The Home Defence Bill as Affecting the Volunteers

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Friday, March 22, 1889.

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR H. EVELYN WOOD, *U.C.*, *G.C.M.G.*, *K.C.B.*,
in the Chair.

THE HOME DEFENCE BILL AS AFFECTING THE VOLUNTEERS.

By Lieut.-Colonel F. W. HADDAN, 4th Volunteer Battalion, the
Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment.

Introductory Remarks.

I WISH to offer a few preliminary remarks as to the reason for selecting the title I have chosen for my paper.

All are probably aware that the Bill introduced in 1888 was entitled the "National Defence Bill," and that it contained certain clauses affecting the Volunteers, which clauses were subsequently withdrawn, and in consequence has arisen the *raison d'être* of the paper I purpose reading to-day.

In any case it would be manifestly out of place, especially in an Institution such as this, for me to attempt to discuss the details of "National Defence," which includes the naval services of our Fleet, and the duties of the Army at large, subjects which I would not profess to be able to handle.

I have therefore confined myself to the question of the dropped clauses, and limited myself to what concerns the Volunteers solely, and have therefore with this view entitled my paper "The Home Defence Bill as affecting the Volunteers."

1. That great divergence of opinion exists as to the probable effects of the recent Government proposals is sufficiently manifest; but to which side of the controversy the "right" belongs is not yet by any means assured.

2. The object of this paper is, therefore, not so much to set forth my own individual views as to initiate a discussion on this very important subject, and so enable all shades of opinion to be expressed, and that in a manner not contrary to discipline and the regulations.

3. That no definite opinion of the Volunteers as a whole has been obtained is certain, and I cannot but feel that the abstention from agitation on this matter, one way or the other, is about the best proof of discipline and self-control that the Volunteers could have afforded.

I, myself, as doubtless many others, felt the propriety and necessity of awaiting a request from the authorities in regard to my opinion, as representing my battalion; and it is only because no such step appears to be contemplated by my superiors that I have sought this opportunity of raising a discussion on the subject.

4. I strongly deprecate the handling of subjects such as this by tactical societies, which are formed for the distinct purpose of studying tactics and practising Kriegspiel. A recent case at Liverpool affords an example of the troubles that may ensue from such societies attempting to deal with ordinary matters of a military nature.

5. We are of course all aware that there are, in our branch of the Service, several Members of Parliament who have not hesitated to express their views, and who, probably, may have considered that because the opinions advanced were *theirs*, or as representing their own particular battalions, they therefore necessarily represented the opinion of the whole Volunteer Force.

6. What may truly represent the views of a "gentleman-private" or "class" corps, may be utterly unsuited to and divergent from those of a "working-man" or "mass" corps, and the same difference of circumstances may be found in the case of "country" as distinguished from Metropolitan or "town" corps.

7. Under such circumstances, therefore, it seems most desirable that all sides should be heard, and I wish to state distinctly that I do not attempt, or wish to endeavour, to settle this question according to my own views, which I express simply as my own, and in order to found a groundwork for argument whether for or against me.

8. Whatever opinion is found to prevail would be loyally adopted by me, for I hold that the majority should always exercise their strength when their case is proved.

9. With these provisos, I will now proceed to state my views as to the wisdom and policy of the course taken by the authorities, in suggesting that the Volunteers should allow themselves to be placed under new conditions of service, as originally proposed in the National Defence Bill, 1888.

10. The first intimation received of the proposal was when the National Defence Bill was submitted to Parliament, and it contained certain clauses whereby the present conditions of volunteer service would be considerably altered. A short discussion only ensued in Parliament, when a few members of the House, who are also Volunteer Officers, gave their opinions for or against, and a few other Officers wrote to the papers; and finally the clauses were withdrawn without, as I contend, the general opinion of the Volunteers having been in any sufficient way ascertained. Thus heartburnings have been caused which might have been avoided had a somewhat different course (such for instance as a preliminary confidential circular to Officers Commanding) been adopted.

11. The authorities may, however, with some considerable show of reason, plead that they were justified in taking the course they did, seeing that in our recent Egyptian troubles they had offers of service

from several Commanding Officers to place their corps at the disposal of the authorities.

12. That they were ever seriously meant I take leave to doubt; I would characterize such offers as unsound spasms of frenzied zeal, or as an attempt to "advertise" a corps. Had an offer so made been seriously entertained and accepted, I venture to assert that it would have been found to be a mere flash-in-the-pan.

13. To offers such as these may therefore in a great measure be traced the circumstances under which the measure was introduced into Parliament.

14. Whatever the faults of the past, we have now to deal with the case as it stands, and the point I suggest for discussion is: "Would the Volunteers as a whole be willing, *and able*, to give their services in the manner suggested in the Home Defence Bill, and even if they were, would it be desirable, in the best interests of the force, *quâ* Volunteers, that they should be so called upon?"

15. As regards the personal willingness of every man in the force I have no shadow of a doubt, but as regards his *ability* I have very grave doubts, for as a business man myself I am only too well aware of the objections raised by many employers of labour to their assistants being connected with the force, and even when they are known to be so connected, not the slightest facilities are afforded, in very many cases, *if* volunteer duty at all clashes with business.

16. It is to this latter cause that I attribute the great difficulty of getting men to the ranges for musketry practice, which under present rules must necessarily take place in daylight, and therefore (except in some cases on Saturday half-holidays and bank holidays) in business hours.

17. To employers of labour, such as the foregoing, I would point out the unenviable position in which they would be, should no Volunteer Force exist; and I say, broadly, that it is not only their duty as citizens to aid by every means in their power their patriotic employes, but that, taking even the most selfish motives, it is their distinct interest to do so, for if the Volunteer Force be not supported, and greater facilities given to its members, the time may come when either the Army must be increased, or the militia ballot enforced, either of which will inevitably affect their pockets; or else a Home Defence Tax may have to be imposed especially on them, they being not only unwilling to aid in the general burden of duty to the State, but for positively acting as obstructives to others more nobly, patriotically, and generously inclined.

18. In these days of an enlightened press, and of publicity and advertisement, I venture to assert that no firm of any standing would dare to say out in the face of day that they would not allow their employes to be volunteers, even under the Home Defence Clause; but I am equally sure that there are many firms who *feel*, and *sub rosa* act, in this manner; and it is only exposure that will remedy this sad trait of money-grubbing before patriotism, and which has perhaps justified the remarks of foreign critics that we are "a nation of shopkeepers." I have seen it stated lately that some of Colonel

Laurie's men have had to resign, owing to their employers refusing to allow them to remain as volunteers. I should like to know the name of such firm, which I would publish in orders and in the press.

