

## CHAPTER XIV.

## DEFENCE.

## § 1. Military Defence.

1. *State Systems.*—A detailed historical account of the Australian defence forces prior to federation will be found in *Official Year Book No. 2*, pp. 1075–1080. See also *Official Year Book No. 12*, p. 999.

The strength of the military forces of the States prior to federation was generally nearly up to establishment. On the 31st December, 1900 (the eve of Federation), it was:—New South Wales, 9,338; Victoria, 6,335; Queensland, 4,028; South Australia, 2,932; Western Australia, 2,696; Tasmania, 2,024; total for Australia, 27,353. This total is exclusive of cadets, reservists, and rifle club members.

2. *Commonwealth System.*—(i) *General.* Under the terms of the Constitution Act 1900, the Commonwealth took over control of defence matters in March, 1901. The growth of the Commonwealth Military Forces may be considered to have taken place in three phases, viz. :—

- (a) The first phase, *i.e.*, the welding together of the military forces of the States into one homogeneous army, was entrusted by the Government in 1902 to Major-General Sir Edward Hutton, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., and a sound foundation was laid, upon which the subsequent organization and training was based.
- (b) The second phase was the introduction of Universal Training in 1911. During the year 1909 a measure providing for universal training was passed by the Commonwealth Parliament, and the scheme came into force in 1911 after the advice and recommendations of the late Lord Kitchener had been obtained. By the Defence Acts of 1903 and 1904 all male inhabitants between the ages of 18 and 60 years were made liable to serve in Australia with the defence forces *in time of war*. The more recent Acts make training and service compulsory up to the age of 26 years *in time of peace*. By the Act of 1909 the principle of universal liability to training was made law for the first time in any English-speaking community. More detailed reference to these matters will be found in *Official Year Book No. 12*, p. 999 *et seq.*
- (c) The third phase, <sup>1</sup>Divisional Organization, came into operation from the 1st May, 1921. Under this system a war organization, evolved from the Australian Imperial Force, is applied to peace conditions, with a minimum of permanent staff and forces. Numbers of units and formations have been altered to correspond with those of the A.I.F. and every effort is being made to maintain the traditions established by those units in the Great War.

(ii) *Military Population.* In connexion with the numbers available, the figures of male population are of interest. The total number at cadet age, *i.e.*, between 12 and 18, at the Census of 1921 (4th April) was about 300,000, at citizen soldier age, *i.e.*, between 18 and 26, 353,000; these latter, with 409,000 at ages between 26 and 35, give 762,000 as the total males at the best period for military service. It is estimated that 529,000 of those available between the ages of 18 and 35 were not married or widowers without children, and 233,000 were married or widowers with children. In addition, there were about 762,000 between the ages 35 and 60.

(iii) *Allotment of Units.* The organization is territorial, and the divisions based upon infantry units. There are 62 battalions, forming 15 brigades. The areas have approximately equal numbers of males of citizen soldier age, and each furnishes a battalion of infantry, and a proportion of other troops.

## ALLOTMENT OF UNITS TO AREAS, 1st FEBRUARY, 1924.

State.	Brigade Areas.	Battalion Areas.												Training Areas.
		Number of Areas.	Providing the undermentioned Units—											
			Infantry Battalions.	Light Horse Regiments.	Field Artillery Batteries.	Engineers.		Signallers.		A.A.M.C.				
						Companies.	Troops.	Sections.	Troops.	A.A.S.C. Companies.	Field Amb.	Sanitary Section.	A.A.V.C. Sections.	
N.S. Wales ..	5	21	21	7	17	7	3	18	4	10	8	3	4	35
Victoria ..	5	21	21	6	17	7	3	18	4	10	7	2	4	27
Queensland ..	2	8	8	4	7	2	1	9	1	3	3	1	1	10
S. Aust. ..	1	5	5	4	4	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	9
W. Aust. ..	1	4	4	1	3	1	..	4	..	1	1	1	..	7
Tasmania ..	1	3	3	1	3	1	..	3	..	1	1	1	..	4
Total ..	15	62	62	23	51	19	8	54	10	27	22	9	10	92

(iv) *Strength of Military Forces.* (a) *Districts.* There was little alteration in the numbers serving in the Australian military forces from the institution of the Commonwealth to the year of the introduction of the compulsory training system. From 1913 to 1918, however, the annual increase was considerable. As a result of the International Conference which met at Washington on the 11th November, 1921, it was decided by the Australian Government in 1922 that the universal training law is to be continued, but its operation is to be restricted to the more populous centres and to certain quotas only, viz. :—Citizen Force training will be confined to youths of 18 and 19 (representing two quotas annually instead of seven as previously). Senior Cadet training will be confined to boys of 16 and 17 (representing two quotas annually instead of four as previously). Junior Cadet training ceased as an activity of the Defence Department on the 30th June, 1922. The existing Divisional Organization of the Field Force is being retained in skeleton form, units being maintained at considerably below war strength.

## TRAINING STRENGTH OF MILITARY FORCES, 1901, 1913, AND 1919 TO 1923.

(a) District.	1901. (b) 1/3/01	1913. 30/6/13.	1919. 30/6/19.	1920. 30/6/20.	1921. 31/12/21.	1922. 31/12/22.	1923. 31/12/23.
Hd.-Qrs.(c) ..	..	277	362	463	458	499	58
1st Q'ld. ..	4,310	4,625	13,938	13,323	14,752	4,319	4,212
2nd N.S.W. ..	9,772	12,105	37,851	38,558	46,924	14,561	15,211
3rd Vict. ..	7,011	10,840	34,770	30,762	41,484	11,117	11,825
4th S. Aus. ..	2,956	3,228	12,867	10,590	12,495	3,452	3,828
5th W. Aus. ..	2,283	1,685	5,508	4,400	6,540	2,018	2,170
6th Tas. ..	2,554	1,777	4,585	4,569	5,307	1,190	1,299
Total ..	28,886	34,537	109,881	102,665	127,960	37,156	38,603

(a) Approximately coterminous with boundaries of States. (b) Date of taking over the military forces from States by Commonwealth. (c) Including cadets at Royal Military College of Australia.

(b) *Various Arms.* The numbers of the different arms of the service on the 31st December, 1923, were as follows :—

## ARMS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEFENCE, 31st DECEMBER, 1923.(a)

Light Horse ..	3,561	Australian Instructional Corps ..	591
Field Artillery ..	3,979	Ordnance (including Armament	
Garrison Artillery ..	980	Artificers) ..	81
Field Engineers ..	1,558	R.A.E. Survey Section ..	14
Signallers ..	1,180	R.A.E. Works Section ..	18
Fortress Engineers ..	201	Royal Military College (Cadets)	24
Infantry ..	23,825	Provost Staff ..	14
Army Service Corps ..	1,128	Legal Department ..	37
Army Medical Corps ..	1,020		
Army Veterinary Corps ..	139	Grand Total ..	38,579
Staff Corps ..	229		

(a) Excluding civilian staff.

