

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL, NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCES.

SIR,—

28th June, 1907.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Defence Forces of New Zealand. By the Act under which the appointment of members of the Council of Defence and Inspector-General was made, the duties of the Inspector-General are defined as follows: To review generally and report on the practical results of the Council. To inspect and report annually on the efficiency of officers and men, on the handling of troops, on the suitability of armament and equipment, on the conditions of the fortifications of the colony, and generally on all that effects the readiness of the Force for war.

Owing to the short period that has elapsed since the Council was appointed, and the amount of initial work the Council has had to do to institute the new order of things, it necessarily follows that there can as yet be little or no practical result from the policy of the Council.

Such being the case, and also owing to the fact that my own appointment having been recently made, I have not had time to inspect all the Forces: my report will necessarily be brief, and will refer only to those troops which I have seen.

In future, after I have had the opportunity of carrying out the inspection duties as defined, over the whole of New Zealand, I propose, with the approval of yourself, Sir, and the Council, to submit my annual report in time to enable the Council, if they so desire, to take advantage of the facts disclosed by such inspection when compiling their annual report and preparing the estimates.

HARBOUR DEFENCES.

Recommendations for completing the works and armaments have been made by the Council. On all occasions when I have inspected the existing works and armaments, which are in charge of the Permanent Force, I have found them well kept and in good order.

PERMANENT FORCE.

Recommendations for the reorganization of the Permanent Force have been made by the Council, and when carried into effect will no doubt put the Force in a thoroughly satisfactory state. The men are of superior education and intelligence, and good physique, and on my inspections have drilled well and smartly when properly handled. Their appearance on parade in service dress is at present quite spoiled, owing to their uniforms being of different make and various shades of material; otherwise they have been well turned out.

VOLUNTEERS.

Since beginning my inspections in February last I have inspected ninety-nine corps of the various branches of the service, in Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury, and Otago. These parades were held as far as possible on dates to suit the corps, and at their own Headquarters. The following state shows the detail of these inspections:—

Branch of Service.	Number of Corps.	Present on Parade.	Total Enrolled Strength.	Establishment.	Percentage of Enrolled Strength present.	Percentage of Establishment present.
<i>Auckland.</i>						
Field Artillery	1	46	57	81	Per Cent. 80	Per Cent. 58
Garrison Artillery	3	175	240	468	75	37½
Mounted Rifles	2 squadrons	52	82	168	65	31
Engineers	1	42	63	105	63	40
Infantry	7	194	375	451	50	43
Field Hospital and Bearer	1	20	35	50	60	40
Also seen on another occasion.						
Garrison Artillery	2	150	156	312	95	49
<i>Otago.</i>						
Infantry	8	247	510	514	48	48
<i>Canterbury.</i>						
Field Artillery	1 battery	49	66	81	75	60½
Mounted Rifles	1	18	52	84	34	22
Engineers	1	60	95	105	63	57
Infantry	10	315	560	640	56	49
Field Hospital and Bearer	1	19	32	50	60	38