General Muster of your force by parties of 100, once a Month or at any other period, the Superintendent should ask each Subdivision, if they have rec.d their pay &c. & any man who has a complaint to make on that hand to step out. — Any of my people will afford Colonel Bowan or any other person, whom you may depute any detailed information as to the forms of Drafts which you may require. —

I am My dr. Sir
very faithfully Yrs.
(Signed) H. Hardinge

(copy)

War Office
Augt. 6. 1829.

My dear Sir Peel

I send you a weekly and Quarterly abstract of a Pay-List which are made out in the simplest form. —

I should prefer to pay the men weekly — the more frequent the payments the more sober the men are kept, & having families they require weekly settlements. In the Army we now pay the men daily & it has had a great effect in keeping them sober. —

I should prefer to pay the men on Tuesday or Wednesday — from Saturday

The Right Hon.d
R. Peel &c &c

Saturday till Monday night there is more drunkenness and idleness than during the remainder of the week. — The Police should therefore <u>touch</u> their money during the sober part of the week — —

Each man having a No. opposite his name should always be paid under that particular No. & I am persuaded you will find one constant No. affixed to each man's name very useful for a variety of references of Duty, Discipline, Record, as well as of payment: and I should think it worth while to give every man employed a separate & perpetual No. You will find him readily in every Report — his Arms, Clothing &c conduct &c can be simply marked & Classed. —

The Quarterly Abstract will show the money received and disbursed. — The 13 weekly Payists appended to it will be the Vouchers for Payments made — The 13 weekly Drafts made by order of G. Dept. will correspond with the sums received, & four sheets of paper will constitute the Annual Acct. commencing 1st Jan.y & ending 31st Dec.

Insist on the Payists commencing say 5. Oct & ending with the last day of the month & year. — The first pay list may be a broken period. —

The men being paid in the middle of the week, the chief of each party of 150 Policemen should on the Monday examine & certify the Acct. & if you have any

at the Ordnance Board, whether or not the whole of the Pensioners ought not to be transferred to the Chelsea Board, it may be for the Government and the Master General to decide whether any alteration should now take place

I have the honor to be

(signed) H. Hardinge

(copy)

War Office
9 August 1859

My Lord

1. I send your Lordship the proposed warrant & Regulations relating to Pensioners. —

2 The existing warrants and Regulations ten in number have been partially revised but not cancelled. — I propose cancelling the whole, substituting the new Code, and applying it to all Men who may enlist after His Majesty has sanctioned it. —

3 Your Lordship will perceive that I propose no Soldier shall be permanently pensioned under 14 years service (unless wounded in Action)

The Right Hon.
Lord Beresford

4 I request to be favored with any observations on the proposed Regulations at your earliest convenience. –

5 I have not made any allusion to the Ordnance and Artillery Pensioners, altho' I am of opinion that their claims should be regulated by the same general arrangement – With regard to these Corps, I shall be glad to be favored with an early communication of your Lordship's views. –

6 I am aware of some peculiar circumstances attending the Service of the Artillery: such as the Artillery Soldier being now taught indiscriminately the duty of a Horse-Artillery-man, and an Infantry-Artillery-man, altho' a small proportion on the whole can either in War or Peace be employed as Horse Artillery. – It may therefore be worthy of consideration, whether a Soldier enlisting for either cavalry or Infantry Service, and being transferable from the one to the other, an intermediate Period of Service as giving claim to Pension may not be for the whole of these Military Corps the most equitable and simple arrangement, also whether the Act of Geo. 2.nd by which a deduction of 5 per cent is made from Military Pensions, should not henceforward be made applicable to the Ordnance Corps, as well as the rest of the Army. –

7 I think it right to notice these circumstances to your Lordship, and as the question has been raised,

Copie /

a Cambray ce 10. Aout.

Monsieur Le Général.

J'ai deja eu l'honneur de faire mon rapport a Sa Majesté de la satisfaction que j'avois eu dans la tournée que je viens de faire avec vous des Forteresses des provinces meridionales — La quantité d'ouvrage confectionnée dans le temps est vraiment etonnante, et avec les plans et la maniere dont tout est fini, fait le plus grand honneur aux talens de V. E. et des officiers de genie qui travaillent sous ses ordres.

Je desire cependant d'attirer votre attention, et celle de sa Majesté quelques remarques, que j'ai fait dans la derniere tournée.

V. E.

S. E. Le General Krasnokoff.

V.E se ressouviendra que dans le memoir que j'ai ecrit dans l'annee 1814 sur la defense des Pays-Bas, et dans la lettre que j'ai addressé a Sa Majesté au mois de Mars 1816. quand je lui ai envoyé les rapports des plans qui m'avoient ete soumis par ses ordres, j'ai detaillé les principes selon lesquels le systeme devoit en mon opinion etre reglé c'est a dire

1°. de rendre l'extreme frontière si respectable qu'elle ne pouvoit pas etre attaquée par coup de main et que le temps soit donné à rassembler les troupes pour la defense du pays.

2°. de s'essurer les communications avec les anciennes provinces de la Hollande

L'Angleterre et l'Allemagne.

En vue du premier objet, il me paroit qu'il seroit essentiel d'occuper Dinant, surtout puisq'il paroit que cela peut se faire a peu de frais, et que la garnison qui seroit exigé pour ce poste, ne seroit pas très important. Un poste a Dinant empêcheroit l'ennemi de se servir de la Meuse pour les transports pour l'attaque de Namur; de la grande route qui mène de Givet a Namur; de cette tres importante qui passe de Givet par Dinant et Ciney à Liege sans ~~passer~~ touch a Namur ni a Stecy.

