

SECTION I.

ANNUAL REPORT OF RECRUITING FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30TH SEPTEMBER, 1906.

ARMY AND MILITIA.

War Office, January 31, 1907.

Adjutant-General to the Forces.

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on Recruiting for the year ended the 30th September, 1906. The Report is divided into four parts:—

- I.—General Observations on Recruiting for the past year.
- II.—Army Reserve.
- III.—Militia and Imperial Yeomanry.
- IV.—Civil Employment of Discharged Soldiers and Reservists.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON RECRUITING.

1. The number of recruits who joined the Regular Army, excluding those for Colonial Corps and re-enlisted men, for the twelve months under review amounted to 36,410, and for the Militia to 28,732. The total for the Regular Army shows an increase of 1,059 as compared with the previous twelve months, while that for the Militia shows a falling off of 1,209. Results for the year.

2. The reductions, proposed and impending, in the establishment of the Army, to a certain extent dislocated ordinary recruiting arrangements, in some arms necessitating the restriction of recruiting, and in others the adoption of special measures, such as conversion of service, to reduce the establishment and thus enable recruiting to be maintained for other arms without exceeding the numbers voted. Observations on establishments and recruiting.

To meet the reduction in establishment in consequence of the decision of the Government to reduce the Army, and at the same time to avoid a complete block in the promotion of younger non-commissioned officers, special measures have been necessitated. Reductions in establishment.

Notice has been given that non-commissioned officers and men, of the corps concerned, were not to be allowed to continue in the Service beyond 21 years, the period for which they have re-engaged. In the case of those enlisted as boys, the completion of 21 years is reckoned from the date of attaining 18 years of age, in other words, the boy's service does not reckon. In the case of non-commissioned officers and men who have already completed 21 years' man's service, several months' notice has been given, with a view to enabling those concerned to endeavour to obtain civil employment. As regards non-commissioned officers serving on the Permanent Staff of Auxiliary Forces, these orders have obliged us to discharge non-commissioned officers, who, by the Regulations, in ordinary circumstances are allowed to serve on up to the age of 50, or, in special cases, up to the age of 52. The result will be to throw on the labour market

a considerable number of elderly men with wives and families, who, although they have earned their pensions, may find it difficult to obtain civil employment.

3. In consequence of the large draft requirements caused by the non-extension of men enlisted for three years, who are serving abroad, special bounties were offered to men to extend their service for a given number of years, in order to mitigate the heavy strain thrown upon home establishments. The number of men, who have accepted these bounties, is less than had been hoped for. The drain on the home establishments has therefore been great, and considerable depletion in battalions of infantry at home has been created, thus adding to the calls upon infantry recruiting.

4. The increased results, obtained in recruiting, are to a certain extent attributable to the fact that the popular mounted corps, such as the Cavalry and Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery, have been open to recruiting generally throughout the past year. The effect of recruiting for these arms has, however, been felt by the Infantry of the Line, recruiting for which has shown a marked decrease during the year.

Appointment
of retired
recruiting
officers.

5. The appointment of a retired officer, in special charge of recruiting at Birkenhead, has been cancelled, as, with the facilities for communication between Liverpool and that town, it was found that it would be more economical to place the recruiting at Birkenhead under the orders of the Recruiting Staff Officer at Liverpool. The results, moreover, obtained at Birkenhead were disappointing and did not seem to justify the expense of the appointment. It is proposed to substitute the town of Bristol for Birkenhead as a station for a retired officer, leaving the officer commanding the depôt of the Gloucester Regiment responsible for the recruiting in the county of Gloucester outside the town of Bristol. The results obtained by the retired officers at Dundee, Sunderland, Nottingham, and Blackburn, have been decidedly satisfactory for the year.

Physical
training.

6. Careful enquiries have been made during the past year as regards the physical training of Recruits at depôts. The Inspector of Gymnasia has been in constant communication with this office on the subject, and steps have been taken to ensure the close co-operation of the Medical authorities with the Gymnastic Staff on this important matter. He has, in conjunction with the medical officers in charge, made tours of inspection of the several depôts. There has been reason to fear that in the past too much importance has been laid upon smartness in drill, rather than upon the gradual physical development of the Recruits' powers, with the result that in some instances Recruits have been overstrained. The subject has been considered of such importance that special arrangements have been made, by which the services of an officer of the Danish Army have been obtained, and he has been attached for a year to the Headquarter Gymnasium at Aldershot. The system of gymnastics and physical training, in the Danish and Swedish armies, has been brought to a high pitch of efficiency, and it is hoped to model the system of the physical training of our army on similar lines, and, while preserving the necessary military requirements to keep in view the important physical principles on which the system is based. The Gymnastic Staff of Instructors are gradually being grounded in these principles, being withdrawn from the several depôts for this purpose, and it is hoped, when the new syllabus of instruction now being drawn up is completed, that valuable results will be obtained by the changes made. The important factor in the new

course is the greater prominence given to "free" exercises, that is, exercises with the body, arms, legs, &c., as compared with "fixed" exercises, with apparatus, bars, &c.

In consequence of remarks made by His Royal Highness, the Inspector-General of the Forces, commenting on the physical training of the Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery, in his Annual Report to the Army Council, a circular was sent round to all General Officers Commanding-in-Chief at Home, calling attention to the advisability of giving all artillerymen a short daily exercise in physical drill. This is the more necessary as the new Q.F. field gun and carriage is a heavy one, and the capability of gunners, enlisted under the present standard, to handle it efficiently must in a great degree depend on their physical training and development.

7. The new system, which had been on trial at St. George's Barracks, London, for testing the vision of Recruits, having given satisfactory results, an Army Order was issued in July last making the system universal. The same tests are now applicable to all arms of the Service, including Militia, Imperial Yeomanry and Volunteers, the only exception made being for candidates for the Corps of Army Schoolmasters.

8. To enable medical officers of the Auxiliary Forces and civilian medical practitioners to have fuller information as to the method of medical examination of Recruits, a special pamphlet, containing full instructions on the subject, has been approved and promulgated to all concerned.

9. An experiment has been made in the Northern Command with a view of checking the numerous rejections, among Recruits, for defective teeth, and the General Officer-Commanding-in-Chief introduced a system of sending Recruits to a local dentist for treatment, provided the cost of such treatment did not exceed 10s. a recruit. A recent report received shows that the system has worked with satisfactory results and that a total of 7 per cent. of Recruits who would otherwise have been rejected have been enabled to enter the army. This system is being extended.

10. The reports on the characters of Recruits continue to be satisfactory, and now that the Bill has been passed by Parliament, dealing with the penalties which may be enforced on the production of false characters, it is hoped that the number of undesirable men entering the service, under false pretences, will be materially diminished.

11. The negotiations for the lease of better recruiting premises at Birmingham have been completed, and the premises have been taken into occupation. A new recruiting house has also been hired at Burnley, consequent on the vacation of the barracks. It is hoped, in the case of other recruiting premises unfavourably reported on, that the policy will be continued of substituting good and suitable premises in desirable localities. Much importance is attached to this question. Good premises in good surroundings do attract a better class of Recruit, and the general opinion of military service is lowered, if the recruiting house is in some low locality, where recruiting premises have originally been hired on the score of cheapness.

12. In October, 1905, an additional term of service was tentatively approved for seven of those regiments of the Infantry of the Line which then had four battalions. This term was 2 years' Colour and 10 years' Reserve service. Recruiting was only opened for this term in the actual regimental district of the regiments concerned, except that, in the case of the Northumberland Fusiliers, the 68th Regimental Dis-

trict, part of the double district, was also opened. Recruiting for 9 years' Colour service was conducted concurrently with that for 2 years' Colour service. The Recruits enlisted for 2 years' Colour service, after undergoing their ordinary depôt training, were posted to the 4th battalions of their regiments. Similarly, Recruits enlisted for 9 years were posted to the other battalion of the regiment which was serving at home.

This experiment was inaugurated in consequence of a decision of the late Government to proceed with the formation of a certain number of Short Service battalions. It was originally intended to take about 900 Short Service Recruits for these battalions, and then to close recruiting for Short Service and to complete the establishment by a sufficient number of Recruits enlisted for the longer term. As far as existing barrack accommodation permitted, these Short Service battalions were to be quartered in their territorial district.

Recruiting for the short term of service was suspended by Circular dated 20th December, 1905, and the Army Order authorising the new term of enlistment was cancelled in February, 1906.

To obtain information as to the popularity of this new term of service, returns were called for and an analysis made with a view of determining whether the new and shorter period of enlistment operated to the detriment of the longer term. The results are shown in the table given below:—

STATEMENT as to Recruits enlisted, in the undermentioned regiments, during the period that recruiting was open for 2 years with the Colours and 10 years with the Reserve. Comparing number taken for 2 and 10 years as against 9 and 3 years.

Regiments.	2 years with the Colours, and 10 years with the Reserve.						9 years with the Colours, and 3 years with the Reserve.					
	Enlisted from Militia.		Enlisted from civilians.	Total.	Percentage of 2 years' men on total enlistments.	Enlisted from Militia.		Enlisted from civilians.	Total.	Percentage of 9 years' men on total enlistments.		
	On termination of drill on en- listment.	Otherwise.				On termination of drill on en- listment.	Otherwise.					
Northumberland Fusiliers, 5th R.D. ...	79	8	21	41	70	88·60	2	2	5	9	11·40	
Royal Warwickshire, 6th R.D. ...	39	6	1	13	20	51·29	8	3	8	19	48·71	
Royal Fusiliers, 7th R.D. ...	77	8	...	4	12	15·59	54	...	11	*65	84·41	
Lancashire Fusiliers, 20th R.D. ...	50	10	14	19	43	86·00	...	2	5	7	14·00	
Worcestershire, 29th R.D. ...	82	13	6	30	49	59·75	7	4	22	33	40·25	
Middlesex, 57th R.D. ...	76	4	4	7	15	19·73	32	13	16	61	80·27	
Manchester, 63rd R.D. ...	76	3	16	22	41	53·95	18	5	12	35	46·05	
Totals ...	479	52	62	136	250	52·90	121	29	79	229	47·80	

* Includes 17 enlisted in London Recruiting District.