19. The foregoing is, however, but one branch of the "ability" question.

20. Volunteers are necessarily civilians first and soldiers afterwards, and probably 95 per cent. of the force as a whole are directly engaged in professions, businesses, or occupations on which they and their families are actually dependent for their livelihood.

21. To interfere unnecessarily, or even to give men cause to think that their means of livelihood will be, or even may be, interfered with unnecessarily, is a very serious matter, and it is on this rock that the Government proposals have for the moment suffered shipwreck, mainly, as I believe, by reason of the Officials not having sufficiently informed themselves of the opinions of those most interested. It is true that there was the general safeguard that no man at present in the force was obliged to go under the new Act, but only those who desired, or those now joining the force.

22. The mere power to call out the Volunteers as proposed is nothing, for it may be safely assumed it would never have been put in force unnecessarily; but to make this power of any practical utility, the men would have to be exercised, in peace-time, in the performance of the various duties they *might* one day have to perform in real earnest. It was therefore felt by some that this power to call out might, to a limited extent, be used as a lever to get men to undertake duties in peace-time which might be of the greatest utility and advantage to them, but which they could not readily adapt themselves to, or get their employers to assent to, by reason of the nature of their civil avocations.

23. The withdrawal of the clause from the Act cannot but act prejudicially on the force in the eyes of the general public; for although the people of all classes are so intimately connected with it, they are not aware of the whole conditions, and they will be apt to think that the Volunteers are shirking a proper duty, which the authorities have asked them to discharge, and this in the face of the knowledge they possess that a considerable sum has lately been awarded as capitation grant; and it cannot but have a marked effect, unless properly put before them, on the praiseworthy effort of the Chief Magistrate of London to raise a fund for the better equipment of the Metropolitan corps, as to the absolute necessity for which there is no doubt whatever.

24. No Volunteer worthy of the name is desirous of shirking any duty compatible with the due discharge of his first duty to his family and himself; and the very desire of some to show that they are not so shirking may, not improbably, lead to their engaging in a matter whereof the possible consequences may not be apparent on the surface.

25. It is assuredly no part of the Volunteer's duty to undertake the work of the Army proper, nor to oust the militia, which is the constitutional force of this country, and any steps tending in this

direction must, in the true interests of the force, be carefully watched.

26. Doubtless the authorities, with a praiseworthy striving after economy, thought the time had come, after the recent boon of 60,000*l.* a year increased grant to the force, to ask something more in return than the greater stringency of musketry practice; but the Volunteers, on their side, felt and knew that the sum granted only makes up the arrears of many years' neglect, and can only be counted as a payment *for past services and liabilities*, and as an earnest of better things to come. In that light it was regarded, and due thanks and praise have been given to the authorities for the boon they granted.

27. Supposing the clause of the new Defence Bill to be adopted by the force, I should certainly expect that my men, by adopting fresh obligations, should most certainly be thoroughly equipped and fitted in return, to take their place in the field *if and when required*. The present Act contemplates and sanctions the payment of three guineas to each man, for equipment, if called out, and I should want this money to be granted *now*, so that the necessary preparations might be made in peace-time, and the men trained in transport duties, camp equipage, the use of entrenching tools, and so on.

28. Quite enough (if not too much) has already been asked at our hands. We have given our time, *and our money*, whilst others, on whom a duty devolves also, have given nothing. It is not too much to ask, if the pressure of taxation be felt to be too heavy to warrant the increase of our standing army, that, at least, those who have borne no part of the State's burden should first be called upon to suffer in purse, if they will not in person.

29. *Then*, supposing the necessity to arise, by all means ask your Volunteers to make fresh sacrifices, but in so doing be not niggardly in recompensing them for the increased duties and liabilities imposed, especially when it is well known, all the world over, that the force is the cheapest (and probably ever will be the cheapest) that any country ever possessed, founded entirely from patriotic motives, and in no sense mercenary, and but for which some form of conscription, so hateful and antagonistic to an Englishman, and so baleful in its effects on our neighbours, would have to be resorted to.

30. We want no pay whatever (except we be called on active service), and we cordially sympathize with every effort made to render us better soldiers and more fit to take up and perform our duties should the necessity ever arise.

31. More especially do I appreciate the views of H.R.H. the Commander-in-Chief, expressed in the letter of service to the new Volunteer Brigadiers, that to be prepared for all eventualities we must *practise in peace-time*, and have everything in readiness.

32. How to practise mobilization, even on a small scale, is, however, a very difficult matter for us, for the *necessity* which this involves of interfering with business avocations has not been sufficiently made known to civilian employers of labour; and they would undoubtedly resent, in many cases, the desires of their people to avail themselves

of the chance of practising mobilization, because they would not appreciate the importance of the issues involved.

33. Many of the men who now go to Aldershot, or to camps and marching columns, give up their *only* holidays. Here, of course, the employer cannot interfere. It, however, speaks well for the rank and file that, in these days of express speed labour, thousands of men are found willing to give up their *only* days of rest to perfect themselves in their duties as soldiers. It must, however, be borne in mind, that all cannot obtain their holidays at the fixed times of camps and Aldershot (in the early part of August), and the authorities would do well to consider whether men, who are quite willing to give up their holidays *whenever* they arrive, could not be accommodated at military stations, even if only a company could be got together for the benefit of association with the regular forces, and the learning of camp routine, and outpost and outdoor duties.

34. In fact, the authorities must endeavour to make their offers more elastic and suited to the capacities and abilities of the Volunteers, for to expect or hope that any *considerable* number of the force can ever be assembled, even for a week, at one *fixed* period, shows a marked misappreciation of what the Volunteers can possibly perform. In this connection I cannot too strongly urge the advisability of having attached to the Headquarters Staff the very smartest Adjutant of Volunteers that can be obtained, so that his knowledge might be made available, and we should thus doubtless obtain many reforms, the necessities for which are unknown to the authorities, guided as they are entirely by the opinion of regular Officers, who, with the best possible intentions, have, so far as our *interior economy* is concerned, but a very superficial knowledge. I wish, at this point, to remark that I have not the slightest intention of conveying any impression that the regular Officers (to whom we owe so much, and represented as they are by our gallant Chairman, than whom a better friend the Volunteers never had) are not doing all they can for our branch of the Service. It is only in the matter of *details*, which tend to make the machine move smoothly, that I think a regular Officer who has served as an Adjutant might possibly prove of great assistance.

