova Scotia.

767. I observe, with reference to the duties of the commissariat in Australia, that you have furnished the Committee with a written statement of the duties performed by the commissariat there, not performed by commissaries in other colonies: as you are aware what was the object of the Committee in requesting your attendance, will you give a written statement of the same description, explaining the causes of the much greater expense of the commissariat in Canada, compared with that in Nova Scotia?—Perhaps the Committee will allow me to refer to a letter written by Commissary-general Routh, relative to the duties of the department in Canada. It is dated Quebec, 19 January 1835, and addressed to Major Airey, military secretary at Quebec. With their permission I will read it.

Sir,

As I understand that it is the wish of his Lordship the Commander of the Forces, that I should submit to him a report (in reference to the inquiry into the Military Colonial Expenditure before a Committee of the House of Commons) on the immediate disbursements in this command, I have the honour to lay before you an outline of their gradual decrease since I have held the superintendence of these duties.

The first reduction made was the abolition of the Commissary of Transport, in the year 1828, an ancient French office, founded on the law of "La Corvé," and established at Quebec and Montreal, and acting throughout the Lower province; the salaries and allowances of which amounted annually to 785*l.*, but its expense was much more considerable from the absence of all competition in the duties to be performed.

In the year 1828 I undertook the drawing up of all public contracts, hitherto performed by notaries, at an expense to the public of 300*l.* per annum in ordinary years, but which would have been double during the extensive military works carried on at the Rideau, upon the Ottawa, the Isle aux Noix, and elsewhere, about that period.

My early attention was likewise directed to the large bateau establishment at Lower La Chine, consisting of an officer of the commissariat and his department, having this charge and that of the military locks, a detachment of troops, two bateau conductors, 50 bateaux-men or voyagers, and 42 bateaux. This expenditure has been abolished, and the service removed with more efficiency to Montreal, where seven bateaux and six men are sufficient for the service. By a judicious reduction in the toll-rates, and a more prompt management of these locks, the revenue, which was little more than sufficient to defray some ill-conducted repairs, has increased from 400*l.* to 3,000*l.* per annum, and the locks themselves in a high state of repair. The bateaux at Kingston, at William Henry, at St. John's, and Isle aux Noix and Drummond Island, 16 in number, were also abolished; this has introduced a reduction of about 1,500*l.* per annum.

In the year 1830 the establishment of the Commissariat of Accounts was abolished, and their records and the greater part of their duty transferred to this department; making an annual reduction of 2,700*l.* in the expenditure of the command.

At the close of the year 1833 the allowance of barrel bulk ceased throughout the command, except at Penetanguishine, making an economy of 500*l.* annually.

Various changes, comprising many reductions, from time to time had been carried into effect in the Indian department, up to the close of the year 1820, when a sum of 20,000*l.* annually was assigned for this service by a Minute of the Right honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury. The share of this appropriation in the Upper province was found at first insufficient, and a large excess occurred; but by the adoption of a subsequent system, the expenditure from the military chest in the Upper province will be limited to 13,350*l.*, and in the Lower province to 4,500*l.*; making an annual reduction of 2,120*l.*, commencing from the 1st April 1834.

As regards the Commissariat Department, the establishment amounted to 42 officers on my arrival on this command, immediately on which the service of the Rideau canal commenced, and as that work proceeded I was compelled to detach four officers to be stationed

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along the line of the works in operation; but notwithstanding this demand, and the abolition of the account department (which duty still employs four officers), and notwithstanding the addition of these branches of the service, and that of those previously detailed, to my own, I have been able to reduce, gradually, my establishment to 32 officers.

These reductions were of course gradual, effected with proper anticipation, and by condensing the business to be performed. How far it may be extended, or if any extension is to be expected, I cannot immediately offer an opinion; but I may reasonably refer to what has been done as a pledge and a guarantee of my constant attention to my instructions on this important point.

It is right, however, that I should state to you, for his Lordship's information, that I do not, in justice to the service, recommend any further immediate reduction; what remains to be done on this point must be prepared and adopted with caution. The experience of the last two epidemics in the years 1832 and 1834, particularly the former, in the midst of which were made the payments and identification of 1,688 commuted pensioners, amounting to 49,551*l.* sterling, will make it sufficiently onerous on the department, with their present strength, to meet the return of this fearful disorder. The service of the quarantine establishment, the various demands on the department under such circumstances, and a sense of prudence and efficiency on my own part, deter me from any suggestion that might be visited on the duties to be performed.

Indeed it is incumbent on me to acknowledge and to represent the prompt sacrifice and abandonment of all private considerations or domestic safety which was manifested in the midst of the general panic by the officers of the department, and their unremitting attention and discharge of the public business, and I lament the difficulty of conveying a proper sense of this zeal, which is so much appreciated in the moment of its exertion. I solicit the high influence and authority of his Lordship to strengthen and confirm this representation.

I likewise offer to his Lordship's consideration the many duties which devolve on the department, and which do not appear in the accounts. The distributions to the Indians at the various posts scattered throughout the country, are made under the personal superintendence of an officer. The pensioners settled in distant parts, unable from age, sickness or poverty, to appear, are to be visited and identified in the neighbourhoods of Bytown, of Toronto and Montreal, at Drummondville and elsewhere; a duty essential to the detection of fraud. The ordnance contracts and purchases, though very properly so, made by the commissariat, as a means of further publicity to the transactions and security to the public. All these are employments which must be considered in the strength of the department, and which I must be prepared to meet.

The previous explanations will lay before the Commander of the Forces the tangible details of the reductions, as they stand in proof in the public accounts; but others, which relate to the reduction of price or the conduct of business, by a judicious management of the state of the market, are not so readily brought to view or so capable of proof, though much more important in the aggregate. It is on these operations chiefly that the advantage of rank, experience or judgment, rest their claim to favour or employment; and though I feel that I possess the power of producing this testimony, it becomes me to recollect that it is amply before the government in my public accounts, and in my correspondence with the authorities at home. I therefore refrain from intruding these details, which from their subject must be voluminous, before his Lordship's consideration.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

(signed) *R. J. Routh.*

768. There appears in Quebec, by a Return before the Committee, No. 8, to be 982 rank and file, consisting of artillery and engineers, and foot; and there appears to be at Quebec a commissary-general, an assistant commissary-general, and 11 deputy assistant commissaries-general, exclusive of seven coxswains, issuers, drivers, labourers, &c., at an expense of nearly 5,000*l.*: can you state in what way that establishment can be employed for the management of the rations and the accounts of so small a number?—I should preface what I have to say in explanation, by stating that the deputy-assistants, who form the greater number of officers, are in point of fact principally employed in making out the accounts, and if they were not so employed you must have a greater number of persons in the capacity of clerks to perform those duties.

769. Their pay is 246*l.* each?—Yes, that includes the allowances.

770. What is the difference between that and the pay of a clerk?—The pay of a clerk would be according to his deserts and fitness for his employment, at different rates.

771. The commissary-general, Routh, is placed at the head of the department at Quebec; are his duties confined to the 982 rank and file at Quebec, or do they extend to the whole province?—They extend to the whole province; the whole of the management, as far as the commissariat duties are concerned, is vested in Commissary-general Routh. I should add, that with regard to the other officers who

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are employed at Quebec, their duties should not be considered as confined to the accounts at Quebec, but as extending to the accounts of the provisions and money, and to every account and transaction connected with the commissariat duties, which are spread over the whole province.

772. Do you consider that the payment of 1,600 detached pensioners requires the payments to be made quarterly, as in England and Ireland?—The parties of course must be in want of money; and in proportion as the number of the payments is multiplied, it gives additional trouble to the persons who make the payments.

773. Must they not come into the commissariat office, and there be examined before the payment is made, much in the same way as they are by the Chelsea Board; and do not these commissariat officers in fact perform, as to these 1,600 men, the duties which the Chelsea Board department does as to the pensioners on them?—Precisely so.

774. Is not the labour and trouble of paying these 1,600 pensioners greatly increased in consequence of the state of the country, where cultivation is very much scattered; where there are small villages instead of being towns; and where there are no excise officers, as in England, for the payment of these pensioners?—The payment of these pensioners is productive of a great deal of labour, more than can be well imagined, and it has been the subject of repeated representation and complaint.

775. Are not the difficulties increased, because in the scattered villages in Canada there are no excise officers?—Yes; they are all paid by the commissariat.

776. You are aware that the facility of paying pensioners in England and Ireland, is greatly aided by having excise officers who can pay the money?—Yes.

777. Having no such aid in Canada, do you not imagine that the labour and trouble of the commissariat is greatly increased?—Very much.

778. With regard to these men, is it not a very important point that their identity should be ascertained to prevent fraud, by occasional visits, or that the men should come themselves to the commissary, or that the commissariat officer should see them, as at Bytown or Toronto, or any other post at which these people are assembled for the purpose of being paid?—I should conceive it is absolutely necessary that the identity of these persons should be satisfactorily established, to prevent fraud.

779. Are you aware whether any instructions are given for the purpose of assisting in detecting frauds, by making it the interest of any person on the spot to report immediately to the commissary, the fact of the death of a pensioner?—I am not aware of that. The commissary-general reports to the Treasury, from time to time, the decease of pensioners; but I do not know that any inducement is held out with a view to obtaining early information of the casualties that occur.

780. In a new country like Canada, where the pensioners are very much scattered, and where men not being pensioners can for a small trifle procure the papers of a deceased man, upon which the claims to the pension would rest, are not, under such circumstances, the facilities of fraud greatly augmented as compared with England?—Certainly; and therefore great care is necessary in making the payments. I have reason to believe that the pensioners have derived great benefit from receiving their pensions direct from the hands of the officers of the commissariat.

781. Then taking all these circumstances together, are you of opinion that the payment of 1,600 pensioners entails upon the commissariat a large proportion of labour?—Decidedly so.

782. Should you think that in Canada, where the winter sets in so severely, that posts such as Quebec, Isle aux Noix, Fort Erie, or any such posts, that it would be possible to do away with the commissariat, and provision the men as in England and Ireland, merely trusting to the quartermaster of the regiment?—I conceive that the troops could not be supplied with provisions by the quartermasters so well or so economically as by the commissariat department, and that the regular supply and comfort of the soldier would be exposed to great risk, especially in every case of movement. Independently of this serious objection, there must still be a commissariat establishment, for the performance of other duties than merely that of provisioning the troops; for instance, the commissariat is the

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medium by which all the money necessary for military and naval expenditure is provided; the commissariat officer, or some other in his place, must make contracts for the supplies of all the materials for the ordnance, and a variety of other things which I do not at this moment remember, occasioning a great deal of duty, separate and distinct from furnishing provisions for the troops. It is to be recollected too, that there is only one quartermaster to each regiment, who is always at the head-quarters of his corps, and that detachments of a regiment are often widely separated. In such circumstances the soldiers would be exposed to much inconvenience if their subsistence were to depend upon arrangements to be made by the quartermaster. This inconvenience would be considerably aggravated in the frequent removals to which the military service is liable, whilst on the other hand, the arrangements of the commissariat are not once available for the wants of any military force that may come within the sphere of his operations.

783. And from your knowledge of the opinion of a man of Commissary-general Routh's character, and the report which he has made, which you have read, do you think that that department in Canada has been nearly reduced to what you probably might expect, according to the present system which exists?—I should concur in the opinion of Commissary-general Routh; his character as an able officer stands very high.

784. Be so good as to state, from the book you have before you, the comparative number of officers in Nova Scotia, including St. John's; it is in page 54?—There are 10 officers in the whole.

785. Are you aware that the distance from Quebec to Port Amherstburg, in one line, is about 1,500 miles, and the distance of Penetanguishine is probably rather more?—I am not aware of the actual distance of these posts from Quebec.

786. Considering the distance to be somewhere about that, do you not consider such a line of country, in a great degree, many parts of it uncultivated, with posts and troops scattered along the banks of the river and lakes, shut up for many months in winter by the severity of it, where provisions are necessarily obliged to be taken in for the troops for a length of time; the distance I have mentioned, the scattered nature of the troops, and the nature of the country, must materially add to the necessity of having a large body of these officers for the performance of their duties, as relates to the troops?—I think so, certainly.

787. You are attached to the commissariat department?—Yes.

788. From your general knowledge, do you not consider such facts as necessarily leading to the necessity of having a large number of commissariat officers?—Most assuredly.

789. Have they not the raising of all the money in the colonies which is required for the public service?—Yes.

790. Is it not the practice, where there are commissaries detached, that the money-chest is under a double lock?—Wherever there is a military chest, it is under a double lock.

791. Now supposing there to be but one commissariat officer at a detached station, how is the system of double lock then carried into execution; the system that one officer should have one key, and another another, and that no money should be taken out and no money put in without the knowledge of both; where there is but one officer how is that carried on?—Where there is but one officer there would be but a comparatively trifling sum; he would not have in his hands such a considerable sum of money as to render such a precaution necessary; many of his payments might be made, probably, by drafts on the principal at Quebec, and which are paid at the Bank.

792. Have not the commissariat a considerable degree of extra duty thrown upon them, by the payment of pensioners and emigrants, who went from this country to be settlers in that country?—The commissariat have had a considerable and very troublesome duty thrown upon them, by the payment of a commutation to pensioners who went to Canada, from time to time, with a view of becoming settlers in the colony. There were accounts of commutation to settle and balances to pay to nearly 1,700 men of this description; these are quite distinct from the great number of pensioners who remain upon the Chelsea list, and who are still paid by the commissariat.

793. How are the rations provided in Upper and Lower Canada; is it by public contract?—Yes, by public contract.

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794. Are those contracts half-yearly, or in what way are they?—They are usually made annually.

795. Are the rations delivered by the contractor to the troops direct, and their receipt returned, or are they delivered to the commissariat officers at the respective stations?—They are delivered by the contractor.

796. Are you aware whether any depôts of any kind of provision are kept in any part of Upper or Lower Canada, and where?—There are depôts at various places, both in Upper and in Lower Canada, at Quebec, Montreal, Isle aux Noix, Bytown, Kingstown, Toronto, Fort George, Pentanguishine and Amherstburg.

797. What have been the particular kinds of stores, and the quantities, at any given time?—Flour, biscuit, salt meat (and formerly rum), wood, coals, candles, oil and cotton for light. The quantities have fluctuated of course, according to the demands of the service. I will furnish the Committee with a statement of the quantities in the stores, at several periods, within the last five years. At Toronto, Kingston and Amherstburg, there are also stores of Indian presents.

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STATEMENT of the Remains in Store of PROVISIONS, FORAGE and FUEL, at the several Stations in the *Canadas*, at the undermentioned Periods.

On the 24th December 1858.

STATIONS.	Flour.	Biscuit.	Fresh Beef.	Salt Pork.	Salt Beef.	Peas.	Rice.	Oats.	Hay.	Indian Corn.	Straw.	Rum.	Vinegar.	Wood.	Coals.	Tallow Candles.	Oil.	Cotton Wick.	Dubbets.
Quebec	lb. 34,732 1/2	-	lb. -	lb. -	lb. -	b. 5. P. -	lb. -	lb. -	lb. -	lb. -	lb. -	pts. 285,266 1/2	pts. 1,377 1/2	cords, ft. inches. 2,906 1 9 1/2	bushels, pecks. 15,205 2 1/2	lbs. 6,356	pts. 2,328 1/2	lbs. 45	ms. -
William Henry	lb. 13,011 1/2	-	-	lb. 6,031 1/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	pts. 1,377 1/2	pts. 2,974 1/2	564 7 1/2	15,205 2 1/2	276	98 1/2	45	-
Ile aux Noix	lb. 10,843 1/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	pts. 2,374 1/2	pts. 1,365	437 3 1/2	-	1,365	98 1/2	1 4 1/2	-
Montreal	lb. 55,796 1/2	2,079 1/2	-	3,359	-	13 3 4 1/2	-	3,309	7,468	-	2,034 1/2	pts. 1,365 1/2	pts. 1,365 1/2	1,361 4 1/2	5,484 1/2	383 1/2	14 15 1/2	1 4 1/2	-
Grenville	lb. 16,568 1/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	pts. 4,382 1/2	pts. 1,365 1/2	1,361 4 1/2	-	269	383 1/2	1 4 1/2	-
Rideau	lb. 116,585 1/2	-	-	16,168	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	pts. 13,644 1/2	pts. 1,365 1/2	1,361 4 1/2	-	269	383 1/2	1 4 1/2	-
Kingston	lb. -	-	-	3,416 1/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	pts. 13,644 1/2	pts. 1,365 1/2	1,361 4 1/2	-	269	383 1/2	1 4 1/2	-
Fort George	lb. 1,008 1/2	4,758 1/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,254	-	15 1/2	pts. 54,446 1/2	pts. 36,604 1/2	657 3 6 1/2	3,666	1,024 15 1/2	330	4 8 1/2	-
Amherstburg	lb. 21,112 1/2	-	-	215 1/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	pts. 36,604 1/2	pts. 1,365 1/2	4 5 1 10 1/2	3,666	1,024 15 1/2	330	35 9 1/2	-
Pennungashine	lb. 27,559 1/2	-	1,787 1/2	26,722 1/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	pts. 6,421 1/2	pts. 1,365 1/2	166 4	455	1,102 15 1/2	535 1/2	13 13 1/2	-
In transit from Kingston to Amherstburg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56,569 1/2	102 1/2	-	pts. 6,421 1/2	pts. 1,365 1/2	166 4	455	577 8 1/2	-	-	18
TOTAL	2,074,388 1/2	6,438	1,787 1/2	55,913 1/2	-	13 3 4 1/2	-	3,310 1/2	65,284 1/2	102 1/2	2,187 1/2	530,950 1/2	873 1/2	7,121 1 10 1/2	15,205 2 1/2	22,701 9 1/2	3,612 3 1/2	115 13 1/2	18

On the 31st December 1850.

STATIONS.	Flour.	Biscuit.	Salt Pork.	Oats.	Hay.	Straw.	Rum.	Vinegar.	Wood.	Coals.	Tallow Candles.	Oil.	Cotton Wick.
Quebec	lb. 52,839 1/2	-	-	-	-	-	pts. 108,905 1/2	pts. -	cords, feet. inches. 2,031 4 11 1/2	bushels, pecks. 6,461 1 1/2	lbs. 13,124 15 1/2	pts. 2,175 1/2	lbs. 83 12
William Henry	lb. 10,908 1/2	-	-	-	-	-	pts. 664 1/2	pts. -	76 4 6 1/2	318 14 1/2	318 14 1/2	73 1/2	5 1/2
Ile aux Noix	lb. 4,213 1/2	-	4,147 1/2	-	-	-	pts. 7,412 1/2	pts. -	67 4 2 1/2	1,093 13 1/2	1,093 13 1/2	1,195 1/2	7 3 1/2
Montreal	lb. 107,907 1/2	-	13,642 1/2	-	-	-	pts. 75,782 1/2	pts. -	1,469 2 1	9,505 7 1/2	9,505 7 1/2	1,195 1/2	7 3 1/2
Grenville	lb. 16,324 1/2	-	243	-	-	-	pts. 3,980	pts. -	-	631 2 1/2	631 2 1/2	377 1/2	5 0 1/2
Bytown	lb. 36,940 1/2	-	35,910	-	-	-	pts. 44,012 1/2	pts. -	612 7 11 1/2	3,755 11 1/2	3,755 11 1/2	377 1/2	5 0 1/2
Kingston	lb. -	-	-	1,764	3,450	1,176	pts. 44,012 1/2	pts. -	187 1 8 1/2	2,860 5 1/2	2,860 5 1/2	377 1/2	5 0 1/2
York	lb. -	-	-	-	-	-	pts. 34,207 1/2	pts. -	176 7 3	589 5 1/2	589 5 1/2	648 1/2	17 13 1/2
Fort George	lb. 14,282 1/2	-	-	-	-	-	pts. 15,506 1/2	pts. -	28 1 10 1/2	564 7 3 1/2	564 7 3 1/2	648 1/2	13 2 1/2
Amherstburg	lb. 25,487 1/2	21 1/2	-	-	-	-	pts. 7,301 1/2	pts. 873 1/2	40 4 3 1/2	437 10 1/2	437 10 1/2	-	-
Pennungashine	lb. -	-	-	1,764	3,450	1,176	pts. 7,301 1/2	pts. 873 1/2	40 4 3 1/2	437 10 1/2	437 10 1/2	-	-
TOTAL	258,494 1/2	21 1/2	54,310 1/2	1,764	3,450	1,176	329,023 1/2	873 1/2	4,685 6 10 1/2	6,461 1 1/2	32,863 7 1/2	4,990 3 1/2	128 14 1/2

On the 31st December 1832.

STATIONS.	Flour.	Biscuit.	Salt York.	Salt Beef.	Rice.	Runn.	Wood.	Coals.	Tallow Candles.	Oil.	Cotton Wick.
Montreal	107,007 1/2	13,642 1/2			75,782 1/2		1,467 2 1/2		9,505 7 1/2	1,195 3/4	7 3/4
Gravelle	16,324 1/2	243			3,980				853 12 1/2		
Bytown	36,910	35,910			23,548 1/2				641 2 1/2	377 3/4	5 0 1/2
Kingston			1,764	3,150	1,176		612 7 1/2		3,755 11 1/2	319 3/4	17 3/4
York					34,297 1/2		187 1 8 1/2		2,346 1 1/2	648 1/2	13 2 1/2
Fort George	12,882 1/2	368 1/2			15,506 1/2		178 7 3/4		589 5 1/2		
Amherstburg	25,487 1/2	21 1/2			7,312		38 1 10 1/2		504 7 1/2		
Penetanguishine					7,301 1/2		40 4 3 1/2		437 10 1/2		
TOTAL	258,494 1/2	54,310 1/2	1,764	3,150	329,023 1/2	873 1/2	4,685 6 10 1/2	6,461 1 1/2	32,883 7 1/2	4,990 3 1/2	128 14 1/2

The Accounts for the Years 1830 and 1832 were made up to the 31st instead of the 24th December.