Terms of
service,
alterations in.

13. In September, 1906, the following alterations were made in the terms of enlistment of the corps mentioned below:—

The Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery.—All enlistments, except of boys, to six years with the Colours and six years with the

Reserve, instead of three years with the Colours and nine years with the Reserve.

Royal Garrison Artillery.—All enlistments, except of boys, to eight years with the Colours and four years with the Reserve, instead of nine years with the Colours and three years with the Reserve.

Infantry of the Line.—All enlistments, except of boys, to seven years with the Colours and five years with the Reserve, instead of nine years with the Colours and three years with the Reserve.

In all these cases, as had already been done as regards the Cavalry, the liability of the extra year's service, if abroad, was re-introduced.

The re-introduction of this liability is necessary for the following reason: The British Establishment, that is to say the numbers voted by Parliament, which must never be exceeded, is calculated on the basis of maintaining, in cadres at home, a certain number of old soldiers, and also the provision of drafts for units abroad. It was found that, since the abolition, of the liability of the soldier for an extra year's service if abroad, the home establishment was congested by the arrival at home of considerable numbers of soldiers who, owing to the incidence of the trooping season, had to be brought home with periods varying probably from one to five months still to serve. Since these men did not, as was formerly the case, pass at once, on arrival, to the Reserve, they remained in the ranks and blocked establishments thus preventing recruits being enlisted to meet future draft requirements.

Royal Army Medical Corps.—

An additional term of service was approved in June last of one year with the Colours and 11 in the Army Reserve. The change was introduced to build up a further reserve for this corps.

R.H. and R.F.A.—

14. A change has also been made in the standard of height for gunners of the Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery, the height being raised from 5 ft. 7 in. to 5 ft. 10 in., whereas formerly the maximum height was 5 ft. 9 in. Similarly the height for drivers of the Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery, which had formerly stopped at 5 ft. 6 in., was raised to 5 ft. 7 in.

Alteration of standards of height.

R.G.A.—

In view of the reductions taking place in the Royal Garrison Artillery it became necessary to check the recruiting for that corps. A circular was therefore sent out in December, 1905, raising the standard of height of gunners for the Royal Garrison Artillery from 5 ft. 7 in. to 5 ft. 8 in.

R.E.—

An alteration has also been made in the standard of height for sappers of the Royal Engineers, in view of the reduction of the establishment of the corps, the height being raised, with the exception of men of a few trades, from 5 ft. 7 in. to 5 ft. 8 in.

Foot Guards.—

Consequent on the abolition of the 3rd Battalion Scots Guards, and the reduction in establishment of the Irish Guards, the standard of

height for Recruits for these two corps was raised to 5 ft. 9 in. and upwards for all Recruits. Hitherto the standard has been, if under 20 years of age, 5 ft. 7 in. and upwards; if over 20 years of age, 5 ft. 8 in.

Infantry of the Line—

It has been found possible to temporarily raise the standard of height for a few units of Infantry of the Line which were not in want of Recruits.

Cavalry—

Observations
on recruiting
for the
several arms.

15. Recruiting for the Cavalry of the Line has been, generally speaking, in full force during the past year, and the figures in consequence show a large increase over those of the preceding year, when recruiting was partially restricted, namely: 3,666 as compared to 2,375.

R.H. and R.F.A.—

Recruiting for the Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery has been subject to modifications during the year, but the total enlisted has been more than a thousand higher than during the preceding twelve months. Recruiting for drivers has been stopped during the summer months of the current year.

R.G.A.—

The raising of the standard for recruits, for this arm, has resulted in less recruits being taken than in the preceding year, but, on the other hand, owing to the reductions of establishment, the numbers enlisted have sufficed.

R.A.—

A certain number of boys are enlisted for the purpose of being trained as Artificers at the Ordnance College, Woolwich. The training, which these boys undergo, is highly technical and of a very thorough nature. There is no difficulty, therefore, in obtaining the required number of boys to go through this course, as the value of the training is well understood. To obtain the best boys to qualify as Artificers, it has been decided that all such lads, before enlistment, should be required to pass a more or less severe educational test, to be carried out by the Army Schoolmaster nearest to the candidate's home. Examination papers are prepared by the Commandant, Ordnance College, and sent by him to the recruiting officer concerned, to make the arrangements with the local Army Schoolmaster for the boy's examination. The enlistment, or otherwise, of the boy, of course depends upon the result of the examination as well as on the lad's medical fitness.

R.E.—

Recruiting for the Royal Engineers has been satisfactory during the past year.

Foot Guards—

Recruiting for the Foot Guards shows a decrease over the numbers taken during the preceding year, but, as was to be expected, the high

standard, at which Recruits are taken for the Scots and Irish Guards, is partly responsible for this diminution in numbers.

Each regiment of Foot Guards has now been allotted a definite number of appointments on the Permanent Staff of the Militia and Volunteers in the districts affiliated to it for recruiting purposes. The non-commissioned officers of the Guards, so employed, will be able to further the interests of their regiments and to secure for them the stamp of Recruit, that it is of importance they should obtain.

Infantry of the Line—

Recruiting for the Infantry of the Line shows a material decrease over the figures taken in the preceding year.

This decrease amounts to 1,396 men.

The decline was marked during the first six months of the year, but after that a considerable recovery took place, practically coinciding with the restriction of recruiting for drivers in mounted corps. Recruiting for the Northumberland Fusiliers, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, Lancashire Fusiliers, and Manchester Regiment, was entirely closed towards the end of July, consequent on the decision of the Government to abolish the 3rd and 4th battalions of each of these regiments.

16. Approval has been given, to Officers Commanding battalions at home, to pay two visits in the year to their own regimental depôts. The object of this is to bring Commanding Officers into closer communication with regimental depôts, so that they can assure themselves as to the satisfactory working of the depôt staff, and assist in securing the efficiency thereof.

17. The reductions which have been completed up to the 30th September, 1906, are as follows:—

Royal Garrison Regiment—

The two remaining battalions have been disbanded under the same terms as were offered before. A little over 100 men now remain still serving.

The following Artillery units have been disbanded from the dates specified—

- "B" Depôt, Royal Horse Artillery, 7th June, 1906.
- No. 98 Co. Royal Garrison Artillery, 5th December, 1905.
- " 103 " " " " 6th December, 1905.
- " 92 " " " " 28th February, 1906.
- " 58 " " " " 9th July, 1906.
- Royal Artillery Regimental District Staff, 1st July, 1906.
- St. Lucia Company, West India Battalion, Royal Garrison Artillery, 31st December, 1905.
- No. 4 Co. Ceylon-Mauritius Battalion, Royal Garrison Artillery, 30th November, 1905.

The other reductions, which have taken place, are as follows:—

- Royal Engineers, 7 units.
- Royal Engineers (Natives), 3 units.
- Royal Garrison Regiment, 2 battalions.
- Chinese Regiment, reduction completed.

Recruiting
literature.

18. During the past year the pamphlets "The Advantages of the Army" and "The Advantages of the Militia," together with two other recruiting forms, have been withdrawn from Post Offices, and, by the courtesy of the Postal Authorities, leaflets have been substituted, setting forth in a clear way the rates of pay and the terms of Service. Changes are so constantly made, both in the terms of Service and in the soldier's pay, that a cheap leaflet of this nature is indispensable. These leaflets can then be easily reprinted, and the necessary alterations made, whereas the pamphlets, being more voluminous and containing other matter as well, are not so conveniently revised and re-issued.

19. The following table shows the number of Recruits, enlisted for Long Service, and the several terms of Short Service, since the commencement of 1902, and the arms of the Service which they joined.

Terms of Service.	1902.	First 9 months of 1903.	During 12 months ended 30.9.04.	During 12 months ended 30.9.05.	During 12 months ended 30.9.06.
12 years with the Colours ..	1,894	1,524	1,813	1,701	1,722
9 years with the Colours, and 3 years in the Reserve ..	..	..	..	20,316	17,710
8 years with the Colours, and 4 years in the Reserve ..	..	..	89	2,224	367
7 years with the Colours, and 5 years in the Reserve ..	9,917	..	..	110	6,769
6 years with the Colours, and 6 years in the Reserve ..	..	..	..	..	304
3 years with the Colours, and 9 years in the Reserve ..	38,942	27,556	38,550	10,240	7,473
2 years with the Colours, and 10 years in the Reserve ..	..	244	827	760	1,744
1 year with the Colours, and 11 years in the Reserve ..	..	..	..	..	321
1 year with the Colours, or for the war, should it last longer ..	10,573*	..	..	..	..
Re-enlisted { For one year ..	204†	..	..	} 139	1,266
{ A.O. 106 of 1900..	336‡	75‡	10‡		
Royal Garrison Regiment ..	2,250	1,121	561	..	..
Colonial Corps (various terms)..	924	506	792	473	389
Total	65,040	31,026	42,642	35,963	38,365

* Imperial Yeomanry and Volunteers, &c., enlisted for 1 year or the duration of the S.A. war.

† Imperial Yeomen re-enlisted for 1 year.

‡ Ex-soldiers, discharged on completion of 12 years' service, re-enlisted until attaining the age of 41, or until completing 21 years' total service, whichever happens first.

ARMY, MILITIA, AND IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—ANNUAL 11
REPORT OF RECRUITING.

