

cent. Inquests in cases of death occurring under suspicious circumstances are held at the discretion of the coroner of the district within which the death takes place, subject to instructions issued by the Governor in Council under the 3rd section of the Coroners Statute 1865 (28 Vict. No. 253).

Fire
inquests.

1296. Nine fire inquests were held during 1884, as against 4 in 1883, 5 in 1882, 4 in 1881, 5 in 1880, 10 in 1879, and 3 in 1878. Under the Amending Coroners Statute (33 Vict. No. 338), which came into operation on the 19th August, 1869, fire inquests may be held at the request of any individual who lodges with his application a fee of £5 5s., or in pursuance of Ministerial authority, which is only given when circumstances appear sufficiently suspicious to warrant action being taken.

PART IX.—DEFENCES.

Land forces.

1297. The Land Forces of Victoria in 1884 consisted of the Head Quarters Staff, of a paid Artillery Corps, and of a Volunteer Militia, embracing the Cavalry, Artillery, Rifle, Torpedo, and Engineer arms of the service. The following table shows the designation, strength, and establishment of the various corps on the 31st December of the year named:—

LAND FORCES.—STRENGTH AND ESTABLISHMENT, 1884.

Branch of Service.	Strength, 31st December, 1884.					Wanting to Complete.	Establishment.
	Officers.	Warrant Officers.	Sergeants.	Rank and File.	Total.		
Permanent Forces—							
Head Quarters Staff	4	2	...	...	6	...	6
Victorian Artillery	3	1	8	108	120	8	128
Volunteer Militia—							
Cavalry...	1	1	...	...	2	99	101
Field Artillery	16	1	19	264	300	6	306
Garrison Artillery	26	3	32	467	528	68	596
Torpedo	4	1	8	65	78	2	80
Engineers	4	1	4	68	77	24	101
Rifles	58	6	56	1,185	1,305	364	1,669
Medical...	14	...	...	...	14	2	16
Total	130	16	127	2,157	2,430	573	3,003
Unattached	41	...	...	...	41	...	...

1298. At the end of 1884, the total military establishment—inclusive of the staff, but exclusive of the unattached—(3,003) was about 800 less than at the end of 1883; and the total strength (2,430) was 573 less than the establishment. Strength and establishment.

1299. The Martini-Henry rifle is the one in general use amongst the military forces; the rifles in possession and their distribution amongst the various corps at the end of 1884 were as follow :— Rifles of land forces.

RIFLES IN POSSESSION OF LAND FORCES.

Branch of Service.	Total Number of Rifles.	Pattern of Rifles.	
		Martini-Henry.	Breech-loading Carbine.
Permanent Forces	240	120	120
Field Artillery	197	161	36
Garrison Artillery	612	612	...
Torpedo	100	25	75
Engineers	80	80	...
Rifles	1,462	1,462	...
Total	2,691	2,460	231

1300. The following is a statement of the number and calibre of the guns in possession of the land forces :— Guns of land forces.

	Number.
Garrison guns ...	Breech-loading rifled, 8in., of 12 tons ... 1
	" " 6in., of 5 tons ... 1
	" " 6in., of 4 tons ... 3
Guns of position	Muzzle-loading " 9in., of 12 tons ... 6
	" " 80-pr., 81 cwt. ... 23
	Breech-loading rifled, 40-pr., 35 cwt. ... 6
Field guns ...	" " 12½-pr. ... 12
	" " 12-pr. (old type) ... 6
	" " 6-pr. ... 6
Machine guns ...	Muzzle-loading " 3-pr. (old type) ... 6
Smooth-bored 68-pr. guns	Nordenfelt 10 barrel rifle calibre ... 6
	... .. 19
Total	95

1301. The strength and establishment of the Naval Forces at the end of 1884 were as follow. Twenty-four men of the Naval Reserve were wanted to complete the establishment :— Strength and establishment of naval forces.

1304. Important changes in the system of Victorian defences were made in 1883 and 1884 by the passing of the Discipline Act 1883 (47 Vict. No. 777), which came into operation on the 3rd November of that year, by the importation of British Naval and Military officers, and by the addition of several vessels to the Victorian fleet. The following account of the new system has been specially prepared for this work by the Defence Department :—

New system
of defences.