RETURN OF PROVISIONS, FORAGE, and FUEL, remaining in the Commissariat Stores at the undermentioned Stations in Canada, on the 31st of December 1834.

Number of Voucher.	STATION.	ACCOUNTANT.			Pounds and Ounces of			FUEL AND LIGHT.			
		Flour.	Biscuit.	Salt Pork.	Wood.	Coals.	Tallow Candles.	Oil.	Cotton Wick.		
1	Quebec										
2	Isle aux Noix	270,829 11	144 8	40,003 2	4,380 3 1 1/2		7,300 3 1/2		3,779 1 1/2	82 13	
3	Montreal	6,693 3		400			53 3 1/2		38 1 1/2	1 9 1 1/2	
4	Bytown	57,008 15		26,697 15			834 7 1/2		78	3 15	
5	Kingston	2,882 14					90 3 1/2				
6	Toronto						3,270 7 1/2		752	13 14 1/2	
7	Fort George			56			2,071 8 1/2		181 1 1/2	18 11 1/2	
8	Penetanguishine	11,992 9	127 14	2,468 15			2,696 11 1/2		650 7 1/2	122 26 1/2	2 4 10 1/2
9	Amherstburg	11,854 8	156 11	108 13			656 14 1/2				
	TOTAL	361,261 12	505 1	60,674 13	4,380 3 1 1/2	17,380 1 1/2	13,890 12 1/2	7,647 3 1/2	4,052 16	123 3 1/2	

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798. Has any proposal been made to pay these pensioners through any of the constituted clergymen of the districts where they are?—I believe I may trust to my memory to say, that no report to that effect has been received at the Treasury.

799. Are any stores of any kind sent out from England now, for the use of the army, in either of the Canadas?—Not any provisions.

800. Are there any kinds of stores that have been supplied by the commanding officers of regiments?—Not that I am aware of.

801. If there are any other duties which that department has to perform, besides the supplying of the troops with money and with provisions, and the paying of the pensioners, please to state them?—The commissariat provide money not only for the troops, including the ordnance, but also for the naval expenditure; and they receive and account for all monies intended for remittance to public departments at home. They have to provide the whole of the transport required, either for the removal of the troops and their baggage, &c., or for the removal of stores, by land or by water. They have to provide, by contract or otherwise, all materials required for public works, and to contract for labour when necessary: to provide also, by contract or purchase, all other articles required for the troops, or for the ordnance, or for casual services. They have to pay, in detail, all persons holding staff appointments; to pay, in detail, half-pay, military pensions, widows' pensions and compassionate allowances, to all persons in Canada entitled to any of these allowances. They have to pay, in detail, lodging-money, fuel-money, and all extra and contingent allowances, and expenses of every description, under the warrant of the general commanding.

802. Do you attribute the large proportion of the commissariat to the troops at Canada, as compared with the commissariat in Nova Scotia, to the great extent of extra duty required from the commissariat in Canada to that of the commissariat in Nova Scotia?—To both causes; the great dispersion of the troops, and the extra duty of the commissariat in Canada.

803. Does that exist to the same extent in Nova Scotia as in Canada?—Certainly not.

804. Do the pensioners exist to the same extent in Nova Scotia as in Canada?—Certainly not; there are pensioners in Nova Scotia, but nothing like to the same extent as in the Canadas.

805. If you look at page 46, by the Return it will appear there are 49 rank and file at Amherstburg?—Yes.

806. It appears by the Return, that there being 49 rank and file at Amherstburg, that there is a commissariat establishment of two deputy-assistant commissaries-general, two issuers and one labourer, at the expense of 726 *l.* a year, pay and allowances; can you state why there is so large a commissariat staff for so small a detachment of troops?—At Amherstburg there is a large store of Indian presents; there is also a store of flour and salt meat. Considerable issues are made to the Indians, and there are a great number of pensioners located in that immediate neighbourhood.

807. Look at Penetanguishine; there there are only 40 rank and file, and you will see that the commissariat consists of the same, with the difference of one issuer?—At that station, I believe, there is a bateau establishment, formed for the conveyance of provisions, military stores, &c.

808. What does that consist of?—Boats and barges for transport, and men for the management of them.

809. State to the Committee what is the amount of the bateau establishment in the different Canadas; where stationed, and what they have to do?—I do not know what is at present the actual establishment. On referring again to the letter from Commissary-general Routh, which I have read to the Committee, it appears that the bateau establishment has been removed to Montreal, where seven bateaux and six men are sufficient for the service; at present only one officer is employed at Penetanguishine.

810. In the Return there appears to be 276 rank and file, artillery, engineers and veterans, at Newfoundland; and an establishment of an assistant commissary-general, two deputy-assistant commissaries-general, one issuer, and one conductor?—I would beg to refer to the remark in the last column with respect to one of the deputy-assistant commissaries-general, by which it appears he ceased on the 7th October 1833.

811. If those two are able to keep the accounts in the whole of Newfoundland for 276 rank and file, how is it that so large a staff is kept in those parts of Canada

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Canada where detachments from only 10 to 50 men exist?—The duties of the commissariat in Canada are materially different from their duties in Newfoundland; their duties in the latter place are concentrated. The same description of accounts are necessary for a detachment of 50 men as are necessary for a regiment of 800, provided the regiment of 800 is at one post; but if the regiment of 800 is scattered over different parts of the country, then that would impose additional labour upon the commissariat, because each detachment would require the same description of accounts to be rendered in duplicate, and the same description of vouchers.

812. The accounts are tabular, are they not?—A great many are in forms.

813. Would not a small number occasion less trouble in adding up and in writing, which is the great labour of the commissary?—There would be very little difference in the trouble, whether a detachment consisted of 25 or of 50 men. There are 20 or more different forms for the vouchers in cash accounts; and more numerous vouchers are necessary in furnishing accounts for the troops, where they are dispersed in three or four different parts, than there would be if the same number were concentrated.

814. Are all these accounts audited at Quebec or Nova Scotia?—The commissary-general, who superintends the department, is responsible for all the accounts in the Canadas; consequently the accounts of the sub-commissaries dispersed throughout the whole of Upper and Lower Canada are transmitted to his office, and they are there examined and made up; and he transmits them home to the Treasury, to be audited by the Commissioners for Auditing the Public Accounts.

815. Where the troops are supplied by contract, do you mean to say there are 20 different forms of account?—There are not only the accounts between the contractors and the commissariat, but the accounts of the different detachments, all the detachments furnishing different returns.

816. Do you mean that the returns are given by each detachment in a different form?—No, one form will apply to all the detachments.

817. Are there 20 forms from one detachment, one from each detachment, and there may be 20 detachments from the regiment?—Speaking of rations of provisions, only one form of return is necessary for each regiment or each detachment. The different branches of the staff each render a separate return. With respect to cash accounts, although there are 20 or more forms of account, it is very likely that one detachment may not give occasion for the use of more than three or four forms; and it may, on the other side, happen that the duties relative to the detachment may require many of the forms to be in use, looking at the description of services, the nature of the payments, and the nature of the issues that may be made. The cash accounts are classed under different heads, under different letters; one description of payment under letter A, another under B, and so on. The printed statement which I hand to the Committee will give an idea of the various vouchers that are requisite in the pecuniary transactions of the commissariat.

[The same was read, as follows.]

STATEMENT referred to in Circular, No. 84.

DEBIT SIDE OF THE ACCOUNT CURRENT.

Extraordinaries from A. to H. inclusive.

MARKS.	TITLES.	EXPLANATION.
A.	Supplies for Rations of Provisions and Forage	To include provisions, spirits, wine, forage, &c.
B.	Fuel and Light	To include fuel, candles, oil, cotton-wick, &c.
[The articles included under these two heads are purchased, stored, and issued by the Commissariat department.]		
C.	Miscellaneous Purchases	To include all payments for stores, implements, &c. of whatever description, not included under the two preceding heads, or under letter G, nor paid for by drafts from the officers of the Ordnance department, letter I.
D.	Transport	To include freight, lighterage, cartage, truckage, &c.
E.	Pay of Extra Staff, &c.	To include the pay of all persons not chargeable upon the Ordinaries, or under letters G, I, and L.
o.11.		F. Military

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MARKS.	TITLES.	EXPLANATION.
F.	Military Allowances - - - -	To include lodging-money and all other allowances, except pay and such military allowances as may be comprised under letters I. and K.
G.	Special Services - - - -	To include only such services as are peculiar to particular stations, such as in Canada : Indian and Settlers' departments. West Indies, &c. : Pensions of Black soldiers. Expenditure for army vessels. Subsistence of 3d West India regiment, &c. &c.
H.	Cottingencies - - - -	To include rent, travelling expenses, postage, hospital expenditure, and, generally, all payments chargeable upon the Extraordinaries not included in the foregoing articles.
I.	Ordnance Department - - - -	To include Imprests for payments under 5 <i>l</i> . Drafts for payments above 5 <i>l</i> . ; viz. For pay and allowances of the department. Pay of the Royal Artillery. Building materials. Barrack and other military stores not included in B. or C. Labour. Buildings erected, or repairs performed under contract. Military working parties.
K.	Ordinaries - - - -	Including Regimental subsistence and half-yearly allowances. Staff pay. Half pay. Chelsea pensions. Greenwich pensions. Widows' pensions. Compassionate list. Other retired allowances not borne upon the Extraordinaries.
L.	Pay of Commissariat Officers - - - -	To include only commissioned officers, and persons acting and receiving pay as such ; storekeepers, issuers, and others employed in the Commissariat department, being included under letter E. The same distinction to be made with respect to the Account Branch when paid, as at Malta, &c. by pay list, and not by imprest : in that case the account current will show the amount of pay of the Commissariat officers under letter L, thus : Store branch - - - £. Account branch - - - -
M.	Advances to Departments - - - -	To include all advances repayable in England, except those to the Ordnance department, which will be included under letter I.
N.	Consignments of Specie.	
O.	- - - - -	To be left open for any special disbursements (such as payments on account of Colonial governments, &c.) as may not be chargeable to the Extraordinaries.

CREDIT SIDE.

P.	Proceeds of Bills drawn upon the Treasury.	To be accompanied by separate statements of Bills negotiated, and of bills drawn at par on account of supplies, or otherwise.
Q.	Stoppages for Rations - - - -	Issued to Staff, Ordnance, and other departments.
R.	Proceeds of Sales - - - -	By the officers of the Commissariat department.
S.	Ditto - - - - -	By the officers of the Ordnance department.
		T. Receipts

MARKS.	TITLES.	EXPLANATION.
T.	Receipts for Services repayable in England, viz.	Regimental Surplusses. Effects of deceased officers and soldiers. Fees on commissions. Custom-house revenue. Post-office ditto. Greenwich Hospital ditto. &c. &c.
V.	Consignments of Specie.	
W.	Miscellaneous Receipts - - -	To include all receipts, of whatever description, not comprised under the preceding heads.

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[N. B.—Any of the foregoing heads which may be inapplicable to the service of particular stations, may be left out altogether in the Accounts Current of the Commissariat Officers serving on such stations; but the Receipts and Expenditure, under the heads herein specified, should, in every case, be brought to account under the same marks that are annexed to them in this statement.]

818. From your acquaintance with the accounts, do you consider all those are necessary where provisions are supplied by contract, or do you not think it possible to simplify the accounts so as to lessen the labour?—I will explain to the Committee the course of proceeding in supplying the troops with provisions under a contract, when deliveries are made by a contractor. The issues of fresh provisions, bread and meat, are usually made daily, upon checks given by the commissary upon the contractor; these checks are founded upon returns furnished by each regiment or detachment, specifying the number of officers, classed in their respective ranks; the number of non-commissioned officers and men, and women and children. These returns, which are rendered in duplicate, are examined by the commissary, and require particular care, on his part, to prevent over-issues or errors, and the contractor has nothing to do but to issue upon the orders of the commissariat. In fact, the contractor performs that part of the business which is performed by the storekeepers or issuers of the commissariat when there is no contractor; all the accounts and responsibility of these transactions depending still upon the commissariat.

819. Are the vouchers sent in from the detachment to the head commissary; are the returns from the whole regiment sent home, or does he keep them, and send an account made out from them?—He sends home the accounts of the sub-commissaries, after they have been examined in his own office at head-quarters, under his immediate superintendence. These require a more minute and particular examination, since the abolition of the separate department of accounts, which formerly examined the commissariat accounts upon the spot.

820. At what period are the accounts audited now?—They are audited now more regularly than in former times; they are passed through the Audit-office with as much dispatch as is consistent with a careful examination.

821. The commissaries' accounts of 1833, when were they audited?—I am not prepared to say whether the accounts of 1833 have been audited or not.

822. Will you ascertain when the accounts of the years 1832 and 1833, for the colonies of Upper and Lower Canada, as well as Australia, were received, and when they were audited?—In Australia there is still a separate office under a commissary of accounts, whose business it is to examine all the commissariat accounts of that colony; there is, consequently, some delay in their coming to England.—[Vide Appendix.]

823. It has been stated to the Committee that there were great arrears, two or three years ago, in the commissaries' accounts in New South Wales; that there were several tons of accounts which had not been audited; what has been done with those accounts?—They are not yet passed through any examination, but they are in the hands of an officer employed for the purpose.

824. Is he employed there or here?—There.

825. Was there an account branch there at the time?—There was.

826. Was the governor aware those arrears were going on?—Probably not while the arrears were accumulating.

827. Had there not been a want of annual accounts from that colony, and were they not able to ascertain here the arrears, before it had amounted to so large an extent?—I can hardly explain at this moment how the arrears were suffered to accumulate on the spot. When the arrears were first creeping on them, the whole business of the commissariat in New South Wales was exceedingly heavy; they were employed on various descriptions of colonial matters.

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828. Under whose orders did they act in these different matters?—They were required by the governor for the time being to perform certain duties.

829. General Darling?—Yes, and his predecessors.

830. Are you aware that General Darling, in his evidence, states that he knew nothing of the details and proceedings of the commissariat department?—I am not aware that any such question or answer has been given.

831. Do you consider that the governor had more than the general superintendence of all the officers in the colony, or that he was actually responsible for the details of this department?—He was not responsible for the details, he was responsible for the directions he gave for the execution of certain orders.

832. Who was responsible for the details?—The parties to whom he gave those directions.

833. Does not Mr. Laidley, the head of the department, act under and receive the orders of the Treasury here?—Yes, but he is also bound to obey the orders of the governor on the spot; the governor of course taking care that he does not order anything that he is not able to justify, in case such orders may be contrary to the instructions which the commissary has received from the Treasury Board.

834. Does no direct communication take place between Mr. Laidley and the Treasury here?—Continually.

835. Then the Treasury does exercise an independent control over Mr. Laidley?—Certainly.

836. Was that the case at the time the arrear accumulated in New South Wales?—It has always been the case.

837. Do you know whether the head of the commissariat makes returns of his establishment and proceedings regularly to the governor of Australia?—It is competent for the governor to call upon him to do so, if he thinks fit.

838. With whom does the expression of the propriety of the increase or decrease of the establishment rest?—Any increase of the establishment would not be sanctioned by the Treasury, except it had the approval of the governor.

839. To what extent has the governor of Nova Scotia a jurisdiction over that department?—The Treasury generally decline to sanction any increase of expense proposed by the commissariat officer, unless it has the sanction of the governor or the military authority (as the case may be) on the spot. It is quite competent for the governor or officer commanding, on his own authority, to call on the commissariat officer for any explanation that he may require upon any part of his duty, either as regards the establishment or as regards the conduct of the business.

840. What means has the commanding officer of knowing whether the accounts are brought up or are in arrear, or whether the establishment is greater or less than the necessity of the service requires?—It is competent for him to institute a minute inquiry into the state of the department. The Treasury Board have frequently called upon officers commanding and governors, not only in New South Wales but in other places, to revise the establishment and the duties of the commissariat, with a view to making such reductions as it might be susceptible of bearing.

841. Do you mean by that, that if there was an order to them they would do so?—Yes.

842. My question is, in the ordinary mode of conducting the details of the colony, whether he is cognizant from year to year of the state in which the accounts of that department are?—I do not know that he is expected to be cognizant as a matter of course, but he can on his own authority call for information on the point.

843. Are any of the accounts sent home through that officer?—Not any.

844. Do you mean to say that the accounts are not transmitted through the governor?—Certainly not.

845. Then the governor has no means of ascertaining whether the returns have been sent by the commissariat officers?—None, except by inquiry.

846. Is there a direct correspondence between the commissariat officer and the Treasury?—Yes, constant communication.

847. I think you have stated in your former evidence, that there was a great reduction, from 51 to 29 individuals, in New South Wales; was that subsequent to the arrear of accounts being discovered?—Yes, it was.

848. Seeing that the detachments have in New South Wales rather increased in number than decreased, what was the reason that enabled them to make that reduction, when under a large establishment such great arrears took place?—By the improved mode of conducting the business, and the introduction of a system of contracting, which the colony was not formerly able to bear. The department was also relieved of some of the duties which were more particularly colonial.

849. Had that improvement been previously adopted in other colonies?—The mode

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mode of doing business and the nature of the business in New South Wales were peculiar to that colony, and the improvements to which I allude do not apply to the service on other stations.

850. Are there other colonies susceptible of the same improvement which has been introduced in New South Wales?—No.

851. In proportion as the principle and practice of contracts gain ground, do you consider that the establishment might be reduced?—I do not know whether the establishment is capable of reduction below the present number; still the Treasury expect that if any further reductions can be accomplished with due regard to the efficient performance of the duties, they will be carried into effect.

852. To what extent has the system of contracts been introduced for supplying the convicts and the troops in New South Wales?—I believe it does not prevail generally yet; it has been only upon a limited scale of providing supplies by contract.

853. Have the contracts been offered and not accepted, or have they not been tried?—They have been tried, and failed at the commencement of the experiment.

854. Were those failures in 1830 and 1831?—Yes, to the best of my recollection, there were failures about that time in supplies of provisions.

855. Are you aware whether orders have been issued by the Treasury, that the contract system should be tried on all occasions where it can be effected?—An order to that effect has been given, and I beg to refer the Committee to the copy of a Treasury letter addressed to Major-gen. Rourke, in December 1832, which I have already furnished for the information of the Committee.

856. Are you able to state whether the governor advertised?—It is the duty of the commissary to advertise.

857. Have you had sent home copies of the advertisements made by him in the colony, and have they been general, or only as to particular places?—I believe only as to particular places and particular supplies.

858. Has the deputy commissary-general informed you whether he has tried contracts for all the supplies wanted, or for how many?—He has reported the proceedings with regard to contracting for different supplies. I cannot speak from memory what are the particular places or occasions; but in some instances the endeavour to obtain contracts has failed, and in others they have been successful.

859. In your evidence before, you alluded to stores of provisions that had been prepared in consequence of some contracts in 1830 having failed; do you know to what extent those stores were formed?—I do not remember the extent of them.

860. Have you any statement in your office of the several depôts in New South Wales?—Yes.

861. Be so good as to state, when the stores were formed, what they consist of, and whether any establishment is requisite to superintend the stores exclusive of the duties required to conduct the issues, supposing they are contracted for?—As the system of contracting for supplies extended, the depôts in the colony were discontinued or diminished; at present the only depôts of provisions are at the penal settlements of Moreton Bay and Norfolk Island. At these stations all other articles are also held in depôt by the commissariat, and issued by that department. The population at these places consists only of the servants of the government and the prisoners. At Sydney the commissariat receive into store and issue the surplus provisions from the convict ships, on their arrival from England. There is also a store of coal, which article is received and issued in detail by the commissariat.

862. Do you send out stores in the way of provisions to New South Wales from here?—No provisions.

863. Has the commissariat department anything to do with the construction of public buildings?—They have everything to do with the construction of public buildings; all the materials requisite have been furnished by the commissariat hitherto, but very lately the Board of Ordnance have sent out some person to conduct this particular branch of the service.

864. State to the Committee the different contracts which the commissariat has been directed to make in the performance of any works or labour for the government?—They must have received orders on these points from the local government; up to the present moment it has been the duty of the commissariat to furnish the materials required for public buildings, and the commissary would receive his directions for the furnishing of those works from the governor on the spot.

865. Do you consider it necessary to have a commissary constantly at any post where there are 20 or 30 or 40 men, to serve them with provisions?—Where there are 40 or 50 men together at any station there must be some person employed to attend them, if they are supplied from commissariat stores; but supposing them

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to be provisioned by a contractor, there might be other duties at the post requiring the services of a commissariat officer.

866. In what manner are the troops furnished in England with supplies?—By contracts now made by the Board of Ordnance.

867. By that contract the contractor delivers at a particular place, according to the indent, the rations or supplies for a given number?—Yes.