(c) *Classification of Land Forces.* The following table shows the strength of the land forces in each State, classified according to nature of service, on the 31st December, 1923 :—

**CLASSIFICATION OF LAND FORCES,(a) 31st DECEMBER, 1923.**

Branch of Service.	Army Head-quarters.	1st Military District. (Qld.)	2nd Military District. (N.S.W.)	3rd Military District. (Vic.)	4th Military District. (S. Aus.)	5th Military District. (W. Aus.)	6th Military District. (Tas.)	Total.
Permanently employed ..	(b)58	153	669	527	93	134	69	1,703
Citizen Soldiers ..	..	4,059	14,542	11,298	3,735	2,036	1,230	36,900
Unattached List of Officers ..	..	50	155	202	31	26	19	483
Engineer and Railway Staff Corps ..	..	9	12	10	5	8	3	47
Reserve of Officers ..	..	1,671	4,854	4,757	1,108	900	338	13,628
Chaplains ..	..	56	65	80	27	36	21	285
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>5,998</b>	<b>20,297</b>	<b>16,874</b>	<b>4,999</b>	<b>3,140</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>53,046</b>

(a) Excluding civilian staff.

(b) Including Cadets at Royal Military College of Australia.

(d) *Numbers Serving under Compulsory Provisions.*—(1) *General.* The following tables show the numbers registered and training under the compulsory system, distinguishing Citizen Forces and Senior Cadets. Junior Cadet training ceased as an activity of the Department of Defence on 30th June, 1922.

(2) *Citizen Forces 1904 and 1905 Quotas.* Registrations under these quotas as at the 31st December, 1923, are given hereunder.

**UNIVERSAL TRAINING.—CITIZEN FORCES REGISTRATIONS, 1904 AND 1905 QUOTAS, AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1923.**

Military Formations and Districts.	1905 Quota.	1904 Quota.	Total Registrations.
1st Division (2nd M.D.) ..	4,400	4,319	8,719
2nd Division (2nd M.D.) ..	7,275	7,733	15,008
3rd Division (3rd M.D.) ..	5,298	5,394	10,692
4th Division (3rd M.D.) ..	3,833	3,946	7,779
4th Division (4th M.D.) ..	3,171	3,261	6,432
11th Mixed Brigade (1st M.D.) ..	4,205	4,154	8,359
12th Mixed Brigade (6th M.D.) ..	1,312	1,300	2,612
13th Mixed Brigade (5th M.D.) ..	2,154	2,095	4,249
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>31,648</b>	<b>32,202</b>	<b>63,850</b>

(3) *Registrations, 1898 to 1903 Quotas.* Figures relating to these quotas have been included in the next table :—

**REGISTRATIONS, 1898 TO 1903 QUOTAS, AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1921.(a)**

Military District.	Total Registrations in Training Areas.						Total.
	Quota, 1898.	Quota, 1899.	Quota, 1900.	Quota, 1901.	Quota, 1902.	Quota, 1903.	
1st ..	4,584	4,915	4,865	4,453	4,260	3,673	26,750
2nd ..	9,346	9,607	10,058	9,970	10,451	10,968	60,400
3rd ..	6,044	6,747	7,325	7,390	7,248	8,359	43,113
4th ..	2,914	3,014	3,226	2,878	2,805	2,874	17,711
5th ..	1,146	1,222	1,178	1,244	1,347	1,989	8,126
6th ..	1,144	1,248	1,381	1,222	1,181	1,204	7,380
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>25,178</b>	<b>26,753</b>	<b>28,033</b>	<b>27,157</b>	<b>27,292</b>	<b>29,067</b>	<b>163,480</b>

(a) Latest particulars available, as no training is required of these quotas.

(4) *Exemptions and Missing Trainees.* Particulars for the 1904 and 1905 quotas are given hereunder :—

**CITIZEN FORCES, EXEMPTIONS AND MISSING TRAINEES, 31st DECEMBER, 1923.**

Military Formations and Districts.	Exemptions.			Missing Trainees.
	1905 Quota.	1904 Quota.	Total.	1905 and 1904 Quotas.
1st Division (2nd M.D.) ..	1,977	1,782	3,759	187
2nd Division (2nd M.D.) ..	3,154	3,133	6,287	576
3rd Division (3rd M.D.) ..	2,140	2,098	4,238	511
4th Division (3rd M.D.) ..	1,874	2,044	3,918	239
4th Division (4th M.D.) ..	1,597	1,620	3,217	71
11th Mixed Brigade (1st M.D.) ..	2,567	2,553	5,120	43
12th Mixed Brigade (6th M.D.) ..	778	757	1,535	67
13th Mixed Brigade (5th M.D.) ..	1,292	1,261	2,553	18
Total .. ..	15,379	15,248	30,627	1,712

(5) *Trainees Serving with Senior Cadets.* The number of Citizen Force trainees serving with Senior Cadets at the end of 1923 is given in the next table :—

**TRAINEES OF CITIZEN FORCE AGE SERVING WITH SENIOR CADETS,  
31st DECEMBER, 1923.**

Military Formations and Districts.	Trainees of Citizen Forces serving with Senior Cadets as Officers.			Number serving under Reg. 375.
	1905 Quota.	1904 Quota.	Total.	
1st Division (2nd M.D.) ..	22	11	33	5
2nd Division (2nd M.D.) ..	35	25	60	25
3rd Division (3rd M.D.) ..	22	29	51	21
4th Division (3rd M.D.) ..	15	17	32	29
4th Division (4th M.D.) ..	19	3	22	37
11th Mixed Brigade (1st M.D.) ..	13	9	22	22
12th Mixed Brigade (6th M.D.) ..	3	1	4	..
13th Mixed Brigade (5th M.D.) ..	7	5	12	12
Total .. ..	136	100	236	151

(6) *Senior Cadets—Registrations, etc.* Registrations and numbers in training from the 1906 and 1909 quotas at the end of 1923 are shown in the next table :—

**SENIOR CADETS.—REGISTRATIONS AND NUMBER ACTUALLY IN TRAINING,  
31st DECEMBER, 1923 (1906 TO 1909 QUOTAS).**

Military Formations and Districts.	Total Registrations.—Senior Cadets.					Number actually in Training.—Senior Cadets.		
	1909 Quota.	1908 Quota.	1907 Quota.	1906 Quota.	Total.	1907 Quota.	1906 Quota.	Total.
1st Division (2nd M.D.) ..	2,418	3,604	4,421	4,719	15,162	2,969	2,837	5,806
2nd Division (2nd M.D.) ..	4,725	6,733	7,374	7,407	26,239	4,847	4,483	9,330
3rd Division (3rd M.D.) ..	3,010	5,001	5,416	5,434	18,861	3,777	3,547	7,324
4th Division (3rd M.D.) ..	1,844	2,827	3,397	3,601	11,669	1,880	1,779	3,659
4th Division (4th M.D.) ..	1,752	2,911	3,081	3,254	10,998	1,971	1,791	3,762
11th Mixed Brigade (1st M.D.) ..	2,502	3,802	4,044	4,097	14,445	2,128	1,880	4,008
12th Mixed Brigade (6th M.D.) ..	619	992	1,071	1,251	3,933	477	399	876
13th Mixed Brigade (5th M.D.) ..	1,263	2,043	2,144	2,105	7,555	1,273	1,017	2,290
Total .. ..	18,133	27,913	30,948	31,868	108,862	19,322	17,733	37,055