Ainsi donc Dinant se liant avec Philippeville et Marienburg. seroit un ~~en~~ avant poste, excellent en avant

de Namur et de Liège, et empecheroit l'u-
sage des grandes routes qui y menent
et de la navigation de la Meuse.

Il me paroit aussi que te-
nant en vue le même objet il
seroit très à propos de detruire le
canal qui conduit de Mons a Condé
et d'en construire un qui iroit directe
de Mons a Tournay. - Je sais bien que
les canaux et les routes du pays,
ne sont pas du Report de V. E.; mais
quand ils rapprochent la frontière, ils
deviennent toujours des objets militaires
de grande importance. et voici les points
de vue sous les quels j envisage celui ci.

D'abord Condé et Mons n'appar-
tiennent plus au meme souveraine il
ne me paroit pas necessaire qu'il
existe

existe ce communication entre les deux Places
Le canal de Mons a Condé donne à l'ennemi
des facilités pour saigner les inondations de
Mons - Il n'est pas convenable que le commu-
nication par eau entre Tournay et Mons
passe par Condé -

Un canal qui iroit directe
entre les deux, rempliroit toujours l'objet
de donner une ligne militaire qu'il
y auroit tant soit peu de difficulté à
passer. Ces raisons sont tous applicables
à la defense des Pays Bas celle qui suit
ne le lui est pas proprement malgré
qu'il est important.

En coupant le canal de Condé
l'avantage de priver l'ennemi de par-
tie des eaux, dont en cas de besoin
on pourroit augmenter les inondations
de Condé même

Pendant que je discute la
question du Canal de Condé Je prie
V. E. de se resouvenir que les memes principes
s'appliquent au Canal

qui va de Neinport a Dunquerque. Ces deux plans appartenantes à deux souverains differens, il n'a pas de raison pourquoi il y auroit une communication par eau entre elles. il y a aussi cette raison additionelle, c'est que par le moyen du canal de Dunquerquerque l'ennemi pourroit en certaine degré saigner les inondations de Neinport. Le canal donc devroit être detruit entre Furnes et Dunquerque.

Je n'ai rien de plus a suggerer à V.E sur le premier objet mais c'est au second. de s'assurer les communications avec les anciennes provinces de l'Holland l'Angleterre et l'Allemagne, auquel je desire attirer votre attention.

Dans tous les plans que nous avons pris en consideration nous avons toujours basé en principe, que la possession de l'Escant etoit essentiellement necessaire.

Si on n'a pas l'Escant l'Angleterre pourroit envoyer des troupes a Ostende qui pourroient arriver dans l'interieur du pays mais comment communiquer avec elles? comment les renforcer si on n'est pas maitre du cours de l'Escant.

De meme la possession du cours de l'Escant est necessaire pour la sureté de communication de l'armée du Roi. qui pourroit se trouver en operation vers Mons. Toutes les entrées du pays entre Menin et Tournay, c'est a dire entre le Lys et l'Escant. etant ouvertes comment garder cette communication si les passages d'Oudenarde de Gand et de Dendermonde ne sont pas occupés par nous et se trouve dans les mains de l'ennemi.

Il y a un autre point de vue ou la possession de ces passages paroit absolument necessaire.

Nous mettrons l'hypothèse de l'armée de S. M et de ses alliés concentrée vers la Sambre, ayant en avant d'elle l'armée plus forte ennemie, que l'ennemi ne voulant pas engager une affaire generale.

voulut employer ses garnisons de Lille &c
a faire le siege de Menin ou d'Ypres
La premiere chose qu'il feroit seroit
d'occuper Audenarde, Gand et Dendermonde
et de tendre tous les inondations de
de Lys et de l'Escaut. et alors V. E.
verra que pour arriver au gauchée du Lys
il faudroit passer par Anvers. Ainsi
qu'on envisage la question comme on
voudra, on verra que la possession de ces
trois places sont importantes. J'en demande
donc avec urgence la consideration, et
je sais que, ou la facilité d'avoir un
grand jeu d'eau, ou que chacune des
trois possède, elles peuvent se fortifier
facilement, à peu de frais, et qu'elles
n'exigeront que des faibles garnisons
Pour ce qui regarde Gand, j'en
ferois un camp retranché, comme dans
la derniere guerre, dont la citadelle
seroit le reduit. Dans —

Dans la lettre que j'ai ecrit a S. M. au
mois de Mars 1816, je lui ai montri
l'importance de la ville de Bruxelles.
pour les communications du pays en gé-
nérale, et je lui ai proposé pour s'assurer
la construction de deux forteresses, dont l'une
en avant de Halle et l'autre en avant de
Waterloo. Ces forteresses serviroient de seconde
ligne a tout ce qui se fait a present.
Vous pouvez vous assurer que rien
ne servoit de substitut a ce que j'ai ci des-
sus proposé Un camp retranché a Bruxelles
ne serviroit de rien. L'occupation d'un tel
camp suppose que l'armée du Roi et de
ses alliés. plus faible que l'ennemi;
et dans ce cas là un mouvement de l'en-
nemi sur Malines ou sur Louvain l'en
deposteroit necessairement.
Je prie donc V. E de prendre en con-
sideration la mesure de construire ces for-
teresses. Tenant —

Tenant en vue l'objet des communications il y auroit beaucoup a faire dans le choix des lignes de Routes.

Par exemple il seroit fort à desirer d'etablir une route militaire de Maestricht a Anvers par Hassett et les sources du Demer et de la Rithe

Une autre route directe de Lohenen (par ou la Route passe d Anvers a Gand) à Bruges et de Bruges a Ostende derriere le canal et de Ostende le long des a Reinport seroit d'une grande avantage pour les communications. Les routes de Bruges a Zlustel et de Zlustel à Ostende Reinport et Thovont pourroient alors etre detruites avec avantage a la defense du pays. je sais que mettant de coté les canaux et Routes qui se payeraient aux minnes, ce que je viens de suggerer dans cette lettre couteràit de l'argent et malgré que je ne connois pas la defense de ce que se fait a present, j'ai raison de croire qu'elle est très grande. mais j'ai aussi des Ressources a suggerer.