868. To whom does he deliver them?—To the quartermaster of the regiment, I conceive.

869. What vouchers does the quartermaster furnish?—The receipt of the quartermaster to whom the supplies are delivered.

870. Are those contracts all made by the Ordnance Board?—They are.

871. Are you aware that any difficulty would arise in New South Wales if a contract could be entered into for the supply of troops as in England, from the diminution of a considerable number of the commissariat kept up principally for that purpose?—I am not able to give an answer to that question.

872. If contracts were to be introduced generally into New South Wales, and the commissariat should in consequence be reduced in number, would not the details of the receipts and distributions, hitherto performed by the commissariat, fall on the contractors?—That would depend upon the conditions of the contract. In the event of contracts being made, the contractor would be bound to furnish his accounts to the commissariat; and although the provisions might be supplied through the intervention of the contractor, the commissaries would be responsible for the proper completion of the contracts and the delivery of the articles, according to the stipulations.

873. Would not the contractors increase the price of their contracts in proportion as they took upon themselves additional duties, in consequence of the reduction of the commissariat?—No doubt of it; I think it very likely that there would be an increased charge on the part of the contractor. If the contractor were compelled to deliver the articles at various places, of course his expenses would be increased, and his contract would be higher.

874. Do you not think that the increased price so put on by the contractors might equal, if not exceed, the amount saved by the reduction of the commissariat?—That is one of the points I wish to draw the attention of the Committee to. A very small increase in the price of an article of much consumption, or in the price of the ration, would perhaps greatly counterbalance any saving that might be effected by reducing the strength of the commissariat. It should also be borne in mind, that in diminishing the means of superintending and checking the proceedings of the contractors, the military, or the parties to receive the provisions, would be very much at the mercy of the contractors, and a laxity would grow out of that business unless watched by the commissary.

875. Do you mean to say that that laxity in England has grown up where the provisions are delivered by the contractor to the person belonging to the regiment?—The circumstances of the two countries are so wholly different that we cannot apply the same reasoning to New South Wales as to England.

876. Do you not think all chance of laxity is completely put an end to by the general competition where contracts are offered?—I think the chance of laxity in England is very much diminished by the general competition; but that does not apply to New South Wales.

877. Are you able to tell whether there is a corresponding increase in the price of provisions supplied in New South Wales in consequence of the reduction of the commissariat, in consequence of the establishment of the contract system?—I cannot answer that question.

878. Have you the means of ascertaining that?—The increase of price might arise from causes quite distinct from a reduction of the commissariat.

879. Do the troops receive their provisions from the contractors themselves, or are they received by the commissary and by the commissary's hand delivered?—In some instances they are delivered by the contractor, and in other instances delivered by the commissary.

880. Will you give a statement showing the amount of arrears at the time alluded to, for what years, and what is the progress that has been made, and the establishment requisite for bringing up those arrears?—I can state from memory that that arrear has not been proceeded with very materially; it is an extremely heavy arrear. The establishment formed for the current business could not undertake the examination of it, and the officer directed to form the establishment for the arrear, was not able to form it in the colony.

the post requiring supplies?—By the committee, according to the receipt of the South Wales if England, from the principally for South Wales, and would not the commissariat, fall of the contract. to furnish his not be supplied be responsible articles, accord- acts in propor- of the reduction there would be com- cases would be the contractors of the commis the Committee mption, or in y saving that should also be checking the the provisions, could grow out up where the the regiment? it we cannot end to by the e of laxity in that does not e in the price reduction of t system?— price might themselves, or delivered?—er instances at the time ade, and the om memory an extremely d not under- lishment for 881. State

881. State the circumstances that led to that arrear, and what measures have been taken to bring that up, and also to prevent that arrear in future?—The accounts which are in arrear consist of the store and provision accounts of the service in New South Wales, for the years 1829 and 1830. A separate department for the purpose of examining the accounts upon the spot, was first established at Sydney in the year 1824. An able officer of the commissariat was appointed by the Treasury Board, and he commenced this duty in May of that year, assisted by two junior officers. The business of supplying the wants of the convicts with provisions, clothing and materials, &c., in addition to various other duties, had rendered the accounts of the commissariat so voluminous, and the duty of the department so intricate and troublesome, that it became absolutely necessary to frame various regulations, with a view to simplify the details of this branch of the service, and to bring the plan of account into a more practicable shape. The commissary of accounts was called upon to assist in the proceedings that were instituted to effect this object, and much time was unavoidably devoted to it. His time and attention were, moreover, much engaged in the consideration of other matters of a colonial nature, for which the governor required his assistance, and the examination of the commissariat accounts thus unavoidably fell into arrear. This officer was eventually removed to a separate and distinct office, as auditor of the colonial revenue in New South Wales; and on his being succeeded in the charge of the department of accounts, in the beginning of the year 1829, his successor found a considerable arrear of accounts in the office. He consequently represented to the governor the inadequacy of the assistance which had been assigned to him for the performance of his duties, and he represented the inconvenience and delay that resulted from the frequent interruptions to the regular business of the office, by withdrawing the officer at the head of this department to attend on boards of inquiry, &c. In October following he again urged the want of assistance, and stated that much remained in arrear to be done before the examination of the current accounts could properly be proceeded with, and that accounts must accumulate for want of sufficient aid. The governor authorized his employing three temporary clerks, which the Treasury Board subsequently sanctioned, desiring however that this additional assistance should be reduced as soon as it could be dispensed with. This addition to the number did not give much strength to the establishment, because the temporary clerks engaged upon the spot could not render much useful aid in the business of the office, which required experienced hands. The establishment, therefore, in applying their attention to the arrear, and to the accounts of the current cash transactions, were obliged to leave the current store accounts to be examined at a more convenient opportunity. These store accounts for the years 1829 and 1830, thus formed an arrear, comprising several tons in weight, and it was deemed advisable to send them home for examination, the duplicate sets being retained upon the spot, subject to such orders as the Treasury Board might think it necessary to give regarding them. The Treasury Board, under the advice of the comptroller of army accounts, who strongly recommended that they should undergo a previous examination upon the spot, authorized the formation of an establishment at Sydney, for the especial purpose of examining the duplicate sets which had been retained at Sydney. The reports from Assistant Commissary-general Hayward, of the 6th December 1833, and the 22d March 1834 [*delivering them in*—vide *Appendix*], explain the steps taken with a view to carry their Lordships' intention into effect, and the difficulties that have hitherto prevented the accomplishment of this object. The zeal and assiduity of Mr. Hayward have been successfully exerted in getting through a considerable arrear of other accounts which he found in the office on taking charge of the department of accounts in July 1831; and the reports of the proceedings of that officer show that the examination of the commissariat accounts, which are still very voluminous, for the current services, is conducted by Mr. Hayward as expeditiously as is consistent with the elaborate attention which they require.

882. Were the accounts which accumulated in New South Wales sent home by the direction of the Treasury for examination here?—They were sent home by the direction of the Governor on the spot, not by the direction of the Treasury.

883. Are they in point of fact in this country?—The sets sent home are still in this country; the Treasury directed that the duplicate sets which were in the colony should remain there, and be examined on the spot.

884. Is there any intention that they should be examined in this country, and not in New South Wales?—Not at present.

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885. Are these accounts likely ever to be examined?—I am not prepared to state what may eventually be done with them.

886. Do you not think there would be an uncertainty in the supplies undertaken by contractors in New South Wales?—My impression is, from the correspondence which has passed under my notice, that in the present state of the colony there must be great uncertainty in the performance of engagements made by contractors.

887. Then in case of failure of the contractors by bankruptcy, insolvency, want of capital, or otherwise, what would be the situation of the troops?—It is difficult to say what would be the situation of the troops.

888. Might they not be very much distressed in consequence?—Unquestionably so.

889. Can you state in what situation the commissariat establishment in Van Diemen's Land is; are the supplies necessary furnished by contract, or are the whole supplied by the establishment?—I do not recollect at present whether they are now supplied by the establishment.

890. Has the contract system been at all attempted in Van Diemen's Land?—Partially attempted. I believe the colony is not sufficiently advanced for the general application of that system.

891. With respect to the charge for the commissariat at Van Diemen's Land, there appears at Macquarrie Harbour to be a detachment of 33 men, and there is an establishment of one deputy-assistant commissary-general, and three clerks; do you know the number of convicts there?—I do not.

892. Do you know in what state the accounts of the commissariat department are?—I cannot state that precisely.

893. Are there any arrears?—I believe not.

894. You are aware that the charge for pay and allowance of the commissariat department is 4,861*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*, and 880*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*, for that year; take the same number of troops, and state, in the same manner which you have been asked to do with respect to New South Wales, what is the system observed there, and whether the accounts are well brought up?—The commissariat duties in Van Diemen's Land partake so much of the character of the duties of the department in New South Wales, that the remarks already submitted to the Committee respecting the duties of the commissariat in the latter colony, apply in a great degree to the duties of the department in Van Diemen's Land.

In both colonies there is much detail that is unavoidable in the business of supplying the convicts with provisions, tools and necessaries, in consequence of the various employments and situations of the convicts; some in goals, others in chains in road parties, others at the penal settlements and penitentiaries and the hospitals; all of which, combined with the necessary dispersion of the troops, greatly augment the detail and vouchers of the commissariat accounts, which are nevertheless regularly rendered to the department of accounts for examination.

In Van Diemen's Land the commissariat have also the duty of providing all articles that are required by the colonial government.

Although the system of providing by contract has been introduced in Van Diemen's Land, it cannot at present be depended upon; the commissariat consequently are obliged to make arrangements for ensuring regular supplies, that the troops and the convicts may not be exposed to the serious consequences that would otherwise result in case of failure on the part of contractors.

The following extract of a report from the commissariat officer in charge, dated Hobart Town, 8 February 1834, will show that such precautionary measures are necessary, and that depôts of provisions cannot be safely dispensed with:—

“I have on former occasions informed their Lordships that there are few contractors in this colony of sufficient means or credit to enable them to fulfil their engagements; and unless I occasionally assisted them with advances before their monthly accounts were rendered, or became due, I should not be able to procure the necessary supplies to carry on the service. It will, therefore, appear evident to their Lordships that there exists a necessity to secure at harvest time, when at the lowest price, a sufficient supply of wheat to meet the demand, or I should not only be at the mercy of the bakers, but in all probability oftentimes in want of bread.”

In addition to the colonial stores and the convict stores, which the commissariat have under their charge, they receive into store and issue (or by public sale dispose of such as are not required for the troops) the surplus provisions landed from the convict ships.

In this colony there are 11 stations, at such distance from head-quarters, and from each other, as to require at each station the presence of one or more individuals of the commissariat.

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At Hobart Town, the head-quarters, the general arrangements are formed; the proceedings at the out-stations are superintended during their progress, and the accounts of the expenditure in cash, provisions and stores, for the whole of the services, military, colonial and convict, are controlled, checked and rendered, with all requisite vouchers in support thereof, to the department of accounts, for examination upon the spot, previously to their being transmitted to the Commissioners for Auditing the Public Accounts in England, for final audit.

Richmond is a station 10 miles N.E. of Hobart Town.

Brighton	-	-	-	16	Miles	N.
Torell	-	-	-	22	—	N.E.
New Norfolk	-	-	-	22	—	N.W.
Bothwell	-	-	-	45	—	N.W.
Outlands	-	-	-	50	—	N.
Ross	-	-	-	74	—	N.N.E.
George Town	-	-	-	104	—	N.
Launceston	-	-	-	124	—	N., is a penal settlement.

And Port Arthur, on Tasman's Peninsula, is also a penal settlement, where a considerable number of convicts are confined.

In the estimate of the probable expenditure of the commissariat, for the year 1835-6, amounting to 150,660 *l.*, the following items are included; viz.

Supplies of provisions	-	-	-	£. 59,356
Fuel and light	-	-	-	3,775
Transport	-	-	-	1,000
Ordinaries	-	-	-	20,954
Convict establishment	-	-	-	45,370

The arrival of convicts from England, and the number to be rationed by government, is so very uncertain, that all previous calculation is difficult, and liable to be defeated; an addition of from 5,000 *l.* to 10,000 *l.* might therefore be necessary, under the head of "Supplies."

At the period when this estimate was framed, a committee was engaged in Hobart Town in investigating all the circumstances connected with the scales of diet required to be issued to convicts on the roads, in hospitals, in the chain gangs, and in the house of correction; and from the inquiries then made, there would probably result a considerable decrease in the issues of meat and flour.

From this brief exposition of the nature of the duties of the commissariat in Van Diemen's Land, it will readily be admitted that the various details arising out of the execution of these services cannot be performed without a considerable establishment.

In the year 1832, the commissariat department in Van Diemen's Land consisted of,

- 1 Assistant Commissary-general in charge.
- 5 Deputy Assistants.
- 13 Clerks.
- 6 Storekeepers.
- 14 Inferior persons.

—
Making a Total of 39 Persons.

This establishment may perhaps appear at first sight to be rather large; but it is right to remark, that a great proportion consists of subordinate persons, and that the individuals of this description, who are unavoidably employed, afford but very little efficient assistance.

The lieutenant-governor, in a communication addressed to the Treasury Board, dated the 3d September 1832, expressed his opinion, "that the strength at present of the commissariat establishment is inadequate to the performance of the duties that are required, without extreme difficulty and embarrassment."

The Treasury Board have always been desirous of keeping down the establishment to the lowest scale consistent with the proper performance of the public service. In the last year, 1834, the establishment of the commissariat consisted of 34 persons, being a reduction of five from the number above stated; and in March of the present year the lieutenant-governor was directed, in pursuance of a Minute of the Board of Treasury, to institute a complete revision of the commissariat department, and to report to their Lordships, for their consideration, the numbers and ranks of the officers, clerks, &c. that he may propose to be retained in that branch of the service.

Veneris, 17^a die Julii, 1835.

ROBERT GORDON, ESQUIRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Deputy Assistant Commissary-General *William J. Greig*, Esq., called in; and Examined.

William J. Greig,
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895. YOU have served in the commissariat in Canada?—Yes.

896. For many years?—For 21 years.

897. In different grades?—I have been 21 years in my present grade.

898. What is your present grade?—Deputy-assistant commissary-general.

899. When did you leave Canada?—In October 1833.

900. Have you ever had anything to do with the commissariat in Nova Scotia?—I have not.

901. We find upon reference to the accounts, that the expense of the commissariat in Nova Scotia is one-third only of the expense of the commissariat in Canada, with nearly the same number of troops; can you give us any explanation of the reason of the great expense of the commissariat in Canada compared with that of Nova Scotia?—The force of Nova Scotia is concentrated; there are not above three or four stations; in Canada there are 11 or 12 stations; it is a very extensive command.

902. Do you consider that that circumstance alone, of a greater number of stations, is sufficient to account for the disproportionate expense of the commissariat in those two colonies; have you any other reasons to give?—No; I am not aware that any other reason is assigned.

903. Have the commissaries any peculiar duties to discharge in Canada that they have not in other colonies?—That I cannot say, not having served in other colonies.

904. What other duties have they in Canada?—In the ordnance department: when I was stationed at Quebec, for all building materials that were required for public works, requisitions were made by the engineers, and then by the ordnance, upon the commissariat, for those materials; they were then supplied by the commissariat to the engineer officer; those materials were never seen by the ordnance, but they certified to the receipt of them; in fact it was a mere paper transaction as far as the ordnance were concerned. At Kingston, in the same way, we advertised for the carrying on the public works, invited competition, entered into contracts, supplied the ordnance with money, paid their drafts, and they were permitted to draw for any sum from 5*l.* and upwards. Now it would have been no more trouble to the commissariat officer at Kingston to have paid the individual that supplied the article, instead of going to the ordnance officer and getting a draft, which was brought to me as the officer paying the money; it gave me additional work, as I had to make an abstract of those drafts. The duty appears to me twice done, and it is my opinion there is a vast deal more writing in public offices than is necessary.

905. Do you pay by drafts on the bank, or keep money in hand?—The change had just taken place before I left.

906. When you were present the money was paid by you as treasurer?—I had the custody of the money: since then I have understood that the payments were made by the Montreal bank in Canada, and I believe they have branches in different parts of the province.

907. In the payments you made on account of the ordnance department, had you any check on the accuracy or the amount of the account, or merely the payment of the money?—Upon the ordnance storekeeper's signature, countersigned by the senior respective officers of the ordnance; their signature was the authority. I could not say what it was for, or whether it was correct.

908. You had nothing to do to sanction the charge?—No.

909. How did you pay the pensioners of the artillery?—They are not paid by us, they are paid by the ordnance. The Chelsea pensioners, Kilmainham half-pay retired allowance, and widows' pensions, and staff pay of the army, are charges under the head of ordinaries of the army; they are paid by the commissariat, and are a great increase of duty.

17 July 1835.

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910. Are they paid half-yearly or quarterly?—Regularly quarterly.
911. Are they paid at head quarters?—No, at several distinct stations.
912. Are there any collectors or resident individuals in the civil government there, through whom those payments could be made?—Not that I am aware of.
913. Is there any collector of taxes in those districts?—I dare say there are: in all the counties in Upper Canada there are county treasurers; those are civil appointments made by the governor of the province.
914. Has any attempt been made to pay those pensioners through the county treasurer, the same as pensions and militia payments in England are made through the receiver of taxes, excise or customs?—In the Bathurst or Rideau Canal district, there are several hundred pensioners residing, and they have two or three agents at Perth.
915. Agents of their own?—Yes, with whom they deposit their vouchers quarterly, acquitted and complete in every particular, and those are sent to the commissariat officer at Bytown; it is to save those poor people the trouble of going 60 or 70 miles to obtain payment, and the draft for the amount is transmitted to those agents.
916. Are those agents sanctioned by the government in any way?—The commissary-general is considered the person to authorize them.
917. Is there any per centage paid to that agent by the parties receiving the money?—I do not know.
918. Are they paid anything by the commissary-general?—No; they are nearly all shopkeepers, and the pensioners deal with them.
919. Are we to understand that the pensioners of each district send their several receipts generally through the agent, who transmits them to head-quarters, and do not generally apply themselves?—In Quebec they generally apply individually, they generally reside in the city; but not so in the out-stations, where it would be a serious expense to them.
920. What you state is the general course?—Particularly at that particular station, Bytown; an officer is sent there annually. I have been there on two or three occasions to identify those pensioners.
921. What security or check is there against fraud on the part of those pensioners; a man may be dead, and the voucher transferred to another?—I have been twice there to identify the pensioners, and to examine the men; to question them and look to their instructions, and see that the description of them is right, and that the height and complexion corresponds; most of those men I have seen so often I know them.
922. How often is this inspection?—Once a year: very many of those men merely make a cross; the consequence is that fraud could be easily perpetrated.
923. Might not, in that case, the agent of the public, the collector or treasurer of the county, be made use of for identifying the individuals annually; thus saving that trouble and expense to the public?—Yes, if you can get them to do it.
924. You were going on to state the other duties of the commissariat?—The distribution of presents to the Indians.
925. Have you yourself attended at any of those distributions?—Yes, I have.
926. At what place did you attend that distribution?—When I was stationed at Toronto, late York, in Upper Canada, I attended to issue presents to the Six-nation Indians.
927. At what place?—At Blandford, on the Grand River.
928. What is the nearest station to that?—Toronto.
929. At what distance?—From Toronto to the head of the lake, it is nearly 90 miles.
930. How many Indians attended?—I should say from 1,200 to 1,400 probably; there were 20 different tribes.
931. At what months in the year?—The month of October.
932. One a year?—This was annually.
933. Is the distribution always made at the same place?—I believe so.
934. What were the articles distributed?—A great variety; I dare say I must have had from 70 to 80 bales, blankets, cloth, and silver trinkets.
935. Any hardware?—Yes.
936. Are you sending gradually now more useful things?—There were cooking utensils, ammunition, fire-arms, shot and ball.
937. Did you take all those things up with you, or is there any depôt kept there?
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—I entered into an agreement for a steam-boat, and they were transferred to the head of the lake to Hamilton, and then transferred by land.

938. Did you distribute the whole of them?—Yes, there were some few remnants remaining, that were distributed by the superintendent to the most deserving Indians.

939. Under what orders did you act, and with whom did you communicate?—Colonel Givens was the superintendent of the Indian department; he accompanied me.

940. What steps were taken on your arrival?—He accompanied me, with a clerk of the Indian department.

941. You had a clerk with you?—I had an issuer; there was a Major Wynnett, and a subaltern; he acted as the commanding officer of the expedition. There is always a military officer accompanies the party, to see that the thing is properly done.

942. What is the duty of the chief of the Indian department?—His duty is to hear if the Indians have anything to state; the Indians held a council, and he attended.

943. On your arrival there, what measures are taken, and how is the distribution regulated?—The allowance is stated on the estimate, which the Indian department have.

944. You mean a scheme of distribution?—Yes.

945. Who regulates the quantity to be delivered to each nation?—The Indian department, I suppose.

946. Then your duty in the commissariat is merely a distribution, according to the scheme put into your hands?—The issuer and clerk of the department open the bales, and measure out the exact portions to each tribe.

947. According to the scheme put into their hands?—Yes.

948. Do you furnish a scheme to the commissariat?—No, I had very little to do with it.

949. How do you report to your chief?—A requisition is sent to the commissariat department, the amount of it is authenticated by the superintendent of the Indian department; he gives a receipt, and I enter it in my account as a final issue.

950. You are a mere issuer upon that indent?—Yes, exactly.

951. And that duty done, you return to the station?—Yes.

952. What is there to prevent the officer of the Indian department seeing them distributed?—I think the duty could be done by the commissariat without the Indian department; I think that the Indian department is very useless, many of them. I conceive, if you have interpreters where the issues of presents are made, I mean men employed on a salary, instead of the overwhelming Indian department, it would be quite sufficient.