Arms of the Service.	1902.	First 9 months of 1903.	During 12 months ended 30.9.04.	During 12 months ended 30.9.05.	During 12 months ended 30.9.06.
Household Cavalry	149	50	114	131	172
Cavalry of the Line	6,189	358	491	2,380	3,672
Imperial Yeomanry (for the South African War)	7,239	..	..	..	..
Royal Horse and Field Artillery { Garrison	8,663	2,422	2,353	3,841	4,876
Royal Engineers	3,499	2,922	3,845	2,422	1,765
Foot Guards	1,745	765	1,112	651	1,130
Infantry of the Line	1,837	1,144	1,996	2,216	1,732
Royal Garrison Regiment	29,038	20,163	29,750	22,243	21,886*
Colonial Corps	2,250	1,121	561	..	..
Army Service Corps	924	506	792	478	695
Army Ordnance Corps	1,922	727	1,155	893	1,281
Royal Army Medical Corps	337	131	175	120	221
Army Pay Corps	1,208	717	298	573	874
Army Post Office Corps .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Army Post Office Corps	40	..	..	15	61
Total	65,040	31,026	42,642	35,963	38,365

* 1,112 of these were re-enlistments, principally from the Royal Garrison Regiment. The total number of re-enlisted soldiers was 1,266.

20. The following table shows the total number of Recruits joined (exclusive of those for Colonial Corps), the numbers taken under any of the standards, and the percentage under standard, during the twelve months ended 30th September, 1906, as compared with the previous four years:—

	1902.*		First 9 months of 1903.	Year ended 30.9.04.	Year ended 30.9.05.	Year ended 30.9.06.
	During first quarter.	During remaining quarters.				
Total Recruits joined ..	13,103†	37,650†	28,183	41,279	35,351	36,410
Number under any of the standards	3,943	4,297	1,722	531	220	460
Percentage under standard	30.1	11.4	6.1	1.2	0.60	1.26
	16.2					

* The table has been divided into two parts for 1902, owing to the introduction of a new system of medical examination, which commenced in the second quarter of the year, under which the number of men specially enlisted has considerably decreased.

† Excluding men specially raised during the war, and ex-soldiers re-enlisted under Army Order 106 of 1900.

It will be seen that there is a small increase in the percentage of the Recruits enlisted under standard. This increase is due to the fact that, when standards of individual corps are materially raised, Recruits who, by reason of their relations' service, have claims to enlist in any particular corps, are sometimes taken if conforming to the old standard, though slightly under the present one.

Colonial
Corps.

21. The effective strength of the several Colonial Corps between the 1st October, 1905, and the 1st October, 1906, together with the number of Recruits raised for each corps, is shown in the following table:—

Corps.	Establishments on 1st October, 1906.	Effectives (rank and file).		Wanting or supernu- merary on 1st Octo- ber, 1906.	Increase or decrease during the 12 months ended 30.9.06.	Recruits raised dur- ing the 12 months ended 30.9.06.
		On 1st Octo- ber, 1905.	On 1st Octo- ber, 1906.			
West India Regiment—						
1st Battalion	860	1,083	842	} - 52	- 66	286
2nd "	1,060	704	918			
Depôt "	130	277	238			
Royal Artillery—						
West African Company ..	115	103	109	- 6	+ 6	16
West In- dian Bat- talion {						
Sierra Leone Com- pany	162	174	166	+ 4	- 8	—
West India Com- pany	120	175	141	+ 21	- 34	—
Hong Kong-Singapore Battalion, Royal Garrison Artillery ..	639	577	591	- 48	+ 14	44
Ceylon - Mauritius Battalion, Royal Garrison Artillery ..	273	346	300	+ 27	- 46	18
Royal Malta Artillery	455	440	411	- 44	- 29	25
Royal Engineers—						
Asiatic Companies*	—	145	—	—	-145	2
West India Company†	—	54	—	—	- 54	—
Sierra Leone " ‡	—	19	—	—	- 19	—
36th Company, Sierra Leone ..	42	—	30	- 12	+ 30	12
40th " Hong Kong	54	—	59	+ 5	+ 59	1
Chinese Regiment*	—	507	—	—	-507	102
West African Regiment	1,000	993	987	- 13	- 6	183
Total	4,910	5,597	4,792	-118	-805	689†

* Disbanded.
† Exclusive of six re-enlisted men.
‡ Merged into 36th and 40th Companies, R.E.

Recruiting for the West India Regiment was stopped on the 10th September, 1906, owing to the prospective reduction of establishment of the corps.

Militiamen
enlisting into
the Regular
Army.

22. The number of Militiamen who joined the Regular Forces during the year is given below. It will be observed that there is a slight increase over the number for the preceding year.

Corps which the men joined.	1902.	First 9 months of 1903.	12 months ended 30.9.04.	12 months ended 30.9.05.	12 months ended 30.9.06.
Regular Army	18,379	11,870	14,932	12,103	12,409
Royal Navy or Royal Marines ..	615	559	716	330	603
Total	18,994	12,429	15,648	12,433	13,012

ARMY, MILITIA, AND IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—ANNUAL 13
REPORT OF RECRUITING.

23. The number of Recruits raised, for the Regular Army and the Militia, by the various agencies during the past twelve months, and the number obtained in each recruiting area, for the Regular Army, during the past five years, will be found in Section II, p. 50.

Section II, p. 42, shows the increase and decrease of each arm of the Service during the 12 months ended 30th September, 1906.

Section II, p. 44, shows the increase and decrease for the last ten years.

The number of Recruits raised, by the Serjeant Instructors of Volunteers and the Permanent Staff of the Imperial Yeomanry, for the year ended 30th September, 1906, is: Army, 3,551; Militia, 2,486—as compared to Army, 3,849; Militia, 2,494 for the year ended 30th September, 1905. The Permanent Staff of the Imperial Yeomanry have not been successful in raising Recruits for the Regular Army.

24. The number of men who were discharged as invalids, in their first and second year of service, during the period 1899 to 1906, and the proportion of such invalids to the effective strength, will be seen from the annexed table; the results show a diminution:—

Year.	Number of men under two years' service on 1st January or 1st October in each year.			Invalids discharged during the year under two years' service.			Proportion of invalids per 1,000 effective under two years' service.	
	Under one year.	From one to two years.	Total.	Under one year.	From one to two years.	Total.	Under one year.	From one to two years.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1st Jan., 1899	36,248	26,629	62,877	549	454	1,003	15	17
„ 1900	<i>Figures not available.</i>			944	570	1,514*	} <i>Figures not available.</i>	
„ 1901		<i>Ditto.</i>		1,795	2,030	3,825*		
„ 1902		<i>Ditto.</i>		1,214	1,040	2,254*		
„ 1903	44,994	31,996	76,990	671	741	1,415	14	23
1st Oct., 1903	41,288	36,337	77,625	769	818	1,587	18	22
„ 1904	36,967	34,273	71,240	787	552	1,339	21	16
„ 1905	31,750	34,609	66,369	558	410	968	17	12

* Exclusive of men of Imperial Yeomanry, Volunteers, and Irregular Corps raised specially for the war in South Africa, as well as those of the ordinary Colonial Corps. The figures for 1st October, 1903, 1904, and 1905, Columns 2, 3, and 4, are exclusive of men of the Royal Garrison Regiment.

25. The following table, furnished by the Army Medical Department, shows the number of ordinary Recruits who presented themselves for medical examination since 1902, the number of those who were rejected, including those discharged within three months of enlistment, and the percentage of rejections:—

14 ARMY, MILITIA, AND IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—ANNUAL
REPORT OF RECRUITING.

	1902.	First 9 months of 1903.	1st Oct., 1903, to 30th Sept., 1904.	1st Oct., 1904, to 30th Sept., 1905.	1st Oct., 1905, to 30th Sept., 1906.
Numbers medically inspected ..	87,609	50,640	71,699	65,752	65,128
Numbers rejected—					
For various ailments	19,674	12,541	18,816	19,182	16,941
For want of physical development	8,547	4,588	5,842	5,616	4,982
Total rejected ..	28,221	17,129	24,658	24,798	21,923
Percentage of rejections—					
For various ailments	22·46	24·77	26·24	29·17	26·01
For want of physical development	9·76	9·06	8·15	8·54	7·65
Total percentage of rejections ..	32·22	33·83	34·39*	37·71*	33·66*

* This percentage does not include the numbers rejected on physical grounds or for failure to reach the required standard by recruiters or recruiting officers.

It will be noticed that the percentage of rejections, on medical grounds, is decidedly less than in the preceding year, though still higher than in former years. The diminution has been steadily maintained in each quarter of the year, being most noticeable in the 3rd quarter. The figures showing the percentage of rejections are as follows:—

	1905.	1906.
1st quarter	34·02	32·24
2nd „	36·75	34·52
3rd „	41·19	31·35
4th „	33·88	30·72

Educational qualifications. 26. An alteration has been made in the system, under which the educational qualifications of Recruits is now recorded; hitherto these qualifications have been assessed from statistics compiled by the medical officers, who have examined Recruits on enlistment. This examination, especially at stations where a large number of Recruits are taken, was necessarily of a perfunctory character, and therefore gave no real index to the educational qualification of Recruits on enlistment, as compared with the standards prevailing throughout the country. The statistics as regards the educational qualifications of Recruits have been for the current year, and will be in future, compiled from the results of the examination of recruits in Army Schools.

Occupations of Recruits. 27. The occupations of the Recruits medically inspected during the past year are shown on pages 64-69. The trades have, as far as possible, been divided into Indoor and Outdoor as well as into Skilled and Unskilled. The number of boys examined, and the number medically rejected is also shown.

Extensions of service of men enlisted for three years with the Colours. 28. The following tables show—

ARMY, MILITIA, AND IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—ANNUAL 15
REPORT OF RECRUITING.