(7) *Senior Cadets—Exemptions and Missing Trainees.* Figures regarding these at the end of 1923 are shown below :—

**SENIOR CADETS.—EXEMPTIONS AND MISSING TRAINEES, 31st DECEMBER, 1923.**

Military Formations and Districts.	Exemptions.					Missing Trainees.
	1909 Quota.	1908 Quota.	1907 Quota.	1906 Quota.	Total.	
1st Division (2nd M.D.) ..	9	673	1,404	1,827	3,913	107
2nd Division (2nd M.D.) ..	40	1,389	2,451	2,760	6,640	248
3rd Division (3rd M.D.) ..	19	749	1,512	1,730	4,010	292
4th Division (3rd M.D.) ..	40	791	1,463	1,722	4,016	162
4th Division (4th M.D.) ..	20	803	1,088	1,439	3,350	52
11th Mixed Brigade (1st M.D.)	18	980	1,899	2,202	5,099	33
12th Mixed Brigade (6th M.D.)	7	356	583	828	1,774	36
13th Mixed Brigade (5th M.D.)	7	309	867	1,079	2,262	13
Total .. ..	160	6,050	11,267	13,587	31,064	943

(8) *Citizen Forces—Medical Examinations.* The following table shows the results of examinations of the 1905 quota as at the end of 1923 :—

**CITIZEN FORCES, MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS, 1905 QUOTA, YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1923.**

Military Formations and Districts.	Number of Examinations carried out.	Fit.		Unfit (A.M.R. 369).		Unfit (including those under A.M.R. 375, but excluding those under A.M.R. 369).	
		Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.
1st Division (2nd M.D.)	2,786	2,480	89.01	63	2.27	243	8.72
2nd Division (2nd M.D.)	4,841	4,093	84.55	138	2.85	610	12.60
3rd Division (3rd M.D.)	3,990	3,315	83.08	171	4.29	504	12.63
4th Division (3rd M.D.)	2,165	1,893	87.44	19	0.87	253	11.69
4th Division (4th M.D.)	1,993	1,668	83.69	13	0.65	312	15.66
11th Mixed Brigade (1st M.D.) ..	2,030	1,754	86.41	91	4.48	185	9.11
12th Mixed Brigade (6th M.D.) ..	643	526	81.74	17	2.71	100	15.55
13th Mixed Brigade (5th M.D.) ..	1,055	951	90.14	52	4.93	52	4.93
Total .. ..	19,503	16,680	85.53	564	2.89	2,259	11.58

(v) *Administration and Instruction.* The staff provided for the administration and training of the various arms consists of 229 officers (Staff Corps), 44 quartermasters, and 547 warrant and non-commissioned officers (Australian Instructional Corps).

(vi) *Royal Military College, Duntroon.* This College was established at Duntroon in the Federal Capital Territory for the purpose of providing trained officers for the permanent forces. Admission is by open competitive examination, a definite number of vacancies being allotted to each State of Australia on a population basis. Further particulars respecting the College are given on page 915 of Official Year Book No. 15. In January, 1924, the staff numbered—military, 20 ; civil, 11.

(vii) *Railways and Defence.* A War Railway Council, consisting of military and railway officers, was instituted in 1911. Its chief duties are to furnish advice and information regarding railway transport for military purposes, and to secure co-operation between the Defence Department and the Railway Departments in regard to concentration and mobilization of troops. To prevent delay in the transport of troops, particularly that caused by the transshipment of baggage and implements of war, the Council has recommended the adoption of a uniform railway gauge on lines linking up the States' capitals. An Engineer and Railway Staff Corps has been instituted, and numbered 50 officers on 31st December, 1923. Fuller details will be found in Official Year Book No. 6, pp. 1070-1.

(viii) *Rifle Clubs.* On the 31st December, 1923, there were 1,174 rifle clubs with a membership of 41,638, and 99 miniature rifle clubs having a membership of 3,912. Applications to form rifle clubs are made to the commandant of a district, and must be signed by not less than thirty male persons between the ages of 16 and 60, who must be natural-born or naturalized British subjects not undergoing training under the universal clauses of the Defence Act. Persons, however, who are temporarily exempted from universal training may be permitted to join rifle clubs during the period of their temporary exemption. Members of rifle clubs must fire an annual course of musketry, but do not undergo any systematic drill.

On the 3rd August, 1921, the administration of rifle clubs was transferred from military to civil control, and rifle clubs ceased to form part of the military organization.

## § 2. Naval Defence.

1. *State Systems.*—Information regarding naval defence systems prior to 1901 will be found in Official Year Book No. 12, p. 1011, but considerations of space preclude its insertion in the present volume.

2. *Commonwealth System from 1901.*—Australian defence, in both its branches (naval and military), passed to the Commonwealth in 1901. Prior to 1905 a naval officer commanding administered the naval forces under the Minister. When the Council of Defence was established in 1905, the Naval Board was constituted, and took over the administration of the Commonwealth naval forces, thereby ensuring continuity of policy and administration. His Majesty the King approved of a flag, similar to that used by the Board of Admiralty, being flown when the Naval Board is present in an official capacity, and this flag has taken its place amongst the naval flags of the nations.

3. *The Present System.*—(i) *General.* An outline of the development of Australian naval policy was given in Official Year Book No. 3, pp. 1060-61, and No. 12, p. 1012. Some account of the building of the Australian Fleet, the proposed and modified cost thereof, the compact with the Imperial Government, etc., appears in Official Year Book No. 15, pp. 921 *et seq.* Up to the 30th June, 1923, the expenditure on construction amounted to £6,899,000.

The Washington Conference of 1921 has had a marked effect on Naval Defence schemes, and all warship building and naval base construction has been suspended. The Fleet personnel was reduced from 4,843 in 1921 to 3,500 in 1923, and the ships in commission were reduced from 25 to 13. H.M.A.S. *Australia* was sunk in accordance with the provisions of the Washington Treaty on 12th April, 1924.

(ii) *Naval College.* A naval college has been established at Captain's Point, Jervis Bay, New South Wales. The course is similar to that carried out in naval colleges in England. In December, 1923, there were 46 cadet midshipmen under training. A boy whose thirteenth birthday falls in the year in which the entrance examination is held is eligible to compete provided he is the son of natural-born or naturalized British subjects. From amongst those qualified, the Selection Committee chooses the number required. The Commonwealth Government bears the whole expense of uniforms, victualling, travelling, as well as that of the educational course. Altogether 127 officers who have passed through the College are now serving with the Fleet. Others have been transferred to the Emergency List under the "Retirement" scheme of 1922.