953. There are interpreters there?—Yes.

954. Do any observations occur to you, as to a better and cheaper mode of distribution than that which is now used?—I have never considered the subject, I never having been on this service but once. I do not think I am competent to give an opinion, but I do think that the duties might be performed by the commissariat, by having an interpreter; these interpreters speak the Indian languages, which are numerous; there is no commissariat officer that could make himself understood to those Indians.

955. Do none of those nations, so long in communication with the English, speak the English language?—Yes, a great many of them.

956. Have they any interpreters to answer that purpose?—I have met with very many Indians that speak English, and I should think in that particular district that they all speak English, or most of them.

957. Are there any English schools established among them?—Yes, I understand there are.

958. Under whose department would they be; would they be under the head of the Indian department?—Yes, I should think they are.

959. How many days did you stay there?—Altogether, we were absent about 10 days.

960. Did they come down on the day you arrived, and go away when you returned?—The issues were completed, I believe, in three days.

961. From what distance did they come down to Blandford?—That I cannot tell, they were distributed all over the country; they all came down in their carts

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and waggons, in the Indian costume; but they are farmers generally, civilized Indians.

962. Is there any permanent depôt, or individual resident, at Blandford?—No depôt, but I believe a superintendent resides there.

963. Is that the only station in Upper Canada where a distribution takes place?—No, there is Amherstburg.

964. There appear to be two deputy-assistant commissaries-general, one issuer, and one labourer, at an expense of nearly 600*l.*; can you state the duties they have to perform, seeing there are only 49 rank and file of all classes stationed there?—They have the supply of this detachment; and there are others, the Indian departments, &c. &c.

965. Have you ever been there?—No; but the commissariat have all the payments to make, and the Indian presents to issue there.

966. In the same way as at Blandford?—Yes, but it is much more an Indian country; those Indians frequently have provisions issued to them. Indians come in very frequently in distress, and I believe there is an authority to permit the commanding officer to issue provisions under his signature, on the representation of the Indian department.

967. In what way is it brought to account?—It is charged in the commissariat account. I know that provisions have been issued by myself to Indians at York.

968. Do you recollect what month in the year the distribution takes place at Amherstburg?—No.

969. Have you any idea of whether one-fourth or one-half of the presents for the whole of Canada were distributed at Blandford?—I cannot say.

970. For the supply of 50 men, a separate establishment, a commissariat, would be required if there was no distribution of those presents?—Yes, of course; if they are supplied by a commissariat, 50 or 100 men give you as much trouble, and the same forms of account are gone through, as a regiment.

971. Is there any other Indian station?—The bay of Quenté, near Kingston; they are supplied from Kingston.

972. Is there any station at the spot, or does some individual go out as you did from Blandford?—Yes, in the same way.

973. In what month?—I do not know.

974. In what manner do you supply the station at Penetanguishine?—I was not there; when we gave up Drummond Island we removed to Penetanguishine, and that is our naval head-quarters on Lake Huron.

975. But at this time are there any other dependencies upon it?—No, it is a dependency of itself; it gets its supply from York.

976. Do they not always contract to supply rations deliverable to the troops, or are they contracted for and delivered to you who issue them?—While I was at York, I contracted with an individual near Penetanguishine; he supplied the navy and the troops stationed there.

977. Did he deliver so many rations on the indent of the commanding officer, and deliver them to the men, or deliver them to you to issue?—The fresh meat was supplied by the contractor under his contract.

978. You first made a contract; is the contractor bound to deliver the rations according to the indent of the commanding officer commanding the district, or does the contractor deliver the rations to the commissariat, and the commissariat re-issue them to the troops?—They go through the commissariat: a return is made signed by the commanding officer, and brought to the commissariat office; if it is correct, the commissariat takes an acquittance of the officer entitled to receive them, and upon that he issues his check upon the contractor.

979. The provisions do not actually come into your hands?—No, not the fresh provisions.

980. Generally speaking, they are issued under your sanction; your sanction being necessary for the agent at the store?—Yes.

981. Do you advertise publicly in the papers for contracts?—Yes, on all occasions.

982. Who receives and opens the tenders, and decides?—The tenders are received and opened in the presence of the commissariat officer, and the officer commanding at the station.

983. In advertising for the tenders, you specify about the average number you expect?—Yes, more or less. Another thing I beg to state; after the receipt of those tenders, the commissariat officer decides which tender is to be accepted, but

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there is a schedule made of those tenders in the presence of the commanding officer, and he certifies, and the commissariat officer, that those tenders were opened in their presence.

984. Supposing a complaint is made of the badness of the article by any of the men, or by any persons connected with the station, to whom is the complaint made?—To the commissariat officer; it is made to the commanding officer in the first instance, and he represents it to the commissariat.

985. Is it your duty to inspect it, and make a report?—Yes, it depends upon the way in which the contract is drawn up; I have seen contracts drawn up in which the commissariat officer was the sole judge, and there was no appeal to any other judge, which made those contractors more vigilant; but there ought to be no complaint from the troops. The contractor's stores happened to be, when I was stationed at Niagara, very near my residence, and I used to attend in the morning; for it is possible that an understanding between the contractors and the quartermasters or sergeants might exist, to the detriment of the soldier; they may say, we require such and such for our own mess, and the refuse or inferior article might be given to the soldier; as the soldier has nothing but his ration to depend upon, he ought to get it good.

986. You have mentioned that you have attended at the contractor's stores; wherever there is a contract, has the contractor a store?—Yes, at his own expense, unless the commissariat had a store that is no use to the public service; he is allowed then to make use of it.

987. Did you hear of any difficulty in any part of Canada in receiving tenders, when due notice was given?—No.

988. Have you ever known contractors fail in their engagements?—I believe they have occasionally.

989. Do you demand security?—Yes.

990. Eventually the public do not suffer?—No. I have on two or three occasions at Niagara, when the troops have actually taken the meat, insisted upon the meat being returned, as I did not think it of a good quality; and I sent to the market and purchased meat, and deducted the amount from the contractor's account at the end of the month.

991. In all cases do the troops receive their rations direct from the hands of the contractor, or in any cases do they receive their provisions from the commissariat's stores?—Wherever I have served, the provisions have been issued by the contractor, upon orders from the commissariat officer.

992. Would there be any difficulty, in case of the absence of the commissariat upon any station in Canada, in the troops obtaining supplies by their own regimental contracts?—I do not see that there would be any difficulty in it, but there are regular accounts kept.

993. Is there any station in Canada in which, if there was no commissariat, the troops in passing through the country might be exposed to inconvenience for the want of a supply?—If there is a previous notice of a few days, the commanding officer makes his arrangements.

994. In time of peace, no troops do pass from one district to another without previous notice?—It is always announced when troops are moving; the changes are periodical.

995. What does a soldier receive for his ration in Canada?—A pound of bread and a pound of beef every day.

996. What does he pay for it?—Five pence.

997. Does it vary according to the price?—No, it is always the same.

998. Is it a pound of meat exclusive of bone?—No.

Mr. Henry Chapman, called in; and Examined.

999. WHAT is your profession?—I am of no profession.

1000. Where have you resided?—In Canada nearly 12 years.

1001. As a land proprietor?—No; in the early part of my career I was a merchant, but latterly I was the editor and proprietor of a daily paper at Montreal, which I have sold: during the early part of my residence I was at Quebec.

1002. Can you give the Committee any information as to the commissariat department?—I have no knowledge of the commissariat department especially, but I believe, that the circumstances of Canada would render the commissariat

either

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either wholly unnecessary, or else a very small one necessary: from the resources of Canada, and the excellent supply of the markets, there is very little need of a commissariat establishment, as far as I understand.

1003. Have you ever been in Nova Scotia?—No, never; I have been in all parts of Canada.

1004. Are you aware that there are many duties thrown upon the commissariat in Canada, besides that of superintending the feeding of the troops?—I believe a considerable quantity of the paying of the troops rests with them.

1005. Are you not aware that they take an active part in the distribution of presents to the Indians?—Yes, I am.

1006. Can you give us any information as to the distribution of those presents, and how far the duties now performed by the commissariat may be performed by the Indian department, or the duties of the Indian department performed by the commissariat?—I should think that the commissariat would be quite competent to distribute the presents without any Indian department, which is an expensive machine.

1007. Are you aware of the duties performed by the Indian department?—Nothing, I believe, but distributing the presents; I see the officers of the Indian department about the town all the year, except during a short time, when they make journeys to the Indian settlements to distribute the presents.

1008. You do not think the double department, the Indian and the commissariat, is necessary to distribute the presents?—I think not.

1009. Has the Indian department nothing to do with keeping up communications and receiving remonstrances or complaints from the Indians?—I am not aware of any; some complaints have been made by the Indians, but those I recollect have been made to the House of Assembly of Lower Canada.

1010. Are you aware that the commissariat supplies food to the Indians, if they are reduced to a state of want?—I believe they do in some cases, but they are rare.

1011. Are you aware of all the duties that are performed by the commissariat in Canada?—No, I am not; I would state I know but little of the duties of the commissariat.

1012. If you do not keep up the Indian department, you must keep up the commissariat?—Yes, if it is the opinion of the government; that the system of Indian presents should be kept up.

1013. Do you know anything about the presents?—I have seen them distributed.

1014. What are the sort of presents?—They give them blankets, guns, gun-flints, pots and pans, and various other useful things.

1015. Any ammunition?—Yes.

1016. Implements of husbandry?—No, generally what relates to hunting; there is very little agriculture except at one or two small settlements; there is a settlement at Lorette, which is a small station, a remnant of the Huron nation; there is also a settlement at Saint Leges, through the centre of which runs the line that divides the United States from the Canadas; it is in 45°.

1017. You have been present at the distribution of the presents?—Yes.

1018. Where?—At Port Leve, near Quebec.

1019. You have never gone to Amherstburg?—No; that is the most important distribution.

1020. Who were the persons that took the principal part in the distribution of those presents; was it the commissariat or the Indian department?—I think the Quebec distribution is managed by the commissariat department, but the officers are dressed so nearly alike, it is difficult to distinguish them.

1021. Are these presents kept by the Indians, or bartered away?—They are bartered for drink; it is a notorious fact, that when the presents are distributed, the night following is a night of drunkenness and maddening debauchery; and the impression is now that it would be cheaper to give the Indians drink at once, as they are sure to get it afterwards.

1022. When did you leave Canada?—On Christmas-eve. The government can have no more control over the Indians than over me; they cannot prevent the Indians buying rum; persons will always bring it to them, and my notion is that a very small portion of the Indian presents find their way into the country.

1023. Do you know whether the officers of the Indian department discharge

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any other duties than those connected with the Indian presents?—No, I am not aware of any others.

1024. Are you aware that out of the whole sum of 20,000 *l.*, that nearly one-fourth of it is paid to the Indian department?—Yes, I have understood so, 4,700 *l.*

1025. Do you think that necessary?—No, quite unnecessary; from the small number of Indians in Canada, I should say the necessity did not exist.

1026. Do the officers of the Indian department perform any other duties?—I believe they perform no duties except those connected with the Indians: if the duty of the Indian department be confined, or nearly confined, to the distribution of presents, the duty is and can be actually performed in a very few days, so that the whole of the remaining part of the year the department is idle.

Mr. William Bryan, called in; and Examined.

Mr. Wm. Bryan.

1027. YOU have come from Australia lately?—I came from Sydney the 17th of December.

1028. Had you been there long?—In Sydney only four months.

1029. In the colony?—In Van Diemen's Land 10 years.

1030. You were a settler there?—Yes.

1031. Can you give us any information as to the commissariat at Van Diemen's Land and Australia?—If I was asked any particular questions, probably I might; but generally I have not been in any way connected with the military service.

1032. Would there be any difficulty in Australia and Van Diemen's Land in supplying the troops by contracts, with what they are supplied now by the commissariat department?—They are supplied by contracts; there is a regular advertisement.

1033. They are supplied by contracts made with the commissariat?—Yes.

1034. They are supplied by the commissariat from their own store?—No; there are advertisements given out that troops stationed so and so would require to be rationed, and then contractors propose to ration them with meat and flour: the tea, tobacco, sugar and spirits, are supplied from the commissariat store. I was contractor for meat for one year.

1035. There is never any difficulty in getting tenders?—No, quite the contrary; there is great competition.

1036. The meat and bread is supplied at once to the officer at the station, or the commissariat?—Yes; I speak of the out-stations.

1037. Who makes the bread?—The soldiers make the bread.

1038. Do you believe that the system of contracts to be universally adopted?—I speak of Van Diemen's Land, it is positively so there; and I am convinced that at Sydney it could be applied.

1039. You are of opinion it might be so there, if it is not so?—Yes.

1040. Is there capability in New South Wales to supply those things by contracts?—I conceive there are materials to be had in New South Wales to supply them with every article they can require; and there is capital and mercantile speculation, and persons dispersed all over the country to supply the articles. I would state that great loss has been sustained from not keeping the stores in Van Diemen's Land filled with grain; a scarcity arose at the latter end of the year, and His Majesty was paying 18 *s.* a bushel for his wheat.

1041. That must be great neglect on the part of the commissary?—No doubt; and a great act of ignorance on the part of the government putting forward advertisements later in the year than they ought to do, about the spring of the year 1833, stating that there was abundance of wheat in the colonies, when if merchants or country gentlemen had been consulted, the contrary would have been proved to have been the case: the injury to the public at large was immense, and in all probability will be one of the causes of high prices for grain this year. The cartage of commissariat stores to out-stations, &c. must form a very considerable item of colonial expenditure; this might, in part, be lessened by doing everything by tender, the articles to be delivered where required for use.

Mr. George Fairford, called in; and Examined.

Mr.
George Fairford.

1042. ARE you lately come from Australia?—I left it nine months ago.

1043. Can you give the Committee any information as to the commissariat establishment?

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blishment at Australia or Van Diemen's Land?—No, not much; I know that everything is done by tender now.

1044. Everything is done by contract?—Yes, and public tender.

1045. How long has it been so?—Four or five years.

1046. The troops are not fed from the commissariat depôts, but are fed from the contractors' depôts?—I am not sure that I can answer that question positively: they are fed both ways; the out-stations are principally fed from the contractors' depôts, but in Moreton Bay and Norfolk Island they are fed from the commissariat; these provisions, however, with the exception of some turned into store from convict transports, &c., are purchased by the commissariat by public tender. There are at present no means of sending stores to those places but by the government vessels, or in cases of emergency, by vessels hired for the purpose.

1047. The contracts are not universal?—I fancy not.

1048. Supposing they were to contract at Sydney or other places, could not the contractor send stores in the same way that the government could?—It is very possible, but the government boats always take them.

1049. Do you believe, at all the other stations, the troops are fed from the contractors' stores?—I believe so.

1050. Is there any difficulty in finding persons who will contract to supply the troops with provisions?—No, none at all; there is great competition for it.

1051. Do you suppose that the colony is capable of supplying provisions to almost any amount for the troops?—Beef, certainly, to any amount.

1052. Bread?—Yes, in common years, but occasionally there is a scarcity, and then it will come high; this is not a very frequent occurrence.

1053. You are aware of the number of convicts in South Wales?—I am not aware how many are fed by government.

1054. All those, except those that are liberated, are fed by government?—All assigned servants are fed by their masters; emancipists, ticket-of-leave men, are fed by themselves; the convicts retained in government employ, the disabled, and men under punishment, are fed by government, and I am aware that they amount to a considerable number.

1055. Could you name the number?—No.

1056. As far as meat goes there would be no difficulty?—No; for men write, beef is only a penny, or a penny and a fraction of a farthing a pound, under the contract; that is for the convicts; I believe it is $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ for the soldiers.

1057. Mutton is equally cheap?—Not so cheap, but very cheap; mutton by the joint, from $4d.$ to $4\frac{1}{2}d.$; by the carcass, about $3d.$ or $3\frac{1}{2}d.$

1058. What should you put the average price of bread?—It fluctuates very much; when I came away they were threatened with a scarcity, wheat was $9s.$ a bushel, and it threatened to be higher, it was $11s.$; it is a very uncertain country for wheat; the average price may be taken at $2d.$ per lb. or rather lower. When the wheat in a scarce year was $13s.$ per bushel, the 4 lb. loaf was $1s. 1d.$ Upon the whole, I think the colony is capable of feeding any number of troops or convicts which is likely to be sent out; I should say, double the number it feeds at present: the increased demand would cause an increased production to meet it.

Mercurii, 22^a die Julii, 1835.

ROBERT GORDON, ESQUIRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Deputy Assistant Commissary-general *W. J. Greig*, Esq., called in; and further Examined.

W. J. Greig, Esq.

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1059. IS it your opinion that the commissariat duties in the Canadas could be conducted with a smaller establishment?—Yes.

1060. Will you state in what manner?—When I was stationed at York, in the years 1827 and 1828, the establishment consisted of myself, a Treasury clerk, two issuers, and a labourer; five altogether. I could have conducted the duties with two persons less.

1061. I believe you are deputy-assistant commissary-general?—Yes.

1062. At York?—Yes.

1063. What do you say the establishment at York could be conducted with?—I am speaking of the years 1827 and 1828.

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1064. You

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1064. You think that is capable of being reduced?—In the years 1827 and 1828 I could have conducted the duties with two persons less. Since 1827 there has been an increase of 459*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* in the expenses of the establishment, and last year a deputy commissary-general was added to the York establishment; making an increase in the expenditure, since 1827 and 1828, of 1,151*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* When I heard of this arrangement I expressed my surprise that an officer of the rank of deputy commissary-general should be sent there, since which, however, he has been removed from the command altogether; which goes to prove that I was correct in my opinion. I conceive, however, a deputy commissary-general of ability quite equal to the performance of the duties in Canada, by which change the Treasury will immediately effect a saving of 1,200*l.* per annum. The military pay of the commander of the forces in British North America is 75*s.* 10*d.* per diem; whilst that of the commissary-general, an officer under his command, is 94*s.* 11*d.* per diem. The whole of the pay of the commissariat requires revision.

1065. Then am I to understand, when you were there in the years 1827 and 1828 there was only one assistant commissary-general?—Deputy-assistant commissary-general.

1066. And two issuers?—One Treasury clerk, two issuers, and one labourer.

1067. It appears in the year 1833 that there was an assistant commissary-general, two deputy-assistant commissary-generals, one conductor, and three issuers?—Yes.

1068. Making an increase at York since the year 1827?—Yes.

1069. And yet your opinion is that even the establishment in 1827, when you were there, was more than sufficient?—Certainly.

1070. Are you aware that there has been any increase of duty?—There has been an increase of duty; a great number of pensioners have established themselves at York and in the neighbourhood, which has increased the duty.

1071. Does the increase of pensioners admit of necessity of a greater increase in the establishment?—I should suppose, probably, an additional officer.

1072. Instead of three?—Yes.

1073. Do you think that the establishment in 1827 was more than sufficient to dispatch the business?—There were two more than were necessary. It was no part of my duty to recommend reductions, unless called upon by the head of my department to state my opinion; and even had I been disposed to volunteer an opinion, I should not have done so, for the following reasons: I at that time had from 12,000*l.* to 13,000*l.* in the chest; the expenditure averaged about 2,000*l.* a month; I wrote to the commissary-general, stating to him that I should be very glad to reduce my balance, and if money was required at Kingston I should be very happy to supply it, as I had to count this money every quarter, and it gave a great deal of trouble and I had no use for it, as the British silver paid out of the chest during the month was always brought back to the office for Treasury bills; his reply was, that that was a matter for his consideration, not mine. Had the commissary-general called on me to state conscientiously what establishment it required to conduct the duties at York, I should have stated that I could dispense with the services of two persons.

1074. Now what sort of daily attendance did you, as deputy-assistant commissary-general at York, give?—I was at the office generally every morning at 10 o'clock; whatever payments there were to be made, were made between 10 and half-past three or four o'clock.

1075. Did you remain there the whole of that time?—I remained generally every day; occasionally I have had to go up to the garrison on duty, and down to the contractors, &c.

1076. Your business was duty?—Yes, it was.

1077. What did the conductor do?—There were issues to the troops and to the garrison, and the different departments, &c.

1078. Did those take place daily?—Well, to the troops weekly; but as to the issues to individuals, it was impossible to say at what time they would call; these issues were not so regular as to the troops.

1079. Were the issuers persons who remained in the office: what is the meaning of the word issuer?—They are issuers of stores, provisions, spirits, fuel, &c. It is a subordinate appointment.

1080. Your opinion is, that at York, then, one deputy-assistant commissary-general, one conductor, and one issuer, would have been enough?—Yes, that is my opinion; I could have conducted the duties with that establishment in 1827 and 1828.