A.—The Recruits enlisted for three years' Colour service during the twelve months ending 30th September, 1903, and the number of such Recruits who extended their service:—

Corps.	No. of Recruits enlisted for three years during the twelve months ended 30th September, 1903.	Became non-effective before completing three years' service (including conversions of service).	Completed three years' Colour service.				Percentage of extensions, to men who completed three years' Colour service.
			Serving abroad or transferred to other corps.	Serving after having lost service through desertion.	Transferred to Army Reserve.	Extended their service.	
Cavalry of the Line ..	1,173	349	82	5	354	383	46·48
Royal Artillery { R.H. and R.F.A... R.G.A. ..	4,616 3,810	1,291 1,082	140 102	54 34	1,365 1,342	1,766 1,250	53·11 45·82
Royal Engineers ..	1,089	179	23	1	337	549	60·33
Grenadier Guards ..	508	149	12	5	227	115	32·03
Coldstream Guards ..	313	83	..	..	139	91	39·56
Scots Guards ..	372	138	6	5	82	141	60·25
Irish Guards ..	322	121	3	3	136	59	29·35
Infantry of the Line..	27,354	7,463	1,229	459	10,935	7,268	36·53
Army Service Corps ..	770	179	14	2	313	262	44·33
Army Ordnance Corps ..	133	35	7	1	40	50	51·02
Royal Army Medical Corps ..	914	215	106	4	178	411	58·79
Total ..	41,374	11,284	1,724	573	15,448	12,345	41·02
30,090							

B.—The percentage of extensions of men who completed their three years' Colour service during the years shown.

Corps.	1897.	1898.	1901.†	1902.	First 9 months of 1903.	12 months ended 30th Sept., 1904.	12 months ended 30th Sept., 1905.	12 months ended 30th Sept., 1906.
Cavalry ..	*	*	*	*	*	*	35·9	46·48
Royal Artillery { R.H. and R.F.A. R.G.A. }	*	*	*	*	*	*	42·4	53·11 45·82
Royal Engineers ..	47·2	38·2	8·4	15·7	20·1	23·7	62·1	60·33
Grenadier Guards ..	28·4	23·8	12·5	9·9	6·3	18·4	19·0	32·03
Coldstream Guards ..	20·8	19·1	18·0	8·4	4·0	8·4	16·8	39·56
Scots Guards ..	44·0	37·5	34·3	31·6	30·0	35·7	36·6	60·25
Irish Guards ..	*	*	*	..	30·7	26·4	19·3	29·35
Infantry of the Line ..	*	*	*	13·6	12·1	20·7	31·6	36·53
Army Service Corps ..	47·9	50·9	5·4	31·2	35·2	36·4	48·7	44·33
Army Ordnance Corps ..	*	*	*	*	*	*	56·3	51·02
Royal Army Medical Corps.	51·8	53·7	4·2	4·2	16·0	67·3	62·9	58·79
General percentage ..	39·2	36·7	15·2	16·6	17·8	26·7	36·4	41·02

* No man completed 3 years. † No man permitted to transfer to Army Reserve on completion of three years' service during 1899-1900.

16 ARMY, MILITIA, AND IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—ANNUAL
REPORT OF RECRUITING.

Extensions of service.

The percentage of extensions does not in all cases represent the actual number of men who would have extended their service had they been permitted to do so. In corps, for example, where there has been an excess of establishment, owing to impending reductions, the conditions qualifying for extension have been materially raised. In other cases, where corps require to build up a large reserve, restrictions are imposed to prevent men extending in too great numbers, though it is a question whether these restrictions are even now sufficiently carried out, and whether in such Short Service corps as the A.S.C., A.O.C., and R.A.M.C., too many men are not allowed to extend, especially in view of the fact that the draft requirements of these corps are small.

Periods at which extensions of service take place.

The analysis given below is interesting as showing the time at which soldiers enlisted for Short Service elected to extend their service and thereby become qualified to draw service pay.

RETURN showing the percentage of non-commissioned officers and men, Infantry of the Line (enlisted since 31st March, 1902, for three years' Colour Service), who were serving on the first day of the month in which their third year of service expires:—

Month and Year of enlistment.	Number enlisted.	Per cent. to number enlisted of those men transferred to Army Reserve or discharged before completing 3 years' Colour service.	Per cent. to number enlisted of those transferred to Army Reserve on completing their 3 years' Colour service.	Per cent. to number of men enlisted who extended their service.	Per cent. to number enlisted of those men who extended their service in their following year of service.		
					1st.	2nd.	3rd.
October 1902	2,904	50·86	11·81	Total. 23·86	3·47	9·16	11·22
November „	2,728	48·57	14·66	23·16	3·41	8·83	10·92
December „	2,341	34·51	17·21	25·58	4·27	7·56	13·75
January 1903	2,599	44·90	15·39	23·11	4·16	6·70	12·25
February „	2,718	37·52	22·29	25·68	3·67	6·65	15·34
March „	2,037	39·07	25·62	26·21	3·48	7·07	15·66
April „	1,499	39·42	29·82	26·55	3·80	7·93	14·80
May „	1,262	35·73	35·26	27·65	3·16	9·03	15·45
June „	1,523	20·87	45·83	31·91	4·53	8·47	18·91
July „	2,151	27·84	42·25	28·64	2·74	8·74	17·20
August „	2,384	28·31	35·52	30·11	4·36	9·94	15·81
September „	2,208	25·09	30·61	32·24	3·44	10·41	18·38

Desertion.

29. The number of men who deserted, and of those who rejoined from desertion, during the past five years is given below:—

Year.	Total desertions.	Number re-joined from desertion.	Net waste by desertion.	Recruits joined.*	Percentage of net waste to Recruits joined.
1902	7,162	2,851	4,311	50,753	8·5
First 9 months of 1903	4,653	2,241	2,412	29,324	8·2
12 months ended 30th Sept., 1904.	3,959	2,673	1,286	42,071	3·0
12 months ended 30th Sept., 1905.	3,082	2,189	893	35,824	2·5
12 months ended 30th Sept., 1906.	2,979	1,725	1,254	37,099	3·4

* Excluding men specially raised during the war and ex-soldiers re-enlisted under A.O. 106 of 1900, and A.O. 35 of 1903, but including Colonial Corps.

II.—ARMY RESERVE.

30. The strength of the Army Reserve shows a large increase over the numbers on the 1st of October, 1905, and compared with the 1st October, 1904, the difference is very marked. The full effect of the system of three years' enlistments which commenced in 1902, and which has since been discontinued, is now being realised. It has resulted in large numbers of men passing to the Reserve on the expiration of their Colour service, and in addition these numbers are swelled by the premature passage to the Reserve of men of those corps in which reductions of establishment have taken place and conversions of service have been permitted.

31. The following tables, A and B, show the strength of the Army Reserve, the numbers belonging to the various arms of the Service, and to each section of the Reserve:—

A	Date.	Arms of the Service.										Total strength. ¹		
		Household Cavalry.	Cavalry.	Royal Artillery.	Royal Engineers.	Foot Guards.	Infantry of the Line.	Army Service Corps.	Royal Army Medical Corps.	Army Ordnance Corps.	Army Post Office Corps.		Army Pay Corps.	Colonial Corps.
	1st Jan., 1902	...	285	927	243	237	312	206	8	5	42	1	102	2,398
	" 1903	...	2,023	4,881	1,559	3,904	18,656	1,278	328	55	43	8	125	32,865
	1st Oct., 1903	...	5,599	7,841	2,657	5,790	40,403	2,488	1,095	130	198	17	253	66,471
	" 1904	17	5,773	8,895	2,996	6,281	45,885	3,093	1,280	127	237	17	339	74,940
	" 1905	40	7,298	11,881	3,591	6,874	59,269	3,471	1,441	215	242	20	423	94,770
	" 1906	51	7,464	15,192	4,052	7,488	69,924	3,998	1,589	272	130	*	436	110,596

* Omitted.

B	Date.	Numbers provided for in Army Estimates as probable maximum.	Volunteers.	Sections of the Army Reserve.				Total strength.
				Section A.	Section B.	Section C*.	Section D.	
	1st Jan., 1902	80,000	1	..	933	233	1,231	2,398
	" 1903	70,000	..	328	28,759	697	3,081	32,865
	1st Oct., 1903	70,000	..	2,921	55,165	1,741	6,644	66,471
	" 1904	80,000	..	2,564	62,190	..*	10,186	74,940
	" 1905	104,000	..	4,133	75,257	..	15,380	94,770
	" 1906	122,000	..	3,677	87,943	..	18,976	110,536

* Section C has been merged into Section B.

32. The number of men transferred, from the Colours to the Reserve, on completing their Colour service, and of those permitted to convert their service, that is, to pass prematurely to the Reserve before the completion of their Colour service, is as given below:—

8 ARMY, MILITIA, AND IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—ANNUAL
REPORT OF RECRUITING.

Year.	On completion of Colour service (Sections A and B).	Before completing Colour service (Sections B and C).	Relegated to the Reserve, having re-enlisted irregularly.	Total.
1902	18,781	355	137	19,273
First 9 months of 1903 ..	26,340	1,412	54	27,806
12 months ended 30th Sept., 1904	15,205	1,956	66	17,227
12 months ended 30th Sept., 1905	17,266	9,026	42	26,335
12 months ended 30th Sept., 1906	23,777	1,438	55	25,270

Suspension of enlistments into Section D. 33. In consequence of the large number of men in the Reserve, enlistments in, and re-engagements for, Section D of the Army Reserve were suspended from the 1st of July, 1906. This suspension did not affect the re-engagement of men in Section D for further periods, who form the supplemental reserve of tradesmen, and who are allowed to continue in Section D up to 50 years of age.

Full details as to the increase and decrease of the Reserve for the last ten years are given in Section II, p. 110.

III.—MILITIA AND IMPERIAL YEOMANRY.

Recruiting for the Militia. 34. As already stated, the number of Recruits obtained for the Militia shows a decrease of 1,209 over the previous year, and the strength of the force has diminished in the same period from 85,814 to 83,720. This continued reduction may partly be ascribed to the higher standard for Militia Recruits, which came into force in November, 1904, but it is probably owing, also, to the future of the Militia being still undetermined, and, in addition, to the fact that the older militiamen do not remain in the force as long as formerly.

Reports on the Recruits enlisted into the Militia are generally satisfactory, though, as was to be expected, the physique is lower than that for the Regular Army, but it rapidly improves after enlistment. The character and education of the Recruits is favourably reported on.