The Discipline Act of 1883 provides for the establishment of a paid Militia force; for a special appropriation of £110,000 per annum for five years; a Council of Defence—consisting of the Minister of Defence (President), the Naval Commandant, the Military Commandant, the Officer Commanding the Naval Reserve, the Senior Officer of Metropolitan Infantry, and the Officer Commanding the Field Artillery Brigade; free railway travelling for Militia men in uniform on carrying a rifle; priority of appointment to the non-clerical division of the Public Service to Militia men who have served five years, &c.

The Victorian fleet consists of the *Nelson* (flagship), *Cerberus* (turret-ship, four 10-in. 18-ton M.L. guns and four Nordenfelt guns), *Victoria* (gun-boat, one 10-in. 25-ton B.L. gun, two 13-pr. B.L. guns, and two Nordenfelt guns), *Albert* (gun-boat, one 8-in. 11½-ton B.L. gun, one 6-in. 3-ton B.L. gun, two 9-pr. B.L. guns, and two Nordenfelt guns), *Childers* (torpedo-boat, first class, Whitehead, two Hotchkiss guns), *Nepean* (torpedo-boat, second class, Whitehead), *Lonsdale* (torpedo-boat, second class, Whitehead); *Commissioner* and *Customs* (torpedo launches), Harbour Trust steamers *Batman*, *Fawkner*, and *Gannet* (each having one 6-in. B.L. gun and one new pattern Gatling).

It is intended to make arrangements with the owners of suitable local or inter-colonial steamers to have several vessels strengthened to carry one heavy gun forward.

The Harbour Trust steamers have been so strengthened, and the one now being built for the Customs Department will be similarly treated.

Arrangements have been entered into with the Admiralty for the loan for a period of three years of one Captain and one Lieutenant R.N., together with several warrant officers.

These officers have arrived and are at present engaged with the local Naval officers in drafting the new scheme of Naval Defence.

This will provide for a considerable increase in the establishment of both the Permanent Force and the Naval Reserve, frequent drills afloat, classes for instruction in torpedo work, &c.

The establishment of the Naval Forces has not yet been finally fixed.

The cost of the gun and torpedo boats, with guns and ammunition, was close upon £86,500, distributed as follows :—

COST OF GUN AND TORPEDO BOATS.

Particulars.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.
Cost of <i>Victoria</i> , with armament, 530 tons, 180 H.P. (nominal) ...	40,093	15	0
” <i>Albert</i> , ” ” 350 tons, 80 H.P. (nominal) ...	27,731	15	0
” <i>Childers</i> , 60 tons, 216 H.P. (nominal) ...	11,156	12	9
” <i>Nepean</i> and <i>Lonsdale</i> ...	7,500	0	0
Total ...	£86,482	2	9

These amounts include guns of the following patterns :—

1	breech-loading,	10-inch,	25-ton.
1	”	8-inch,	11½-ton.
1	”	6-inch,	4-ton.
2	”	12-pounders.	
2	”	9-pounders.	

Also, a supply of ammunition, small arms, spare stores, &c., as provided for vessels of a like character in the Imperial Navy.

To this must be added the cost of bringing the vessels out to the colony, amounting, with some extras, to £16,500.

The following is a Return of the strength and establishment of the Victorian Land Forces brought down to the 30th June, 1885:—

LAND FORCES.

Branch of Service.	Establishment.	Enrolled.
Staff	7	7
Victorian Artillery	178	170
Cavalry	101	63
Nordenfelt Battery	26	15
Field Artillery Brigade	257	291
Garrison Artillery, 1st Brigade	421	399
" " 2nd " 	282	262
Torpedo Corps	80	80
Engineer Corps	101	101
Rifles, 1st Battalion	808	829
" 2nd " 	808	794
" 3rd " 	806	912
" 4th " 	688	658
Medical Department	16	14
Unattached List . . . . .	...	28
Unattached Medical Department . . . . .	...	15
Chaplains	7	7
Total	4,586	4,645

GIFT OF £500.

A sum of £500 has been presented by the Hon. Sir W. J. Clarke, Bart., to be competed for by the naval and military forces of the colony. Regulations providing for spreading the expenditure of the amount over three years have been framed, prizes being offered not only for shooting, but for proficiency in drill and exercise, and for an essay on military subjects.