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1081. You could have conducted it with a less establishment at that time?—
 Yes, I could.
1082. Had you anything to do but to pay money?—Pay money, issue provi-
 sions, and issue stores, fuel, &c.
1083. Then your provisions were taken by contract?—The flour was issued to
 bakers, which I consider a very bad method. I think the better way is to contract
 for bread baked. The system at some of the stations in Canada is to purchase
 flour, to issue it to the bakers; and he gives so many pounds of bread for so many
 pounds of flour.
1084. Can you give, from your own knowledge, any other information as to
 any other of the commissariat stations?—No.
1085. In the Canadas?—Certainly.
1086. What one?—Fort George.
1087. What do you know of the establishment of Fort George in 1827?—I was
 ordered to Fort George in 1828, to relieve Deputy-assistant Commissary-general
 Wickins, and Mr. Wilson, a Treasury clerk. They were ordered to Drummond
 Island. I relieved two persons there, and I performed the duties of the station
 with perfect ease.
1088. You think, then, the establishment at Fort George was too large?—Yes,
 I think it was unnecessary altogether.
1089. That there should be none at all?—In four hours you go from York to
 Fort George by steam.
1090. Do you think that the whole commissariat establishment at Fort George
 is unnecessary?—Yes; I will state why it is unnecessary.
1091. Because you can communicate in four hours with York?—Yes, that is
 one reason; and as everything is done by contract, there is nothing to prevent the
 officer at York from going over monthly and settling with the contractors, if it is
 even necessary to keep a detachment there, which I understand it is not.
1092. You consider that the establishment at Fort George is unnecessary alto-
 gether?—Yes.
1093. Do you mean to say this, that the additional duty at Fort George can be
 done with a diminution of establishment, which you also recommend at York?—
 I am speaking relative to the years 1827, 1828 and 1829; to the years I was in
 charge at York and Fort George.
1094. When you were there in the year 1827, you not only had not enough to do
 for yourself, but you could have done all the duties of Fort George without the
 other establishment?—Yes, in the way I have pointed out.
1095. My question is this, that as you recommend the establishment at Fort
 George to be done away with, as here stated, altogether, would you think that
 diminution of establishment, which you also recommend at York, is quite sufficient
 to do the duty of York and also of Fort George?—Yes, when I was there.
1096. Are you aware of any duties that have been superadded since you were
 there?—The increase of pensioners, I am not aware of anything else; but I under-
 stand that Penetanguishine has added to the duties at York; it was a depen-
 dency on York. When I was in charge in 1827 and 1828, I entered into
 contracts for supplying the naval establishment there, and they drew their supplies
 of money from my chest; and as far as I was concerned, I considered the duties,
 I mean the labour, insignificant.
1097. What additional establishment would be necessary in order to pay those
 pensioners?—I have already stated that an additional officer would be enough.
 I think that the establishment would be quite equal for the duty, with that addi-
 tional officer.
1098. Supposing the commissariat establishments at York and Fort George
 were united, with the additional duty of paying the pensioners, which they have
 now imposed on them, what would be the establishment which you think sufficient
 for those two united establishments?—An assistant commissary-general, a deputy-
 assistant, one conductor, and two issuers; that is about the same establishment
 I had.
1099. No labourer?—No, the issuers are sufficient.
1100. That would be sufficient to conduct the two united stations of York and
 Fort George, with the additional duty imposed on them of paying the pensioners?
 —Yes.

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1101. Do you know anything of any other establishment?—There is Kingston.

1102. At Kingston there appears to be at present an assistant commissary-general, two deputy-assistants, one clerk, two issuers, and one messenger; do you conceive that to be more than sufficient for the establishment in question at present, for the duties which are to be performed?—I think there might be one officer less, or the clerk reduced. When I was stationed there in 1829, I believe the establishment consisted of 10 or 11 persons, and I am of opinion that the duties could have been conducted with three persons less.

1103. Do you know of any other establishment?—Yes, the Rideau Canal, Bytown.

1104. With reference to the Rideau Canal, what can you state with respect to that?—I was stationed there two years, 1830 to 1832; I left in 1832. There were four officers there: there was an assistant commissary-general, three deputy-assistants, a cooper, and a labourer. The duties might have been executed with two officers less: the assistant, in fact, did nothing but sign his name and occasionally write an official letter.

1105. What do you say with regard to any other place?—As a proof of the correctness of what I have stated respecting the Rideau Canal, I beg leave to state that for the first two or three years the duties were performed by Deputy-assistant Commissary-general Miller, and one clerk or conductor, I cannot recollect which; they performed the duties, I believe, for the first two or three years, when there was much more to do than latterly.

1106. What do you know of any other station?—Under commissary-general Turquand, in the year 1825, the commissariat establishment in the Canadas consisted of 79 individuals in roundnumbers of all classes; under Commissary-general Routh, in the year 1833, the commissariat establishment consisted of 84 individuals, notwithstanding that the duties under the latter officer had very much diminished; for instance, the issue of spirits was discontinued to the troops. The accounts for the command are in duplicate, with one abstract only; whereas, under Mr. Turquand, the accounts were in triplicate, and an abstract for every head of service, and there were from 12 to 14 heads of service: therefore, one set of accounts being done away with, and all these abstracts, I should conceive the labour to have been about a third less or nearly a third, and consequently a reduction ought to have taken place in the year 1827. It appears to me very many subordinate appointments in the commissariat may be abolished altogether. There are very few issues now made by the department, if you except the Indian presents, and those occur annually. Most of the supplies for the army are contracted for; consequently the issues are made by the party contracting to furnish these supplies, on orders from the commissariat officer. At all stations where there are barracks (if the public departments are consolidated) there is nothing to prevent the commissariat being in charge of the barracks, by which means a barrack establishment would be unnecessary.

1107. Have you made any calculation in your opinion of the reduction which may take place in the commissariat establishments in Canada, without affecting the service?—I can only state that Deputy Commissary-general Forbes, (now on half-pay in Canada, and who served in those colonies, and has lately returned from Jamaica, a gentleman standing very high in the service, and exceedingly clever in commissariat matters) has frequently told me that he could conduct the commissariat duties in Canada at half the expense.

1108. Half what expense?—Half the 15,000*l.*; when I was there the expense was 15,000*l.*, and Deputy Commissary-general Forbes has expressed to me his astonishment that the authorities should approve of such an establishment.

1109. Is it your opinion that, with the duties that now fall on the commissariat of paying pensioners and of distributing Indian presents, that instead of the commissariat costing 15,000*l.* a year, that it might be carried on as efficiently for one half that sum?—I should say a third less.

1110. Do you think it might be carried on for 10,000*l.*?—I think it could.

1111. Have you ever made any representation to the Treasury to that effect?—No, I have not; because it was not my duty to comment upon the conduct of my superiors.

1112. You have never made a representation to that effect in any quarter?—No, I have not; I had some conversation last year with a Member of Parliament,
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who was one of this Committee, and he gave me a note to Mr. Rice, the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, who saw me and asked me several questions, which he took a note of at the time. The conversation had reference to the reduction in the commissariat establishments in Canada.

1113. Is it your opinion that the ordnance civil establishment would admit of being reduced?—Yes, it is.

1114. In what manner?—Previous to the war, there was no ordnance establishment at Montreal, Isle aux Noix, Kingston, and the Rideau Canal. At present there are large establishments at all these stations, or at least two of them. It appears to me, in the way in which the duties are now conducted, that either the commissariat or the ordnance, no matter which, are quite equal to the duties of both departments.

1115. Supposing you were to carry into effect the contemplated reduction of the ordnance, would the commissariat be susceptible of reduction to the same extent which you have adverted to just now?—That I cannot say, because I do not exactly know the duties of the ordnance. Will the Committee allow me to state a case, but one which shows the system that is pursued in Canada? The accounts in the ordnance are made out in triplicate, and I should imagine the forms were much the same as they were in the reign of Queen Elizabeth: for instance, if any articles be required, say for the adjutant-general's department, a requisition is made by the adjutant-general, approved of by the military secretary, and sent to the ordnance storekeeper; these articles are not in store; the ordnance storekeeper then makes a requisition on the commissary-general, the articles are purchased by the commissariat, and furnished to the adjutant-general; they are never seen by the ordnance. The individual from whom the articles are purchased then makes out a set of accounts in triplicate; he prays to be allowed the sum for the articles that have been supplied to the adjutant-general; the rates are certified by two competent persons to be agreeable to the market-price of the country. The account is on a sheet of foolscap paper: on the first page is the tradesman's account or bill; on the second page is a letter from the senior or chief respective officer, desiring the ordnance storekeeper to pay to the individual who has furnished the articles the amount of the within account; on the third side of the sheet is the receipt; and I have often seen accounts to the amount of half-a-crown made out in that form, with the exception as to the certificate of rates. Now, it appears to me that if the requisition came direct from the adjutant-general to the commissary-general, it would save an immense deal of trouble; or indeed to the ordnance storekeeper.

1116. There would be a consequent saving of expense in the clerical department?—No doubt of it. For all building materials required for fortifications, barracks, &c. under the control of the royal engineers, the requisitions are made in the same manner; instead of applying direct to the commissariat, everything has to go through the ordnance; by which it would appear that these duties are performed by the ordnance, when in fact they are executed by the commissariat, who have to advertise, to enter into contracts, to raise money, and make the payments upon ordnance drafts, which is also an increase of labour to both departments.

1117. Are the two departments, in point of fact, blended together in a certain way?—They are very distinct: all this I imagine is intended as a check, but I do not see that it is any check. I conceive the certificate of receipt (on the face of the voucher) of the head of the department for whom the articles are required and supplied is quite sufficient, and ought to be considered perfectly satisfactory to the public.

1118. And there are valuers as to the price, are there?—All accounts over 10*l.* are certified by competent persons, as to the fairness of the charges.

1119. Do you think any considerable saving of expense would be effected by simplifying the mode of keeping these accounts?—No doubt of it; I have a system of accounts that I have drawn up applicable to the colonies, which would simplify and reduce the expense very materially.

1120. Do you think if the ordnance department in Lower Canada was reduced to the extent which you have suggested, that the commissariat would be then enabled of the same reduction which you have also recommended?—The estimate states 15,000*l.* a year for the ordnance, and 15,000*l.* for the commissariat; I think 15,000*l.* a year would perform the duties of both departments, provided the services are limited. In the commissariat it frequently happens that

W. J. Greig, Esq.

22 July 1835.

inefficient officers are employed who do nothing. I have served with four assistant commissaries-general in Canada, who did nothing but sign their names; the whole duty was performed by myself and other junior officers; all they did was to impede the service. For instance, if a draft was required at any one of the out-stations, or any other document requiring the signature of the assistant commissary-general in charge, if he was not in the office the party had to call again; while the junior officer was generally at his post and could have signed the document.

1121. Can you give any information respecting the telegraphic department in Canada?—The telegraph department is paid out of the military chest, and I think it ought to be paid by the provincial government and the merchants of the colony.

1122. Do you consider it more commercial than political?—In time of war these telegraphs were established at considerable expense, but they are used now more for commercial purposes.

1123. Were those telegraphs originally established for military purposes, or for civil purposes?—I believe for military purposes.

1124. You think now they are no longer useful?—I think they are useful, but I think the province derives all the advantage of them; for instance, the merchant vessels at a distance are announced by them.

1125. In your opinion the merchants should be called on to pay for their expense during peace?—I think they ought to contribute a part of the expense.

1126. These telegraphs are made use of in announcing the arrival of merchant ships?—Yes, merchant ships and troops' ships of war.

1127. And men-of-war?—Yes, once in a twelvemonth perhaps.

1128. Do you know what the whole expense of the telegraph department is?—I believe about 357*l.* a year.

1129. Do you know anything of the money that is allowed as command money to officers in command as allowance, in Canada?—Yes, I do; at Penetanguishine, at Amherstburg and Fort St. George, there is 7*s.* 2*d.* a day allowed to each of the officers in command.

1130. For what?—As command money.

1131. Do you know the rank of the officers?—Two captains and a lieutenant.

1132. Do you say that is unnecessary?—This was an allowance granted during the war, they being frontier stations His Majesty's warrant was issued for this sum; but there is no command money issued at York, Kingston or Montreal, which are much more important stations; at Kingston there is an entire regiment and a staff.

1133. What is there at Montreal?—Five companies of a regiment and a staff.

1134. Do you know whether there are lieutenant-colonels at those two stations, Montreal and Kingston?—There is a full colonel at Kingston and Montreal.

1135. Do they receive as commanding officers of that regiment any allowance beyond their military pay?—I know of nothing; at Fort George there is a captain and 40 men. I have asked the reason of this allowance, and I have understood it was a kind of table money; that when Upper Canada was first settled there were no farms, and the commanding officer was obliged to entertain persons; it was rather a tax on a man's income, and therefore this allowance was granted; however the country now is as thickly settled as many parts of England.

1136. With respect to the allowance to the clerk at Penetanguishine, do you object to that?—I do not know why the commanding officer should require a clerk; it strikes me as unnecessary.

1137. What have you to say with reference to the chaplains' department?—It is very much reduced; but I do not know anything to prevent the clergymen at the different stations, performing the duties of chaplain.

1138. Have you any observation to make on the appointment of brigade-majors?—There are two brigade-majors in Canada, and there are only two regiments at Quebec, or parts of regiments; and the other regiments are distributed, one at Montreal and one at Kingston, and the other regiment at the upper parts.

1139. Do you think one brigade-major is more than is necessary?—There are, I believe, two brigade-majors in Canada.

1140. Do you think, one brigade-major having ceased, any further reduction could be made by removing the other brigade-major?—I am not sufficiently acquainted

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acquainted with military matters to offer an opinion; but I beg to say, there is a deputy adjutant-general at head-quarters, and an assistant at York.

W. J. Greig, Esq.

22 July 1835.

1141. Have you any observation to make on the engineer departments at all the important stations?—There is a large local engineer department at Quebec, Kingston, Montreal, and other stations; there are a number of individuals borne on the strength of these departments; foremen of artificers, foremen of carpenters and masons, &c. I think if the public works were contracted for, instead of keeping up these permanent establishments, that it would be cheaper; always having officers of the royal engineers to superintend the works as they progress.

1142. Have you any observation to make with regard to the barrack department?—There are barrack-masters at most of the stations in Canada; and as I have before stated, if the public departments were consolidated, I do not see why a commissariat officer (or whichever officer is there, whether a commissariat or ordnance officer,) could not perform the duties of barrack-master as well.

1143. Do you think the duties that are now performed by the barrack-masters, by the officers under the ordnance, and by the local engineer departments, might all be consolidated and performed by one set of persons?—I think you require but one department to perform all those duties: indeed every duty connected with the supplying of an army, or for carrying on public works: one department I consider quite equal to the duties, and I am sure they would be performed much more efficiently than at present.

Veneris, 31^a die Julii, 1835.

ROBERT GORDON, ESQUIRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. William Green, called in; and Examined.

1144. HAVE you been employed as commissary?—Yes.

1145. Have you been in Nova Scotia?—Yes.

1146. Are you lately returned from Nova Scotia?—Yes.

1147. How long since?—About four months.

1148. Have you ever been employed in Canada?—Yes.

1149. As a commissary?—Yes.

1150. The Committee have observed that the expense of the commissariat in Nova Scotia amounts to rather less than 5,000*l.* a year, whereas the expense of the commissariat in Canada exceeds 15,000*l.*, and there are nearly the same number of troops employed in each of those colonies; can you give any information to the Committee of the cause of that excess in one colony as compared with the other?—In consequence of the greater number of military posts in Canada where troops are stationed, public works carried on, and payments to be made; a small number of troops requiring nearly as much trouble in provisioning them as a whole regiment; and the merely provisioning the troops being, in garrison, and particularly in time of peace, the least portion of the duty which the commissariat are called upon to perform, but it depending more on the public works, on the movement of troops, and on the various payments; those for half-pay and pensions, particularly to Chelsea out-pensioners, are very considerable in Canada, where they are paid individually by the commissariat: also, the great distance of the posts from head-quarters, and from each other, requiring the superintendence of an officer at most of them, and where there are many works carrying on, or payments to make, the assistance of one or more, the officers being employed frequently as clerks: also, from the greater responsibility of the stations, an officer of the rank of commissary-general being employed there.

Mr. Wm. Green.

31 July 1835.

1151. Do you not consider many of the posts in Canada might be consolidated?—During the latter part of the time I was there, there were many of the posts that were consolidated. The last charge I had there, I had four posts.

1152. What were those four posts?—Chambly, St. John's, Isle aux Noix and William Henry, where they had some time before commissariat officers to each.

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86 MINUTES OF EVIDENCE BEFORE SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr. Wm. Green.

31 July 1895.

1153. Do you know whether the posts at York might be consolidated?—No, they are at a considerable distance: it depends upon the number of troops and the works going on.

1154. York is the same as Toronto?—Yes; they are at a considerable distance.

1155. What is the distance between them?—I think by land it must be 120 miles.

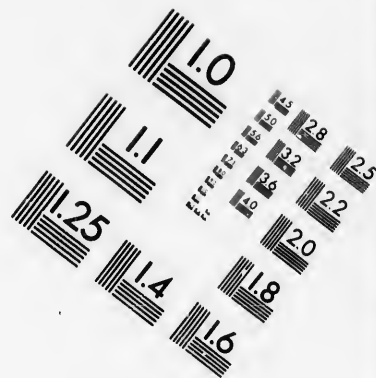
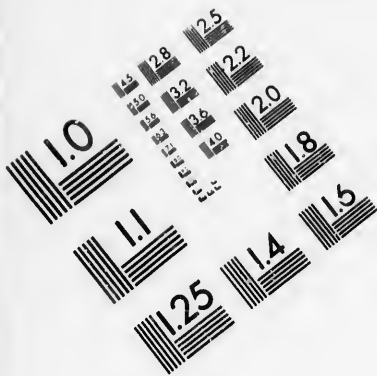
1156. What by water?—The distance is less by water; in lieu of getting round the bay, they are able to go across; it is not more than 50 miles by water.

MITTEE

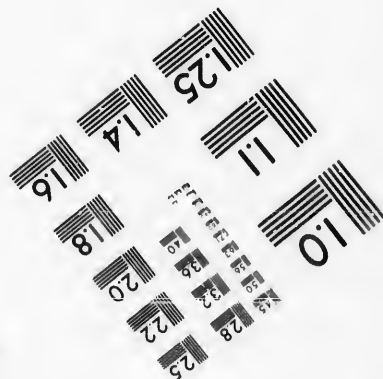
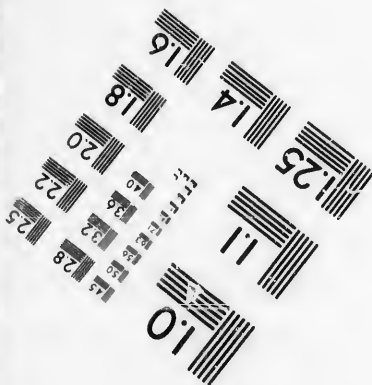
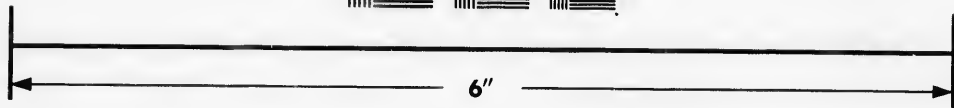
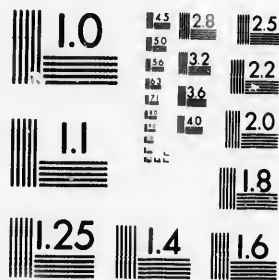
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APPENDIX.



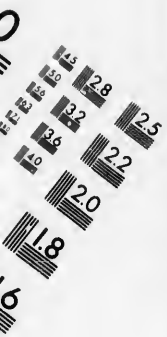


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APPENDIX.

— No. 1. —

NEW SOUTH WALES, VAN DIEMEN'S LAND, &c.

RETURN of the Numbers and Distribution of the EFFECTIVE FORCE, OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, and RANK and FILE, of the British Army, including Colonial Corps, in each Year since 1815; including Artillery and Engineers.

	Officers Present, or on Detached Duty at the Station.											Sergeants.	Drummers.	Rank and File.
	Colonels.	Lieutenant-Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Paymasters.	Adjutants.	Quartermasters.	Surgeons.	Assistant-Surgeons.			
25 Jan. 1816	-	1	2	9	13	6	1	1	1	1	1	40	19	572
— 1817	-	1	1	9	18	4	1	1	1	1	2	44	19	684
— 1818	-	1	2	10	14	11	1	1	1	1	2	30	11	908
— 1819	-	1	2	9	19	9	1	1	1	1	2	37	12	768
— 1820	-	1	2	9	17	7	1	1	1	1	2	41	13	722
— 1821	-	1	2	10	21	8	1	1	1	1	1	50	13	1,002
— 1822	-	1	2	9	19	7	1	1	1	1	2	50	16	1,023
— 1823	-	1	2	7	12	6	1	1	1	1	1	46	15	996
— 1824	-	-	4	14	18	12	2	2	2	2	3	67	22	1,063
— 1825	-	1	4	15	17	11	2	1	3		2	66	22	1,200
— 1826	-	2	5	18	28	7	3	1	2	2	3	75	30	1,569
— 1827	-	2	4	21	37	7	3	2	2	2	3	100	29	1,766
— 1828	-	1	4	22	40	13	3	2	3	3	3	128	42	1,974
— 1829	-	2	6	26	42	17	2	3	3	3	5	143	38	2,397
— 1830	-	2	5	26	32	16	2	3	3	2	4	114	33	2,047
1 Jan. 1831	-	3	7	30	40	27	3	3	3	3	6	140	42	2,568
— 1832	-	3	6	31	34	27	3	3	3	3	6	132	35	2,410
— 1833	-	3	4	23	31	22	3	3	3	1	6	114	37	2,107

Adjutant-General's Office,
25 March 1833,

John Macdonald,
Adjutant-General.