Extended training in certain battalions. 35. An experiment has been made, in the case of 20 battalions, by extending the period of training for Recruits in these units to a period of 6 months, instead of 49 days on enlistment. Certain battalions which are accustomed to conduct Recruits' drill immediately before the Annual Training, were allowed, if they desired, to apply the same principle to the 6 months' preliminary drill. Recruits who have not completed 6 months' training, prior to the date of the Annual Training, may be permitted to continue this training, as Recruits, with the headquarters of their battalion. Recruits will be required to attend the Annual Training, if it commences more than 3 months after the completion of the preliminary training, otherwise, attendance at the Annual Training is optional. Funds have been taken to provide for billeting Recruits, who cannot be accommodated in barracks, and they are also

permitted to live at their own homes and draw lodging allowance. As the experiment has only just commenced, it is premature to form any opinion as to the result. Careful statistics are being kept in order to determine: whether this system is more popular than that of drilling for 49 days only on enlistment, whether Recruits are being diverted from the other Militia battalions of the units concerned, and also what effect the experiment will ultimately have on recruiting for the Regular Army. Enlistment into the Regular Army from these battalions must undoubtedly diminish in the first instance, as Recruits are not permitted to enlist until they have completed one Annual Training.

36. Four additional companies have been added to the Royal Army Medical Corps Militia, in consequence of which a re-allotment of the several recruiting areas for the corps has taken place.

37. Recruiting for the Royal Engineer Submarine Mining Militia has been entirely suspended, owing to the abolition of this branch of the Militia.

The future of the Royal Garrison Artillery Militia is still uncertain, and recruiting for some of the units in Ireland remains closed.

A few enlistments still take place, for the Reserve Division of the Militia, from the men of the Royal Garrison Regiment, who have the right to pass into this Reserve.

38. Two Militia battalions have carried out regimental marches within their recruiting area during the past year, with a view of stimulating recruiting. The battalions in question are the 4th Durham Light Infantry and the 5th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles.

Militia.

39. Tables are given herewith showing (a) the strength of the Militia on the 1st October as compared with the ordinary establishment during the last four years, and also the actual strength of each arm of the Militia on the 1st of October, 1906, as compared with the establishment:—

(a)

Date.	Non-commissioned officers and men (exclusive of the Permanent Staff).				
	Effective strength.	Establishment.	Wanting to complete.	Increase or decrease in the effective strength during the preceding 12 or 9 months.	
				Increase.	Decrease.
1st January, 1903 ..	102,420	123,016	20,596	..	425
1st October, 1903 ..	89,743	123,510	33,767	..	12,677
" 1904 ..	86,491	123,510	37,019	..	3,252
" 1905 ..	85,814	123,086	37,272	..	677
" 1906 ..	83,720	123,478	39,758	..	2,094

ARMY, MILITIA, AND IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—ANNUAL
REPORT OF RECRUITING.

(b)

Arm of the Militia.	Non-commissioned officers and men (exclusive of the Permanent Staff).		
	Effective strength.	Establishment.	Wanting to complete.
Royal Field Artillery	231	297	66
Royal Garrison Artillery	12,428	17,376	4,948
Royal Engineers	2,063	2,331	268
Infantry	68,001	101,908	33,907
Royal Army Medical Corps	997	1,566	569
Total	83,720	123,478	39,758

Recruits enlisted and their distribution.

40. The following table shows the number of Recruits joined during the past four years and nine months, classified according to distribution and arms of the Service. It will be remembered that recruiting for some Royal Garrison Artillery Militia units has been stopped for several years:—

	1902.	First 9 months of 1903.	12 months ended 30th Sept., 1904.	12 months ended 30th Sept., 1905.	12 months ended 30th Sept., 1906.
English Militia	32,363	20,148	27,002	22,015	21,422
Scotch „	4,451	2,138	3,605	3,041	3,027
Irish „	4,672	3,488	4,657	4,885	4,283
Total	41,486	25,774	35,264	29,941	28,732
Arms {					
Royal Artillery {					
Field	95	150	199	110	97
Militia {					
Garrison	4,666	3,527	4,617	3,713	2,929
Engineer	661	824	716	921	526
Royal Militia	35,560	20,985	29,165	24,562	24,201
Infantry Militia					
Royal Army Medical Corps	504	288	567	635	979
Total	41,486	25,774	35,264	29,941	28,732

Aggregate strength and distribution.

41. The aggregate strength of the Militia by arms and distribution is as follows:—

ARMY, MILITIA, AND IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—ANNUAL
REPORT OF RECRUITING.

21

Serving on the	English.	Scotch.	Irish.	Total.	Arms.				Total.
					Royal Artillery.	Royal Engineers.	Infantry.	Royal Army Medical Corps.	
1st Jan., 1902	72,764	11,182	18,899	102,845	14,382	1,959	85,936	568	102,845
" 1903	72,694	11,481	18,245	102,420	13,878	1,969	85,741	832	102,420
1st Oct., 1903	62,455	10,210	17,078	89,743	13,310	2,049	73,643	741	89,743
" 1904	59,287	10,048	17,156	86,491	13,352	2,020	70,421	698	86,491
" 1905	57,601	10,238	17,975	85,814	13,254	2,154	69,629	777	85,814
" 1906	54,914	10,239	18,567	83,720	12,559	2,063	68,001	997	83,720

Detailed information as to the increase and decrease of the Militia is contained in Section II, p. 119. Increase and decrease of Militia.

42. The number of re-enlisted or re-engaged Militiamen, on the date shown, is as stated in the following table. It will be noticed that the number of Militiamen serving, who have re-engaged, shows a decided increase. Re-enlistments and re-engagements.

Serving on the	Re-engaged militiamen.	Re-enlisted militiamen.	Discharged soldiers.	Total.	Percentage on the strength.
1st January, 1903	17,712	5,976	4,413	28,101	27·4
1st October, 1903	13,724	7,450	4,255	25,429	28·3
" 1904	9,857	8,282	4,554	22,693	26·2
" 1905	9,531	9,333	5,005	23,869	27·9
" 1906	10,638	9,337	5,436	25,411	30·34

43. The loss caused by desertion, during the last four years and nine months, and the percentage of such loss to the effective strength, is shown in the following table. It will be observed that the net loss by desertion continues to show a slight decrease :— Desertion.

ARMY, MILITIA, AND IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—ANNUAL
REPORT OF RECRUITING.

Year.	Average strength during period.	Struck off as deserters and absentees.	Rejoined from desertion.	Net loss by desertion.	Percentage to average strength.
					Net loss by desertion.
1902	104,633	10,453	1,224	9,229	8·8
9 months ended 30th Sept., 1903	98,706	9,435	1,013	8,422	8·5
12 months ended 30th Sept., 1904	91,041	6,704	1,160	5,544	6·1
12 months ended 30th Sept., 1905	88,950	4,999	1,053	3,946	4·4
12 months ended 30th Sept., 1906	86,830	4,402	707	3,695	4·3

Reserve
Division of
the Militia.

The Reserve Division of the Militia consists of 7,783 men, of whom 5,879 are English, 995 Scotch, and 909 Irish.

Imperial Yeomanry.

44. The Imperial Yeomanry on the 1st October, 1906, was 2,016 under establishment, thus showing a slight gain during the current year. The number of Recruits joined amounted to 5,952, as compared with 4,060 for the preceding 12 months. This satisfactory result would tend to show the increasing popularity of the force.

It was represented that a certain number of Imperial Yeomen who had been enrolled before the passing of the Militia Act of 1901, and whose term of service was practically unlimited, would agree to come under the Act of 1901, if allowed to engage for one year at a time only. As it is desirable that all yeomen should be serving under the same conditions and liabilities, permission was given that enrolments of old yeomen might be for one year at a time only. Such short enlistments do not, of course, prevent the men from re-engaging for further periods.

Strength and
establishment of
Imperial
Yeomanry.

45. The following table shows the enrolled strength and establishment of the Imperial Yeomanry, the number, supernumerary or required to complete, on the 1st October, 1906, and the number who joined during the past twelve months:—

ARMY, MILITIA, AND IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—ANNUAL
REPORT OF RECRUITING.

23

Regiments.	Headquarters.	Establishment.	Strength.	Wanting to complete.	Supernumerary.	Recruits joined during past 12 months.
Ayrshire	Ayr	444	386	58	..	91
Bedfordshire	Bedford	444	391	53	..	65
Berks	Reading	444	411	33	..	105
Buckinghamshire	Buckingham	444	444	..	..	128
Cheshire	Chester	444	385	59	..	117
Denbighshire	Denbigh	444	401	43	..	118
Derbyshire	Derby	444	407	37	..	131
Devon, Royal 1st	Exeter	444	432	12	..	99
" Royal North	Barnstaple	444	420	24	..	97
Dorset	Sherborne	444	336	108	..	90
Essex	Colchester	444	442	2	..	97
Fifeshire and Forfarshire	Cupar	444	413	31	..	127
Glamorganshire	Bridgend	444	435	9	..	139
Gloucestershire	Gloucester	444	400	44	..	92
Hampshire	Winchester	444	408	36	..	104
Herts	St. Albans	444	343	101	..	70
Ireland, North of	Belfast	444	403	41	..	101
" South of	Limerick	444	441	3	..	168
Kent, Royal East	Canterbury	444	429	15	..	74
" West	Maidstone	444	323	121	..	97
King's Colonials	London	444	418	26	..	160
Lanarkshire	Lanark	444	400	44	..	67
" (Royal Glasgow)	Glasgow	444	396	48	..	155
Lancaster's Own, Duke of	Manchester	444	423	21	..	124
Lancashire Hussars	Liverpool	444	429	15	..	114
Leicestershire	Leicester	444	427	17	..	80
Lincolnshire	Lincoln	444	402	42	..	73
London, City of	London	444	445	..	1	197
" County of, 2nd	"	444	404	40	..	68
" 3rd	"	444	483	11	..	125
Lothians and Berwickshire	Dunbar	444	412	32	..	37
Lovat's Scouts	Beaulieu, N.B.	888	867	21	..	247
Middlesex	London	444	393	51	..	134
Montgomeryshire	Welshpool	444	440	4	..	106
Norfolk	Norwich	444	385	59	..	97
Northamptonshire	Northampton	444	357	87	..	53
Northumberland	Newcastle - on - Tyne	444	443	1	..	84
Nottinghamshire (Sherwood Rangers)	Retford	444	390	54	..	65
Nottinghamshire (South Nottinghamshire Hussars)	Nottingham	444	413	31	..	91
Oxfordshire	Oxford	444	377	67	..	87
Pembroke	Tenby	444	447	..	3	97
Scottish Horse	Dunkeld	888	856	32	..	220
Shropshire	Shrewsbury	444	433	11	..	126
Somerset, North	Bath	444	395	49	..	63
" West	Taunton	444	426	18	..	84
Staffordshire	Lichfield	444	408	36	..	104
Suffolk	Bury St. Edmunds	444	379	65	..	98
Surrey	London	444	434	10	..	121
Sussex	Brighton	444	384	60	..	29
Warwickshire	Warwick	444	423	21	..	54
Westmoreland and Cumberland	Penrith	444	381	63	..	84

ARMY, MILITIA, AND IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—ANNUAL
REPORT OF RECRUITING.