D'abord il est mon opinion que à Mons on devroit être satisfait d'un revetement de deux tiers de hauteur

2 Il me paroit que ce n'est pas necessaire, d'occuper, et de fortifier la ville basse de Charleroi, surtout puisque'on a donné un front regulier a la forteresse de la ville haute du coté de la riviere. La ville Basse avoit été occupée autrefois, parceque dans l'ancien systeme de Charleroi, la ville haute ne contenait pas de l'espace suffisant pour les etablissements militaires qui y etoient necessaires. Mais dès qu'on à donné tant d'entendue aux ouvrages necessaires de la ville haute, cette raison n'existe plus. Les ouvrages de la ville basse ni l'occupation de son terrin ne sont nullement necessaires. Les premiers ne defendent pas la Ville haute et l'ennemi ne peut pas se servir du dernier pour.

l'attaque de la ville haute - Les Ouvrages de la ville Basse ne sont pas necessaires comme tête de Pont, sur la Sambre, parcequ'on peut passer la Sambre ou on veut. Il n'en reste pas donc, plus de raison pour fortifier la ville Basse de Charleroi, qu'il n'y a pas pour fortifier aucune bonne ville du Pays, et tout l'argent que ces ouvrages couteroient peut être economisé.

3 Il me paroit aussi qu'il n'est guère necessaire de revetre en maçonnerie la ligne qu'on fait a la ville de Namur.

Cette ville ne peut pas se defendre comme poste militaire et on ne peut compter que sur une defense contre un coup de main, par une partie de la garnison de la Citadelle qui y pourroit être detaché pour en garder les approches.

J'ai l'honneur ——

Signé / Wellington

Prince de Waterloo

what I understand; and
yet as they are not entitled
for Service Officers who should
be wounded as they have
been would not be entitled
to claim the grant
under the Article which
you have inserted to meet
the Duke's views as far as
you can & at the same
time to provide for cases
of severe suffering which
would be otherwise

Horse Guards
Aug 16. 1859

My dear Harding

I return to you the Warrant
and regulations for the grant
of pensions to Officers for
wounds and the papers
thereupon which you
transmitted to me at the
same time.

I have only to repeat, what
I have already stated, my
The Right Hon.ble Sir Hy Harding &c &c

entire concurrence in your views upon this question. I agree with the Duke of Wellington that the only certain way of keeping the administration of the Regulation clear from abuse is to limit it to those cases which are palpable, and yet even with the introduction of Article 12, Officers may be excluded from the advantages intended by the Legislature, whose claims can hardly be disputed.

Brevet Colonel Wade for instance have at this moment pensions. Their sufferings from the wounds they have received far exceed

Excluded.

Juni Faculteit

Letterkunde

Copy.

No. 640.

Comptrollers Office,
21st August 1829.

My Lords,

In obedience to your Lordships Commands signified to us in Mr Brooks Hawkes' Letter of the 8th August we have had under our early consideration a Letter from the Secretary at War, dated the 5th August 1829, respecting the difference of System which exists in the provisioning the Troops in Great Britain and in Ireland; and proposing (with a view to the general adoption of the measure, should the trial be found to answer) that Battalions at certain stations in England should be excluded from the next general Contracts to be made under the Commissariat Department for the supply of Provisions to the Troops in this Country, and that those Battalions should be allowed to provide their own supplies by Regimental agreements, according to the System in practice in Ireland.

In support of this proposition the Secretary at War states, that while to complaints have

The Right Honble
The Lords Commrs of the Mts Treasury

have been frequent, and proved to be well founded in England, against the general Contract System, particularly by Regiments returning from Ireland, the Regimental System in Ireland has given universal satisfaction; and that on an average of the three years 1824, 1825, and 1826, the excess of price paid by the Public for the Rations beyond the Sum to be paid by the Soldier, was in Great Britain £1733 a year, whilst in Ireland it amounted to only £15.12.—

The point that first strikes us on perusal of the Secretary at War's Letter is the difference of the practice at home from that pursued at our foreign Stations, as regards the proportions to be paid respectively by the Public and the Soldier, for the rations of the latter: The Maximum to be paid by the Soldier is in both cases the same, but on foreign Stations this proportion, or Stoppage, from the Man's pay is uniform; the Public defraying the excess when the price of the Ration exceeds the 6d: (as it sometimes does) and appropriating to itself the difference, as we think it is fairly entitled to do, when the cost of the Ration does not amount to the

Stoppage

Stoppage. Whereas, at home (as appears from Sir Henry Hardinge's Letter) although Government pays all excess above the 6d, the saving, when the price of the Ration is below it, becomes the property of the Soldier.

This last usage appears to us not only to be unjust in principle, but we suspect it to have a considerable share in causing the discontent which Sir H Hardinge describes as existing in Regiments returning to England from Ireland; where, in consequence of the greater cheapness of provisions, the profit to the Soldier above mentioned must be generally much greater, and of more frequent occurrence than in this Country.

We need hardly observe that this difference in the price of provisions in the two Countries fully accounts for one of the circumstances urged by the Secretary at War, in favor of a change of system in Great Britain — viz:, that a much larger average annual Sum has, within a given period, been paid in England than in Ireland, for the extra price of the Ration. In fact the Ration in Ireland may be said to have been uniformly supplied, during the period cited, at a price below 6d: as the trifling annual Excess paid there of £15.12.—

can

can only, we imagine, have been occasioned by some special circumstances of time or place. Inasmuch therefore, as the prices of Provisions may be higher in this Country than in Ireland, the Expense to the Public will be proportionately greater in this Country, whichever of the two systems of feeding the Soldier be adopted.