— No. 2. —

NEW SOUTH WALES AND VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.
 RETURN of all PAY, ALLOWANCES, EMOLUMENTS and SALARIES issued to OFFICERS of the Military, Garrison, Medical and Commissariat Staff, and of the Ordnance Department,
 for the Twelve Months ended 31 March, 1833.

APPOINTMENTS.		PAY, ALLOWANCES, EMOLUMENTS, ADVANTAGES AND SALARIES.										REMARKS.
DESCRIPTION.	By whom Filled.	PAY Voted by Parliament.	PAY Issued.	Other MILITARY PAY.	Source from whence derived.	House; Quarters; or Allowance for Lodging.	Value of Allowances issued by Commissariat.	SALARIES issued from Colonial Fund.	TOTAL (including the Pay issued).			
GARRISON:												
Town Adjutant, Diemen's Land	Captain Lane	£. s. d. 86 13 9	£. s. d. 39 3 9	£. s. d. 121 11 11	} Full pay, 63d Regt				£. s. d. 160 4 8			Cessd 26 October. -- Appointed 27 Oct. charged for only to 31 October.
	— Pilder		— 18 9	2 17 11						3 16 8		
		£. 86 13 9	40 2 1	123 18 10					164 1 4			
MILITARY STAFF:												
Governor	Major-gen. R. Bourke			202	} Unattached pay, as a general officer	house		5,000	5,202			
Aide-de-camp	Capt. Westmacott	173 7 6	155 2 6	211 7 11						430 14 6		
Assistant Secretary	Capt. Hunter	173 7 6	155 2 6	211 7 11	} Ditto		70 4 11		495 11 11			
Major of Brigade	Lieut.-col. Snowgrass	173 7 6	173 7 6	200 15			90	39 7 11		539 9 53		
Lieutenant-governor, Van Diemen's Land	Col. Arthur				} (Does not receive half pay)		75 6 11					
Lieut.-colonel at Norfolk Island	Lieut.-col. Morisset			200 15			house	216 1 3	2,500	2,726 1 3		
TOTAL of Military Staff Pay, &c.		£. 520 2 6	483 12 6	1,115 3 10	Half pay	house		600	800 15			-- This officer's salary is paid out of Parliamentary grant for convict establishment.
MEDICAL STAFF:	Assistant Surgeon					180	410 12 11	8,100	10,290 11 3			
CONTINGENCIES:	Alexander Inlay		103 2 6						103 2 6			
Clerks to the	Assistant Secretary	27 7 6	54 15						54 15			Pay increased in consequence -- the man having ceased to receive pay, clothing and rations, as a soldier in the Veteran Companies.
	Brigade Major	36 10	39 7		} Not known whether they are soldiers or civilians				39 7			-- Pay increased in consequence of additional duties to be performed.
Dispenser of Medicines	Barrack-master at Van Diemen's Land	9 2 6	9 2 6							18 15		
Barrack-master's Sergeant at Van Diemen's Land		182 10	182 10			70	81 11 2	173 7 6	397 8 8			
TOTAL of Contingencies, &c.		£. 292	340 9 6	24 6 8	Pay as corporal				60 16 8			
				24 6 8		70	81 11 2	173 7 6	239 14 10			

2.—NEW SOUTH WALES, &c.—continued.

APPOINTMENTS.		PAY, ALLOWANCES, EMOLUMENTS, ADVANTAGES AND SALARIES.										REMARKS.
DESCRIPTION.	By whom filled.	PAY Voted by Parliament.	PAY Issued.	Other MILITARY PAY.	Source from whence derived.	House; or Quarters; or Allowance for Lodging.	Value of Allowances issued by Commissariat.	SALARIES Issued from Colonial Fund.	TOTAL (including the Pay issued.)			
VAN DIEMEN'S LAND—continued.												
OTHER OUTPOSTS:												
7	Temporary Clerks	at 7/6 per diem each	£. s. d. 958 2 6	£. s. d. 924 7 6	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	£. s. d. 924 7 6	- - -	One discharged in January 1833.	
2	Ditto	at 5/ - - -	182 10 -	182 10 -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	182 10 -	- - -		
1	Ditto	at 5/ - - -	91 5 -	39 5 -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	39 5 -	- - -		Ceased 4 Sept. 1832.
3	Ditto	at 3/ - - -	54 15 -	46 9 -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	46 9 -	- - -		
	TOTAL Commissariat—Supply Branch	- £.	4,155 18 9	3,904 8 3	- - -	- - -	452 4 7	- - -	4,861 2 10	- - -	One discharged in Jan. 1833.	
VAN DIEMEN'S LAND—ACCOUNT BRANCH:												
Deputy Assistant Commissary-general		G. T. Maddox	173 7 6	73 13 6	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	102 9 -	- - -	Deceased.	
		H. C. Darling	173 7 6	173 7 6	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	262 14 8	- - -		
3	Temporary Clerks	at 7/6 per diem each	273 15 -	317 5 -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	317 5 -	- - -	One of these clerks was appointed on the 6th Dec.; but he is to be discharged.	
3	Ditto	at 4/ - - -	73 - - -	151 4 -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	151 4 -	- - -		
1	Messenger	at 1/ - - -	10 - - -	36 10 -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	36 10 -	- - -		One of these clerks was appointed from the 16th April, but is to be discharged; one was paid from the 1st August to the 13th October only.
	TOTAL Account Branch	- £.	740 - - -	761 - - -	- - -	86 13 6	32 9 2	- - -	880 2 8	- - -		

The several Charges marked thus * are defrayed out of Army Extras; the Accounts of which are submitted to Parliament.

	£.	s.	d.
GARRISON PAY, &c.	164	1	4
MILITARY STAFF PAY, &c.	10,290	11	3½
MEDICAL STAFF PAY, &c.	103	2	6
CONTINGENCIES	689	14	10
COMMISSARIAT—New South Wales	9,363	-	11½(C)
Account Branch	1,371	3	2½
COMMISSARIAT—Van Diemen's Land	4,861	2	10
Account Branch	880	2	8
TOTAL	27,702	19	7½

(C) Including the Barrack and Engineer Branches.

— No. 3. —

DISTRIBUTION of the Troops serving in *New South Wales* and *Van Diemen's Land*, on the 1st May 1834.

ABSTRACT OF TOTALS: CONTINGENCIES - - - - - 689 14 10
 COMMISSARIAT—New South Wales { Supply Branch - - - - - 9,963 1 11 1/2 (C)
 { Account Branch - - - - - 1,271 3 2 1/4
 COMMISSARIAT—Van Diemen's Land { Supply Branch - - - - - 4,861 2 18
 { Account Branch - - - - - 886 2 8
 TOTAL - - - - - 27,702 19 7 1/4
 (*) Including the Barrack and Engineer Branches.

Sydney - - - - -	4th Foot - - - - -	505	Rank and File.
	17th ditto - - - - -	5	—
Longbottom - - - - -	17th ditto - - - - -	1	—
Paramatta - - - - -	17th ditto - - - - -	215	—
Liverpool - - - - -	17th ditto - - - - -	4	—
	50th ditto - - - - -	14	—
George's River - - - - -	50th ditto - - - - -	20	—
Bong-bong - - - - -	17th ditto - - - - -	12	—
Windsor - - - - -	17th ditto - - - - -	22	—
Maitland - - - - -	17th ditto - - - - -	19	—
Newcastle - - - - -	17th ditto - - - - -	38	—
Port Stephens - - - - -	17th ditto - - - - -	12	—
Emu Plains - - - - -	17th ditto - - - - -	60	—
Spring Wood - - - - -	17th ditto - - - - -	1	—
Weather Board - - - - -	17th ditto - - - - -	1	—
Cox's River - - - - -	17th ditto - - - - -	79	—
Bathurst - - - - -	4th ditto - - - - -		—
	17th ditto - - - - -	44	—
Port Macquarie - - - - -	17th ditto - - - - -	33	—
Moreton Bay - - - - -	17th ditto - - - - -	80	—
Norfolk Island - - - - -	4th ditto - - - - -	131	—
	50th ditto - - - - -	2	—
In charge of Civil Power - - - - -	4th ditto - - - - -	13	—
	17th ditto - - - - -	2	—
	21st ditto - - - - -	2	—
In solitary confinement - - - - -	4th ditto - - - - -	3	—
	21st ditto - - - - -	3	—
	50th ditto - - - - -	3	—
Servants to Officers - - - - -	4th ditto - - - - -	3	—
	17th ditto - - - - -	1	—
	21st ditto - - - - -	2	—
Mounted Police - - - - -	4th ditto - - - - -	53	—
	17th ditto - - - - -	48	—
	50th ditto - - - - -	5	—
Van Diemen's Land and Swan River - - - - -	4th ditto - - - - -	1	—
	17th ditto - - - - -	1	—
	21st ditto - - - - -	676	—
	50th ditto - - - - -	7	—
Corps in India - - - - -		12	—
		2,133	Rank and File.

But as the whole of the 50th must have joined since date of Return, the entire Force, including N. C. Officers, is now 2,864.

Colonial Office,
 19 March 1835.

— No. 4. —

RETURN of the Numbers and Distribution of the EFFECTIVE FORCE, OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, and RANK and FILE, of the British Army in the several Colonies, according to the latest Returns received, including Colonial Corps, and Artillery and Engineers.

STATIONS.	Officers Present, or on Detached Duty at the Station.												Rank and File.	
	Colonels.	Lieutenant-Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Paymasters.	Adjutants.	Quarter-Masters.	Surgeons.	Assistant-Surgeons.	Serjeants.		Drummers.
Gibraltar - - -	1	7	3	36	48	20	5	5	4	4	8	168	55	2,804
Malta - - -	-	5	2	26	39	13	5	5	5	5	6	158	52	2,479
Ionian Islands - -	1	5	5	27	40	24	4	5	6	5	5	188	65	3,047
West Coast of Africa - -	-	-	-	4	5	4	-	-	-	-	1	23	9	493
Cape of Good Hope - -	-	5	4	20	31	13	2	4	4	4	3	110	38	1,757
Mauritius - - -	-	6	4	23	30	16	3	3	3	4	5	127	42	2,030
Ceylon - - -	-	7	5	37	65	33	3	4	4	5	6	274	78	3,886
New South Wales, &c. - -	-	3	6	23	32	21	2	3	3	3	5	116	37	2,133
Nova Scotia, &c. - -	1	4	2	23	38	10	4	3	4	2	4	132	43	2,036
Newfoundland - - -	-	1	-	3	7	3	-	-	-	-	1	16	8	276
Canada - - -	1	7	5	33	41	19	4	5	5	4	7	159	50	2,408
Bermuda - - -	-	2	1	9	12	3	-	1	1	-	2	36	14	613
Jamaica - - -	-	5	5	35	52	16	5	6	6	4	6	177	60	2,837
Honduras - - -	-	-	1	1	4	3	-	-	-	-	1	20	5	338
Bahamas - - -	-	1	-	3	6	4	1	-	1	1	-	24	12	450
Windward and Leeward Colonies - - -	-	6	12	58	65	33	9	11	10	10	11	340	103	5,530
TOTAL - - -	4	64	55	361	515	225	47	55	56	52	71	2068	671	33,117

Adjutant General's Office, }
20 March 1835. }

John Macdonald,
Adjutant-General.

— No. 5. —

DISTRIBUTION of the Troops serving in Nova Scotia and its Dependencies, according to the latest Returns.

STATIONS.	REGIMENTS.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Staff.	Serjeants.	Drummers.	Rank and File.	TOTAL Rank and File.
Halifax, &c. - -	Royal Artillery - -	1	1	6	-	3	3	132	1,366
	Royal Engineers, &c. - -	1	2	2	-	3	2	83	
	83d Foot - - -	2	3	7	4	21	10	305	
	96th Foot - - -	1	4	10	5	29	8	439	
Annapolis - - -	Rifle Brigade, 1st bt ⁿ - -	1	5	6	4	30	9	407	56
	Royal Artillery - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	
Fort Cumberland - -	83d Foot - - -	-	1	1	-	3	-	53	3
	Royal Artillery - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	
Fredericton - - -	Royal Artillery - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	275
	34th Foot - - -	1	2	6	3	19	9	270	
St. John, New Brunswick - - -	Royal Artillery - - -	-	1	1	-	1	1	34	200
	Royal Engineers - - -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
St. Andrew's, Ditto - -	34th Foot - - -	-	1	5	-	11	1	166	23
	Royal Artillery - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Cape Breton - - -	34th Foot - - -	-	-	1	-	1	-	21	49
	Royal Artillery - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	
Prince Edward's Island - -	83d Foot - - -	-	1	1	1	3	-	46	64
	Royal Artillery - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	
	83d Foot - - -	-	1	2	-	4	-	60	
	TOTAL - - -	7	23	48	17	132	43	2,036	
Newfoundland - - -	Royal Artillery - - -	-	1	1	-	3	2	53	276
	Royal Engineers - - -	1	-	1	-	-	-	5	
	Newfoundland Veterans - -	-	2	8	1	13	6	223	

Adjutant-General's Office, }
20 March 1835. }

John Macdonald,
Adjutant-General.

— No. 6. —

DISTRIBUTION of the Troops at *Bermuda* on the 1st January 1835, the Date of the latest Return received.

STATIONS.	CORPS.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Staff.	Sergeants.	Drummers.	Rank and File.
St. George's - - -	Royal Artillery - - -	1	1	2	1	2	2	60
	Royal Sappers and Miners - - -	-	2	2	-	1	1	37
	30th Foot - - -	2	4	9	3	25	10	350
Ireland Island - - -	Royal Sappers and Miners - - -	-	1	1	-	2	1	44
	30th Foot - - -	-	1	1	-	4	-	98
Ferry - - -	30th Foot - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Gilbe Hill - - -	30th Foot - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Mount Langton - - -	30th Foot - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	10
Fort Cunningham - - -	Royal Artillery - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hen Island - - -	Royal Artillery - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Fort George - - -	Royal Artillery - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	30th Foot - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
TOTAL - - -		3	9	15	4	36	14	613

Adjutant-General's Office,
30 March 1835.

John Macdonald,
Adjutant-General.

— No. 7. —

DISTRIBUTION of the Troops at *Newfoundland* on the 1st February 1835, the Date of the latest Return received.

STATIONS.	CORPS.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Staff.	Sergeants.	Drummers.	Rank and File.
St. John's - - -	Royal Artillery - - -	-	1	1	-	3	2	53
	Royal Engineers - - -	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
	Royal Newfoundland Veteran Companies - - -	-	2	8	1	13	6	223
TOTAL - - -		1	3	10	1	16	8	276

Adjutant-General's Office,
30 March 1835.

John Macdonald,
Adjutant-General.

— No. 8. —

DISTRIBUTION of the Troops serving in *Canada* on the 1st January 1835, the Date of the latest Return received.

STATIONS.	CORPS.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Staff.	Sergents.	Drummers.	Rank and File.
Quebec - - -	Royal Artillery - - -	1	4	4	1	3	1	131
	Royal Engineers - - -	1	1	3	-	-	-	1
	15th Foot - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
	24th Foot - - -	-	-	-	-	3	-	9
	32d Foot - - -	1	2	7	3	27	10	411
Gross Island - - -	66th Foot - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	79th Foot - - -	2	3	8	4	29	8	423
Montreal - - -	32d Foot - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
	Royal Engineers - - -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	24th Foot - - -	2	4	9	4	20	9	353
St. Helen's - - -	79th Foot - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	Royal Artillery - - -	-	1	2	1	3	1	69
Isle Aux Noix - - -	24th Foot - - -	-	1	1	1	3	-	50
Sorel - - -	24th Foot - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Coteau du Lac - - -	24th Foot - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	4
Iachino - - -	24th Foot - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
St. Philip's - - -	24th Foot - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Rideau Canal - - -	Royal Engineers - - -	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
	24th Foot - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	66th Foot - - -	-	-	1	-	1	-	23
Kingston - - -	Royal Artillery - - -	1	3	4	1	4	2	90
	Royal Engineers - - -	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
	15th Foot - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
	66th Foot - - -	2	5	8	5	30	10	397
Fort Henry - - -	Royal Artillery - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	9
Toronto - - -	Royal Artillery - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
	Royal Engineers - - -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	15th Foot - - -	2	3	6	4	21	7	264
	66th Foot - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
	79th Foot - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Fort George - - -	Royal Artillery - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
	15th Foot - - -	-	1	1	-	3	1	46
	66th Foot - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Grenville Canal - - -	Royal Engineers - - -	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Cataroque - - -	66th Foot - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Amherstburgh - - -	15th Foot - - -	-	1	2	1	3	1	49
Penetangushene - - -	15th Foot - - -	-	-	1	-	2	-	40
TOTAL - - -		13	33	61	25	159	50	2,408

Adjutant-General's Office,
30 March 1835.

John Macdonald,
Adjutant-General.

— No. 9. —

ESTIMATE of what might be the probable EXPENSE of the COMMISSARIAT, cleared from any Convict Arrangements, and the Balance between that Estimate and the present Expense.

Estimate of Commissariat Department.

In order to frame an estimate so as to show to the Committee, in reference to questions 243 and 244, the increased expense that is incurred for the commissariat establishment in New South Wales, in consequence of the arrangements required for the providing of provisions and clothing, &c. for the convicts, it would be necessary to ascertain the number of detached stations that are maintained in consequence of the presence of convicts.

The accompanying "distribution" of the troops serving in New South Wales (which has been obtained from the adjutant-general's office), shows that besides the force in Sydney, there are detachments of the military at 17 different stations, some of these at very considerable distances from Sydney, and from each other, and it may be presumed that at many of these stations, soldiers would not be employed if there were not any convicts upon the spot.

Bathurst, 126 miles.
Maitland, 127.
Newcastle, 132.
Port Macquarie, 200 miles.
Moreton Bay, 400.
Norfolk Island, 1,000 miles.

It appears from this paper that the military force on the 1st May 1834, amounted to 1,593, including the commissioned officers.

If this force were concentrated within a short distance from head-quarters, the charge for a commissariat establishment would be comparatively small, but being dispersed in detachments, at various places at considerable distances from each other, the labour of providing, of supplying, and of accounting for the commissariat services of each necessarily requires a larger establishment for the performance of such increased duties.

For instance, in Gibraltar, where there were 3,188 military to be supplied, the number of officers and clerks employed in the commissariat is six, with eight subordinate persons (independently of the baking and transport establishments), at an expense of 2,170*l.* per annum; whilst in Nova Scotia (including New Brunswick), where there were only 2,151 military, and where there are several sub-stations, the number of officers and clerks is 11, with 22 subordinates, at a charge of about 3,990*l.* per annum.

It may be fair to assume that if the out-stations in New South Wales were not more numerous than the out-stations in Nova Scotia, and that the duties of the commissariat were unconnected with the convict service, the charge for the commissariat would not be greater than the charge for Nova Scotia; in which case the difference would be about 4,710*l.* less per annum; or, if the military force in New South Wales, taking it at 1,593, were concentrated within a moderate distance, as is the case with the troops at Gibraltar, the charge for the commissariat establishment would be still less, the reduction would then be about 6,000*l.*

This is calculating upon the establishment as it existed in New South Wales in the year 1833, as exhibited in the return submitted to the Committee. Since that period considerable reductions have been effected in the commissariat establishment, to the extent of about 2,900*l.* per annum.

T. Archer.

DISTRIBUTION of the TROOPS serving in New South Wales on 1st May 1834, the date of the latest Return.

Adjutant-general's Office, 1 April 1835.

STATIONS.	REGIMENTS.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Staff.	Sergants.	Drummers.	Rank and File.	Distance from Sydney.
Sydney - - -	4th Foot -	2	5	11	4	30	12	524	Miles.
	17th - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	
Long Bottom - - -	17th - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9
Paramatta - - -	17th - - -	2	2	4	4	21	11	218	15
Liverpool - - -	17th - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	} 20
	50th - - -	-	-	-	-	1	-	14	

(continued)

Estimate of Commissariat Department.

STATIONS.	REGIMENTS.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Sirff.	Sergeants.	Drummers.	Rank and File.	Distance from Sydney.
George's River	50th Foot	-	-	-	-	1	-	20	
Bong Bong	17th	-	-	1	-	1	-	12	81
Windsor	17th	-	-	1	-	1	-	22	35
Maitland	17th	-	2	-	-	1	-	19	127
Newcastle	17th	-	-	1	-	1	-	38	132
Port Stephen's	17th	-	1	-	-	1	-	12	
Emu Plains	17th	-	-	1	-	2	-	60	38
Spring Wood	17th	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Weatherboard	17th	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	63
Cox's River	17th	-	1	1	1	3	-	79	86
Bathurst	4th	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	126
	17th	1	-	1	-	2	-	44	
Port Macquarie	17th	-	1	-	-	2	-	33	200
Moreton Bay	17th	-	1	2	-	4	-	80	400
Norfolk Island	4th	-	1	2	1	5	1	131	
	50th	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	1,000
Mounted Police	4th	-	1	-	-	1	-	53	
	17th	-	-	2	-	-	-	48	
	50th	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	
On leave in the Colony	4th	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	
	17th	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
	TOTAL	6	16	33	10	78	24	1,426	

Mem.—The 50th Regiment is on passage from England to New South Wales as an additional regiment.

— No. 10. —

Treasury Letter respecting Commissariat Arrangements.

TREASURY LETTER addressed to the Officer commanding in New South Wales, respecting Arrangements for conducting the Duties of the Commissariat Department, and Transfer of Government Funds from the Military Chest to Banks at Sydney.

Sir,

Treasury Chambers, 3 December 1832.