35. Assuming that the recalcitrant employers of labour, either by means of the public press or by the threat of a special Home Defence Tax, become more patriotic in their bearing towards the force, there would yet remain to be solved the problem of whether, in the interest of the force itself, it is desirable to proceed on the lines set forth by the authorities.

36. We have already a special Railway Corps, recruited at Crewe from the London and North-Western Railway, and another is just being formed in London; though in this latter case the additional railway companies are to be attached to an engineer corps, raised under ordinary conditions. Here we have a direct example of men serving in the same battalion under different conditions of service.

Again, in the Post Office Corps, we find the same thing. Some men actually have been on service and some liable to go, and with

the prospect of deferred pay—whilst others serve under the ordinary conditions; and no ill effects are visible.

37. Some good friends of the volunteer movement maintain that it would be fatal to its continued prosperity to establish *two* sorts of service; that is, one for “active” and one for “passive.” That example already quoted does not, however, bear out this view. I do not find that in any of these corps the men are thought more of because they can engage for active service, nor do I find in the opinion of the general public, or the Volunteers themselves, that these corps stand in any different position to the general run; whilst I most cordially support their adoption of the chances offered them to become, by reason of their special avocations, of still greater service to their country.

38. In the Army proper we find *corps d'élite*, such as the Body-guard, the Engineers, and the Royal Artillery, and to my mind it is only human nature to expect to find similar conditions in the Volunteers. I would, therefore, let every corps do as it pleases, in offering to go under the new Act, feeling assured it will be done for the common welfare of the country, and that no stigma would attach to any regiment, if it be so circumstanced as not to be able to respond as freely as others to the new demand.

39. I would, however, as I have before stated, expect that the corps so circumstanced as to undertake the new liabilities should absolutely be equipped and fitted out by the authorities to enable them to perform their new duties if called upon.

40. That *all* will respond, should ever the call of duty be heard in earnest, I firmly believe; but I would not myself stand in the way of one single man offering better service to his country, for *fear* of creating two classes of service amongst the Volunteers, especially as in the cases already quoted where a *dual* service does exist, not the slightest inconvenience is found to accrue.

41. For such corps, or such men, however, I certainly claim the greater attention and support, on the grounds of mere commercial morality. If higher duties are exacted, *and can be given*, by all means have them, *and pay for them*, according to the ordinary rule of supply and demand.

42. I shall certainly feel no sense of envy or disappointment supposing my own battalion were unable to do as much as others. On the contrary, I should know that my men, weighing their just responsibilities, either do or do not desire to undertake fresh duties; but whatever the upshot, I should feel convinced they had acted on judgment *and not impulse*, and what they have undertaken or did undertake, they would assuredly carry out.

43. It may not be out of place, in conclusion, to remark that the Yeomanry are now under the Act, and the Royal Naval Artillery Volunteers also, and they can be called out for actual service whenever the Royal Naval Reserve is called out, such Reserve being to the Navy what the Militia represents to the Army.

The CHAIRMAN: Before calling upon Officers to address the meeting I should like to refer to three paragraphs in the paper, because I do not think it is much use discussing things which are not facts. I refer to paragraphs 10, 33, and 34. The lecturer has pointed out to us as part of the last paragraph, 34, that it would be advisable to attach our smartest Adjutant to the Headquarters Staff of the Army in order that the Headquarters Staff might be closely posted up as to the feelings of the Volunteers themselves, and might be able to inform the Commander-in-Chief how much they can do and what they ought not to be asked to do. But, gentlemen, we have already got that machinery, and, I think, existing in a much more perfect form. Whether we take advantage of it is another question. We have a General Officer in command of each district, and it is their duty to do everything they can to assist the Volunteers, to become closely identified with them, and to know the wishes and wants of every corps. Assuming, for a moment, that we take our smartest Adjutant from the London Scottish, or the Artists, or the Westminster, he would only represent that one corps out of the whole district. In the district containing 18,000 Volunteers, from which I have recently come, there are many corps, and all with different wants and requirements. I belong myself to a corps which has gone into camp for six days in nine successive years. They did not find the difficulties which other corps do; but if they were factory people, and the factories had to stop work, it would be actually impossible that they could do it. If there is a mistake, as implied by the lecturer, I do not think that would be the way of mending it. I think the only way would be that we, as Generals ourselves, should take much more interest than we have done in the Volunteers. I think the lecturer has made an error in these three paragraphs in supposing that we do want any Adjutant, however smart, to inform the Adjutant-General what your wishes are; and if he tried to do it I fear he would not give you, and he would not give us, satisfaction.

Colonel HOWARD VINCENT, M.P.: Sir Evelyn Wood, I think all Volunteer Officers who are present will agree with me that the force is very greatly indebted to Colonel Hadden for having prepared so valuable a paper. He has laid his views before this meeting with very great clearness, and I have no hesitation in saying that they are views which are shared by a considerable proportion of Volunteers. As he rightly says, paragraph 14 is the most important one of his whole paper, and he suggests this point for discussion: "Would the Volunteers, as a whole, be willing and able to give their services in the manner suggested in the Home Defence Bill, and, even if they were, would it be desirable, in the best interests of the force, *quâ* Volunteers, that they should be so called upon?" I should like, with the permission of the meeting, to say one word upon that paragraph, and upon the conclusions which one may draw from it. But, in the first place, let me point out that which may not have been noticed by all, namely, that there is no such Bill now before the House of Commons as "The Home Defence Bill." There was last year the National Defence Bill, in which the clause to which Colonel Hadden has so well referred, was incorporated. The clause affecting the Volunteers was taken out of the Bill, and the Bill without the volunteer clause passed. But it is not at the present time before the House of Commons. I myself am anxiously hoping that it will be re-introduced in some form or another. In saying that, of course I am only representing my individual opinion. I must be careful not to fall into the error that Colonel Hadden suggests some of us in the House of Commons have fallen into, namely, of representing our individual views as being the views of the whole force. Having taken very great interest in this subject, and differing from some of my colleagues in the House of Commons as to the feeling of the Volunteers in this matter, I have no hesitation in saying that we are greatly indebted for this opportunity of discussing it, and we much appreciate the presence of Sir Evelyn Wood, General Fremantle, Colonel Stracey, Sir Havelock Allan, and other members of Parliament who take the greatest interest in the Volunteer Force. Personally I answer this question in paragraph 14 of the paper very strongly in the affirmative. I believe that the Volunteers would, as a whole, be willing and able to give their services in the manner which was suggested by the National Defence Bill of last year, and I think it would be very greatly to the interests of the force if they were called upon to do so. Under the present condition of things, that is, the