(iii) *Training Ships.* H.M.A.S. *Tingira*, moored in Rose Bay, Sydney, was commissioned in April, 1912, to train boys for the personnel of the Royal Australian Navy. The age of entry is 14½ to 16 years. Only boys of very good character and physique are accepted, after a strict medical examination, and they must engage to serve until they reach the age of 30. The training lasts about one year, and trainees are then drafted to a sea-going warship of the Australian Fleet. Recruiting has been satisfactory, and 166 boys were under training on 15th March, 1924.

(iv) *The Naval Station.* The following are the limits of the Naval Station which, since 1st June, 1919, has been controlled by the Commonwealth Government, acting through the Naval Board:—North: From a point in 95 degrees East longitude and 13 degrees South latitude along that parallel to the Eastward to the meridian of 120 degrees East longitude; thence along that meridian to the Northward to 11 degrees South latitude; thence in an easterly direction to the southern termination of the eastern boundary of Dutch New Guinea in about 141 degrees East longitude; thence along the meridian of the boundary to the Northward to the Equator; thence along the Equator to the Eastward to 170 degrees East longitude. East: From a point on the Equator on the meridian of 170 degrees East longitude along that meridian to the Southward to 32 degrees South latitude; thence along that parallel to the Westward to the meridian of 160 degrees East longitude; thence along that meridian to the South Pole. South: The South Pole. West: From the South Pole by the meridian of 80 degrees East longitude to the Northward of 30 degrees South latitude; thence along that parallel to the Eastward to the meridian of 95 degrees East longitude; thence along that meridian to the Northward to 13 degrees South latitude.

(v) *Vessels.* The following table shows the vessels of the Royal Australian Navy:—

## SHIPS OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY, JUNE, 1924.

Vessel.	Description.	Displacement.	Power.
		Tons.	H.P.
<i>Adelaide</i> .. ..	Light Cruiser .. ..	5,500	25,000
<i>Anzac</i> .. ..	Flotilla Leader .. ..	1,660	36,000
<i>Brisbane</i> .. ..	Light Cruiser .. ..	5,400	25,000
<i>Cerberus</i> .. ..	Motor-boat .. ..	61	220
<i>Penguin</i> .. ..	Dépôt Ship .. ..	5,880	12,500
<i>Geranium</i> .. ..	Sloop .. ..	1,250	2,000
<i>Huon</i> .. ..	T.B. Destroyer .. ..	700	11,300
<i>Mallow</i> .. ..	Sloop .. ..	1,200	1,800
<i>Marguerite</i> .. ..	" .. ..	1,250	2,200
<i>Melbourne</i> .. ..	Light Cruiser .. ..	5,400	25,000
<i>Parramatta</i> .. ..	T.B. Destroyer .. ..	700	9,000
<i>Platypus II.</i> .. ..	Turret Ship .. ..	3,480	1,660
<i>Stalwart</i> .. ..	T.B. Destroyer .. ..	1,075	27,000
<i>Success</i> .. ..	" .. ..	1,075	27,000
<i>Swan</i> .. ..	" .. ..	700	10,000
<i>Swordsman</i> .. ..	" .. ..	1,075	27,000
<i>Sydney</i> .. ..	Light Cruiser .. ..	5,400	25,000
<i>Tasmania</i> .. ..	T.B. Destroyer .. ..	1,075	27,000
<i>Tattoo</i> .. ..	" .. ..	1,075	27,000
<i>Tingira</i> .. ..	Boys' Training Ship .. ..	1,800	..
<i>Torrens</i> .. ..	T.B. Destroyer .. ..	700	10,000
<i>Warrego</i> .. ..	" .. ..	700	9,000
<i>Yarra</i> .. ..	" .. ..	700	9,000
FLEET AUXILIARIES—			
<i>Biloela</i> .. ..	Fleet Collier .. ..	5,700	2,300
<i>Kurumba</i> .. ..	Fleet Oiler .. ..	3,970	..

(vi) *Naval Forces.* Besides the sea-going forces, there is a R.A.N. Reserve, which is composed of Citizen Naval Trainees. The personnel of the sea-going forces, which was originally largely composed of Imperial officers and men, is now mainly Australian and will become more so as time goes on. The strength of the naval forces is given hereunder.

**STRENGTH OF NAVAL FORCES (PERMANENT AND RESERVES),  
15th MAY, 1924.**

Description of Force.	Numbers Borne.		
	In Training.	Officers.	Men.
Royal Australian Navy (Sea-going) .. ..	..	377	3,290
Cadet Midshipmen undergoing training at R.A.N. College ..	46	..	..
Boys undergoing training on H.M.A.S. <i>Tingira</i> .. ..	164	..	..
Royal Australian Naval Reserve (Sea-going) .. ..	..	60	..
Royal Australian Naval Reserve .. ..	..	106	4,864

### § 3. Air Defence.

1. *General.*—Having regard to the development in aircraft, the Australian military authorities, as early as 1911, were considering the question of providing for local air defence. In 1912 approval was given for the establishment, as part of the army organization, of a Central Flying School for the training of aeroplane pilots. An area of land was acquired at Point Cook, Victoria; hangars and workshops were erected, and two flying instructors, four mechanics, and five aeroplanes were obtained from England. In June, 1914, the work at Point Cook was sufficiently advanced to permit the commencement of training, and the first course was arranged to begin on the 14th August, 1914. The training of pilots at the School continued actively throughout the War, but after the cessation of hostilities the staff was reduced to a small nucleus.

No steps were taken towards the establishment of a Naval Air Service beyond the appointment, in 1918, of an Air Adviser to the Navy Department.

In 1920 it was resolved to establish an Australian Air Force. Pending the passing of an Air Defence Bill, the Australian Air Force was constituted by proclamation issued under the powers contained in the Defence Act 1903–1918, as part of the Australian Military Forces. This was effected as from 31st March, 1921, and from 13th August, 1921, the Force was designated the Royal Australian Air Force. The Air Defence Bill was passed by the Senate in May of that year, but lapsed on the prorogation of Parliament. The Air Defence Bill was presented to Parliament again in 1923 and after debate was withdrawn and a short Bill drafted—entitled the Air Force Act 1923. This Bill passed through all stages and was assented to on 1st September, 1923. It is a temporary measure constituting the Royal Australian Air Force an autonomous arm of the Defence Forces, and will probably be superseded by a more comprehensive measure during the 1924 session of Parliament.

Under the new Air Board Regulations issued in October, 1922, the Royal Australian Air Force is administered by a Board consisting of two Air Force members and a Finance member. To this Force is entrusted the air defence of Australia, the training of personnel for co-operation with the naval and military forces, and the refresher training of pilots engaging in civil aviation. The present establishment of the Force includes the following units:—

- (a) Head-Quarters, Royal Australian Air Force, with representation at the Air Ministry in London;
- (b) One Station at which are located an Aircraft Dépôt with store and repair facilities, and a Flying Training School; and
- (c) An Experimental Section at Randwick, New South Wales.



In deciding all matters of policy the Minister is assisted by a representative Air Council, which includes officers of the Navy, Army, and Air Force, and the Controller of Civil Aviation.

2. **Establishment.**—The approved establishment of the Permanent Air Force comprises 71 officers and 300 airmen, whilst the strength is 51 officers and 297 airmen.

