





REPORT OF A COMMITTEE

APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR

TO ENQUIRE INTO THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

TRANSPORT AND SUPPLY DEPARTMENTS

OF THE

A R M Y.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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1867.



Instructions for the Committee, &c.

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Sir,

I.

WAR OFFICE, June 29, 1866.

THE Secretary of State for War has had under his consideration that portion of the Report of the Committee on the Supply of Stores to an Army in the Field, dated 6th July, 1865, paragraph 9, which refers to the important subject of the arrangements to be made for executing the Transport duties of such Army, and fully concurs in the opinion of the Committee, that the question is one of such magnitude and importance as to render it most desirable that it should be fully and carefully considered, in order that, with the increased experience which has been gained upon the subject, both in China and New Zealand, such measures should be determined upon in time of peace as will prevent the uncertainty and confusion which would arise on the outbreak of war if the system to be adopted had then to be settled. His Lordship has, therefore, in concurrence with His Royal Highness the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, decided to appoint a Committee, consisting of the Officers named in the margin,* under your Presidency, for the consideration of this subject; and I am to request that you will be so good as to state when it will be convenient to you to assemble the Committee, in order that due notice may be given to the several members.

I am to enclose for your guidance a Memorandum of Instructions for the Committee, and a copy of the paragraph of the Report of the previous Committee to which allusion has been made; also a copy of the Regulations for the Supply of Military Stores to an Army in the Field, dated 26th February, 1866.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

EDWARD LUGARD.

General the Right Honourable

Sir H. Rose, G.C.B. and K.S.I.,

Commanding the Forces, Dublin.

Paragraph 9.

"Touching the question as to the Department upon which should devolve the control and management of the Transport duties for an Army, the Committee would respectfully suggest the early nomination of a special Committee for the consideration of the subject, agreeably to the intention expressed in Lord de Grey's Minute (26th July, 1864, ⁶⁷Gen. No. 2843), it being obviously of the utmost importance to the efficiency of an Army in the Field that it should be thoroughly matured, and its details systematized before the time arrives when some system, more or less effective and adapted for great emergencies, must be put into immediate operation."

* Lieutenant-General Sir J. Hope Grant, Quartermaster-General, G.C.B.; Major-General Sir D. Cameron, K.C.B.; Sir William J. T. Power, K.C.B., Commissary-General-in-Chief; Colonel G. Gambier, C.B., Deputy Adjutant-General, Royal Artillery; Colonel J. C. Kennedy, C.B., Commandant, Military Train; Colonel L. Shadwell, Unatt., Military Assistant, War Office.

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TURNER, Commissary-General PHILIP, C.B.
Transport ought to be absolutely at the disposal of the
Commissary-General—*Appendix xiii*, page 324.

V.

VAUCHELLE. (*Opinion quoted*)
Transport is the soul of an army—*Note on page 396*.

W.

WAGONS. *See* TRANSPORT, S.

WALKER, Colonel BEAUCHAMP.

Report on Prussian Transport for ammunition reserves
and for general service; *Appendix xxiv* and *xxv*.

WAR.

Modern war so rapid that nothing must be left un-
prepared (*Opinion of Recruiting Commission of 1866*)—
Report, note to § 34.

WAR OFFICE.

Too many separate functions are thrown upon Secre-
tary of State—*Balfour*, 2323. Holds the impracticable
liability of being responsible for every detail; will be re-
lieved by the appointment of Controllers—*ib.* 2436, 2454.
Should support the Control Department with all his
power—*ib.* 2456. Need for audit will be much reduced
by a local and departmental audit under the Controller—
ib. 2451.

On an army taking the field, a Board, composed of
the heads of the several departments, would assemble to
decide on its equipment—*Coffin*, 1975. Inconvenience
of Store Ledgers being transferred to Audit Department
—*ib.* 2055-2065.

The starting-point of the new system must be a com-
centration at the War Office—*De Fumblanque*, 2287-2289.

Would place all production and supply under a
Director-General of Artillery, assisted by a Director
of Ordnance, Director of Contracts, and Storekeeper-
General—*Gordon*, 636.

Would have a Parliamentary Under Secretary, a per-
manent Under Secretary to overlook the branches, and
the following great sections:—Military Correspondence,
Manufacture and Materiel, Works, Supplies; the last
under a military officer as Controller (*Opinion of late
Lord Herbert*)—*Report*; *note to § 35*. Council should
consist of two Under Secretaries, Secretary for Military
Correspondence, Inspector-General of Fortifications, Di-
rectors of Materiel and Supplies, and Commander-in-
Chief. In addition, there should be an Accountant-
General and an Inspector of Militia and Volunteers—*ib.*
Extended employment of military officers advocated—
Appendix ix.