And to return to the subject of the difference between the usages at home and abroad, we may observe that, were the practice at home similar to that pursued at our foreign Stations, of making 6d the uniform charge to the Soldier for his Ration, the Public would, under a System of public Contract, profit considerably in Ireland, and indeed in many of the cheaper parts of England; (that is, it would, so far as the price of the Ration below 6d went, repay itself the extra expense to which it is liable on account of the Ration in dearer situations) and in one view of the question (as far at least as regards the pecuniary part of it) without any injustice to the Soldier.

We have taken the liberty of remarking incidentally on the mode of providing the Soldiers ration at our Stations abroad, and of stating our opinion of its superiority, particularly as regards the public interests, founded as it is on a system of public Contract, the only one applicable, we submit, to our Stations abroad; but we have not done so with any view of recommending the adoption of the fixed Stoppage in this Country, which might now, we apprehend, for many reasons be difficult to accomplish.

To proceed with the consideration of the measure proposed by Sir H Hardinge; Its professed object is to improve the diet of the Soldier, the cause as he says, of such constant complaint in England, under the present System, and at the same time to protect the Public from any additional expense; to ensure which last part of this purpose however, or rather to reconcile it with the other, (that is improving the Soldiers diet,) will, Sir Henry appears to admit, be in no small degree difficult. In the cases of the Ordnance Troops at Woolwich and Chatham, which the Secretary at War cites as examples of successful experiment of his measure, it appears that when the price of the Ration exceeded sixpence, reference was had to the Contract price in the County of Kent, for the purpose of fixing the limit to the demand upon the Public, for payment of the extra price.

The

The necessity of establishing such limit is obvious, to fulfil the condition under which the Duke of Wellington, when Master General of the Ordnance, allowed of the measure, and consequently still more so if the measure be extended; as without it, the Soldier, when allowed to provide for himself, and knowing that the Public must pay any excess beyond the sixpence, would, in times of scarcity, help himself to the very best provisions in the Market. The difficulty is to ascertain such a protecting standard for the public, in the total absence of any Government Contract to refer to. — The Secretary at War (though not very decided on this point) is inclined, for reasons adduced at length in his Letter, (which it is needless for us to transcribe) founded on calculations drawn from the Army Contract, for the last ten years, to fix the sum which the Soldiers Ration should properly cost, at $\frac{6}{10}$ of the price which the articles composing it, when of the best quality, cost in the Market: The rule to be deduced from which, as a safeguard of the public interest, is, that the sum to be paid by the public, as extra price of the Ration in times of scarcity, should not exceed the difference between $\frac{6}{10}$ and $\frac{6}{10}$ of the Market price of provisions of the first quality.

With all due deference to such an opinion as that of the Secretary at War; and more particularly on a subject which has doubtless been for a length of time under his consideration, and on which We, on the contrary, are called upon by your Lordships to pronounce somewhat hastily, we confess we do not, in our present imperfect acquaintance with all the bearings of the question, feel so sanguine as he appears to do of the success of the proposed measure. We are not inclined to dispute the existence, in great part, of the alleged grievances which have occasioned its suggestion: It is easy to imagine that Contractors, if not watched with the greatest vigilance, will endeavour to take unfair advantages; though it appears to us, on the other hand, that if the power, vested in Regiments, of holding Boards of Survey, and rejecting, if necessary, the Articles supplied, has not been found to afford adequate security to the Troops, it might be practicable, by the insertion of additional covenants in the Contracts, to enforce the delivery of Articles of the Quality agreed upon.

A principal reason of doubt with us respecting the success of the plan in question, is the belief that the Soldier will, very frequently, if not generally, find great difficulty in contracting

contracting for good provisions at $\frac{6}{10}$ of, or 40 per Cent under, the Market price of the best. Large Corps and Stationary, like those of the Ordnance, which have been mentioned, may do so; but we doubt whether the generality of the Troops dispersed throughout England in single Battalions and smaller detachments, will readily find tenders (required often of necessity for short, broken, and uncertain periods) at the same rate as those for Government Contracts, which are entered into on a large scale, and for long and certain periods. We imagine that it would not be difficult to describe many circumstances in which the Troops might be unexpectedly placed, and under which, in the absence of any public contract, they might find themselves compelled to pay the Market price itself for their subsistence; which Market price, if above the scale, must ultimately fall on the public, as the Soldier in no case by A. M. Warrant can be required to pay more than 6d.

In many places a difficulty would, we imagine, occur in ascertaining the Market price which is to regulate the standard of protection to the Public. In many, the usual Market price might suffer a very material rise in consequence of an unexpected influx of Troops; and in certain situations and under particular circumstances, the party supplying might possess the power of influencing the prices fixed as the Market price; in all which cases the public would be losers if the price were raised above the scale; the Soldier would cease to be a gainer; if the price were raised to 6d.—

The objections which we have submitted to your Lordships relate to cases wherein the price of the Ration may exceed 6d. Another possible tendency of the proposed plan, and an injurious one to the Soldier, occurs to us, viz. that when the ration is to be had at a price below 6d he may be tempted to receive inferior Articles of food for the sake of the pecuniary advantage to himself; and (as is observed by the Secretary at War, in his enumeration of the evils attendant on the Army Contract System) "by being left with a larger balance may be furnished with the means of mischief, without any corresponding advantage to Government."

We are aware that such an effect ought not to be feared in well regulated Corps; one of our most serious apprehensions however, as respects this plan, is, that although Commanding Officers of Regiments, and of Companies, will most probably be induced, by its novelty, to pay great attention for a time to its execution, the management of its details may, eventually, fall into hands into which it is not intended, and

and in which it is by no means desirable that they should be placed; those of the Quartermasters, and their Assistants.