The policy of the Air Force is to form in peace an efficient nucleus which in time of war will be capable of rapid expansion to meet war requirements.

3. **Aerial Routes.**—Aerodromes and Alighting Sites have been prepared between the capital cities and on certain parts of the coast for service and civil purposes. The total number prepared to date is 120.

4. **Civil Aviation.**—Details regarding the formation and activities of the Civil Aviation Department will be found in Chapter VII., Section D. Aircraft.

### § 4. Expenditure on Defence.

1. **Expenditure, 1901-2 to 1923-24.**—The following table shows Defence expenditure for the whole Commonwealth period 1901-2 to 1922-23 and the estimate for the year 1923-24. Details of the expenditure of the Defence Department and the cost of the war and repatriation are given in Chapter VIII.—Finance.

#### DEFENCE EXPENDITURE.—AUSTRALIA, 1901-2 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Naval.		Military.		Air.		Total Defence Expenditure. (a) (b)
	Under Ordinary Votes and Appropriations.	Total Naval. (a)	Under Ordinary Votes and Appropriations.	Total Military. (a)	Under Ordinary Votes and Appropriations.	Total Air. (a)	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1901-2 ..	178,819	178,819	777,620	780,260	..	..	959,079
1902-3 ..	149,701	149,701	595,115	600,652	..	..	750,353
1903-4 ..	240,005	240,091	502,517	615,673	..	..	855,764
1904-5 ..	200,394	206,036	533,945	728,562	..	..	934,598
1905-6 ..	250,273	252,016	548,439	718,329	..	..	970,345
1906-7 ..	255,120	256,066	585,516	779,729	..	..	1,035,795
1907-8 ..	259,247	510,205	634,579	824,539	..	..	1,334,744
1908-9 ..	263,207	267,262	686,365	783,330	..	..	1,050,592
1909-10 ..	269,051	329,739	928,393	1,205,666	..	..	1,535,405
1910-11 ..	303,493	1,465,034	1,092,305	1,540,992	..	..	3,006,026
1911-12 ..	461,546	1,634,466	1,667,103	2,443,382	..	4,000	4,081,848
1912-13 ..	806,881	1,360,616	1,802,734	2,680,466	3,072	5,223	4,346,305
1913-14 ..	1,006,424	1,987,101	1,941,285	2,756,404	3,012	8,795	4,752,300
1914-15 ..	1,526,351	6,821,091	1,471,138	12,715,471	6,742	18,217	19,554,779
1915-16 ..	1,550,012	8,470,036	1,501,840	37,444,879	10,503	46,162	45,961,077
1916-17 ..	1,510,542	6,641,249	1,532,619	59,364,998	12,156	30,758	66,043,005
1917-18 ..	1,544,590	3,766,056	1,268,403	66,884,734	14,660	29,096	70,679,886
1918-19 ..	1,650,375	9,412,918	1,388,708	77,431,327	4,151	135,686	86,979,931
1919-20(b) ..	1,728,327	5,633,578	1,136,979	68,102,458	26,813	Cr. 34,880	73,701,156
1920-21(b) ..	2,550,609	3,668,589	1,553,045	59,300,435	62,888	139,926	63,098,950
1921-22(b) ..	2,375,965	3,212,736	1,925,924	41,726,436	155,082	285,686	45,224,858
1922-23(b) ..	2,124,491	2,575,131	1,481,751	33,351,819	179,337	273,031	36,200,011
1923-24(b) (Estimated) ..	2,179,814	2,543,911	1,620,836	37,469,177	267,382	422,882	40,435,970

(a) During the war years and subsequently, war expenditure and war expenditure on works included in total. (b) Not including War Gratuity (see p. 598).

NOTE.—In the year 1900-1 the approximate Defence Expenditure by the States was:—

Ordinary Services ..	..	..	£800,000
Works, Arms, Equipment, etc. ..	..	..	200,000
Total ..	..	..	£1,000,000

2. **Comparison with Other Countries.**—The total expenditure on defence and the expenditure per inhabitant in various countries according to estimates made immediately prior to the late war and for the latest available year are as follows :—

**ESTIMATED PRE-WAR AND POST-WAR EXPENDITURE ON DEFENCE.—  
VARIOUS COUNTRIES.**

Country.	Year.	Total Expenditure.	Per Inhabitant.	Year.	Total Expenditure.(c)	Per Inhabitant.
		£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Great Britain ..	1913-14	77,179,000	33 9	1923-24	122,011,000	51 2
Germany ..	1913-14	97,845,000	30 2	(b)	(b)	(b)
France ..	1913	56,738,000	28 7	1924	59,656,000	30 5
Italy ..	1913-14	23,614,000	13 7	1923-24	25,071,000	12 11
Austria-Hungary ..	1913	19,600,000	7 8	1923	(a)2,150,000	6 7
Switzerland ..	1913	1,772,000	9 1	1924	3,265,000	16 10
Russia ..	1913	86,953,000	10 5	(b)	(b)	(b)
Spain ..	1913	9,218,000	9 3	1923-24	18,811,000	17 5
Portugal ..	1913-14	3,041,000	10 3	1923-24	1,617,000	5 4
Norway ..	1913-14	1,204,000	9 11	1923-24	1,548,000	11 8
Sweden ..	1913	4,510,000	16 0	1923-24	9,121,000	30 6
Denmark ..	1913-14	1,625,000	11 5	1923-24	1,777,000	10 11
Holland ..	1913	4,458,000	14 6	1924	8,616,000	24 4
Belgium ..	1913	3,260,000	8 7	1923	5,047,000	13 5
United States ..	1913-14	64,537,000	14 0	1923-24	149,304,000	28 3
Canada ..	1912-13	1,872,000	5 2	1923-24	2,886,000	6 7
Japan ..	1913-14	12,039,000	3 6	1923-24	32,736,000	11 0
Australia ..	1913-14	4,752,000	19 5	1923-24	4,491,000	15 7
New Zealand ..	1913-14	539,000	9 11	1922-23	496,000	7 6

(a) Austria. (b) Not available. (c) Excluding expenditure in connexion with the late War.

## § 5. Munitions Supply and Remount Depot.

1. **Munitions Supply.**—(i) *General.* Owing to the necessity for the creation of Australian sources for the supply of munitions of war, authority was given for the establishment of a Munitions Supply Board consisting of a Controller-General and two Controllers, who are charged with the following :—

- Provision of such armament, arms, ammunition, equipment, supplies and stores of all kinds as may be demanded by the various Naval, Military and Air Services.
- Research—chemical and physical investigation of raw materials and products, and of the manufacturing processes to which such materials are subjected.
- Inspection and examination of supplies obtained in Australia other than food, forage and fuel supplies up to point of issue to service.
- Administration of industrial establishments and factories established or to be established.