Volunteer Act of 1863, Volunteers can only be called upon when there is actual danger of invasion, and that would mean, I take it, when the enemy is off the coast. There is nobody who has had anything to do with the Volunteers, however great reliance they may place in the volunteer movement, and whatever confidence they may feel in the constitution of the force, who does not recognize that some weeks, at the very least, of preparation will be absolutely essential before the force can be ready to take the field. That being so, I do think it is most unwise that the country should be limited by the present Act of Parliament to calling upon Volunteers until the hour of preparation is over. I think that there would be no danger whatever if the clause of last year had been allowed to pass. No Volunteers who are now serving would be required to enter into any fresh engagement unless they were willing to do so. I feel strongly, and I desire strongly to support what Colonel Hadden has so well said, that the fear of creating two classes in the Volunteers is purely mythical. I do not think the smallest reproach would attach to any single individual who found himself unable, either from family services or professional employment and other causes, to give that greater amount of service which was contemplated by the Act. I believe a very large proportion of employers of labour in this country fully recognize the enormous advantage of the Volunteers, an advantage not only in a military capacity, but a civil and moral advantage. One firm is very much in my mind at the present time—there is no reason in the world why I should not mention the name—Messrs. Shoolbred and Company, who support the Volunteer Force in a most liberal and generous manner, who equip and support a company entirely at their own expense; who rent a range for it; who engage instructors for it, and do everything they possibly can to promote the efficiency of this company—doubtless, in some measure, from patriotic motives, but also, I am quite sure, because they believe, and their experience teaches them, that the very best men in their employ are those who devote their leisure time to physical development rather than to the dissipating amusements which are open to them in other channels. And if I mention the name of this firm it is by no means because they are superior to other industrial firms—for there are numerous business houses, not only in London but in other parts of the country; in Yorkshire I know several, in Sheffield several, who take exactly the same view, that the healthy recreation of their employes is a matter to them of very serious consideration. They know it is much to their advantage for their men to have their emulation fired, their honourable ambition aroused by military exercises, rather than that their energies should be sapped by pleasures impairing their efficiency for business. Now upon this National Defence Bill of last year I took the opinion of several large employers of labour—some of the largest firms in Yorkshire, employing 10,000 and 12,000 hands, and from all I received the same verdict—that they did not see anything in the provisions of this Bill which would prevent their retaining the services of any single individual. Holding, then, the views which I do, knowing from personal experience and from having taken, in some measure, the feeling through the Captains of companies of the Queen's Westminster Volunteers, which I have the honour to command, it was upon that ground I strongly supported the volunteer clause in the Bill last session. I hope that there may be a full and free discussion, and I have extremely little doubt that the result will be to show that this meeting and a very large proportion of the Volunteer Force cordially agrees with Colonel Hadden, and is most anxious to support the Secretary of State for War, and our most excellent friend General Fremantle, the Deputy Adjutant-General, in every step, in every measure which may be undertaken to improve the efficiency and increase the utility of the Volunteer Force.

Major W. E. HEATH: I have been, Sir, for rather more than twenty-nine years in the force, and from my experience I believe that you cannot ask the Volunteers for more than they are ready to give, within their ability. I am only going to speak on one point on this occasion, as I agree with the lecturer on all points. I believe that no Bill introduced into Parliament would be perfect unless provision were made in it for the wives and families of men whilst engaged on active service, or away from their employment, as well as a provision for the results of active service when your men are killed or wounded. We must remember this, that men taken for active service would be taken away from their employment, and there is no doubt that

90 per cent. of the Volunteer Force are mechanics, or employés of one sort or another, entirely dependent, with those belonging to them, on their earnings from week to week. The Government must look this fact in the face, *that in the absence of the breadwinners of the families, they will have to provide for those families.* I am perfectly certain of this, that it would take all the go out of the men if they knew that whilst they were fighting for their country their families were left dependent on charity of any sort. Those wives and families must feel that they are entitled to demand support from the Government, and the men must *know for a certainty* that their families will be taken care of in their absence by the 39 millions—for that is what it comes to—of the stay-at-homes, and the amount of allowance settled beforehand by Act of Parliament, thus giving the men the option of resigning during peace if the terms were not satisfactory. I have nothing further to say; I know for myself what I should do, and I know from thousands of men who have passed under my control during nearly thirty years, what would cement their patriotism, and I also know that you could increase your force by hundreds of thousands if you would only have something definite on paper, so that a man who volunteers might know that when he left his employment and his home to defend all the rest of the people who *did not go away*, and all the property of which *he owns so little*, he should be assured that those whom he left at home would be properly cared for, and not treated as paupers, or left to the tender mercies of the broker or relieving officer, or relegated to the workhouse.

Colonel MACRIS: I rise with great diffidence to speak in such an audience as this, but I may say I joined the Volunteer Force in 1859, and have had, I think, as much experience as anyone in this room. For nine years I served as a private, and for the remainder of the term I have been an Officer, and for seventeen years a Commanding Officer. I entirely dissent from the view put forward by Colonel Howard Vincent, and my reason for doing so is explained in the 20th paragraph of the paper read by Colonel Haddan, namely, that "Volunteers are civilians first, and soldiers afterwards," for that is what the War Office and the authorities are very apt to forget. It is all very well to say that when they are called out for active service those who remain at home should pay for their wives and families, but I have known many cases of men being asked to resign their employment because they went for a week into camp. Such cases do occur. Colonel Howard Vincent spoke about large employers of labour, and mentioned the name of Messrs. Shoolbred. Of course it is very patriotic of Messrs. Shoolbred to pay what they do, but I think they should not be called upon to do it—no one should be called upon to put his hands into his pockets in that manner. The country generally should provide for the Volunteers, and it should not be left for private firms to do it. It is all very well for large employers of labour to take such steps, but take the case of the small employer, who has but two hands to do the whole work. One of them goes away for a week's camp, and the other is left to do the work. Then if he goes against the will of his employer he is turned out of his employment or threatened, and he cannot go to camp. I think the difficulty is very great, and we ought to recognize that the men are civilians first and soldiers afterwards, which we do not sufficiently do at present. I am not at all criticizing Colonel Haddan's paper, because in my experience I never came across a paper written so much in the interests of the Volunteers as this one. I may mention that I have pointed out to Colonel Haddan a mistake occurring in the 4th paragraph, which he has promised to set right.