RIFLE CLUBS.

The facilities granted to persons in districts where Militia Corps have not been established for the formation of Rifle Clubs have caused these associations to spring up very rapidly. In all, 221 clubs have been formed, consisting of 6,540 members, to whom 1,628 M.-H. rifles have been sold, and 3,200 muzzle-loading rifles have been lent. The rifles are sold at less than the cost to the Government, and ammunition is supplied at half the actual cost; 1,993,370 rounds have been purchased by clubs.

In order to encourage the practice of rifle shooting, Parliament voted the sum of £500 for prizes to Rifle Clubs. The Victorian Rifle Association set apart a similar amount for the same purpose, and the Hon. Colonel Sargood, C.M.G., presented a shield, valued at £40, for competition amongst these clubs; also a trophy of the same value for competition by mounted rifles only. At the request of the Hon. the Minister of Defence, the Railway Commissioners agreed to carry arms and ammunition for clubs free of charge, and also granted the privilege of travelling free throughout the year to members of clubs proceeding to drill musters and rifle competitions. As already stated, these concessions have caused numerous clubs to spring up, and the movement is rapidly growing all over the colony.

MOUNTED RIFLES.

A force of 1,000 Mounted Riflemen has been raised. These are drilled by itinerant instructors, and have more than reached the maximum number, many being refused on account of distance from instructor's round of drills. The corps get rapid-feeding M.-H. rifles and all accoutrements and horse gear free, with exception of saddle, which each member supplies. The popularity of the force is immense.

CADET CORPS.

The encouragement of drilling and rifle-shooting in the schools of the colony has led to the establishment of Cadet Corps. Cadet Companies may be formed in any school in detachments of not less than 20. Rifles for drill purposes and carbines for shooting are lent by the Government, and ammunition is issued at half price, the same as to the Rifle Clubs.

The uniform is a simple and inexpensive one, costing about 30s., and is worn as the ordinary school dress. When on parade, the collar of the jacket is turned up, thus exposing the red lining. Badges of rank are worn by the officers and non-commissioned officers. Accoutrements, waist-belt and pouch, no cross-belt.

The Drill Instructors of the Victorian Military Forces are permitted, at such times as they are not required for their ordinary duties, to drill Cadet Companies, for which they are paid 2s. 6d. for each drill.

To stimulate the movement, Col. Sargood has presented a handsome shield for competition by the Cadets. This trophy must be won three times consecutively before becoming the property of the winners. It has been already twice shot for. In March, 1884, it was won by the Hawthorn Grammar School, and in December of the same year by the East Sandhurst State School.

Within the last six months (March to September, 1885) the Cadet Corps have increased considerably in number. There are now 58 corps established (numbering upwards of 2,000 cadets) in various parts of the colony. Each corps, under the Regulations, must undergo drill for one hour per week, but, from returns furnished, the drill is far in excess of that demanded.

A trophy has been offered for the best drilled corps in Melbourne and suburbs, which trophy must be won three times, not necessarily consecutively, before becoming finally the property of any corps.

Recently the various Cadet Corps have been formed into battalions, as follow:—

No. 1 Battalion.—Comprising corps in the Sandhurst, Castlemaine, Taradale, Eaglehawk, Echuca, and Kangaroo Flat districts.

No. 2 Battalion.—The Grammar Schools, Colleges, and State Schools south of the Yarra, &c.

No. 3 Battalion.—Geelong district Colleges, Grammar and State Schools.

No. 4 Battalion.—Dandenong, Caulfield, Brighton, South Yarra, Prahran, Fitzroy, Kensington, Williamstown, and Melbourne—Colleges, Grammar and State Schools.

No. 5 Battalion.—Ballarat, St. Arnaud, Carisbrook, Maryborough, Stawell, Ararat, Smythesdale—Colleges, Grammar and State Schools.

No. 6 Battalion.—The Scotch and Wesley Colleges.

In addition to the above, companies and detachments, not yet attached to battalions, have been formed at Chiltern, Beechworth, Warrnambool, Belfast, Hamilton, and Seymour.