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you that my Lords have had under their consideration your predecessor's letters of the 8th and 10th June, and 23d July 1831, relative to the commissariat establishment in the colony of New South Wales, and enclosing the copy of a general order which he issued on the 30th June 1831, fixing the future establishment at 51 persons, including issuers and store-keepers, and prescribing the manner in which the various duties of the department were to be performed.

My Lords approve generally of the arrangements which have been made, and are inclined to think, considering all the circumstances connected with the department at the time the general order above mentioned was issued, that it would not then have been expedient to have reduced the establishment below the number fixed by that order. My Lords are at the same time of opinion that several material changes may be made in the present system of conducting the business of the commissariat at New South Wales, which by simplifying the accounts and abridging labour, cannot fail to afford the means of conducting the duties with a much fewer number of persons. Their Lordships more particularly allude to the discontinuance of the general depot of stores in the custody of the commissariat, and of the military chests, and to a less minute examination of the accounts of the several sub-accountants in the office of the deputy commissary-general at Sydney.

Upon the first of these points, my Lords feel satisfied from the information they have obtained from officers of the department, who have been recently serving in the colony, that there is no longer any necessity for keeping a large stock of articles in store for the use of the military and colonial departments, but that the mercantile resources of the colony are now fully adequate to meet all the necessary demands of the public service. Their Lordships are therefore decidedly of opinion, that as soon as the requisite arrangements can be made for the purpose, the whole of this branch of business should be brought to a close; and that all the stores and other articles of every description, for which it has hitherto been the practice to forward requisitions to this Board, should henceforth be purchased in the colony by contract, through the medium of public advertisements and tenders; and when it is considered how many persons are now employed in the custody and issue of stores, and in the making up and examination of the minute and complicated accounts connected with them; all of whose services may henceforth be dispensed with, when the stores shall be given up; there cannot be a doubt but that a very important saving will ultimately result from this proposed change of system.

With

Bank and File.	Distance from Sydney.
20	
12	81
22	35
19	127
38	132
12	
60	38
1	
1	63
79	86
-	
44	126
33	200
80	400
31	1,000
2	
53	
48	
5	
-	
-	
126	

Wales as an

South Wales, Department, at Sydney.

ber 183c. to acquaint rs of the 8th in the colony ssued on the rs and store- ment were to

are inclined at the time en expedient y Lords are the present es, which by of conduct- particularly the commis- sionments of the ey.

n they have the colony, store for the of the colony vice. Their arrangements brought to a which it has nceforth be ements and the custody complicated ensed with, y important

With

With respect to the discontinuance of the military chests, my Lords are not only of opinion (as they have already stated in former communications), that the chests established at the out-stations, including that at Paramatta, are unnecessary, but they also think that a very beneficial change may be made in the present system of carrying on the pecuniary concerns of the commissariat at Sydney, by transferring the funds now kept in the military chests to the two banks established there, and by employing these banks in the receipt and payment of commissariat monies. The statement given in Lieutenant-general Darling's letter of the 26th July 1831, addressed to Lord Goderich, and which his Lordship has communicated to this Board, of the constitution and resources of these banking establishments, appears to my Lords to be sufficiently satisfactory to warrant them in considering that the balances of public money would be quite secure in their custody, and the proposed change would not only be productive of a considerable reduction in the number of persons now engaged exclusively in the duties of the military chest, but would diminish the risk of loss to which the deposit of large sums in charge of individuals is always liable, and would operate as a useful check upon the commissariat accounts by a comparison of the bank accounts with those of the public accountant.

My Lords are therefore pleased to desire you will proceed to carry the measures proposed into effect as quickly as possible, by entering into the necessary communications with the managing directors of the said banks upon the subject, and by directing the deputy commissary-general, as soon as the preliminary arrangements shall have been settled, to pay into the banks to an account to be opened in his name, all the monies remaining in his chests, depositing with each bank a moiety or such other proportion of money as may be judged to be most expedient, and taking care afterwards so to regulate the deposits that the proper proportions be kept up in each bank, and that the average amount of the whole does not exceed what is required for about one month's expenditure.

When the transfer of these funds to the banks shall have taken place, my Lords are of opinion that all commissariat payments at Sydney should be made by cheques upon the banks to the order of the respective claimants, with the exception of those only which are usually or most conveniently made upon pay lists, such as pay and allowances of the staff and departments, the pay of artificers, labourers, &c.; in which cases the cheques should be drawn in favour of the officer of the commissariat department who may be specially deputed, under the responsibility of the chief officer in charge, to distribute among the parties named in the pay lists the respective sums due, care being had that such distribution be made the same day in which the money is withdrawn for that purpose from the bank. The cheques should be signed by the officer at the head of the department, and invariably countersigned by the officer next in rank in attendance at the commissariat office; those in each of the banks should be numbered in separate series, the series to be renewed on the first day of the year. An abstract of the account with each bank, describing the several balances, receipts and payments, signed by the cashier, should be furnished to the commissary at the conclusion of each month, and be attached to the accounts of the latter, with the view of enabling the commissioners of audit to compare the same with the receipts and payments as they are entered in those accounts. In all cases where it may be practicable, the sub-accountants at the out-stations should be directed to make their payments by drafts on the chief officer at Sydney, who will discharge such drafts by cheques upon the banks; and they are only to be supplied with such small sums of money, withdrawn for the purpose from the bank, as may be necessary for payments which cannot be conveniently made except in cash.

When the commissary has to receive money, he will furnish the party making the payment with an order to one of the banks to receive the same, and afterwards give the usual receipt for the amount in exchange for the bank's acknowledgment of the deposit; and which acknowledgment he will add to the voucher in his accounts. The same rule be observed in the exchange of bills on the Treasury; the bill, however, being in this case delivered to the purchaser in lieu of the commissary's receipt. The purchasers of the bills will of course be at liberty to make the payment into the bank either in specie or paper-money, conformably with the ordinary practice of the banks and the general commercial business of the colony; and it may be expected that this facility will eventually lead to some improvement in the terms in which Treasury bills have hitherto been negotiated. Until, however, there shall appear to be a permanent prospect of an increase in the demand for bills, so as to be likely to produce an accumulation of army funds beyond the amounts which it may be proper to deposit in the banks, my Lords approve of the commissary continuing to act upon the present system of granting bills at the fixed premium of one and a half per cent.; but in the event of such prospect presenting itself, he must endeavour to procure a higher rate of premium by recurring to the ordinary commissariat mode of raising the necessary supplies of money, by advertising for tenders, and accepting only such sums as he may require, and may be offered on the most advantageous terms. Upon the last remaining point above adverted to, viz. the examination of the sub-accounts in the office of the deputy commissary-general, my Lords entirely concur with the Board of Inquiry in considering the extent and minuteness to which that examination has been carried by Mr. Laidley to be quite superfluous.

It may be proper that the accounts of so extended and distant a station should undergo some revision in his office, previously to their being delivered to the commissary of accounts, by whom they are dispatched for final audit at home; but it must be obvious that the detailed examination which Mr. Laidley has given to them, would render their subsequent examination in the office of the commissary of accounts quite unnecessary.

My Lords are also of opinion, that Mr. Laidley has acted under a misapprehension respecting

Treasury Letter respecting Commissariat Arrangements.

Treasury Letter
respecting Commissariat
Arrangements.

specting the degree of responsibility to which he is liable as regards these sub-accounts. It was not their Lordships' object in requiring the principal accountant, at each foreign station, to attest his accounts, that he should be held responsible for the perfect accuracy of every minute detail in the accounts, but only for his belief in their general truth and correctness, after a due exercise of that superintendence and control over the conduct of the officers under him, and the officers of his department, which the duty of every chief officer in the commissariat requires from him; and it is in this sense, as my Lords believe, that all other officers in charge at foreign stations have attested their accounts.

While, therefore, my Lords appreciate Mr. Laidley's scruples upon this point, they entertain no doubt that when the limited object and extent of the attestation shall have been explained to him, he will no longer feel any difficulty in conforming to it, without going through the minute process of previous examination, and that a very considerable reduction may thereupon take place in that branch of his office which is now exclusively engaged in the above duty.

My Lords observe that nine persons were thus employed at the date of the report of the Board of Inquiry; and the Board expressed their opinion, that under certain alterations suggested by them, that number might be reduced to four. As, however, the additional measures which my Lords have now in view for the abolition of the depot of stores and of the military chests, will greatly abridge and simplify the cash and store accounts, and diminish labour, my Lords are of opinion, that the reduction of numbers in the examining branch of Mr. Laidley's office may be carried further than was suggested by the Board of Inquiry, and that for the future two efficient persons will be quite sufficient for that duty. At the same time, their Lordships agree in opinion with the Board of Inquiry that the present system of examination in Mr. Laidley's office cannot safely be dispensed with except the department of accounts be in such a state of efficiency as to enable it promptly to proceed in the examination of the accounts as soon as they are delivered in, and effectually to prevent any of its duties from running into arrear; and their Lordships are bound to admit that the report of the Board of Inquiry, confirmed by the information they have received from persons practically conversant with the details of the department, and their own experience of the arrears which have been accumulating since its present establishment was fixed in 1830, have satisfied their minds, that with its present limited number of six officers, it is not adequate to effect all its important objects. My Lords are therefore pleased to give their sanction to the appointment of two additional officers or clerks to the account department; and they concur with the Board of Inquiry in their suggestion that it should not be encumbered with the examination of the weighty arrears of provision and store accounts which have accumulated, but that its undivided attention should be directed at once to the examination, speedy settlement and transmission of the current accounts.

With respect to those arrear accounts, embracing the provision and store transactions of the period, commencing 25th December 1828, and ending 24th December 1830, although it does not appear to any Lords, considering the forms in which they are represented to have been made up, their great bulk, and the multiplicity of their details, that any advantage, adequate to the expense and labour of the operation, could be expected from a strict and regular examination of such a mass of accounts, they are still of opinion that they should undergo such an examination upon the spot as would be sufficient to ascertain their general accuracy, and secure the public against improper charges or misapplication of the public property.

My Lords are of opinion, that this object will best be attained by the appointment of a certain number of persons provisionally, who should be formed into a separate branch, under the superintendence and directions of the officer in charge of the account department, and whose services should be exclusively devoted to such inspection of those accounts. My Lords feel it impossible, with the imperfect information before them, to determine what number of persons, or what length of time will be required for this duty, and they must therefore leave these points to be settled by you after due inquiry into the matter; but I am commanded to impress upon you the importance of selecting the most competent persons for this business, in order that it may be dispatched as quickly as possible, and at the same time of taking care that no one be employed therein who may have been personally concerned in any of the transactions to which the accounts relate. I am also to suggest, that the mode of remuneration to be adopted should bear a reference to the work to be done, rather than to the time which may be consumed in performing it.

Having thus stated their views in respect to the several branches of business in the commissariat at New South Wales, and the improvements which they think may be made therein, my Lords have only to express their hope that you will direct your early and serious attention to the subject, and use your best endeavours to carry all the proposed arrangements into execution with the least possible delay, reporting your proceedings from time to time for the information of this Board.

I am, &c.

(signed) *T. Spring Rice.*

APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM SELECT COMMITTEE

DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLES.	TOTAL.													REMARKS.										
	Superintendent of Carriers' Barges.	Principal Superintendent of Canvics.	Master Attendant.	Principal Superintendent of Police.	Surveyor of Harbors & Bridges.	High Sheriff.	Female Factory.	Superintendent of Grose Farm.	Superintendent of Iron Plains.	Superintendent at Campbelltown.	Superintendent at Inverhuron.	Commandant at Valley.	Commandant at Inverhuron.		Commandant at Macquarie.	Commandant at Moreno Bay.	Commandant at King George's Sound.	Commandant at Norfolk Island.	Since arrived, 24 Dec. 1899.	Expected out, for 1899.	Total available for 1899 and 1891.	Required from the Colony for 1891.	Required from England for 1891.	
Buckets																								
Cans, oil				12	500	96	6	4													260			
Cloaks, harness				60	150																36	48		
— water						4															30			
Chairs							6															6		
Cleavers, meat							3															1		
Clothes, horse							1																	
Covers, table							3																	
Covers, tin, mess				200			12														564			
Dishes, tin, mess				300			600														4,644			
Forks							3																	
— serving							3																	
— flesh							2																	
Furns							3																	
Kettles, camp							2																	
— tea, tin							2																	
Knives							3																	
— carving							3																	
Kids, mess							24																	
Ladles, soup, iron							2																	
Lamps							3																	
Lanterns, horn							2																	
Measures, one gallon							1																	
Mugs, steel, for corn							1																	
Mugs, iron							1																	
Pans, frying							1																	
Pans, tin							12																	
Pans, tin, quart							4																	
Pans, tin, pint							4																	
Pans, tin, pint							4																	
Pans, tin, pint							4																	
Pans, tin, pint							4																	
Pans, tin, pint							4																	
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Pans, tin, pint							4																	
Pans, tin, pint																								

DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLES.	Superintendent of Carriers' Horses.	Principal Superintendent of Carriers.	Master of Carriers.	Master of Carriers.	Principal Superintendent of Police.	Surveyors of Highways.	High Sheriff.	Penitentiary.	Superintendent of Groves Farm.	Superintendent of Emu Plains.	Superintendent at Campbelltown.	Superintendent at Bathurst.	Superintendent of Wellington Valley.	Commandant at Alhambra.	Commandant at Pt Macquarie.	Commandant at Moreton Bay.	Commandant of King George's Sound.	Commandant of Norfolk Island.	TOTAL.	In Store, 31 Dec, 1899.	Since arrived, on Requisitions for 1898.	Expected out, on Requisitions for 1899.	Total available for 1899 and 1898.	Required from the Colony for 1899.	Required from England for 1899.	REMARKS.	
Braces	2																		3			12	12				
Chisels, heading																				12			12	12			
Chisels																				12			12	12			
Cozes																				6			6	6			
Files	12																			14			50	50			
Flaming irons																				2			2	2			
Hammer, riveting																				2			2	2			
Headings																				3			29	29			
Hooves	60000																			6,000			6,000	6,000			
Jointers	6																			3			3	3			
Knives, heading	3																			7			7	7			
Knives, hollow	1																			1			1	1			
Knives, straight	1																			1			1	1			
Punches	1																			1			1	1			
Rivets	50																			76			76	76			
Shavers, round	4																			50			50	50			
Shavers	12,000																			4			4	4			
Slaves																				180			180	180			
Glaziers' Tools and Stores.																											
Diamonds	1																			2			2	2			
Glass, common crown, 12x10	100																			220			220	220			
plate 12x10																				220			220	220			
plate 10x8																				113			113	113			
Putty																				443			443	443			
Harness, and Harness-makers' Tools and Stores.																											
Awls, harness																				48			48	48			
Bands, buck, iron	12																			12			12	12			
belly trace	12																			47			47	47			
belly	12																			46			46	46			
Bits	150																			4			4	4			
snaffle	12																			72			72	72			
breaking	12																			150			150	150			
Bits, Lullock	12																			12			12	12			
Boxes, dray	12																			12			12	12			
Breechings	12																			104			104	104			
Bridles, bullock	12																			104			104	104			
huck	12																			172			172	172			
walker	12																			9			9	9			
Buckles, tin plated	24																			320			320	320			
common	500																			500			500	500			
Carts	2000																			2,000			2,000	2,000			
Chains, clay	12																			12			12	12			
feeding	4																			4			4	4			

APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM SELECT COMMITTEE

DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLES.	Superintendent of Customs' Stores.	Principal Superintendent of Customs.	Master Attendant.	Principal Superintendent of Police.	Surveyors of Revenue & Bridges.	High Sheriff.	Female Factory.	Superintendent of Grass Farm.	Superintendent of Kinnaird Plains.	Superintendent of Campbelltown.	Superintendent of Balhannah.	Superintendent of Wellington Valley.	Commandant at Illawarra.	Commandant at Pt Macquarie.	Commandant at Moreton Bay.	Commandant at King George's Sound.	Commandant at Norfolk Island.	TOTAL.	In Store, 24 Dec. 1899.	Stock arrived, 24 Dec. 1899.	Stock on Request for 1898.	Expected out, on Requisition for 1899.	Total available for 1899 and 1891.	Requisitioned from the Colony for 1899.	Requisitioned from England for 1892.	REMARKS.
Staves, constables			6				240				8							248	81	-	6	87				
Wax, lbs.																		8	40	-	-	40				
Weights, small, 1, 2, 4, 7, 14 & 28 lbs. of each												1						6	10	-	-	10				
Naval Stores:																										
Anchors, 4 cwt.			4															4			4	8				
— 5																		4			4	8				
— 6			4															4			4	8				
— 7			4															4			4	8				
— 8			4															4			4	8				
— 9			4															4			4	8				
Adzes, shipwrights'			12															12			12	24				
Axes			40															40			40	80				
Blocks, single, 1 inch			160															160			160	320				
— 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 inch of each			100															100			100	200				
— double, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 in. — bush single			100															100			100	200				
— double																		10	72,014	500	500	1,000				
Brushes, deck, clamp, scrubbing			25															25			25	50				
— tar			72															72	50		50	100				
Bull'-eyes, or illuminators			24															24			24	48				
Bunting, blue			5															5			5	10				
— red			5															5			5	10				
— white			5															5			5	10				
— yellow			5															5			5	10				
Cables, oil, as junk			10															10			10	20				
Cables, chain, equal to 10 in. rope			4															4			4	8				
— 8			2															2			2	4				
— 7			2															2			2	4				
— 6			2															2			2	4				
— 5			4															4			4	8				
— 4			4															4			4	8				
Cable, 4 strand, 8 in. for stays, fathoms			120															120	202		4	4	8			
Caboose, cooking, for 70 persons			3															3			3	6				
Canvass, No. 2			50															50			50	100				
— No. 3			150															150			150	300				
— No. 4			150															150			150	300				
— No. 5			150															150			150	300				
— No. 6			150															150			150	300				
— No. 7			80															80			80	160				
— No. 8			80															80			80	160				
Charts, King's, of the Coast of New Holland, bound			2															2			2	4				
Chronometers			1															1			1	2				
Colours, water			1															1			1	2				

DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLES.	REMARKS.																										
	Supernum ^r of Captains.	Principal Supernum ^r of Sergeants.	Master of Company.	Principal of Police.	Survey ^r of Rates & Bridges.	High Sheriff.	Female Factory.	Supernum ^r of Grose Farm.	Supernum ^r of Enno Plains.	Supernum ^r at Campbellton.	Supernum ^r at Bathurst.	Supernum ^r of Wellington Valley.	Commandant at Hawarra.	Commandant at Macquarie.	Commandant at Moreton Bay.	Commandant at King George's Sound.	Commandant at Norfolk Island.	TOTAL.	In Store, 1839.	Since arrived, from 1839.	Expected out, on Requisition for 1839.	Total available for 1839 and 1841.	Required from the Colony for 1839.	Required from England for 1839.			
Thread, white -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Twine, rope -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Seaming -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ordnance Stores:																											
Ammunition - rounds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Musquets - rounds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ball-cartridge - rounds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pistols - rounds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shot, small - lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bayonets -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Painters' Tools and Stores:																											
Brushes, paint - pound	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stock -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lead, black - lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Litharge -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gil, sweet -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Linseed -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paint, black - lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lamp -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Prussian -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indigo -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow ochre -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Patent -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tools, cash, assorted -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turpentine - gals.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Varnish, black -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whiting - gals.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whiting - lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Repemakers' Tools and Stores:																											
Flax, New Zealand - lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hackles, fine -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coarse -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

.. Estimated for by the Ordnance storekeeper.
 .. Estimated for by the Ordnance storekeeper.
 .. Estimated for by the Ordnance storekeeper.

— No. 12. —

Difference between
the care of Convicts
and Soldiers.

PROPORTIONAL DIFFERENCE between the Care of 4,800 CONVICTS, and the Care of as many SOLDIERS.

In reference to the question of the Committee regarding the proportional difference between the care of 4,800 convicts, and the care of as many soldiers, I beg to explain, that to conduct the duties of a convict establishment, such as that at New South Wales, a larger commissariat department is requisite than would be the case if the convicts were to be entirely replaced by troops to an equal extent, because the circumstances which render expedient the present diversified and widely extended system of locating the convicts, so as to meet the views of transportation, could not be applicable to a military force.

The paper already submitted to the Committee will have explained that the system of location is the primary cause of multiplying the commissariat duties so much in New South Wales. It therefore remains to be shown that, even if the convicts were more concentrated, those duties must still be more arduous than would be consequent on a military force similarly situated.

There is not any part of the duty which the commissariat have to perform for troops that is not necessary for the convicts also, and that to a much greater extent, the rations of the latter being of a more varied and complicated character, while the labour and responsibility of distributing and accounting for them rest more with the commissariat than in the case of troops with whom there is a quartermaster and others better qualified for such details than the convict superintendents and overseers, who are not calculated for such service.

The same facility of check on the issue of rations does not exist as in a regiment, so that much of the important duty of mustering convicts, and other means by which an undue expediture can be prevented, rests likewise with the commissariat.

The service too is far from being so regular and simple, particularly with regard to the cash transactions, for, while in the one case money is generally imprested to a responsible officer, by whom it is disbursed and accounted for in detail; in the other case, the commissariat officers must be charged with all this extra responsibility, an addition which, of course, is attended with corresponding arrangements in every branch of the department.

