

Forces at
Invercargill
and other
places.

The requirements of Invercargill and other places, which are not to be protected by local defences, have yet to be considered.

Invercargill, not being exposed to an attack by land owing to its distance from the sea, does not require a field force for its protection ; but it is advisable to maintain a small body of men for guarding the Bluff against the attacks, to which I have already shown it is likely to be exposed. A field force 250 strong, composed of a battery with three guns and two companies of infantry, will be found sufficient for the present. In time of peace the force might be reduced to 200 men.

At Timaru, Oamaru, Nelson, Napier, Gisborne, and other places on the coast which are open to attack, and where volunteer corps are already established, it is desirable to provide one strong company of infantry, a section of which should be instructed in field-gun drill ; the object being, as already explained, to simplify and place the defences of each place under the control of one commander.

Description
and strength
of local forces
required.

To sum up, therefore, the following is a statement of the description and numbers of the local forces required for the defence of the four principal harbors and cities, and of Invercargill :—

Description of Force.			Auckland.	Wellington.	Lyttelton and Christchurch.	Port Chalmers and Dunedin.	Invercargill.	Total.
Coast Artillery	{	Constabulary ...	25	25	25	25	...	100
		Naval Brigades	100	100	100	100	...	400
Torpedo Boats' Crews ...			20	20	20	20	...	80
Volunteer Garrison Artillery			...	...	...	80	...	80
Total for Coast Defences ...			145	145	145	225	...	660
Field Forces (Volunteers)	{	Mounted Detachment ...	30	30	30	30	...	120
		Artillery ...	70	70	70	70	50	330
		Engineers ...	50	...	50	...	...	100
		Infantry ...	400	400	400	450	200	1,850
Total for Field Forces ...			550	500	550	550	250	2,400
GRAND TOTAL	{	War Establishment ...	695	645	695	775	250	3,060
		Peace Establishment* ...	480	430	480	560	200	2,150

Having decided what should be the strength and description of the troops, required for the scheme of defence proposed for New Zealand, the next step is to ascertain whether they can be furnished from the existing local forces.

The following tabulated statement—taken from a report on the Volunteer Force, presented to both Houses of the General Assembly in 1879—gives the volunteer corps in existence on the 30th June 1879.

* The detail of the peace establishment will be found in the Appendix.