Regiments.	Headquarters.	Establishment.	Strength.	Wanting to complete.	Supernumerary.	Recruits joined during past 12 months.
Wiltshire, Royal	Chippenham	444	410	34	..	147
Worcestershire	Worcester	444	418	26	..	102
Yorkshire Hussars	York	444	413	31	..	99
„ Dragoons	Doncaster	444	426	18	..	131
„ East Riding of	Beverley	444	399	45	..	119
	Total.. ..	25,752	23,736	2,020	4	5,952
				2,016		

Increase and decrease.

46. The subjoined table shows the increase and decrease in the Imperial Yeomanry during the year ended 30th September, 1906:—

Strength on 1st October, 1905	23,587
Totals.	
INCREASE—	
Recruits joined	5,952
Re-enlisted	106
Joined from desertion	4
Other causes	16
Total increase	6,078
DECREASE—	
Died	68
Discharged { On termination of engagement	4,602
As invalids	83
Recruits rejected after attestation	5
Mis-statement as to age	20
By purchase	638
On conviction of felony.. .. .	7
For misconduct other than felony	27
Other causes	33
Deserters struck off	313
Joined { Regular Army	111
Royal Navy or Royal Marines	3
Other causes	19
Total decrease	5,929
Net increase	149
Strength on 1st October, 1906.. .. .	23,736

IV.—CIVIL EMPLOYMENT.

47. A Committee, of which Sir E. Ward was Chairman, was appointed during the past year to consider the question of civil employment for Army Reserve men and discharged soldiers, and also, whether the work of the Societies, dealing with this important question, could be improved, and whether better results could be obtained by the amalgamation of the several Societies. A considerable amount of evidence was taken by the Committee, both from members of the Societies themselves, employers of labour, and from military sources. A valuable report has been presented dealing with the whole subject, the principles of which have been generally approved by the Army Council. The Committee reported in favour of amalgamating the several voluntary Societies, thus saving the multiplication of staff, and promoting economy in administration. The report of the Committee has been for some time under the consideration of the Government, and it is hoped that steps will be taken to give effect to its recommendations. Among other questions, dealt with by the Committee, was that of the character given to soldiers on leaving the ranks, and it was suggested that more information should be given in soldiers' character certificates, and thus enable civilian employers to form a better idea of the qualifications of a soldier for civil employment. This question is under consideration, and proofs of an amended certificate are being circulated for discussion. In view of the recommendations made, circulars have been sent round to General Officers Commanding-in-Chief, requesting them to consider the best means of rendering the soldier, while serving, more fitted to take his place in civil life when passed to the Reserve or discharged. It is hoped that it may be possible to teach soldiers certain trades, during their military service, although it is fully recognised that the opportunities for such instruction vary at different stations.

General
remarks.

48. To enable soldiers, about to be transferred to the Reserve or discharged, to obtain information as to the state of the Labour Market in the towns where they were contemplating taking up their residence, a circular was issued, towards the end of 1905, directing General Officers Commanding at Home and Abroad to issue instructions to Officers in charge of Records to forward monthly to the several units, with which they are connected, a statement showing the condition of the Labour Market in the different centres in their areas. In addition, these officers were directed to furnish information as to the number of ex-soldiers who had already registered their names, as seeking employment, and to state what prospects exist of providing this number with employment, and whether there is reasonable hope of other men finding employment in the district.

Condition
of Labour
market.

49. The War Office and the Post Office have had considerable correspondence during the past year on the subject of civil employment for ex-soldiers. Among other questions, which have been considered, was a suggestion that there were opportunities of employing a few military telegraphists temporarily in the Central Telegraph Office at St. Martin's-le-Grand, in London. It was proposed that a number of qualified soldiers, preferably in their last year of service, should be lent to the Post Office, during the pressure of work, which is always heavy at certain seasons of the year. The men, of course, would have to be competent operators, and, in addition to their regimental pay, would draw a special allowance from the Post Office. The names of candidates were called for, and about 30 were submitted to the General

General Post
Office and
Telegraphists.

Post Office. It was thought that the temporary employment of these men might be of benefit both to the War Office and the Post Office, since the latter would be able to avail itself of their help, during pressure of work, while the experience afforded to the men might lead to their permanent appointment as telegraphists. It was subsequently ascertained that, owing to the late period at which the suggestion was made, the season was too far advanced to make it practicable to make use of the men's services last summer. It is, however, proposed to initiate the experiment next summer, and, in the meantime, the Post Office has arranged to offer immediate employment to about 12 of the 30 soldiers whose names were submitted. These men will be placed on duty as probationary telegraphists and, if they prove satisfactory, will be appointed to established posts as telegraphists, as vacancies occur, probably after about 12 months' probationary service. Such appointments will necessarily depend on the efficiency of the probationer; the pay offered to probationers is 24s. a week, but, on appointment, the salary would probably be somewhat higher.

Civil
Employment
Pamphlet.

50. The issue of the revised pamphlet on civil employment, and the mode of applying for the same, has been somewhat delayed owing to the appointment of Sir Edward Ward's Committee, as it was hoped to embody some of the changes made in the revised edition.

Voluntary Employment Societies.

National
Association
for the
Employment
of Reserve and
Discharged
Soldiers.

51. Of the several institutions in existence, for providing ex-soldiers with civil employment, the National Association is the most important and produces the largest results. During the past twelve months the head office in London found employment for 1,661 ex-soldiers, as against 1,680 during the previous year. In addition to this number, temporary employment was found for 702 men. It is evident that the provision of work for these large numbers necessitates considerable energy on the part of the staff of the Society.

Branches
National
Association.

As a retired officer had been specially appointed to conduct recruiting in the town of Dundee, it was considered advisable to decentralize the work of civil employment, in Dundee itself, from the Regimental District Headquarters, and to place it under the recruiting officer. A separate branch of the National Association has therefore been formed and opened at Dundee.

Soldiers' and
Sailors' Help
Society.

52. The work performed by the Incorporated Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society, in obtaining employment for ex-soldiers, has also been satisfactory.

The Headquarter Office at 122, Brompton Road, S.W., found employment during the past year for 902 men, who left the service with characters not less than good. The number above mentioned refers only to the Headquarter Office. The Society has many branches throughout the Kingdom, but their returns are not available.

Army and
Navy Pensioners'
Society.

53. The Army and Navy Pensioners' Employment Society has procured situations of a permanent nature for 835 ex-soldiers, and temporary employment for 2,120.

Guards Em-
ployment
Society.
Clerks, War
Office.

54. The Guards Employment Society has found situations for 145 men.

55. During the past twelve months three vacancies as clerks in the War Office have been given to ex-soldiers. The number employed

ARMY, MILITIA, AND IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—ANNUAL 27
REPORT OF RECRUITING.

on the 30th September, 1906, was 229, of which number 15 are employed at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

56. Seven ex-soldiers have been appointed, during the past year, in the Subordinate Section of the Army Accounts Department, as writers. There are 83 ex-soldiers at present employed in this department.

57. The number of situations under the Council, filled by ex-soldiers, during the twelve months ended 30th September, 1906, shows a diminution, namely, 168, as compared with 205 during the preceding period. In addition to this number, temporary employment was given to 24 ex-soldiers.

58. During the past twelve months 10 places were filled by ex-soldiers, as Customs Watchers, out of 35 vacancies which occurred. The percentage of vacancies filled by ex-soldiers is considerably less this year than in the preceding year, when no fewer than 44 out of 88 vacancies were filled by ex-soldiers. Preference is given to Pensioners over Army Reservists in filling this class of appointment.

59. Seven vacancies for Park Keepers occurred in London during the year, all of which were filled by ex-soldiers. In addition to Park Keepers, employment under the Office of Works was given to 45 ex-soldiers.

60. The following table shows (i) the number of vacancies which occurred in the Prisons Service in the periods shown; and (ii) the number of such vacancies filled by ex-soldiers:—

Prisons Service of—	Number of vacancies in, during 12 months ended 30th September—			Number of ex-soldiers appointed in, during 12 months ended 30th September—		
	1904.	1905.	1906.	1904.	1905.	1906.
England and Wales ..	249	162	153	123	90	61
Scotland	31	20	28	9	6	9
Ireland	30	29	32	3	5	7
Total	310	211	213	135	101	77

61. Vacancies for 24 Messengers were filled by Pensioners, from the War Office list, during the past year:—

Name of Government Department.	Number of vacancies as Messengers filled through War Office Register.
War Office	15
Board of Education	2
Board of Trade	3
Irish Land Commission	1
Customs	2
Exchequer and Audit Department	1
Total	24

It will be noticed that, outside the War Office, 9 vacancies for Pensioner Messengers in other Government offices have been filled from the War Office list. It is not known, in this Office, what vacancies actually occurred in other departments, for Messengers or other situations, which could have been filled by Pensioner candidates, but the War Office list is a long one, and many more vacancies could have been filled had the opportunity been afforded. In the absence of information, it is of course possible that other departments, in which vacancies occurred, may have filled them by ex-soldiers.