Major TODD, Middlesex Artillery Volunteers: The question before us, I take it, is the defence of the United Kingdom, and therefore I hope you will allow me to range a little further than other speakers have done in maintaining that the very first thing that should be done is the strengthening of the Navy, so that our food supplies may be all right. At the same time, seeing that it will take three or four years before we can get the vessels that are required, is it not madness on our part to leave our people unprepared for war, or to defend their country from invasion? Are we going to be disgraced again, as we were in the Crimean War, having to hire German soldiers to come here and defend our women and children? I think it was the most disgraceful thing I ever saw in

¹ A misapprehension which was corrected by the Chairman.—Ed.

my life. I remember when I went with my father to Folkestone I saw German soldiers doing Englishmen's duty. I said to my father, "Who are these men?" I had been used to seeing our long-service soldiers there, but when I saw these men I was astonished. My father said, "These are German mercenaries." I replied, "I will do all I can when I get to be a man to alter that state of things," and I have been trying to do so since. That is why I joined the Volunteer Force thirty years ago, and assisted in forming what is now a very large battalion. I brought my sons up in the same way; they were both commissioned when they were seventeen, and passed through Woolwich and Shoebury. I then took them to the infantry barracks of the Coldstream Guards to serve their time there, so as to be able to drill their men, for I don't believe in Officers taking their men in Hansom cabs, when ordered to march them from one part of town to the other, but believe they should be able to train their men at infantry drill, and so move their men as infantry, as well as at their artillery work. I then passed them through the cavalry, so that you see I have some strong motives in speaking in the way that I do at the present moment. You will excuse my warmth if I say that I do not consider an Englishman is worthy the name of an Englishman unless he belongs to some service. When we started the Volunteer Force we worked hard; we trained our fellows in boxing, fencing, and in riding, so that we were able to get up the Royal Military Tournament, which I had the honour of promoting with General Burnaby, some ten years since, and which has done so much towards feeding and schooling the orphans and widows of our soldiers. I hope the women of this country will refuse to have anything to do with men who will not only say they are prepared to defend their country if it is attacked, but will prove that they are prepared to defend it by the practice and study of drill and of the science of war, the same as a man should be able to box in order to defend his own women and children. That is my way of looking at it. We are coming to the times of the survival of the fittest, and it is time the House of Commons looked at this question from that strong point of view. Instead, we have the waste of time which is going on in the House at the present moment, and which is a disgrace to the country. Unless we are back to back in this matter we shall be like the single reed, and not like the bundle of sticks. "A house divided against itself will fall," therefore all classes of the community should work together to see that the country is prepared. Never mind the expense! What has the Treasury to do with it? We are the taxpayers; we have been giving our time to the Service. We have been told that Messrs. Shoobred give money to support their company; God forbid that this should happen in my regiment! I would refuse to find the equipment. It is a disgrace to the nation that we should be called on to equip our men. We are not beggars, and will not accept charitable contributions; let the country find the guns and equipment, with ranges, &c.; we give the time and labour. I say the whole of the Volunteer Force should be first equipped, and then the Navy can go on building in the meantime. Why should we be protected by the Navy? As Englishmen we are not worthy the name if we are not prepared to defend our shores. In case the Navy got the worst of it, as might happen, and the enemy come on shore, then how shall we protect our shores? There has been an immense amount of talk about defending the heart of the country, meaning London, by two army corps. We see these two army corps on paper, but we have never seen them on the ground. But even supposing there are two army corps to defend the heart of the country, I defy those two army corps to defend our shores. When I was a pupil of Langham's, and also practised with fencing masters, did they tell me to defend my heart as the only part of my anatomy to be defended? Certainly not. They taught me to defend any part of my anatomy that might be attacked to the best of my power, therefore we must be prepared to defend every part of the anatomy of our country in the same way. You must equip your men, you must do all this sort of thing. And then look at the good effect the practice of drill and discipline has upon the men themselves. It has done a great deal of good; many men who would have been very bad characters are now first class men, simply through passing through the Volunteer Force. And then look at what these men are able to do. I don't say it out of mere brag, but this year I took the Silver Cup with eighteen of my young men, that I had only had two years in my battery. They took it for exercising a 40-pr., although we had to compete

against the arsenal men who came from Woolwich. I say if you will only train these men you ought not to put them to a penny expense; it is good enough for them to give up their time and their leisure, and to go and do the work, and prepare themselves to defend the country. We are told that the country is in danger; each party in politics tells us so; each party in the country tells us we are dependent on the Navy. They say you are in danger. This would not be the case if the public would only look at the question calmly, and if it were put before them by the authorities in a clear and sound manner, that every man, I would say every male above sixteen years of age, capable of doing duty, should be called upon to join the Volunteer Force, and pass as efficient. The fact of having to do twenty drills a year is no great hardship; my men do 100, and I do it with them. If everyone should be compelled to do twenty drills a year, and to pass also for shooting, you must then have butts all over the country, the same as our forefathers had at the doors of the people. I don't mean a single butt, like that at Wormwood Scrubs, where they put a prison at the end of it to stop shooting there. I say you ought not to abolish a single butt, but you should increase them all over the country, where the people may go and have some practice before they set out on their work in the morning, or after they get home from their work at night, because I find that the men are willing to get up at five o'clock for the purpose, if they get the chance. We must make every man pass his examinations in drill and in the use of the Morris tubes, and get the butts in the meantime. If you will only do that, we shall always be able to meet our enemy. Let the Army go abroad, let them go to our coaling stations, Colonies, send them anywhere you like, because we should have our men ready at any spot that might be attacked; we can defend our own shores, and if we cannot defend them, we deserve to lose them.

Lieutenant-General Sir HENRY HAVELOCK-ALLAN, U.C., M.P.: I have been very much struck, Sir, by some remarks which fell from the last speaker, and in nothing do I agree with him more entirely than in that which I have ascertained by my own experience, that the time has almost come when you have got to the limit of what the Volunteers may be expected to do as to putting their hands in their pockets. I believe that there is no limit whatsoever to the patriotism and the good spirit that they display, and also the extent to which they are anxious to avail themselves of every possible opportunity of military instruction. During the short time that I have had the honour of holding my present post I have found that there are no difficulties raised on the part of the Volunteers, although there may be on the part of the authorities, who to a certain extent do not appear to appreciate as much as they might do the advantage of placing facilities in the Volunteers' way which the Volunteers themselves desire in order to make themselves militarily efficient to any extent possible. It is in connection with that that I should like to say that I think the fact has not sufficiently impressed itself on those in authority that the time has now definitely come when, if the Volunteers are to take part in the organization of this country for national defence, when the regular forces may be withdrawn under any circumstances, such as the last speaker has foreshadowed, you cannot expect the Volunteers or their Officers or supporters to do much more pecuniarily than they have already done. Men and Officers are ready to give their time and their leisure, they contribute greatly in money also, but I think, if they are to be organized, as we hope they are, effectively as field brigades, one of the first steps towards that should be that the Secretary of State for War should recognize that every article of their equipment ought, as far as possible, to be supplied to them at the expense of the nation at large. How is it possible, for instance, for their carriage to be organized so that they can go out and move in brigades unless a little more liberality is shown in the matter, and inducements are held out to people to provide the men with the necessary horses and carriages? As regards equipment, one difficulty is that you cannot absolutely in certain months get the battalions in brigade together at all, simply because they could not undertake the railway journey because they have no great coats. You cannot ask a man to sit for hours in a railway train in winter without a great coat. Then in the matter of leggings, and boots, and ammunition-pouches, and other facilities for carrying ammunition. I think all those things are matters of absolute necessary equipment and ought primarily to be supplied by the Government itself. As regards one point, perhaps Colonel Hadden would