Rifles and accoutrements, swords, &c., for the Cadet Corps are ordered from England, and will before long be placed in the hands of the Cadets. Ammunition is issued "free" annually, at the rate of 20 rounds Martini-Henry ball, and 100 rounds Morris-tube, for every boy regularly enrolled in a Cadet Corps.

The following are the salaries and allowances of the Naval and Military officers and non-commissioned officers who have come out from England for service in Victoria:—

SALARIES OF NAVAL AND MILITARY OFFICERS.

Grade.	Salaries.	Allowances.		
		Quarters, or Allowance in lieu.	Forage.	Other Allowances
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
<i>Naval Forces.</i>				
Captain	800 0 0	Quarters	...	Rations
Lieutenant	400 0 0	"	...	"
Gunner	225 0 0	"	...	"
Torpedo Artificer... ..	200 0 0	"	...	"
Chief Gunner's Mate and Instructor	182 10 0	"	...	"
Ditto	182 10 0	"	...	"
Engine-room Artificer	164 5 0	"	...	"

SALARIES OF NAVAL AND MILITARY OFFICERS—*continued.*

Grade.	Salaries.			Allowances.						
				Quarters, or Allowance in lieu.		Forage.		Other Allowances.		
<i>Land Forces.</i>	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Colonel	1,000	0	0	200	0	0	150	0	0	...
Lieutenant-Colonel	800	0	0	Quarters			75	0	0	...
Ditto	700	0	0	150	0	0	75	0	0	...
Major	700	0	0	150	0	0	75	0	0	...
Ditto	700	0	0	Quarters			75	0	0	...
Captain	600	0	0	100	0	0	75	0	0	...
Sergeant-Major	180	0	0	36	10	0	..			Clothing
Ditto	180	0	0	36	10	0	...			"
Ditto	180	0	0	36	10	0	...			"
Ditto	180	0	0	Quarters			...			"
Ditto	180	0	0	"			...			"
Ditto	180	0	0	"			...			"
Ditto	180	0	0	"			...			"
Torpedo Artificer... ..	150	0	0	54	15	0	...			"
Ditto	90	0	0	41	15	0	...			"
Total	8,154	5	0	806	0	0	525	0	0	

The Defence scheme submitted to Parliament provided, for the Naval Forces, two officers and six non-commissioned officers—total, eight; and for the Land Forces, six officers, and thirteen non-commissioned officers and privates—total, nineteen. It will therefore be seen the numbers given in the scheme have not been reached.

The cost of bringing out from England the Military officers and non-commissioned officers and their wives and families was £1,706; and the cost of bringing out the wives and families of the Naval non-commissioned officers was £250—total, £1,956.

Defence
works.

1305. Batteries for the defence of Melbourne were constructed in 1861-2 at Williamstown, Sandridge, and Queenscliff; but the battery at Sandridge is now set aside as unsuited to the requirements of modern warfare, which rendered it absolutely necessary to make the first line of defence of Port Phillip at the Heads. Lieutenant-General Sir W. F. D. Jervois, R.E., G.C.M.G., C.B., who visited the colony in 1877, suggested a plan for defending the channel between the Heads of Port Phillip, which he modified in March, 1879, in consequence of his having found when in England, during the year 1878, that great improvements had been made in the manufacture of, and modes of mounting, ordnance.

Progress of
the works.

1306. The Government adopted the plan of Sir William Jervois, and the construction of the works was commenced under the supervision of Major-General Sir P. H. Scratchley, R.E., K.C.M.G., who has lately handed over the work to Major Rhodes, R.E., and it is being carried out under his supervision. The principal works are batteries at Queenscliff, Swan Island, and Point Nepean, and a fort placed upon a

shoal on the north side of the South Channel. For the further protection of this channel, a fort has been erected on Point Franklin. During the current year, a large sum of money has been spent on the various batteries, and these are now approaching completion. Both the artillery and torpedo defences have been considerably increased during the year, and a number of breech-loading guns have been or are about to be mounted at selected points along the coast line.

1307. The following table shows the expenditure on military and naval defences during 1883-4. The amounts expended under the heads "Victorian Artillery Corps," "Volunteer and Militia Forces," and "Naval Reserve," give an average cost per man per annum in each division respectively as £105 12s. 10d., £7 12s. 1d., and £19 3s. 6d.* :—

MILITARY AND NAVAL EXPENDITURE, 1883-4.