Such fears may be groundless; we have thought it right, however, to express them. But in so doing, as well as in submitting the preceding observations to your Lordships, we beg to be understood, rather as conveying our ideas of the possible tendency and effect of the proposed measure, if generally acted upon, than as dissenting from the trial of it which the Secretary at War recommends to your Lordships, with the concurrence of the General Commanding in Chief. It may be naturally inferred that as the experiment has succeeded, to the extent stated, in the case of the Ordnance Corps at Woolwich and Chatham, no danger can be apprehended from the more extended trial now under your Lordships consideration. As long as the ration costs less than 6^D to the soldier it will work smoothly enough, as far at least as the public is concerned. But we suggest that whenever it happens, that an extra price is to be paid, the scale of $\frac{6}{10}$ (or whatever other standard may be devised as most effectual for protection of the public from any greater expense than it is subject to under the existing system of contract) should be capable of being rigidly

maintained

maintained; or the Public cannot be protected; for should the result of the experiment prove advantageous to the Soldier, although to the disadvantage of the Public, it might be found difficult to avoid extending the system to the Army in general. But in the event of the ration not being procurable within the scale which may be fixed, the public must still pay the excess above that scale, as by the Kings Warrant the Soldier at present can in no case be required to pay above 6^D for his ration as has been before observed.

We observe in conclusion, upon the statement of the Secretary at War "that the prices under the Army Contracts exceed in some instances the prices of the private tradesman and the best market price" that this circumstance may have arisen from a fall in the Market prices, subsequently to the formation of the contract, (a fluctuation to which all contracts are liable) or such might not be found to be the case upon an average of the prices embracing the whole district included in the contract.

We have the honor to be,
My Lords
Your Lordships
Most obedient
humble Servants,
(signed) J. King
W^m. Herries.

640. 21st August 1829.

Comptrollers

On Letter from Secretary at War with proposition for future supply of Bread and Meat to Troops in Great Britain. —

No. 14821

Recd. 22 August 1829.

Horse Guards.

26th Aug: 1829.

Sir,

Rec'd 28 Aug 1829

I have not failed to submit to the General Commanding in Chief your Letter of the - Instant, with its enclosure, and I am directed to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary at War, that His Lordship approves of the proposed alteration in the System of supplying the Troops with Bread and Meat, and is of opinion that it will be advantageous to the Soldier in every

L. Sullivan Esq

point

Immediate

33726
2

Letter.

Recd 28th

33726
2

Recd 25

Recd General Order

33726

point of view.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient

humble servant

Wm Ray Sumner

Wynyard Park
Sept. 28. 1829

My Dr Sir

Whatever my own Difficulties may be from my venturesome & aspiring Nature, & whatever Disappointments I may or shall be oppressed with — I hope it is not my nature, by any selfish considerations to frustrate the objects of my friends or Connections — I am free to own, I was not prepared for a Recall of your Loan, at so short a Notice, — and this year has been cruelly deficient in the Coal Trade. — However, these are my worries, — The 4000 shall be ready for you one way or other in the Month of January. — And with

respect to my consent as Trustee,
My principle is, that I entirely rely on
the Honor of any person, for whom
I am Trustee; I neither seek to entangle
them with difficulties nor charging Charges
of the Law, for Examinations, Opinions, &c.
& I shall be always ready to subscribe
my Consent to whatever the Man proposes
for whom I have undertaken a Trust
I only wish, I was so dealt with
by my Accommodating friend

Believe me Dear
Yours truly
Jane Londonderry

a proof of some kind
aide

20 Suffolk Street Pall Mall East

2 Septr 1829

Since Sir Henry Hardinge will "buckle fortune on a poor man's back" he shall be "spoken to as just as if he were the minister of Heaven sent down to search the secret sins of men"

The 'Post' cost 4 guineas & the 'Wind Greco' 3 pounds — as to exacting profit under such circumstances it would be like robbing a sanctuary —

R. Macdonell

Sir Henry's note caused keen sensation & would have caused keener, had not the reader been accustomed to the reception of such notes from the same hand.

Knightsbridge Barracks
Sept. 3rd 1829

Rec'd at W.O.
4 Sep 1829

Sir

Receiving by the new Contract Entered into between the Treasury & Army Contractors for Meat, that one Battalion in Middlesex is to be left out of the Contract, I beg leave to make application in favor of the 2nd Batt. Grenadier Guards under my command, as the Experiment has already been partially made, and

33726

33726
3

Adm. Office
Battalion
Chelsea
Thursday
1 p.m. 1829

33726
3

Sir
Your obt. Hble Servt
Chas. Wood
Lieut. Colonel
Commdg. 2nd Gds.

Lt. Genl. H. R. H. Duke of Clarence
&c &c &c

I have before requested to be
Exempted from an arrange-
ment so decidedly disadvan-
tageous to the Soldier as the
Contract System has been
proved to be — For many
Months the Soldier has been
paying a halfpenny for
each Ration of Meat more
than he would have had if
the Contract had not Exist-
ed until the late steps
were taken which have finally
led to the present new Regula-
tion the Meat furnished by
the Contractor in Portmandhest
Barracks was of inferior quality.

I have the Honor &c
&c
Your most obed Hble Servt
H Woodford Col
Commd
2nd Battn Grenr Gds

To the Rt Hon Sir
The Secretary at War
&c &c &c

Recd

33726/3

Has any answer been rec'd yet to the letter to Secretary of War Standing in Preparation regarding the subject?

3/9

No reply from the Treasury.