The Directors of Stores and Manufacture should have
a common head, the Inspector-General of Artillery and
Ordnance, who should also have charge of the fixed
armaments in fortresses. Would have five great officers,—
Permanent Under Secretary, Intendant-General, In-
spector-General of Artillery and Ordnance, Inspector-
General of Engineers and Works, and Assistant Under
Secretary—to form, when necessary, a Board of Advice,
under the Parliamentary Under Secretary and Secre-
tary of State—*Leahy*, 2121-2241.

Professional experience, necessity for (*Opinion of
Mr. H. Mansfield*)—*Report, note to § 32*.

War Office should be a nucleus of valuable adminis-
trative officers (*Report of Committee on Military Organi-
sation, 1860*)—*Appendix viii*.

Would consolidate Directors of Ordnance and Stores
into a Director-General, with two branches under him:

WAR OFFICE—*cont.*

one for Production, the other for Supply—*Milner*, 1554.
Hopes to reduce the establishment—*ib.* 1568, 1569.
A Controller-General over everything is wanted at the
War Office—*Parkyn*, 1311.

War Office does at home much cash duty that abroad
is done by Commissariat—*Power*, 2703. Accountant-
General's Department might be largely reduced, if Staff
Pay Lists were certified by the district Generals, instead
of coming to the War Office—*ib.* 2755-2757. Its duties
should be judicial, not executive—*ib.* 2759. The War
Office now allows an account, authorises payment, and
then examines the account, rendering fraud easy—*ib.*
2761. Audit being separated, would abolish remainder
of department, and transfer duties to Military Account-
ants; three men out of four might be saved—*ib.* 2762.

Would put whole Ordnance Department under a
Director-General of Ordnance, and divide it into two
branches—*St. George*, 1024, 1025: one for production
and discipline, the other for supply; a deputy (called a
"Director") at the head of each branch, the former
being *ex officio* Commandant of Woolwich Arsenal—
ib. 1672, 1741. Ordnance Department should check
accounts of manufacturing departments, and not Chief
Auditor—*ib.* 1710. Director of Ordnance has no office
out of London—*ib.* 1734. Functions of Director of Con-
tracts—*ib.* 1724-1731, 1735, 1736.

Controller-in-Chief will have a new Office, which will
fully occupy him—*Stokes*, 2537-2540. Secretary of State
is represented abroad by the General in Command—
ib. 2543, 2544. The proposed consolidation of branches
would reduce correspondence—*ib.* 2601, 2602.

War Office, its functions and rights (*Trevelyan*)
Appendix vii, § 4-10.

Chief Controller should be a member of War Office—
Report, § 13. Administrative sub-departments should be
represented by officers under him—*ib.* § 32. The first
Chief Controller should be a military officer of high
rank; afterwards he should be selected from Control
Department—*ib.* § 131. Should supersede the present
Department—*ib.* § 133. Director of Ordnance
and Barrack Departments—*ib.* § 133. Director of Or-
dnance to form the administrative head of the Ordnance
Department, and to continue to supervise the manufac-
turing departments—*ib.* § 104.

WELLINGTON, Late Duke of. (*Opinions quoted*)

Insisted strongly on the joint responsibility of Com-
manding Officers of Artillery and Engineers, with the
Storekeeper, for all warlike stores; *Gordon*, 636. Com-
missary-General ought to be relieved of a great part of
his responsibility as to accounts; *Report, note to § 15*.
Was jealous in maintaining the transport establishment
of Tipoo Sultan; *Balfour*, 2339. Advocated a military
system of transport; *Appendix xvi*, page 390.

WHEELS. *See* TRANSPORT, S. 1.

WOOLWICH ARSENAL.

Woolwich—A Controller of the Arsenal could only be
a high officer of the War Office—*Gordon*, 349.

There should be a Commandant—*McLeod*, 1573.
Is under the Secretary of State—*St. George*, 1673; but
under no executive officer below him—*ib.* 1674, 1675.
The storehouses are under Director of Stores—*ib.* 1686,
1686. It is very inconvenient to have two heads over
it—*ib.* 1683, 1684. If all the stores were under a Com-
missary of Ordnance, the objection would be removed—
ib. 1689; but sees difficulties—*ib.* 1690. Should have a
Commandant, and be under military discipline—*ib.* 1672.

See also STOKES, 13.