permit me to say I think he has fallen into some error. Without speaking of a matter which might be supposed to be secret, I was one of those entirely opposed last year to the National Defence Bill in the shape in which it at first stood: and although I for one did not oppose the Secretary of State for War upon it openly, I had no hesitation in expressing to him the views which I know are held by a great part of the Volunteers in the North of England, namely, that if the compulsory clauses as they then stood had been carried out, the effect on the Volunteer Force would have been that they would probably have led to the disbandment of half the force. I think Colonel Haddan goes to this point, that under a future modification of this Bill—which we hope may be brought in, perhaps this year or the year after, when the authorities have had more experience of the responsibilities of volunteers under the new organization into mobile brigades—some of the offensive and harmful features of the late Bill may be struck out, and a better Bill framed. The first step towards that is, that it shall be done in accordance with the wishes of the Volunteers themselves. I should like not only to ascertain, if possible, the opinion of every Commanding Officer, but also of every Officer, and almost every individual man. I may say that I myself, when the Bill was first introduced, suggested to the Secretary of State for War that it should be suspended for the present until he had asked every Commanding Officer of every corps in the kingdom, by circular, exactly what the men would think it right to do, and what they would think beyond the limits of what they should be called upon to do as Volunteers. I believe, if the Bill had been passed upon information obtained in that way in the first instance, there would have been no difficulty at all in its universal application throughout the country. I deprecate in the strongest possible way the idea that Volunteers should in any way be treated like the other defensive forces of the country. They are, in the first instance, civilians before they are soldiers, and the only way of getting the utmost voluntary efficiency out of them is to make your system applied to them as flexible as possible, and to endeavour to enlist the active co-operation of every man by suiting your military circumstances to his particular individual circumstances. Then as regards the future, I trust that that course will be pursued, and that the authorities will at each step proceed by first ascertaining the individual opinion of the men, because it must be recollected that a Volunteer Force is not composed of Officers alone. The man, after all, is the individual unit that you want to get at, because if he does not choose to come out he won't come out. I hope further steps will also be taken as to supplying qualified Staff Officers for the mobile brigades. The suggestion made by Colonel Haddan that a smart Adjutant should be attached to the Horse Guards is, I think, not necessary, because we have already the Inspector-General of the Auxiliary Forces, who has at his disposal the very best practical information as to every brigade and Division, and every individual regiment; and I trust one of the steps that will be taken will be to supply each of the brigades with a thoroughly qualified Staff Officer—not necessarily regular Officers—but if in some cases it may be found that the volunteer Brigade-Major would be the best Brigade-Major, at all events the very best qualified Officer should be attached for the onerous duties of the Staff to each brigade, which demand a set of qualities which it is almost impossible to unite in one man. Anyone connected with Volunteers knows how very desirable it is that their rough points should not be touched, and that in developing their military form they should be led rather than driven. I thank you very much for allowing me to make these remarks. I know I am representing the views of other General Officers in the same position as myself commanding volunteer brigades, that they desire to have every possible information from the individuals composing those brigades, and hope that the information that may be gathered in the next few months may lead to making our Volunteer Force more effective than it is at present, and will carry with it the voluntary co-operation of the great body of Volunteers for the great work of national defence.

Colonel HUMMEL: I think we are greatly indebted to Colonel Haddan for giving us the most favourable opportunity for discussion that Volunteer Officers have had for some time. For my own part I was strongly in favour of the retention of the volunteer clause in the Defence Bill of last year. I felt it was a great promotion of the Volunteer Force that it should be so included, and that a great blow was

dealt to it when it was struck out. I do not myself believe that any man who enrolls himself in the Volunteer Service would consider, for one moment, whether such a clause would affect his future prospects. I think he enrolls for the pure love of soldiering. I think also that we are perhaps apt to overlook what the condition of the country would be supposing such a clause ever were put in force. Where would business be in the case of threatened invasion? Would not the whole commercial arrangements of the country be entirely upset? Would not the nation be seized with a military *furor* which would induce men to throng the military centres and enlist wholesale? I think there is not the smallest fear in the world that the Volunteer Force will be affected in any way in strength except favourably by the replacing of such a clause in the Defence Bill. I should, therefore, strongly advocate that some steps be taken by the representatives of the Volunteer Force in the House of Commons for the immediate re-introduction of some such clause. I do not say a compulsory clause, but that power should be reserved to call out such portions of the force as would be able to go out on these occasions. There would in such a case be no invidious distinctions. I might not myself be able to go out, but if any one in my employ, who, I could spare, wished to go, I would readily let him take those duties which he might be called upon to perform in the absence of the regular Army. That I believe is the *raison d'être* of our existence, and therefore we should have every opportunity provided for us to exercise ourselves on these occasions. A very large proportion of the force would be able to go out in the event of an army corps being called abroad, and they would be relieved from time to time; but really I am quite certain that if such powers were reserved it would not affect the Volunteers further than to improve their status in public opinion. Now, with regard to the question of brigade organization, I think it is a very grand step and one which ought to have been taken long ago. It is simply what was wanted. It is an initiatory step, but it is one of enormous importance, and can be carried out with very little trouble and with no expense whatever. Colonel Hadden puts his finger on a great defect in the Volunteer Service, viz., the want of knowledge of the requirements of the Service at Headquarters. I suggest, with all due deference to the Brigadier-Generals, that this might be done through the brigade organization. It was impossible to help, under the circumstances, the very great variation of conditions under which the Volunteer Force was formed. But military bodies require uniformity, and the variations in equipment, in discipline, in command, and in everything connected with the corps are enormous in the Volunteers of to-day, and they counteract, to a great extent, the efforts of the authorities to produce any uniform action. I take it it would be easy for Brigadiers—although it would require some considerable increase in their Staff—to keep in daily touch with every regiment, to ascertain exactly the whole of the details of their interior economy; to know, as well as the Commanding Officer and Adjutant himself, the ins and outs of every regiment, and, as far as possible, to put their discipline and interior economy, and even their financial affairs, on an equal footing. Through them the authorities, the higher authorities at the War Office, would know what regiments are wanting, as to details of equipment, and the various difficulties regiments suffer under for want of drill ground, want of shooting accommodation, what regiments are able to do certain drills in the year, to go to Aldershot, or so on. Every effort should be made to introduce one uniform system. Why should one regiment be able to build handsome quarters while another has to drill in the street? Why should one regiment have a splendid rifle range close at hand when another has to go 20 miles out? All these questions are mere matters of trouble. It is not a matter of expense at all. A mere Act of Parliament would produce the ground for rifle ranges. We have miles and miles of ground on the river marshes, for instance, on which rifle practice could be made; a mere Act of Parliament could enforce the purchase of ground which would produce a range, and the Volunteer Force would be only too glad to repay the Government by a rent. The same thing may be said with regard to drill-grounds. A mere Act of Parliament would be required for the acquiring of property in London to accommodate the various regiments according to their necessities, and they could be repaid out of the Capitation Grant. I am sure I am quite right in saying if anybody would take the trouble—that is all it wants. That having been done, we should get one