MILITARY EXPENDITURE.						£	£
Head Quarters Staff—Salaries	...	...	...	...	...	5,291	
" " Allowances	...	...	...	...	...	745	
							6,036
Victorian Artillery—Salaries and wages	...	...	...	...	...	10,604	
" Contingencies	...	...	...	...	...	2,073	
							12,677
Militia and Volunteer Forces—Effective allowance	...	...	...	...	...	5,907	
" " Pay half-year ended 30th June, 1884	...	...	...	...	...	3,780	
" " Drill instruction	...	...	...	...	...	3,671	
" " Uniform allowance, non-commissioned officers	...	...	...	...	...	80	
" " Allowance to pay liabilities	...	...	...	...	...	1,179	
" " Horse allowance for mounting officers, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	401	
" " Travelling expenses and incidentals	...	...	...	...	...	2,554	
							17,572
Torpedo Corps	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,441
Cavalry Instructor—Allowance	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Ordnance Branch—Salaries and wages	...	...	...	...	...	3,328	
" Contingencies	...	...	...	...	...	775	
							4,103
Railway transport	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,510
Ammunition fund	...	...	...	...	...	...	493
Purchase of warlike stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,517†
Grant to Victorian Rifle Association	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,100
" " Artillery Association	...	...	...	...	...	...	200
General contingencies	...	...	...	...	...	...	267
Defence works—Erection of forts	...	...	...	...	...	143,773	
" Military buildings, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	1,824	
							145,597
Total						...	205,596

* These calculations have been reckoned from the strength on the 31st December, 1883, viz., 120 Artillery Corps, 2,310 Volunteers and Militia, and 204 Naval Reserve.

† This amount was remitted to Agent-General.

MILITARY AND NAVAL EXPENDITURE, 1883-4—continued.

NAVAL EXPENDITURE.					£	£
Naval Forces—Salaries and wages	...	...	...	...	12,198	
„ Contingencies...	...	...	...	...	3,859	16,057
Naval Reserve—Salaries and wages	...	...	...	...	320	
„ Retaining fees	...	...	...	...	2,363	
„ Contingencies	...	...	...	...	1,229	3,912
Electricians—Allowances	...	...	...	...	122	
„ Uniforms	...	...	...	...	15	137
New boiler for <i>Cerberus</i>	...	...	...	...	...	5,286*
Prizes for gunnery	...	...	...	...	...	50
						25,442
						231,038

Expenditure
on defences,
1854 to
1884.

1308. A statement of the expenditure on the establishment and maintenance of defences during the last thirty years and a half will be found in the following table:—

EXPENDITURE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF DEFENCES, 1854 TO 1883-4.

Year.	Military Expenditure (including Buildings and Works of Defence).	Naval Expenditure.	Total.
	£	£	£
1854 and 1855	287,973	...	287,973
1856 to 1864	758,000	123,000	881,000
1865	38,434	7,743	46,177
1866	47,647	14,453	62,100
1867	64,606	17,243	81,849
1868	58,873	19,061	77,934
1869	34,200	12,672	46,872
1870	37,102	10,570	47,672
1871 (6 months)	21,014	6,305	27,319
1871-2	38,634	19,604	58,238
1872-3	35,367	18,641	54,008
1873-4	41,050	17,643	58,693
1874-5	37,847	17,135	54,982
1875-6	40,698	17,536	58,234
1876-7	54,599	19,421	74,020
1877-8	62,842	58,424	121,266
1878-9	82,917	35,205	118,122
1879-80	60,420	33,359	93,779
1880-81	57,117	21,616	78,733
1881-2	59,589	21,845	81,434

* In addition to £10,932 expended in the previous two years.

EXPENDITURE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF DEFENCES, 1854 TO 1883-4—*continued*.