The Contract Board, which is a part of the Munitions Supply organization, consists of a Chairman appointed by the Munitions Supply Board and a representative from each of the three arms of the service. This Board has branches in all States and is the chief purchasing agent of the Department. Apart from the existing munition factories, the Board has set up and controls a Research Laboratory at Maribyrnong (Victoria) and an Inspection Branch at Footscray (Victoria) and Lithgow (New South Wales) and has at present in course of construction a Gun Ammunition Factory for the manufacture of Field Artillery Ammunition, an Ordnance Factory which will supply 18-pdr. guns and shells, a T.N.T. and Filling Factory for the manufacture of high explosives and loading artillery ammunition, and a Machine Gun and Pistol Factory at the Small Arms Factory.

These factories will provide for normal peace requirements only. They will, however, serve a dual purpose, inasmuch as they will afford an opportunity of preparing for war by training staff and employees in the technique of manufacture according to local conditions, while providing models for expansion and duplication should the occasion arise, in addition to acting as technical schools for commercial establishments in the event of the latter being converted to war purposes.

(ii) *Factories.* The Commonwealth Harness, Saddlery, and Leather Accoutrements Factory was opened in September, 1911, and provided harness and saddlery, and leathes and canvas equipment for the Defence and other Commonwealth and State Departments until it was closed on 31st March, 1923. At that date it provided employment for a staff of 40, including 12 females.

The Cordite Factory, Maribyrnong, Victoria, which manufactures cordite for cartridges, was established in 1911. The staff at 30th June, 1923, numbered 65.

The Acetate of Lime Factory, established at Bulimba, Brisbane, in September, 1918, provides acetate of lime (a raw material used in the manufacture of acetone) and is at present extending operations to provide for the production of industrial alcohol. The number of employees at 30th June, 1923, numbered 30.

The Clothing Factory at Melbourne, Victoria, which had a staff of 271 employees on 30th June, 1923, commenced output in July, 1912, and since that date has been able to supply the whole of the uniform clothing required for the Defence forces, the Postmaster-General's Department, State Departments, and local public bodies.

The Small Arms Factory at Lithgow, New South Wales, which was opened on 1st June, 1912, and delivered the first instalment of Australian arms in May, 1913, had on its pay roll on 30th June, 1923, 327 employees.

The Commonwealth Woollen Cloth Factory, Geelong, Victoria, commenced the manufacture of woollen fabrics and materials for uniforms late in 1915, and was giving employment to 321 persons, including 151 females, when it was sold to a public company on 4th June, 1923.

On 1st January, 1921, by virtue of an agreement with the Colonial Ammunition Company Limited, the Defence Department entered into possession on lease of the Company's works at Footscray, Victoria, and had at 30th June, 1923, 177 persons employed there.

(iii) *Expenditure on Factories.* The expenditure up to 30th June, 1923, on land, buildings, machinery and plant, factory fittings and furniture in connexion with the factories now in operation was approximately as follows:—Small Arms Factory, £381,235; Cordite Factory, £298,337; Clothing Factory, £36,444; Harness Factory, £20,493; Woollen Cloth Factory, £205,177; Acetate of Lime Factory, £153,155.

**2. Remount Depot.**—The Defence Act of 1910 authorized the establishment and maintenance of remount depots, farms, and stations for the breeding of horses. A few thoroughbred stallions are maintained by the Department for the service, at a low fee, of approved privately-owned mares. The horses are maintained primarily to supply the requirements of the Field Artillery Batteries, but are also available for the use of other mounted units. Remount depots have been purchased or are leased in each of the military districts, veterinary hospitals have been established, and stables have been built in all States. A remount section of the Army Service Corps has been formed for the purpose of breaking, training and looking after remounts generally. These sections are so organized as to be capable of rapid expansion in case of emergency. When war was declared in 1914 little difficulty was experienced by the Remount Service in coping with the enormous task of obtaining and training horses for the mounted units of the A.I.F. and in providing for the shipment of horses to Egypt and India as required.

### § 6. Australian Contingents.

1. **General.**—In previous issues of the Year Book an account was given of the composition, etc., of the Australian contingents despatched for service in the New Zealand and Sudan Campaigns, in South Africa, China, and the Great War of 1914–18 (see Official Year Book No. 12, pp. 1019 *et seq.*).

2. **Australian Troops (Great War).**—Particulars of the enlistments, casualties, honours and decorations won, and engagements of the Australian Imperial Force during the Great War were given in Official Year Book No. 16, pp. 628 *et seq.* Limits of space, however, preclude the repetition of this information in the present volume.

### § 7. War Gratuity.

Reference was made in preceding Year Books (see No. 15, p. 930) to the bonus payable in accordance with the War Gratuity Acts of 1920 as a war service gratuity to soldiers and sailors who served in the Great War. Owing to limitations of space this information cannot be repeated, but it may be noted that the gratuity was paid in Treasury bonds, maturing not later than 31st May, 1924, and bearing interest at 5½ per cent. In necessitous cases, payment was made in cash, when desired by the person entitled. The first gratuities were made available about the beginning of June, 1920. The gratuities numbered 360,000, and the total amount paid was £27,424,247.

### § 8. Special Defence Legislation.

Information regarding special defence legislation enacted by the Commonwealth Government during the War was given in Official Year Book No. 15, p. 930. It may be pointed out here that the War Precautions Act Repeal Act of 1920 repealed the Act 1914–18, but a limited number of matters dealt with under the original Act are now provided for under the War Precautions Act Repeal Act of 1920 or by regulations made thereunder.

### § 9. Repatriation.

1. **General.**—An outline of the activities leading up to the formation of the Commonwealth Department of Repatriation was given in Official Year Book No. 15, p. 931, but limits of space preclude its repetition in the present volume.

2. **Policy of the Department.**—The policy of the Department is based upon four main principles :—(a) To secure the re-establishment of returned soldiers in the industrial life of the community to the fullest extent that circumstances permit; (b) to sustain these soldiers until an opportunity for such re-establishment is assured; (c) to provide for the care and education of the dependents of soldiers who have died on active service, as well as the dependents of soldiers who, on account of injuries sustained, are unable to provide for those formerly dependent upon them; and (d) to provide medical treatment for nurses, sailors and soldiers who are suffering from disabilities caused or aggravated by war service.

To give effect to these principles the Department undertakes :—

- (a) To secure suitable employment for those who are able to follow their previous occupation or one similar to it, and to pay sustenance until such opportunities are presented;
- (b) To restore to the fullest degree of efficiency possible, by means of vocational training, those who on account of war service are unable to follow their pre-war occupations, and during the period of such training to assure adequate sustenance to trainees;

- (c) To supply gratis all necessary treatment, surgical aids, and medicaments; also all hospital fees, and transport expenses thereto and therefrom, with allowances for certain classes for the period of treatment (where hospital treatment is not feasible the same may be given in the home or in such place as may be approved);
- (d) To provide educational facilities and maintenance allowances for children of deceased and totally and permanently incapacitated soldiers so that they may ultimately engage in agricultural, industrial, commercial or professional occupations;
- (e) To provide a pension to the soldier and his dependents in accordance with the degree of war disability of the soldier.