step towards a complete army. As to transport and great coats, we do not always want to carry great coats, but we should very much like to know that we could always get them when they are required. We do not always want to be followed about by carts and that sort of thing, but we should very much like to know that they are forthcoming when required. I do not see why regimental Commanding Officers should be required to make inquiries as to whether carts could be obtained if wanted; why should not that be done on a system from Headquarters; why should not they be apportioned to us when we are called out? I think it would be such a very easy matter—it only wants somebody in high authority to move in it.¹ There are many other difficulties which I cannot go into which would be overcome in that way. Let us take the question of the want of Officers. To my mind, to a large extent, it is caused by the Service not being good enough. So much is required and so little given—and really it is getting harder and harder every day. I do think that if steps of this kind were taken, and we were made to feel that we were a real actual force, not doing just as we like, one regiment having beautiful headquarters where they can hold dances every night, and another regiment having no headquarters at all; if it were understood that there was one uniform system, that we all had equal accommodation and advantages, and that if we did not all do well alike we should be dealt with accordingly, the public would then know that we were a good and valuable force, and certainly we should be well officered.² It is a most melancholy thing to see a Secretary of State for War stand up in the House of Commons and say that from various reports he had received, some volunteer regiments were good enough to be put alongside regiments of the line, and others could not be trusted to face a disciplined foreign army. Why should that condition of affairs exist? Who is responsible for it? Is not the Secretary of State for War himself responsible? I do not know anyone else who is. I think by the exercise of common-sense all these difficulties might be got over, and the Volunteer Force would thereby be greatly benefited.

Mr. J. R. MacDONNELL: Might I say one word with regard to an observation that fell from Colonel Hummel? He said the dropped clauses would not be objectionable because the country would be in a peculiar state of ferment at the time that would come into operation. The position of those who, like myself, opposed these clauses was, that by the conditions they might *legally* be put in force when the country was *not* in such a condition of ferment.

Colonel BLUNDELL, M.P.: There is a point that has come under my notice, having the honour to command one of the volunteer brigades, and that is the difficulty of getting anyone in the country to take the initiative in getting up a fund to obtain the equipment to complete the different regiments. The Lord Mayor of London has shown his appreciation of the necessity of the Volunteer Force being equipped. He has passed Temple Bar in taking in the metropolitan Volunteers; and if a case ever arose in which the metropolitan Volunteers were used, the volunteers of the country would also be required. I would therefore strongly urge the Lord Mayor to make the fund he is raising a national fund. As far as I could judge, I think it would cost probably something between half a million and a million to complete the equipment of the Volunteer Force—that is, less than the cost of one ironclad; and if our force was properly equipped—even if we were to look upon it from the naval aspect that has been so much spoken of—it would free our Fleet to an extent that would be far more than the value of a single ironclad. I am anxious to urge that strongly, because I find in the country while people are

¹ It appeared from the observations of the gallant Chairman that I did not make myself clear on the subject of transport. I hold that it should be organized by the War Office on a wide and comprehensive basis, the whole carrying capacity of the country being registered and apportioned to districts and regiments.

² The report omits some remarks by which I meant to convey the opinion that from the peculiar conditions, chiefly traditional, but largely existent, of the Volunteer Force, the position of an Officer is not endowed with such a degree of distinction, in comparison with the other Services, as to counterbalance the great and increasing work it demands.

friendly disposed towards the equipment you cannot get anybody to take the initiative. There is another point I am anxious to say a word upon, and that is this question of the clauses in the Defence Bill of last year. I think they want to be more thoroughly understood by the Volunteer Force. My impression is the Secretary of State for War was anxious to take a power, but that the Volunteer Force might have trusted him not to have exercised that power in an improper way. Because, you must recollect, you can only call the volunteers out in case of actual or apprehended invasion. Well, it might be very objectionable to a Government to have to say they apprehended invasion: if they did, the Government would not like to have to say so: therefore it wants something more. Now, what was suggested to me—and what appears to me to be right—is that a Government ought to have the right to embody the Volunteer Force if they are prepared to announce on their responsibility, as a Government, that they will bring in a Bill to suspend the "Ballot for the Militia Suspension Act." This would show the country that there really was a crisis which required the Volunteers to be embodied. If that Act were suspended every rich man, or in fact everybody, would feel that he was liable to serve in the militia, and that therefore it was necessary for him to do his utmost that the Volunteer Force which came forward should feel secure that there should be separation allowances for families, and that funds would be got up. I think if the Government, upon its responsibility as a Government, was prepared to declare that the Ballot Suspension Act for the militia ought to be suspended or repealed, that then you would find you could use your Volunteer Force, that then you would find the Volunteer Force would come out, and no one would suffer; and if the Volunteer Force were properly supported by localities—localities who so supported the Volunteer Force might thereby prevent the necessity of the militia ballot being enforced.