4/9 –

ask Treasury for reply, & if they have any objection to replying

Ball

Referring to your
of the 5th inst. to
the Supply of Bread
& Meat to the Troops
in Gt Britain
I have the honor
to request that I
may be favored
with the Decision
of the Lords Comrs
of H.M. Treasury
on the subject -

I have also to request
that I may be
informed whether the
Lords have any
objection to the 2nd
Bro of the Genl Order
being the Basis in
Future to be excluded
from the next Army
Contracts - W.T. 4/9

33726
6

Preping

~~Freg~~ ~~4/10~~

~~Dwfl~~ 4/11

~~Waiter~~ 4/11

1 per tele 10/11

33726
6

33726

Dr

Lr to Off. Comdg Genl. Hds
4/11/29

Mes 15 fo 160

33726

Distribution & Bread Rect. of the 2d Bn Grenr Guards to 24 Octr '29

I am dir. to rect. the rect of the Distribution & the Bread Rect. of the 2d Battn of the Regt under your Command ~~& to request that~~ for the month to the 24 October & to request that the Meat Rect for the same period may be immdy transmitted —

J W B
4/11

C O
Grenr Gds

[J. W. CROKER]

Sudbourne Park

Confidential 15 Sept. 1829

My dear Hardinge

The Duke has written to promise Lord Hertford a visit here, & on the receipt of his Grace's letter to day Lord Hertford asked me whether I thought he would like to meet Huskisson here, as he has been in the habit of

Yr Humble

Sir H. Hardinge K.C.B.

May I know whether he has met Huskisson since the last breach; or you may be able to guess how he would feel about meeting him again.

All I want is a hint — for I know Lord H. is so entirely devoted to the D. that he would not think of doing any thing which, by possibility, could displease him. Yours ever

Croker

Address one at the Admy.

of doing some great part.

I had some difficulty in answering the question, because tho' the Duke & Huskisson met here while his Grace was out of office, they have not, that I know of, met since Huskisson's resignation – Lord H. is very fond of Huskisson personally

personally (tho' he hates his commercial policy & is not sorry that he is out) & would be glad to continue to compose his parties on terms=fare – but I really know not what to say. – as you have the happiness of seeing more of the Duke than I do, you, perhaps may

am averse to making the experiment which you propose. It would only unsettle the minds of men as to what exists without ultimate benefit either to them or the public. You may however be able to devise some mode which has not occurred to me of fixing the Price. If you can do this I am not at all prepared to say that your plan is not better than that now adopted in England

Yours ever
L L L
(signed) Henry Goulburn.

Copy
Private

Downing Street
Sept: 16. 1829

My dear Hardinge,

I enclose you a Report which has been made by the Comptrollers of Army Accounts upon your proposition of allowing Regiments to supply themselves with Bread & Meat. I send also the Duke's observations on a perusal of the Papers.

I confess that I feel very great difficulty in making up my mind upon the subject. It appears to me that before you make any experiment you must be satisfied that the measure is one which you can carry into universal application. If it be found palatable to the Soldier, it will be ~~found~~ unsatisfactory to him to revert to the old system because the new one will either not work or will work detrimentally

to the

to the Public. We must consider therefore the entire change of the existing system & the general adoption of the practice in force in Ireland — The first question then is, how will you ascertain the prices of Bread & Meat in order to make a proper estimate of the extra sum to be paid to the Soldier — Contract will be at an end & you can have no assistance from thence — The Duke rejects your plan and I do not think his will answer. The average price of Wheat which governs import duty is no fair criterion of the price of Bread not even of Wheat in any particular market. I take up the first Gazette which comes to hand — The price of Wheat which governs duty is 68/6 — The price at Portsmouth was 81/3 at Liverpool 62/4 — to take the duty price would therefore be unjust in one instance to the Soldier and in the other to the Public. Nor does the average of the

of the particular market afford a fair criterion — That average is dependant upon the quality of the corn brought to market & the Soldier or the Public will suffer if that average be taken according as wheat of an inferior or superior quality may preponderate on a particular market day — I cannot therefore satisfy myself how without a contract for the particular bread which the Soldier is to have I can ascertain what the just price of that bread should be.

The difficulty is the same with respect to meat — Smithfield is no criterion for Devonshire, nor do they in many if in any Country market keep an account of the prices at which meat is sold by which to regulate the Soldiers Allowance.

If therefore from the difficulty of finding out the market price of the Article with which the Soldier is to be supplied we shall not be able to make a general change, I am

Ryde. Sep. 17.

Confidential

My dear Coker

The Duke has not met Bertie Paton since the latter returned from the Continent.

The last Spain, & the present state of things have not tended to assist any political approximation — to meet without some view of a better understanding, might ~~be productive~~ expose the D. to ~~of~~ embarrass^t. & all the

[illegible] to misrepresentation.
On the other hand the D. ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] may
carry his Politics into private society,
& personally ~~in [illegible]~~ [illegible] a high opinion of the Chancellor's abilities
~~disinclined to [illegible]~~ — but I
must frankly say in reply to your question that in the present state of Stein's health
~~to [illegible]~~ [illegible] D. [illegible] would be as influential as [illegible] D. H.
~~so [illegible]~~ private opinion
~~under existing circumstances be~~
~~inexpedient~~ — inexpedient.