3. *Activities.*—(i) *Assistance and Employment.* The activities of the Department range over a variety of matters such as employment, vocational training, land settlement, medical treatment, children's education and assistance. Under assistance, establishment in small businesses, furniture loans and grants, educational grants and equipment with tools of trade, and funeral expenses are provided. In co-operation with the State Governments a land settlement scheme has been devised under which the Commonwealth Government lends the States the necessary money to acquire the estimated number of holdings required, and to construct railways or other works necessary to their successful occupation. Under this scheme the Commonwealth Government will also make available working capital up to £625 per settler. This will afford every soldier possessing the natural aptitude and fitness an opportunity of ultimately owning his own farm. With the exception of South Australia all the States have agreed to extend the benefits of the Land Settlement Scheme to munition and war workers to whom the Commonwealth advance of £625 will be available.

(ii) *Treatment of War Service Disabilities.* For disabilities due to or aggravated by war service, discharged nurses, sailors and soldiers are entitled to free medical treatment, dressings, and necessary medicines as well as the supply, renewal and repair of artificial limbs, and surgical aids. The expenses of unavoidable travel for any medical or surgical purposes are defrayed by the Department, together with any necessary expenses in a hospital or other approved place. By arrangement with the Pharmaceutical Societies, upon the production to a pharmacist of the medical officer's prescription, such medicines, lotions or dressings as may be required will be immediately supplied free to the soldier. The following classes of medical treatment are provided for—

- (a) Treatment in hospitals in metropolitan areas where continuity of previous treatment is desirable for cases in which effective treatment cannot be obtained in a country hospital.
- (b) Treatment as out-patients in metropolitan areas and country centres.
- (c) Treatment in country hospitals where suitable, or in cases of emergency.
- (d) Treatment in own homes or elsewhere in cases of emergency within country districts.
- (e) Treatment in convalescent homes, hostels, farms, sanatoria, or other special institutions.

(iii) *Medical Benefits for Widows, Orphans, and Widowed Mothers.* Arrangements have been completed to provide medical benefits for widows and orphans of deceased soldiers and widowed mothers of deceased unmarried soldiers. The work will be carried out mainly through the medium of the Friendly Societies, who will accept such beneficiaries as members without medical examination or inquiry as to income.

4. *Sustenance Rates and Pensions.*—(i) *Sustenance Rates.* The sustenance rate that may be granted to applicants awaiting fulfilment by the Department of certain specified obligations is:—(a) To a soldier without dependents a weekly income inclusive of pension of £2 2s.; (b) To a soldier with a wife, a weekly income inclusive of their combined pensions of £2 17s. An additional allowance of 3s. 6d. per week is made for each child up to four, the maximum sum payable being £3 9s. per week.

The present sustenance rates for vocational trainees are as follow :—

- (a) To a trainee without dependents a weekly income inclusive of pension of £2 2s. (similar to above).
- (b) To a trainee with a wife a weekly income inclusive of combined pensions of £3. An additional allowance of 5s. per week is made for each child up to four, the maximum sum payable being £4 per week (eligible students training in professional courses may receive £2 2s. per week inclusive of pension).

(ii) *Pensions.* The general pension rates payable to a widow or widowed mother on death of a member of the forces, or to a member, or to the wife of a member, upon his total incapacity, are as follows :—

**PENSIONS PAYABLE.—SOLDIERS, DEPENDENTS, ETC.**

Rate of Pay of the Member per Day at Date of Death or Incapacity.	Fortnightly Pension Payable to Widowed Mother on Death of Member.	Fortnightly Pension Payable to Widow on Death of Member.	Fortnightly Pension Payable to Member upon Total Incapacity.	Fortnightly Pension Payable to Wife of Member who is Totally Incapacitated.
<i>s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
6 0	2 0 0	2 7 0	4 4 0	1 16 0
7 0	2 3 0	2 7 0	4 4 0	1 16 0
9 0	2 9 0	2 9 0	4 4 0	1 16 0
10 0	2 12 3	2 12 3	4 4 0	1 16 0
10 6	2 13 9	2 13 9	4 4 0	1 16 0
11 6	2 16 0	2 16 0	4 4 0	1 16 0
12 0	2 17 3	2 17 3	4 4 0	1 16 0
13 0	2 19 6	2 19 6	4 4 0	1 16 0
17 6	3 10 0	3 10 0	4 4 0	2 0 0
22 6	3 17 6	3 17 6	4 5 0	2 2 6
30 0	4 9 0	4 9 0	4 15 0	2 7 6
37 6	5 0 9	5 0 9	5 5 0	2 12 6
45 0	5 12 3	5 12 3	5 15 0	2 17 6
50 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	3 0 0

Proportionate pensions are paid to soldiers not totally incapacitated, according to the assessment of their disabilities. In addition to any pension received in accordance with the assessment of the ex-member's disability, special allowances are granted in amputation cases at such rates as are shown in the Fifth Schedule provided for in the Amending Act No. 23 of 1922.

In respect of each child (son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, or adopted child under 16 of a member of the forces) :—£1 per fortnight for the first child, 15s. per fortnight for the second child, and 10s. per fortnight for the third and each subsequent child, if the father is fully incapacitated ; or *pro rata* on the assessment of the father's pension.

In cases of (a) Widows with dependent children, and (b) Widows without children whose circumstances are such as in the opinion of the Commission justify an increase of the rates specified in this schedule, and whose rate of pension, as specified in column three of this schedule, is less than £4 4s. per fortnight, the Commission may, for such period as it thinks fit, increase the rate of pension to an amount not exceeding £4 4s. per fortnight.

A special rate of pension, amounting to £8 per fortnight, may be granted to members of the forces who have been blinded as the result of war service, and to members who are totally and permanently incapacitated (*i.e.*, incapacitated for life to such an extent as to be precluded from earning other than a negligible percentage of a living wage).

The Commission may grant a pension not exceeding the special rate of pension to any member of the forces who is suffering from tuberculosis, and who has been for at least six months an inmate of an establishment for persons so suffering, and has been discharged from that establishment.

The special rate of pension shall not be payable to any pensioners who are maintained in an establishment at the public expense.

In the case of a member who has been granted the special rate of pension, the wife of such member shall not be entitled to receive a pension exceeding the rate specified above.

The total number of pensions in force on 20th June, 1924, was 237,707, and the amount expended during the eleven months ending 31st May, 1924, was £6,622,710.

5. Summary of Work of Department from 8th April, 1918, to 31st May, 1924.—The following is a summary of the work of the Department from its inception to the latest available date:—(i) *Employment*.—Number of applications, 243,371, number of positions filled, 131,005.

(ii) *Vocational Training*.—Vocational training is designed for—(a) Soldiers incapacitated from following their usual occupations; (b) Apprentices whose indentures were interrupted by war service; (c) Widows without children. (In cases where a widow with children satisfies the State Board that adequate arrangements can be made for the care of her children during training hours, applications for vocational training may be approved); (d) Students whose studies were interrupted by war services; (e) Members of the A.I.F. who enlisted under the age of twenty years. Classes representing 95 trades and callings have been established, with results as follows:—Number of men completed training, 23,745; number in training, 4,464.