War Office
Departments.

62. The number of ex-soldiers, to whom employment in departments under the War Office was given during the period shown, and the total number of ex-soldiers in such employment is stated in the subjoined table:—

Name of Department.	Number of ex-soldiers to whom employment was given during 12 months ended 30th September—			Total number of ex-soldiers employed on 30th September—		
	1904.	1905.	1906.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Royal Army Clothing Department and Factory	3	4	5	431	387	367
Works and Fortifications Department	56	8	24	513	421	445
Ordnance Factories	327	251	99	2,141	1,903	1,654
Barrack Wardens, Barrack Labourers, &c.	400	425	406	1,053	1,108	1,034
Army Ordnance Department	641	362	326	2,620	2,458	2,439
Total	1,427	1,050	860	6,758	6,277	5,939

It will be observed that there is a considerable decrease, in the numbers employed, and in the number of ex-soldiers to whom employment has been given. The decrease is shown by the table to have mainly occurred in the Ordnance Factories, and is, of course, due to the reduction in establishments which have taken place there.

Police Employment.

Police
employment.

63. The following table gives the number of vacancies which occurred in the Police Forces of the United Kingdom during the periods shown, and the number of such vacancies which fell to ex-soldiers during those periods:—

ARMY, MILITIA, AND IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—ANNUAL 29
REPORT OF RECRUITING

Police Force.	Number of vacancies filled during 12 months ended 30th September—			Number of such vacancies given to ex-soldiers during 12 months ended 30th September—		
	1904.	1905.	1906.	1904.	1905.	1906.
London City Police	44	44	30	13	16	10
London Metropolitan Police	1,023	1,264	1,376	233	184	162
Borough and County Police, England and Wales	2,176	2,183	1,855	581	499	412
Scottish Police	606	480	554	87	51	35
Dublin Metropolitan Police	70	63	55	1	2	<i>Nil.</i>
Royal Irish Constabulary	26	50	631	<i>Nil.*</i>	5	16
Total	3,945	4,084	4,501	915	757	635
				23.2	18.5	14.1

* Recruiting was suspended for Royal Irish Constabulary during this period.

It will be noticed that, while the number of vacancies in the Police Forces of the United Kingdom has considerably increased during the past twelve months, the number of such vacancies given to ex-soldiers has materially decreased. This decrease may be accounted for by the fact that so many of the ex-soldiers passed to the Reserve are men who have only been enlisted for three years with the Colours, and that it is not considered advisable to have a large number of Reservists in the Police Force, whose liability to be called up in case of emergency covers so long a period.

Railway Employment.

64. It will be seen from the abstract of returns received from the various Railway Companies that the number of ex-soldiers employed by them is not only maintained but has considerably increased as regards the railways in England and Wales, and it may be assumed, from the figures reported, that ex-soldiers give satisfaction in this class of employment. The schedule overleaf shows the number of ex-soldiers in the employment of the Railway Companies during the past three years.

PREVIOUS	WAR OFFICE	TOTAL	3R	
317	427	3945	7373	13,055
21	1050	4084	7387	13,732
213	860	4501	1183	14,757

ARMY, MILITIA, AND IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—ANNUAL
REPORT OF RECRUITING.

Railway Company.	Number of ex-soldiers to whom employment was given during 12 months ended 30th September—			Total number of ex-soldiers in the Company's service on 30th September—		
	1904.	1905.	1906.	1904.	1905.	1906.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
Midland	1,101	1,050	1,472	2,422	2,536	2,605
London and North Western	1,348	1,551	1,832	2,513	2,806	3,130
Lancashire and Yorkshire	460	550	711	733	921	939
South Eastern and Chatham	165	91	163	810	748	957
Great Western	714	716	803	2,380	2,403	2,703
Great Northern	254	285	331	886	881	952
London and South Western	293	338	239	1,058	1,005	1,118
Great Eastern	287	156	242	1,110	1,059	1,149
London, Brighton, and South Coast ..	218	115	196	692	668	677
Great Central	242	331	604	No	523	913
North Eastern	323	233	326	record.	797	872
Cheshire Lines Committee	110	106	125	124	122	133
London and India Docks	247	292	295	371	388	401
London, Tilbury, and Southend	51	50	51	85	94	80
North London	25	18	21	167	170	178
Metropolitan	120	10	5	125	124	108
Manchester, South Junction, and Altrincham	4	..	..	18	10	8
North Staffordshire	9	18	17	58	74	75
Barry	8	4	26	62	54	56
Furness	11	10	32	24	27	38
Wrexham, Mold, and Connah's Quay*	..	..	..	2	..	..
Rhondda and Swansea Bay	7	13	5	4	12	10
Maryport and Carlisle .. .. .	..	..	..	2	2	1
Corris	1	..	..	..	..	..
Citadel Station Committee, Carlisle ..	..	5	1	..	4	4
Wirral	2	3	3	3	6	9
Metropolitan District	92	113	108	122	158	139
Total for England and Wales	6,092	6,058	7,608	14,568	15,592	17,255
SCOTLAND.						
Caledonian	374	365	437	302	417	417
North British	453	402	446	508	571	567
Glasgow and South Western	160	125	137	176	160	159
Dundee and Arbroath	8	7	4	23	22	15
Highland	18	29	30	72	72	71
Aberdeen Joint Passenger	3	2	4	2	2	2
Joint Committee General Station, Perth	3	1	1	8	7	8
Portpatrick and Wigtownshire	1	7	1	2	3	2
Total for Scotland	1,020	938	1,060	1,087	1,254	1,241

* Merged into the Great Central Railway.

ARMY, MILITIA, AND IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—ANNUAL 31
REPORT OF RECRUITING.

Railway Company.	Number of ex-soldiers to whom employment was given during 12 months ended 30th September—			Total number of ex-soldiers in the Company's service on 30th September—		
	1904.	1905.	1906.	1904.	1905.	1906.
IRELAND.						
Great Northern	48	132	113	131	145	140
Great Southern and Western	159	214	359	203	253	382
Cork, Blackrock, and Passage	7	3	3	1	2	3
Midland Great Western	39	33	31	93	100	174
Listowel and Ballybunion	1	2	2	2	2	2
Cavan and Leitrim	7	7	7	7	7	7
Total for Ireland	261	391	515	437	509	708
Grand Total	7,373	7,387	9,183	16,092	17,355	19,204

Official Employment Registers.

65. The subjoined table shows the result, since 1902, of the working of the Employment Registers, in regimental and other recruiting districts:— Official employment registers.

Year.	Number registered for employment during the year.	Number for whom employment was found by means of the official registers during the year.				Percentage of men registered for whom employment was found.
		In the Post Office.	In other Government appointments.	In civilian firms, companies, &c.	Total for whom employment was found and accepted.	
1902	17,127	1,395	199	9,183	10,777	62·9
1st Oct. 1903	12,576	1,416	193	8,184	9,793	77·8
1st Oct. 1904	12,988	1,461	187	7,269	8,917	68·6
1st Oct. 1905	18,909*	1,872	157	8,270	10,299	54·4
1st Oct. 1906	20,236†	1,450	108	9,256	10,814	53·4

* Includes 4,037 names remaining on register from previous year. In former years these numbers have not been brought forward, which partially accounts for the decreased percentage.

† Includes 5,006 names remaining on register from previous year.

It will be seen that, while the employment of soldiers in Civilian Firms, Companies, &c., has increased, employment under Government has diminished.

General Remarks as to Civil Employment.

General
results.

66. The following table records the number, who left the Colours with characters, entitling them to registration for civil employment. The actual number for whom employment was found by means of Official Registers, Employment Societies, and Departments under the War Office, is shown below. It will be seen that, while 26,193 men have returned to civil life from the Army with characters either Good, Very Good or Exemplary, no less than 21,985 ex-soldiers have either been provided with employment or have had situations to go to.

Number discharged or transferred to the Reserve with	{	“Exemplary” characters	2,136		
		“Very good” characters	13,631		
		“Good” characters	10,426		
		Total	<u>26,193</u>		
Number of men for whom employment has been found	{	War Office Register (Messengers, &c.)	64		
		Regimental and Recruiting Registers (affiliated to National Association)..	6,268		
		National Association (London office only)	1,661		
		*National Association (Branches) ..	1,003		
		Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society (London office only)	902		
		Army and Navy Pensioners' Employ- ment Society	835		
		Guards' Employment Society..	145		
		Departments under the War Office	{	Army Clothing Depart- ment	5
				Works and Fortifications Department	24
				Ordnance Factories	99
				Barrack Wardens, Bar- rack Labourers, &c... ..	406
				Army Ordnance Depart- ment	326
				Clerks in War Office	3
				Writers under Army Accounts Department	7
To these may be added	{	Men who are known to have them- selves obtained employment	10,237		
		General Total	<u>21,985</u>		

It will be noticed that the returns from the Regimental and Recruiting Registers in out districts affiliated to the National Association show a gratifying increase. A considerable number of letters are received in this Office, from private employers and industrial

* Temporary employment has been found for 1,687 in addition to the above figures.

concerns, asking for ex-soldiers to fill situations. These applications tend to show that employers of labour are not yet fully aware of the local societies for the employment of ex-soldiers, and that these societies are not sufficiently advertised.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

67. As has been already pointed out, there is a slight increase in the number of Recruits taken, as compared with the preceding year. The unsatisfactory feature has been the decrease in recruiting for the Infantry of the Line, which is always affected by the requirements of the Mounted Corps. The conditions under which recruiting has been conducted have been, to say the least of it, unsettled. Again, the reductions in establishment, which have taken place, and the consequent closing of recruiting, are disturbing factors. As regards the Militia, the continued uncertainty of the future of the force cannot fail to have a bad effect.

General
remarks upon
recruiting.