Major BARRINGTON FOOTE, R.A.: I had not the slightest intention of speaking this afternoon. I have myself had nothing whatever to do with the Volunteers except that for some few years I used to go down on the Staff to Wimbledon, and I remember those times with very great pleasure. I wish, however, to show good comradeship on the part of the arm to which I belong. I am sure none of us in the regular Army wish the Volunteers to think that in any great question of this sort they are left entirely to themselves; and I am further sure I am only expressing the feeling of my brother Officers of the regular Army in saying that that is not the case. We take the keenest interest in matters concerning the Volunteers and all that has to do with their progress, organization, and efficiency. One point brought forward by two or three speakers is that there should be plenty of rifle ranges and plenty of butts spread all over the country, so that it would be easy for Volunteers to go out and practise rifle shooting before or after their regular day's work. That is no doubt greatly to be wished, but it is very difficult to attain. The firearms of the present day have increased this difficulty. I belong to the Royal Artillery, and it may surprise many to hear the range required for the guns of my own battery (12-pr. B.L.) is such that we have only one land-range in the whole of England where we can practise, and that is on Dartmoor, at Okehampton. We used to have other practice grounds, but they are useless for this new gun. By that I do not mean to say the actual range we are firing at could not be obtained, but that is not the only question. It is the ricochet shot, where the shots may go on to. So then you have to consider for long-range rifles, with very flat trajectory, not only the butts but the whole country. That is one difficulty in obtaining numerous rifle ranges. It is true you do not want the ranges as extensive as we do for cannon, but still modern rifles and modern musketry do make it much more difficult to get ranges which give sufficient country beyond, unless you have precipitous hills or cliffs at the back.¹ The sum total—the essence of what most of the speakers have been advocating—is simply money, more money. Nobody has said that in so many words, but that is what it comes to. I am sure everybody wants the Volunteer Force to be as efficient as possible, but that efficiency must touch

¹ I am alluding, of course, to practical work, such as *firing* other than independently and at unknown ranges not only where individual—and individual firing alone—is practised.

finance. Whether it is a question of equipment, or of rifle ranges to be bought, or butts to be built, or of transport, or of providing for the families of those who may possibly at some time be crippled on active service—every one of these points means outlay. Most of them mean outlay *now*. Equipment, butts, ranges, transport—that means money at once to be voted, and we know that this must come before the House of Commons, and we also know very well that a great increase of the Budget, unfortunately, either for the Army or Navy, is not received with entirely unanimous approval in that assembly. My opinion is that any Government—I do not care which party is in power—would be unwilling to ask for a large extra expenditure, absolutely necessary as it is, unless they felt that the public were on their side, and that such an expenditure would be popular with the people generally. Of course it would be popular with us. After all, it seems to me that it is partly in the hands of the Volunteers themselves to convert the public. A little leaven will leaven a whole lump. You have a very large leaven in the volunteer body, and if the whole of the Volunteers will set to work to convert the British public to the absolute necessity of this extra expenditure, it might then be brought forward with confidence. I am not advocating public speaking, but quiet talking together over the fireside. If the whole of the Volunteers in the British Isles were really honestly to set to work, each in his own circle, I venture to believe the whole of the taxpayers of England might be won over. The Government would be perfectly well aware of this conversion of the public mind, and then, and then only, would it be willing to ask for such a large extra outlay as would be necessary.

Colonel HADDAN: There was one mistake I made in Clause 4. I said, "A recent case at Liverpool affords an example of the troubles that may ensue from such societies attempting to deal with ordinary matters of a military nature." I was informed officially—I may say semi-officially—that a certain society had been censured for some of its junior Officers mixing themselves up with the formation of a marching column at Easter. I have since been informed that the General commanding that district received an explanation from the Volunteer Officer of the district, and he stated that he was perfectly satisfied with the explanation that that Officer afforded. It is only an act of justice to say that I made the statement in perfect good faith. I was not aware at the time that the censure had been withdrawn—even if it were given.

The CHAIRMAN: My remarks will be very brief. I may say, offhand, I think almost every soldier agrees in substance with what the lecturer has stated—that the country has hitherto asked far too much of the Volunteers, and done far too little. I think everyone agrees to that. But, gentlemen, it is in your own hands. Every now and then you have an election; you send people to the House of Commons. If you would concern yourselves a little less whether he is a Tory or what is called a Liberal, and concern yourselves a little more about the defence of the country and the Volunteers, it would be better. I enjoyed immensely the eloquent speech of Major Todd. He has depicted rather a sorry aspect of things: my only consolation is that he and men like him have done so much to retrieve the negligence of the lazy ones. With regard to his experiences when he was young, with regard to the Germans, it is no doubt true that the Englishman, well paid at home when the country is in a flourishing state, does not care to go abroad anywhere. There are, besides, only a limited number of us; and those Germans, who irritated him when he was a little boy, were hired for the Crimea; and I believe we only brought them home here to England when, as usual, having started too late, the Crimean War was over before they arrived. I was interested in telling you that because we did not enlist the Germans to defend England. His suggestion that we should enlist the ladies on our side was carried out to our great detriment in 1831, for there is a country with which I had something to do, in South Africa where they appeared to have carried out his suggestion literally. There were three girls married on the morning on which we signed the Peace. I saw those three girls, and they had been waiting from before the outbreak for their marriage; but they said, "We do not want to marry till the war is over." So that that suggestion has been carried out by a race which we, unfortunately, once too much contemned. I think Colonel Hummel made a mistake in talking about the transport. He said we should find

it. Well, I have found that you men of business do your business much better than we do. We are finding the transport, because we give you the money. In the district from which I have recently come, every Officer who has been offered a sum of money has told me verbally, and officially on paper, that with the allowance the Government has given him, he could find the transport. There has been a complaint about great coats. Many corps have great coats, but if you are approaching the Secretary of State for War and asking him for money, you must expect he will be a little inquisitive as to what you do with your Capitation Grant, as to whether it is given away in prize meetings or as to whether it ends in inducing the men to go into camp. You have to consider that. I think you do not get nearly enough. I have said so publicly and privately. I have kept the cream of the thing for the end. I consider the City has behaved rather worse than all the rest of England—with regard to the Volunteers. I scarcely know anyone in the City who has come forward in the way in which the country gentlemen have done, and the City has seemed to have not the slightest interest in you. Well, I am happy to say, with the present Lord Mayor, we have fairly turned the corner, and we shall all be now too grateful to the City for what they are doing. I will, with your permission, read this paper: "The Lord Mayor would have been present to-day but is detained at a special meeting of the Corporation. He proposes to raise a fund of 100,000*l.* for the metropolitan corps." He states "that this movement is already spreading, and several Mayors of large provincial towns are following his lead." It only remains for me, in your name, to thank the lecturer for the interesting paper that he has read to us.