(iii) *Assistance other than Vocational Training and Employment*.—Applications received, 550,736; applications approved, 474,368.

(iv) *Soldiers' Children's Education Scheme*. With the aid of the leading educational experts of Australia, a scheme has been devised by which facilities are provided for the instruction of children of deceased and totally and permanently incapacitated soldiers. Provision is made for preparing such children for agricultural, industrial, commercial and professional occupations. Supervision and administration are undertaken by Soldiers' Children Education Boards, which have been established in each State.

From the inauguration of the scheme in February, 1921, up to 31st May, 1924, 4,994 applications for assistance had been received. Of these 4,079 had been approved, of which 397 recipients of the benefits had completed their training, 100 applications were pending, and the remainder had been refused or withdrawn. The trades undertaken include boiler-making, cabinet-making, engineering, saddlery, dress-making, tailoring, book-binding, etc.; whilst the professional students have taken up such courses as arts, science, engineering, theology, medicine, law, pharmacy, teaching and music. Progress reports indicate that the work of the Boards has been very successful.

It is estimated that the scheme will involve an outlay of £1,250,000, of which the Commonwealth has undertaken to provide £800,000, while it is hoped that the balance will be forthcoming from private and public funds and benefactions. Under the Sir Samuel McCaughey Bequest a large sum was set apart for educational purposes, and the closest co-operation exists between the Commission and the McCaughey trustees by which duplication, overlapping, and unnecessary expenditure will be avoided. Up to 31st May, 1924, the expenditure was £216,566. The estimate for 1923–24 is £105,000.

6. Assistance Granted.—The table hereunder shows the sums granted by way of assistance during the period from the inauguration of the Department (8th April, 1918) to 31st May, 1924 :—

**REPATRIATION COMMISSION.—ASSISTANCE GRANTED, 8th APRIL, 1918, TO 31st MAY, 1924.**

Particulars.	Gift.	Loan.	General.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Expenses in providing employment ..	2,298,697	20,519	41,684	2,360,900
Vocational training .. ..	3,716,564	136,946	921,782	4,775,292
Furniture .. ..	74,441	1,020,076	..	1,094,517
Small businesses .. ..	1,664	217,656	4	219,324
Live stock .. ..	70	19,099	..	19,169
Plant .. ..	775	173,587	41	174,403
Settlers' sustenance and other expenses	580,898	24	14,106	595,028
Homes and rental allowances ..	1,438	..	2,624	4,062
Passages beyond Australia .. ..	79,611	66	427,985	507,662
Living allowances .. ..	773,074	34,712	3,497	811,283
Educational grants for children ..	8,393	65	3,884	12,342
Medical treatment .. ..	908,534	..	686,593	1,595,127
Funeral expenses .. ..	33,786	64	..	33,850
Miscellaneous .. ..	35,855	9,030	36,970	81,855
Expenses of allotment .. ..	21	5,574	15,822	21,417
Maintenance of institutions .. ..	..	..	858,543	858,543
Grants to local committees .. ..	..	..	64,569	64,569
Payments to trainees in advanced building trades, etc. .. ..	6,775	..	17,090	23,865
Co-operative businesses .. ..	..	1,025	..	1,025
Losses by fire, Departmental insurance scheme .. ..	..	..	1,193	1,193
Grants to local government bodies to provide employment for returned soldiers	..	..	450,757	450,757
Expenditure under the reciprocal agreement .. ..	..	..	11,055	11,055
Total .. ..	8,520,596	1,638,443	3,558,199	13,717,238

7. Reciprocity Arrangements.—Arrangements have been made with Great Britain, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, Newfoundland, and the United States of America for the provision of medical treatment and certain other benefits for Australian soldiers who are residents of the countries mentioned, and similar benefits to ex-soldiers of these countries domiciled in Australia.

8. Settlement of Soldiers on the Land.—At the Premiers' Conference in Melbourne in 1917 it was agreed that the States should undertake the work of settling on the land returned soldiers and munition and war workers who left Australia under engagement with the British Government to undertake war work, but that the Commonwealth should finance them for this purpose.

The original arrangement provided that the Commonwealth should take the responsibility of finding up to £500 per settler as working capital for improvements, implements, seed, etc., an amount which was subsequently increased to £625 per settler, together with £375 per settler for resumptions and works incidental to land settlement approved by the Commonwealth. Particulars of the advances to the States are shown in the following table :—



ADVANCES TO STATES FOR SOLDIER SETTLEMENT, AT 30th JUNE, 1923.

State.	No. of Settlers.	Advances agreed upon.	Advanced during 1922-23.	Advanced to 30th June, 1923.	Advances outstanding, 30.6.23.
	No.	£	£	£	£
New South Wales .. .. .	8,405	11,905,291	..	9,826,203	9,806,602
Victoria .. .. .	11,000	15,708,514	..	11,968,176	11,799,840
Queensland .. .. .	3,898	3,290,789	200,000	2,779,451	2,762,653
South Australia .. .. .	5,000	6,070,644	270,807	2,857,780	2,833,380
Western Australia .. .. .	4,872	5,975,897	780,000	4,863,782	4,831,722
Tasmania .. .. .	2,772	3,478,673	40,335	2,149,023	2,110,972
Total .. .. .	35,947	46,429,808	1,291,142	34,444,415	34,145,169

Prior to the occupancy of the land, the Repatriation Department may pay sustenance for a limited period subject to certain conditions, and during the first 2 years of occupancy sustenance may be paid for 6 months while awaiting actual production.

The fares of a man and his family to his place of settlement are paid by the Repatriation Department, and a limited amount is allowed towards the cost of removal of his household effects.

Where men are given rural training, the cost of maintenance is shared between the State Lands Department and the Repatriation Department acting on behalf of the Commonwealth.

9. *Conspectus of State Laws affecting Settlement of Returned Soldiers on the Land.*—In Official Year Book No. 13, pp. 1018 *et seq.*, will be found a table giving particulars of the laws of the various States relating to returned soldiers' land settlement.

Later modifications have been made with a view to simplifying procedure and liberalizing the conditions under which holdings may be acquired.

## § 10. War Service Homes.

The operations of the War Service Homes Commission at 31st May, 1924, may be briefly set out as follows:—26,447 applications involving advances amounting to approximately £17,297,442 had been approved; 10,256 houses had been completed; 109 applicants had been assisted to complete or enlarge dwelling-houses partly owned; 1,112 houses were in course of construction; and 1,274 building applications had been approved in respect of which building operations had not been commenced.

In addition, the Commission had purchased on behalf of eligible applicants 11,918 already-existing properties, and had taken over mortgages existing on 1,833 dwelling-houses, but in a number of cases actual settlement and transfer has not taken place. Applications in respect of 55 completed houses had not, however, been definitely approved, but pending this action the majority of the houses are occupied by the applicants under a weekly tenancy agreement.

The foregoing figures include the operations of the State Bank of South Australia, which is now carrying out the provisions of the War Service Homes Act in South Australia, the Commonwealth's obligations being to make available to the Government as a loan the funds required for the purpose.