Recruiting on the whole may be considered satisfactory, with the exception of that for the Infantry of the Line. Now that a definite settlement has been arrived at, regarding the terms of service of this arm, it is certain to improve in recruiting, and in fact is doing so already. Owing to the paucity of extensions among the Recruits enlisted for three years, the demands on the home infantry battalions for drafts for abroad have been very heavy. These excessive demands have led to depleted home battalions, and, in consequence, harder work upon the older soldiers. After this Trooping Season the demands for drafts should materially diminish, as nearly all the men enlisted for three years' Colour service will have passed to the Reserve. With a longer term of Colour service, and a diminished draft requirement, it should be possible in the future to provide the annual draft without undue depletion of the unit, and at the same time preserve in the unit a proportion of men in each year of service not required for draft purposes. Battalions will then again have that backbone of old soldiers, which is lacking at present, and which is necessary to the efficiency of the unit.

Wastage, however, should be considered in conjunction with recruiting, and it is satisfactory to note, that substantial decreases have occurred in what may be termed preventable sources of wastage. Taking, for example, invalids, men discharged as not likely to make efficient soldiers, and men discharged for misconduct; the discharges for these causes amounted to 6,603 in the year under review, as against 9,138 in the previous year, the equivalent of 2,500 extra recruits.

Wastage.

67. The reports received from the several Commands tend to show that the stamp of Recruit, that we are now obtaining, is satisfactory. His physique is on the whole good, and the system of medical inspection, which provides an Inspecting Medical Officer in each Command, ensures a more experienced selection of Recruit than heretofore. The Recruit at the dépôt is well behaved, his education is in nearly every case favourably reported on, and is stated to be decidedly improving, whilst in some districts the class of Recruits has improved.

Physique of
Recruits.

Education.
Class and
character.

68. The changes, mentioned in my report of last year, caused by the grouping of Regimental Districts, have worked satisfactorily. It was found, however, that while the younger officers showed great interest in supervising the recruiting of the Regimental District in their charge, in many cases, owing to a want of experience in recruiting work, they did not thoroughly appreciate the methods by which the best results could be obtained.

Changes in
the recruiting
service.

Depôts.

69. Inspections of Depôts and Recruiting centres have been regularly carried out during the past year. To assist the Director of Recruiting in this duty, the Chief Recruiting Staff Officer has been appointed an Assistant Adjutant-General on the Headquarter Staff. By this means the working of the recruiting system, in the various areas, is supervised and regulated.

Much remains to be done to improve depôts as Recruiting centres; in several cases the receiving room for Recruits is unsuitable, and the messing arrangements are not always satisfactory, although in some Depôts they are excellent. Especial attention should be paid to the Recruits on joining. There is much difference in the system and the cost of their messing; in some districts they are given tickets in exchange for which a good meal is provided, in others the arrangements are not so satisfactory. The price of the messing, supplied to the recruit before he is finally accepted, varies from $4\frac{1}{2}d.$ to 1s. It is most important that a Recruit should receive a favourable impression on entering upon his military career, which will hardly be conveyed if on entering a depôt he is shown into a cold, dark, and comfortless receiving room, has no one to explain to him the ways of a soldier's life, and is left to shift for himself as regards his meals.

The importance of depôts and of depôt training in our Army is hardly sufficiently realised. In other armies, the man, in coming up for military service, joins his unit—with us, for territorial and other reasons, the Recruit joins a depôt. It is there that he receives his first impressions at an impressionable age, and every effort should be made to profit by this and to make him a good soldier and a self-respecting man.

Instruction of recruits.

70. Two subjects may be mentioned in which officers and the staff of the depôt can use much influence. These are:—

1. Education.
2. Thrift.

I found, at my inspections, that a large proportion of Recruits attended school, and the instruction given in the schools at depôts leaves little to be desired. It is good and practical. Amongst other matters Recruits should be instructed in the history of their regiment, its distinctions, and how obtained. This is not always done; such instruction should be given by the officers, and given in such a manner as to interest the Recruits, and instil in them that *esprit de corps*, which is so important a factor in military life.

Thrift can be inculcated until it becomes a habit. The Infantry Recruit, from the day he joins, receives 4s. to 5s. a week to spend; he should be induced, if possible, to put by a small sum weekly. The schools are assisting in this, by bringing before the men the practical result of weekly savings. I found many Recruits, however, who send money home to help their parents. Thrift leads to temperance, and it is very necessary that the soldier on his return to civil life should be in possession of an adequate sum of ready money, and equipped with sufficient education to enable him to obtain and keep his employment.

Depôt Staff.

For the reasons above stated, the selection of the depôt staff is of great importance; the command of a depôt, which includes the training of Recruits and the responsibility for the recruiting in the territorial area, should be an appointment given to a selected officer of the regiment.

71. In my last report I dealt somewhat fully with the pay of the soldier. That this pay is appreciated by the serving soldier and that he recognises how well off he is while serving, is brought home by the fact that, even when permission is given to men to "Convert"

their service, that is, to pass to the Reserve prematurely if they can obtain employment, few take advantage of the indulgence. It may be that this reluctance to leave the Colours prematurely is due to the fact that in so many cases men have no trade to take up in civil life, as in the Engineers a considerable number have availed themselves of the privilege, while in the case of the Royal Garrison Artillery, Cavalry and Infantry, where the indulgence has been granted, but few have availed themselves of the offer. This fact has been particularly remarked in one regiment of Infantry of the Line, where out of 151 men who were offered the indulgence, only 6 men in six months have taken advantage of the opportunity given.

72. The ordinary practice of giving the soldier, in advance, the full amount of pay authorised by the Royal Warrant is not entirely satisfactory. This advance of pay has often been spent before a soldier's furlough has been completed, in which case he is left without means at a time when it is undesirable for the good of the Service that he should be so situated. While in no case fettering the discretion of Commanding Officers, it was suggested that it might be desirable to advance a part only of the pay and to arrange to remit the remainder weekly by post. The system has been experimentally tried and has met with approval. It brings to notice the fact that a soldier receives pay whilst on leave, an advantage not usually obtaining in civil life.

Pay to men
on furlough.

73. As a rule Soldiers' Homes are in towns, where there are depôts or garrisons, in which they do excellent work. There are, however, many towns from which Recruits are raised in considerable numbers, in which there are no Soldiers' Homes. Some of these towns are places where there are recruiting houses of some size, especially those where Recruiting Staff Officers or Retired Recruiting Officers are stationed. These houses are only required for recruiting purposes during the morning and early afternoon. It is hoped it may be possible to open them, as soldiers' clubs, during the furlough season from, say, 6.0 p.m. to 10.0 p.m.

Soldiers'
clubs.

Soldiers who go on furlough as a rule return to homes, where accommodation is limited, and, in bad weather, have no suitable resort. If the recruiting offices could be utilised, when not required for recruiting, as reading rooms, with newspapers, &c., the comfort of soldiers on furlough might be materially increased, and the cost for the extra cleaning, lighting, and fuel would be but small. It is intended to consult with General Officers Commanding-in-Chief, to see how far this can be effected.

74. Attention from time to time is directed, both by officers concerned with recruiting and also by civilians, to scurrilous pamphlets and proclamations which are issued, especially in Ireland, with the object of preventing enlistments into the Army. These publications have been brought to the notice of the Civil Authorities.

Anti-
recruiting
publications.

75. One important step has recently been taken, which it is hoped will improve the soldier's status both in his own estimation and in that of the country. There are many offences of a purely military nature, and in no way affecting a soldier's character in civil life, for which, under the military code of punishment, imprisonment has been awarded. The term "imprisonment" to a civilian mind implies a more or less serious infraction of the country's laws. A soldier, therefore, who has undergone a term of imprisonment for a purely military offence has thus been branded in the eyes of the civil population as a man who has committed a serious crime and, in fact, become a member of the criminal classes. Soldiers punished for purely military offences

Introduction
of system of
detention in
lieu of
imprison-
ment.

are no longer sentenced to imprisonment, but to detention. A sentence of detention is carried out in a Detention Barrack under a system which aims at returning the soldier to his unit on the termination of his punishment, with his military knowledge, technical skill and civil education increased and his physical condition improved. While undergoing a sentence of detention a soldier retains his uniform, arms and equipment, and, though the daily routine is necessarily severe, and the work arduous, it is not of a nature to impair that self-respect which is so necessary for the efficient performance of a soldier's duty.

Bad characters, whose serious military offences call for discharge from the Army, and soldiers convicted of offences cognizable by the criminal law of England, are ordinarily sentenced to imprisonment and do not return to the Army. The sentence of imprisonment in these instances is served at the military prison when the offence is a military offence, and in a civil prison in other cases.

Sir E. Ward's
Committee
on the
employment
of ex-soldiers.

76. Reference has been made to the important Committee which assembled, under the presidency of Sir Edward Ward, to consider the question of the civil employment of soldiers. Several districts in their annual reports have stated that, if the recommendations of that Committee were carried out, the recruiting problem would be solved, and there is no doubt whatever that the adoption of the recommendations would go a considerable distance towards the solution. Many men of a better class would undoubtedly enlist, if they saw a reasonable prospect of obtaining employment on the termination of their military career. It is this uncertainty which at present prevents the enlistment of the educated man.

As already stated, the Army Council have caused Committees to assemble in each Command, to consider the possibility of better qualifying the soldier, while in military service, for his return to civil life, by enabling him to learn a trade. The Special Army Order, issued in September last, substituting proficiency pay for service pay, and making the grant of the former among other things depend upon the possession of a third class school certificate, is another step in the same direction, and shows that the Army Council are using every endeavour, to fit the soldier for employment on his return to civil life. These efforts, however, cannot fully succeed unless the Government of the country is prepared on its part to assume its share of responsibility, and to ensure that, as far as possible, ex-soldiers and ex-sailors are given the choice of those appointments, under it, in civil life, for which they are fitted.

H. G. MILES,
Major-General,
Director of Recruiting and Organization.