But independently of such duties as the commissariat have to perform for the troops, there are others which necessarily arise in the case of convicts; namely, the receipts, custody and appropriation of the proceeds of their labour, both with regard to mechanics and agriculturists; the providing and supplying all stores, tools and implements necessary to this purpose, and more especially the clothing of the convicts, a very considerable branch in itself, the materials to a great extent being procured, made up, and afterwards distributed under the superintendence of the commissariat.

It would be almost impossible, without a practical experiment, to state with any degree of accuracy the difference between the expense of a commissariat establishment for convicts and one for an equal number of troops; but these remarks may serve to show that a considerable difference would exist, and that such difference would greatly preponderate in the case of convicts.

T. Archer.

— No. 13. —

CORRESPONDENCE respecting Examination of ARREAR ACCOUNTS.

Correspondence
respecting Examina-
tion of Arrear
Accounts.

Sir,

Commissariat of Accounts, Sydney, 6 September 1833.

HAVING received from the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury a copy of the letter addressed by their Lordships to His Excellency the Major-general, commanding, under date of 3d December 1832, in which the state of the department of the Commissariat of Accounts is commented upon, I have the honour to submit some remarks and information on the several subjects, with the view of aiding his Excellency in carrying into effect the measures directed by their Lordships.

My Lords having given their sanction to the appointment of two additional officers or clerks to the account department, to be employed in its permanent current duties; this has been accomplished by two deputy-assistant commissaries-general being recently attached thereto.

My Lords further proceed to express their desire that certain arrear accounts of the commissariat, embracing the provision and store transactions for the period between 25th December 1828 and 24th December 1830, which have been left unexamined by the account department, and the original sets so sent to England, should now undergo an examination here by a separate establishment, under the superintendence of the officer in charge of the account department, leaving the appointment of the number of persons, and mode of remuneration for their services, under various suggestions, for the decision of his Excellency.

Prior to offering my opinion on the mode of carrying these objects into effect, I must beg leave to confess that, after receipt of their Lordships' communication, I was for some time in doubt whether the instruction was definitive, and therefore delayed addressing his Excellency on the subject. A letter recently received by me from their Lordships has, however, removed any doubt I might have entertained thereon.

I think myself correct in assuming it as quite certain, from the tenor of the report of the inquiry into the state of the commissariat offices in Sydney, as quoted in their Lordships' letter, that a very considerable progress must have been made in the examination of the

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arrears accounts in question, inasmuch as the extent and minuteness, and the detail of such examination are particularly adverted to, as also that the branch of the commissariat office exclusively engaged in that duty consisted of nine persons. I must, therefore, request that his Excellency will be pleased to give directions to Deputy Commissary-general Laidley to hand over to me, with the duplicate accounts, all the proceedings, either in the nature of observations, reports or otherwise, which have taken place in the course of that examination, as well as to give me information as to what point generally, and up to what period the accounts have been so examined. I think that such examination may be as safely relied upon as any which could now be given by an office formed at this time under my superintendence, not only because I fear I shall have much difficulty in forming an efficient establishment for the purpose, but also because much time and labour would be saved, and consequently expense abridged thereby.

Although I may expect that the work remaining to be done will be lessened by my being put in possession of the information above required, I am nevertheless of opinion, that it is very desirable that this long delayed business should be speedily dispatched, and would therefore submit that four persons should be engaged for the duty. It will not be possible for me to give his Excellency a perfect idea, or sound information, as to the length of time which may be required for the performance of this duty, so much must depend upon the nature and extent of the work already done, the state of the accounts, and finally, what I may on inspection and due consideration think would be such an examination as shall satisfy the intentions of their Lordships and secure my own responsibility. From experience I have found that the examination of the provision accounts of the station has fully occupied the time of one steady practised clerk during four or five months, to get through one quarter's accounts; I may, therefore, infer that taking into account the less minute examination required for the two years' arrears of provision accounts on the one hand, and the inexperience of the persons likely to be found for the service in the other, that it must occupy three clerks for one year on their examination, while there is also an arrears of two years' dry store accounts to be examined.

As to the mode of remuneration for the services of the persons to be employed, I must beg leave to refer his Excellency to the suggestions of my Lords on that point, having to remark that I think there will be much difficulty in fixing a remuneration with reference to the work done, as it might lead to an ineffectual execution of the work, nor do I see how the amount of remuneration could be fixed upon that plan.

I have, &c.

Captain Hunter,
Assistant Military Secretary.

(signed) *William Hayward*,
Assistant Commissary of Accounts.

Military Secretary's Office, Sydney,
21 Sept. 1833.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 6th instant, respecting the examination of certain arrears accounts of the commissariat, and to request you will be pleased to acquaint me, for the information of the Major-general commanding, with the daily rate of pay usually issued here to clerks capable of performing the work now under consideration. If it would take four such clerks one year to finish, some notion may be formed of the total expense to be incurred.

I have further to request you will be pleased to state whether you can recommend clerks for this business, which should be undertaken without further delay.

I have, &c.

William Hayward, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

(signed) *William Hunter*,
Assistant Military Secretary.

Commissariat of Accounts, Sydney,
3 October, 1833.

Sir,

I was honoured in due course with your letter of the 21st September, desiring to be acquainted, for the information of his Excellency the Major-general commanding, with the daily rate of pay usually issued here to clerks capable of the examination of the accounts lately directed by the Treasury to be examined here, as also whether I can recommend competent clerks for this business. The first point may be satisfied by stating that the rates of pay established for temporary clerks in the commissariat in this command, are to

Clerks of 1st class £. 170 per annum.

— 2d — 140 —
— 3d — 110 —

I consider clerks capable of performing the duties in question fully deserving of the highest rate of salary, but as in the progress of the work to be done, some of secondary importance, such as copying, &c. must occur, one clerk might be placed on the establishment at a lower rate of salary; considering also that the employment of these persons would be only temporary, it may be doubted whether any could be engaged at the lowest rate.

Correspondence
respecting Examination of Arrear
Accounts.

In answer to your second question, I have the honour to state, that although the Treasury instruction for the performance of the work under consideration has been well known here now full three months, I was not able to fix upon persons competent for the duty, nor did any such offer themselves, but as I was unwilling to answer hastily to the point, and being desirous of laying before his Excellency the results of mature and special inquiry, I have, as you will perceive, delayed communicating to you thereon until I could collect further information.

It might have been expected that from amongst the individuals discharged from the commissariat on the reductions of that department, some competent persons might have been selected, but some have left their place or have found other engagements, though by far the greater number of those discharged had filled only subordinate situations, and there is but one, Mr. Todhunter, now offered to me, who is said to be in every way competent and qualified, but unfortunately he has other profitable employment, and informs me that although very desirous of engaging for the service in question, he could not devote the whole of his time to it; the interruptions to which his work would be liable, and the difficulty of fixing a remuneration for the time bestowed on the duty, may probably be viewed by his Excellency as impediments to his appointment.

Another person has been mentioned to me as competent: Mr. Paget, now commandant's clerk at Norfolk Island, is I understand about to leave that situation, and as he has served for many years in the commissariat, it is to be expected that he is acquainted with the accounts of that department; I do not know when he is to return to Sydney, nor what may be his ulterior views.

Two other gentlemen have offered themselves, and are very respectfully recommended as men of steadiness and ability, but they are entirely unacquainted with commissariat affairs and accounts; it is obvious therefore that much time would be lost merely in teaching them the duty required.

I have entered into the foregoing detail, that his Excellency may be made aware of the probable expense of the establishment, and the difficulties likely to be experienced in fulfilling the wishes of the Lords of the Treasury, as expressed in their letter respecting the importance of selecting competent persons for the business. It is quite clear, that to form an office of unpractised men would cause a great waste of time; and even if formed of competent persons, I submit that it would be proper that its routine and detail should be directed by a responsible and practised head, and one who could with prudence and judgment conduct such an examination as is desired by their Lordships, for I think it would not be possible for me to give it that fitting attention in those particulars which it would require, considering the heavy duties of my present office, which their Lordships were aware of when they sanctioned an increase to the department, considering also that the new office itself must be removed from me, as there is no room in my office for its accommodation.

I have to add, that I now learn that the accounts under view are much more voluminous than I had contemplated in forming my estimate of the time it might take to examine them, and it appears likely that the examination would require 18 months.

I have, &c.

Captain Hunter,
Assistant Military Secretary.

(signed) William Hayward,
Assistant Commissary of Accounts.

Commissariat of Accounts, Sydney, New South Wales,
6 December 1833.

Sir,

ADVERTING to your letter to me, of 24 December 1832, with its enclosure, dated 3 December, to the officer commanding in this colony, and with respect to the instructions therein given for the formation of an establishment for the examination of certain provision and store accounts of the commissariat, I have the honour to inform you that this subject has engaged my serious attention, and in consequence of the difficulties, I may in truth say, the utter impracticability hitherto experienced in forming any fit establishment for the purpose, I am induced now to report, for the information of the Right honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, the steps that have been taken towards the furtherance of this object.

The enclosed copies of my letters to the Military Secretary of 6 September and 3 October last, I request particular reference to, as containing a detail of the then state of the business, and of the obstacles existing to the formation of the branch office; nothing has since occurred to remove or diminish those obstacles, although I have made every inquiry, and announced my readiness to receive applications. The chief difficulties consist in finding persons such as, having some experience in accounts of the nature under view, could be considered competent to their examination; for I think that a great waste of time, and consequently of money, would ensue from the employment of persons totally unacquainted with the routine of commissariat affairs and accounts, who must first be instructed in the duty, without which no reliance could be placed on their execution of the work; yet my Lords object to the employment of any one who may have been personally concerned in any of the transactions to which the accounts relate.

I now, however, learn that Deputy Commissary-general Laidley has it in contemplation to make some reduction or arrangements in his department about the close of the year;

this may probably furnish an opportunity of engaging some competent persons, or at least some one capable of directing the routine and detail of the duties; I will have the honour to report further hereupon at the earliest period.

Correspondence
respecting Examination of Arrear
Accounts.

The Secretary to the Right Hon. the
Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Hayward*,
Assistant Commissary of Accounts.

Commissariat of Accounts, Sydney, New South Wales,
22 March 1834.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to address you on the 6th December last, by letter, on the subject of the formation of an office for the examination of the arrear accounts of the commissariat at this station, and stated that Deputy Commissary-general Laidley had it then in contemplation to make some reductions in his department; those reductions being about to be carried into effect, I found that I could make the selection of Deputy-assistant Commissary-general Baldy only for the service proposed, and accordingly applied to his Excellency the Major-general commanding for his sanction to the transfer of the present services of Mr. Baldy from the 1st instant, from which day Mr. Laidley consented to dispense with him. Having obtained his Excellency's approval to this measure, I have appointed Mr. Baldy to the examination of the completed sets of the dry store accounts rendered by Deputy-assistant Commissary-general Kennedy, which is all that can now be undertaken.

Considering that the instructions of the Right honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury respecting the formation of an office for the examination of arrear accounts were received by me so long ago as June of last year, and that I have hitherto found it to be quite impossible to form such an office in this place, notwithstanding my best endeavours and the great anxiety this business has given me, I feel it to be my duty frankly to say, that I have no hope of being able to carry their Lordships' instructions into full effect, by the formation of an office for the examination of the provision accounts, and I beg leave to assure you that I feel most sensibly this disappointment of their Lordships' views and expectations.

I have, &c.
(signed) *William Hayward*,
Assist. Com.-genl of Accounts.

The Secretary to the Right Hon. the
Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury.

— No. 14. —

EXTRACTS of a MINUTE of the COMMISSIONERS for AUDITING the PUBLIC
Accounts, dated 9 April 1835.

Audit of Public
Accounts.

"THE Board are satisfied on an inspection of the statement now before them, and with reference to Mr. Smith's remarks, that the examiners of store and provision accounts cannot proceed with the current accounts, and at the same time bring up the arrears upon which they are now engaged; and the Board deeming it highly important that the examination of the current accounts should not be delayed,

"Ordered,

"That the examiners do immediately proceed on the accounts of the Ionian Islands, Gibraltar, Western Australia, Windward and Leeward Islands, Honduras, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Canada, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Bermuda, Mauritius and Cape of Good Hope, from 1 April 1834; on the New South Wales accounts from 1st April 1833.

"And it appearing that the Van Diemen's Land accounts for 1833 and 1834, are not yet received,

"Ordered,

"That a letter be written to the commissary in charge, calling his immediate attention to the delay.

"The Board for the present suspend giving any directions as to the examination of the accounts of Van Diemen's Land for the period to the 21st December 1832, and also as to the accounts of the Rideau Canal, and the Jamaica candle account.

"In case the examiners engaged in these several accounts for current services should be able to spare time for the arrear accounts, they are to proceed upon them as opportunities may occur; and the Board further direct, that on the 1st November next, a statement be prepared and submitted to the Board, showing the progress made in the examination of the current accounts as to each station, with a view of enabling the Board to ascertain whether the examination of the accounts for half a year has been completed within the half year."

Audit of Public
Accounts.STATEMENT relative to the Receipt and Audit of the Cash Accounts of the Commissariat in
Australia, Van Diemen's Land and Canada, for the Years 1832 and 1833.

COLONY.	Date of Delivery of Annual Account.	Date of Delivery of Monthly Account.	DATE of AUDIT.	REMARKS.
NEW SOUTH WALES - (1832.)	22 June 1833	At different periods be- tween 1 Jan. and 5 Oct. 1833.	28 April 1835	
Ditto - - - (1 Jan. 1833 to 31 March 1834.)	10 May and 7 Nov. 1834	29 Jan. and 11 Dec. 1834.	- - -	- - Examination completed in April 1835. Queries sent be- tween August 1834 and May 1835, none of which are an- swered.
VAN DIEMEN'S LAND - (1832.)	4 July 1833	1 April and 8 Oct. 1833.	- - -	- - Examination completed in January 1834. Answers to que- ries received 6 July 1835. Ready for audit.
Ditto - - - (1 Jan. 1833 to 31 March 1834.)	7 June and 6 Oct. 1834.	25 February and 30 Sept. 1834.	- - -	- - Examination completed in February 1835. Queries sent between August 1834 and March 1835, the greater part of which remain unanswered.
FIRST ACCOUNT.				
WESTERN AUSTRALIA, (1 Feb. 1832 to 31 March 1833.)	16 May 1833 10 July 1834.	1 Jan. and 7 Nov. 1833.	- - -	- - Examination completed in March 1834. Answers to que- ries received in June 1835. Account preparing for audit.
Ditto - - - (One year to 31 Mar. 1834.)	10 July 1834, and 13 Oct. 1834.	7 Nov. 1833, and 30 Sept. 1834.	- - -	- - Examination completed in April 1835. Queries sent be- tween June 1834 and April 1835, the greater part of which remain unanswered.
UPPER AND LOWER CANADA - - - (1832-33.)	8 April and 15 October 1833.	2 Oct. 1832, and 3 Dec. 1833.	26 Nov. 1834	
Ditto - - - (One year to 31 Mar. 1834.)	2 July 1834	3 Jan. 1834, and 1 Oct. 1834.	- - -	- - Examination completed on 25 May 1835. Queries settled and ready for accountant. State of account nearly ready for audit, it not being necessary to await the answers to que- ries.

STATEMENT relative to the Receipt and Audit of the Store Accounts of the Commissariat
in Australia, Van Diemen's Land and Canada, for the Years 1832 and 1833.

COLONY and PERIOD OF ACCOUNT.	Date of Delivery of the several Periodical, or Three Monthly Provision and Store Accounts.	DATE of AUDIT.	REMARKS.
NEW SOUTH WALES - (1 Jan. 1832 to 31 March 1833.)	- - At various periods, from 13 February to 3 September 1834.	- - -	- - Examination suspended, agree- able to Minute of the Board, dated 9 April 1835.
Ditto - - - (1 April 1833 to 28 February 1834.)	- - At various periods, from 10 Nov. 1834 to 24 June 1835.	- - -	- - Those from 1 April to 30 Sept. 1833, under examination.
VAN DIEMEN'S LAND, (1 Jan. to 31 Dec 1832.)	- - At various periods, from 20 May 1833 to 16 June 1834.	- - -	- - Examination suspended, agree- able to Minute of the Board, dated 9 April 1835.

ON MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS, COLONIES.

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Audit of Public Accounts.

COLONY and PERIOD OF ACCOUNT.	Date of Delivery of the several Periodical, or Three Monthly Provision and Store Accounts.	DATE of AUDIT.	REMARKS.
VAN DIEMEN'S LAND, (1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 1833)	Not any as yet received	- - -	- - Directed to be applied for by Minute of the Board, dated 9 April 1835.
WESTERN AUSTRALIA, (1 February 1832 to 31 March 1833)	- - At various periods, from 3 Sept. 1832 to 16 November 1833.	- - -	- - Examination suspended, agreeable to Minute of the Board, dated 9 April 1835.
Ditto - - - (1 April 1833 to 31 March 1834.)	- - At various periods, from 16 Nov. 1833 to 12 Dec. 1834.	- - -	
Ditto - - - (1 April to 31 Dec. 1834.)	- - At various periods, from 12 Dec. 1834 to 23 June 1835.	- - -	
UPPER AND LOWER CANADA - - - (1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 1832.)	- - At various periods, from 25 July 1832 to 24 July 1833.	31 January 1835.	- - Those from 1 April to 30 Sept. 1834, will forthwith be taken up for examination.
Ditto - - - (1 January 1833 to 31 March 1834.)	- - At various periods, from 28 Aug. 1833 to 12 Aug. 1834.	- - -	- - Those from 1 January to 31 Dec. 1833 have been examined, but further proceedings suspended, agreeable to Minute of the Board, dated 9 April 1835.

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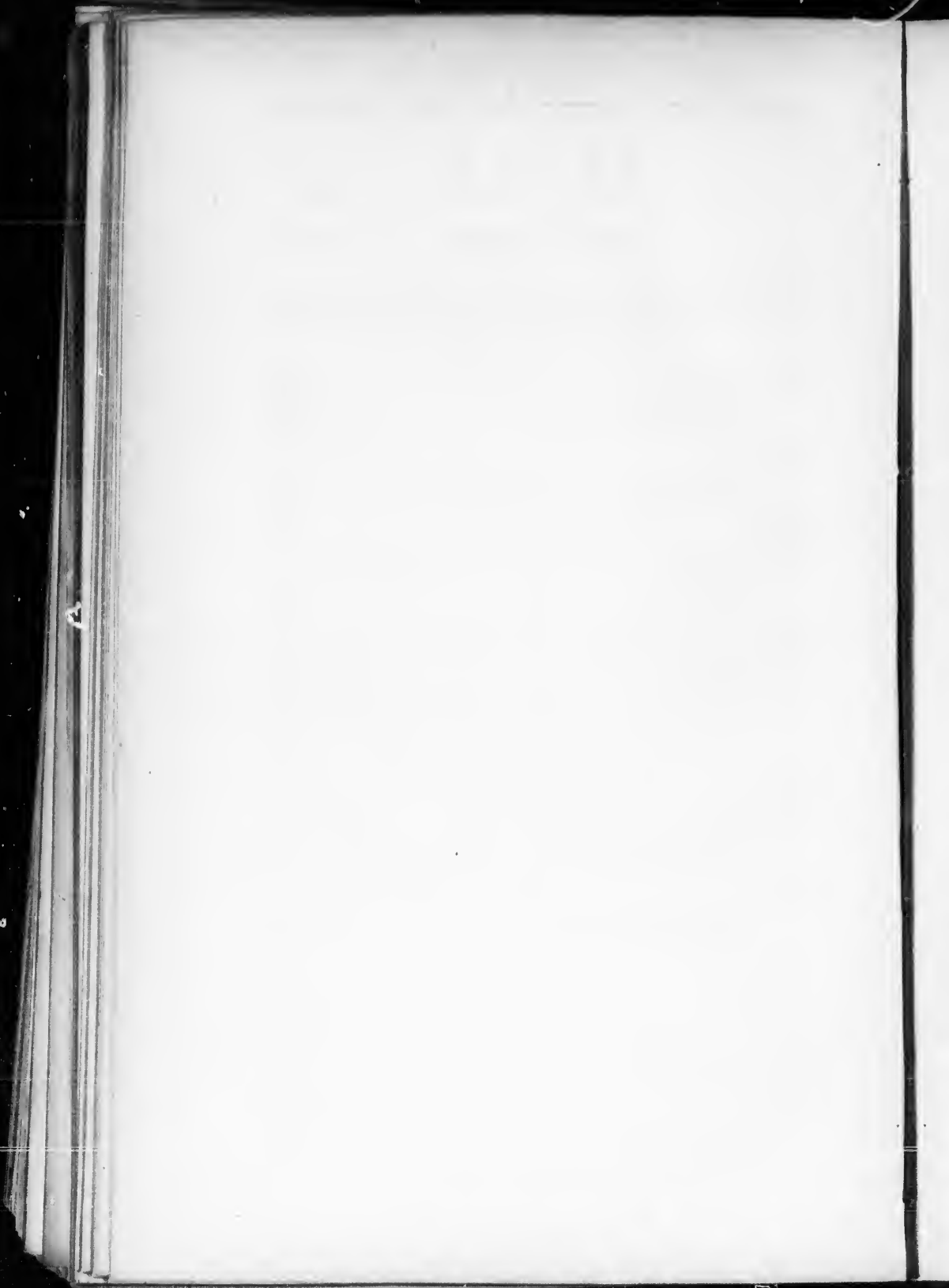
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