Orderly Room Grenr Guards
24th September 1829

Sir

I beg leave here to call your attention, to my Letters of September the 30th 1828, and July the 24th of the present year, in which I have requested, that all the communications from your Office, which concerns the Regiment under my command, might be made to me, I have now reason to believe, that a new System with regard, to furnishing the Meat of the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, is going to be tried, with which, I am totally unacquainted, consequently I cannot in any way feel myself responsible, for the Meat Accounts of the 2nd Battalion, and yet I shall be called upon to verify the truth

Right Honble
the Secretary
at War
&c &c &c

Recd at W.O.
25 Sep 1829

~~As the subject is not stated this letter cannot be traced~~

~~O. was not registered~~

33.726
5
25/9

W Bd

Dy Secretary 25/9
~~1~~ 26/9
~~2 Pressing~~ 26/9
~~Chief Ex~~ 26/9
See also 9491/3
2 29/
~~2~~ — 29/ Pressing
~~Chief Ex~~ 29/
~~Mr Moad~~ 29/
~~Ch Ex~~ 2/10
~~2~~ 3/10
~~Ch Ex~~ 5/10
~~2 with~~ 5/ ~~immediate~~
~~[illegible]~~ 6/
~~Ch. Examr 12/~~ [illegible]

33.726
5

24/9:29

Lt Col Townshend

Ansd 5/10/29

Prev 15 to 10th 8/107

33726

and correctness of them, I can
=not help repeating, that I consider
it for the benefit of His Majesty's
Service, that all communications,
should be made direct to the
Commanding Officer of the Regiment,
who is alone responsible;

Since writing the above
Mr. Humphries the Solicitor of the
Regiment, has put into my hands
a Contract which purposes to be
entered into, between Colonel Woodford
Commanding the 2nd. Battalion of
My Regiment, and William
Lindott for Meat; Mr. Humphries
got his Instructions from Colonel
Woodford, I shall decline paying
the expence of this contract, and the
Legal Bill for drawing it up,
without I have your authority,
to charge in the Regimental Accou

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most obedient
humble Servant
A Rosenhead
Lt Col. 1st Ptn Fus
Gds

with the Commissioners & most respectfully
which can be always entrusted by those
who are best informed of the circum-
stances & with the character of the in-
dividual I believe – I see by a letter of
yours to Downes, that you are at Ryde –
Have you any idea of coming to Town –
I shall be on Sunday next for two or
three days near Leamington & return here
My remembrance to Lady Emily
Yours sincerely
Beresford

29. B.

Private – London 26. Febr. 1829 –

My dear Hardinge

I can not tell you how much vexed
and surprised I was, on my way from
Yorkshire, when I have in my car-
riage plenty of time to look over &
arrange Papers, and doing so I found
your letter of the 1st Inst. with the Reso-
lutions respecting Pensioners & wounded
all my own answer dated Dublin, very
carefully wrapped up with them –
I had met Downes at Stowe Dens,

and

we had a conversation on it, he think
ing I had not expressed it to the Board,
I convinced I had, having written
my letter and having that impressed
on my memory. When the discovery
cleared up my error. I fear from
what Downes tells me that it will
be now late, but I shall immedi-
ately upon it to the Board & if not to
day, will have their decision on
Monday, so as to give it to you on
that day, and in the mean time,

I

send to you a copy of my letter. Which
touches another point, that of ordnance
pensioners, but as more matter of opinion,
as regards the ordnance so far as the dis-
charges of the men & the fixing of their
pensions goes, nothing I think can be
better, than the question will be as to
seperating the payment of the pensions
from that part, and we must recollect
that there are expressions by Mr Pre-
sent regulations, for augmentation of
pensions &c at future periods after
the discharge, and under all cir-
cumstances great discretion is left

33726

1

War Off.
Augt. 3. 1829

Sir

My attention for some time past has been drawn to the difference of system which exists in the Provisioning of the Troops in Great Bn. & Ireland.

This difference consists in the Soldiers' food being supplied in Gt. Bn. by General Contracts under the Comd. Dept.: and in Ireland by Regtal ~~contracts~~ arrangements or Marketting under the authority of the Offr. Comdg. the Regt. without the intervention of the Comd.

In all Mil.y arrangements great importance has always been justly attached to the introduction of one uniform system, — which when

practically proved to be the best should be permanent in its advantages & not be varied to according to temporary circumstances liable to frequent fluctuations, such as the high or low prices of Provisions.

In the present question, the practice although entirely different in England & Ireland from that prevailing in has been reported to have perfectly answered in each Country — If such be the fact, it wd. undoubtedly be a most useless experiment to attempt any change for the mere advantages of ~~unif~~ assimilation. But it does not clearly appear that this is the Case — & there can be no doubt that whilst the complaints have been frequent & prevailed to the wide formed in England agst. the Contract system & that the Regtl. system in Ireland has given universal satisfaction — If this be the case, there can be no doubt, that it is an important consideration, with reference to the health, satisfaction & discipline of the Soldier, that the stoppage

& punctuality by Regtl. returns in Ireland

daily
Pay should be applied in the
which upon investigation & practice
shall be found to be the preferable
combined Interests of the Soldier
& the Public.

question as it related to Ireland
was discussed in 1826 when it was
to extend the system of Jud.
Magistracy — The L^d. Jud. Cons.
Chancery & M. Secretary
were decided ~~of opinion~~
adverse to the proposal — * their
Minutes are ~~to be found~~ dated in
the 25th Sept. & Oct. 1826;
the 18th Jan. 1827, in
upon the Proposition called
Return of the total Expence
Britain of the Equity of paid
the Public for the Return for
years 1824, 1825 & 1826,
it was found to have cost the
Public on an average £1733 a ys.
in Gt. Britain & for the same 3 years in Ireland,
an average of £15..12..4d. a ys. —

directed by Sir
to enclose a
copy of a letter
which has been
addressed to the
Treasury on the
subject of contracts
for Bread & Meat
and to request the
favourable Notice of
Lord Melville that
when the Treasury
answer from the
Treasury has been
received the Sub
Board will confer on
the subject with

practically proved that it
should be permanent in its
d not be worked to according
circumstances liable to frequent
such as the high or low prices