Year.	Military Expenditure (including Buildings and Works of Defence).	Naval Expenditure.	Total.
	£	£	£
1882-3	145,064	41,344	186,408
1883-4	205,596	25,442	231,038
Towards cost of <i>Cerberus</i> and <i>Nelson</i> *	...	101,966	101,966
Total	2,269,589	660,228	2,929,817
Arms, ammunition, and stores for defences generally †			47,408
Value of land certificates granted to Volunteers, including Naval Brigade, computed at £1 per acre			139,683
Grand Total			3,116,908

1309. It is to be specially noted that the total expenditure recorded includes not only the cost of establishing the military and naval defences but also the annual outlay incurred for their maintenance, which annual outlay has been estimated by General Scratchley to represent close upon seven-eighths of the total expenditure. The annual expenditure from 1854 to 1864 was unusually large, in consequence of Imperial troops serving in the colony. The last detachment of these troops was withdrawn in 1870. In 1883-4 the military expenditure was larger by £60,000 than in 1882-3, and considerably greater than in any other previous year, owing to the large outlay of £144,000 on the erection of forts. The naval expenditure in 1883-4 was £16,000 less than in 1882-3, and was also exceeded in the years 1877-8, 1878-9, and 1880-81.

Small expenditure on establishing defences.

1310. One cadetship at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, England, is allocated annually to students of each university in the Australasian colonies to which a charter by letters patent has been granted. This includes the Melbourne University, as well as the universities of Sydney, Adelaide, and New Zealand. A candidate who is recommended for a cadetship must be within the limits of 17 and 22 years of age at the date of his joining the Royal Military College; he is required to enter the college within six months of his passing the requisite qualifying examination, otherwise his claim to a cadetship will lapse; and at least one month before the date of his entering, certificates of his age and moral character, together with a recommendation

Military cadetships.

* The figures in this line do not represent the total cost of the vessels, but only so much of it as cannot now be apportioned to particular years.

† The figures in this line do not represent the total cost of the arms, ammunition, and stores, but only so much of it as cannot now be apportioned to particular years.

by the proper university authority, must be forwarded to the Military Secretary at the Horse Guards.*

Colonial
candidates
for the
army.

1311. In the case of colonial candidates for commissions in the army who are not members of any university, an arrangement has been made whereby the ordinary preliminary examination held in London by the Civil Service Commissioners is dispensed with (except as regards geometrical drawing) upon the candidate producing a certificate of his having passed an equivalent examination in the colonies.*

Naval
cadetships.

1312. Four nominations to naval cadetships are placed annually at the disposal of the Secretary of State for distribution to sons of gentlemen in certain colonies.† The Governor in any of such colonies has the right of submitting an application in favour of a candidate, with any recommendation he may think fit. The qualifications of a candidate are—that he must be a colonist in the strict sense of the term, must not be less than 12 or more than 13½ years of age, must be in good health and perfectly free from any physical defect or disease, and must be able to pass a preliminary examination in English, Arithmetic, Elementary Algebra, Elementary Geometry, French, and Scripture History, obtaining not less than two-fifths of the whole number of marks assigned in each subject; and a second examination in any two of the following subjects, viz., Elementary Mathematics, Latin, Geography, and the outlines of English History. When a cadet is entered, he will be required to pay annually the sum of £70 for a period of two years, to be spent on board the *Britannia* training ship, besides expenses of outfit and of all necessary books and instruments, during which time he must pass four examinations in seamanship and study. He is subsequently to pay £50 per annum until he passes his final examination for the rank of lieutenant.‡

PART X.—RELIGIOUS, MORAL, AND INTELLECTUAL PROGRESS.

1313. It was provided by the Constitution Act that, for the advancement of the Christian religion in Victoria, the sum of £50,000 should be set apart each year from the general revenue to promote the erection

Abolition of
State aid to
religion.

* For despatches respecting military cadetships and colonial candidates for army commissions, see *Government Gazettes* of the 22nd October, 1880, and 26th August, 1881.

† The colonies from which nominations will, in the first instance, be received, are—each of the Australasian colonies, Canada, Newfoundland, Jamaica, Antigua, Barbadoes, British Guiana, Trinidad, Cape Colony, Natal, Malta, Ceylon, and Mauritius; but should all the four nominations not be applied for by the end of the first quarter in each year, the balance will be made available for applications which may be received from other colonies.

‡ For latest regulations respecting naval cadetships for the colonies, containing full particulars of the clothing, books, and instruments required by cadets and of the examinations, &c., see *Government Gazette* of the 30th June, 1881.