In the present question
altho' entirely different in Eng
has been asserted to have p
in each Country — If such
wd. undoubtedly be a most u
to attempt any change for the
of ~~unif~~ assimilation. Bu
clearly appear that this is
there can be no doubt that
complaints have been frequent
be wholly founded in England
system, that the Reg.l system
given universal satisfaction
be the case, there can be
it is an important consider
reference to the health, satisfaction &
Discipline of the Soldier, that the shortest

The Queen C. in C.
12/05

L.d D.S.

from his daily Pay should be applied in the
mode which upon investigation & practical
Trial shall be found to be the preferable
: combined Interests of the Soldier
Public.

e question as it related to Ireland
discussed in 1826 when it was
ed to extend the system of Jud.
to Ireland Nothing. The L. Jud. Comm.
ge Chancery & Mr. Secretary
ourse were decided ~~of opinion~~
adverse to the proposal — their
ns are ~~to be found~~ declared in
of the 28th Sep. & Oct. 1826;
Evidence ~~on~~ ~~Oct~~ the 18th Jan. 1827, in
ing upon the Proposition called
Return of the total Expence
Britain of the Exceeds of pay
the Public for the Return for
3 years 1824, 1825 & 1826,
it was found to have cost the
ublic on an average £1733 a ys.
in Gt. Britain & for the same 3 years in Ireland,
an average of £15..12..4d a ys. —

33726
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May be per
the letters having
been extracted from
the Drafts as
directed by the
D Sal Ld —
JW
25/8

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should be permanent in it
d not be worked to according
circumstances liable to frequ
such as the high or low prices

In the present questi
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of ~~unif~~ assimilation. Bu
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system; that the Regl. system
given universal satisfaction
be the case, there can be
it is an important consideration, with
reference to the health, satisfaction &
Discipline of the Soldier, that the stoppage

from his daily Pay should be applied in the mode which upon investigation & practical Trial shall be found to be the preferable one for the combined Interests of the Soldier & the Public.

The question as it related to Ireland was ~~first~~ discussed in 1826 when it was proposed to extend the system of Gen.l Contracts to that Country. The Ld. Gen.l Comd.r Sir George Murray & Mr. Secretary Goulbourne were decided ~~of opinion that~~ adverse to the proposal — their opinions are ~~then found~~ declared in letters of the 25th Sep.r & Oct. 1826; & the Enquiry on the 18th Jan.y 1827, in deciding upon the Proposition called for a Return of the total Expence in Gt. Britain of the Equip of paid by the Public for the Rations for the 3 years 1824, 1825 & 1826, when it was found to have cost the Public on an average £1733 a.p. in Gt. Britain & for the same 3 years in Ireland, an average of £15..12..4 a.p. —

I do not notice the expence of the Establ.t
reg.d by the Cont.d system in G.t Br.n because I
~~believe~~ understand it is very moderate,
the decreasing expence of
including the retirements of the individuals.

The discussion in 1826 only proved
that it was not desirable to substitute
the Cont.d for the Reg.tal system in Ireland.
It left the question as regards G.t Br.n
where it was before.

An experiment was however made
in England in April 1821 by an application
to the M.r Gen.l of the Ordnance, the D. of Wellington, to
permit the Artillery men at Woolwich to
purchase their own bread, in consequence of
the perpetual complaints of the badness
of the quality of that which was supplied by the
Army Contractors. The same permission
was given ~~note~~ for the supply of meat.

The Sappers & Miners at Chatham
next obtained the same permission — &
in the Order of the M.r Gen.l ~~expresses~~ his opinion is expressed
that the ~~commissariat~~ Provision of Bread & Meat is ~~part of~~ a Regtal
concern & that he has no objection provided
no add.l expence ~~was~~ be thrown upon the

the public since 1821 this similar to that in Ireland Rations system has been pursued with complete success, & the satisfaction of the Soldier of the Ord. Mil.y Corps stationed at Woolwich & Chatham.

When the Contract price in times of scarcity has exceeded ~~the~~ ~~the~~ 6d. the ~~Contractor~~ Artillery have followed the Standard of the Country price in the County of Kent.

There has therefore been no difficulty ~~whilst~~ so long as the ~~Cont.~~ Gen.l Contracts have been in existence of arriving at a correct knowledge of what Sum the Ord.y Soldier in ordn times should receive from the Public in aid of his Ration — In times of cheapness, there is no difficulty when the price of the Ration is below 6d. as the saving is a profit to the Soldier, & there is neither loss or gain to the Public.

If the system of Gen.l Contracts

were to be altogether abolished in G. B.n there would be in dear times, a difficulty in deciding what proportionate Sum the Soldier ought to receive in aid of his Ration. This difficulty after a very minute calculation ~~has been so~~ by entering into the details of the Army Contracts for the last 10 years, can in my opinion be overcome. The result of the that has been made enquiry is, that the Army Ration will always be 40 p.c. below the prices of the best Provisions in the market.

If therefore the Scale be fixed for the Soldier's Ration at six-pence, of the market price of bread & meat, there would be, compared with the Contract Contracts generally, a saving to the Public by adopting this scale, whilst in Dear times the scale wd. afford to the Soldier a sufficient protection.

For instance assuming the Quartern loaf ++ of the best Wheaten Bread to be 12½ — the 4 lb. loaf of the

++ 4 lb. 5 oz.

same bread wd. ~~be~~ cost 11d. pr. by
act of Parlt. the Household bread was
estimated at three-fourths of the
Price of Wheaten Bread. The true
value of the 4 lbs. loaf of Household bread
wd. be 8d 5/16 — but according to
the scale of six-tenths of the wheaten
loaf of the best wheaten bread, the price wd.
be 7 3/2. This makes due allowance
for the Army Bread being of a cheaper
& coarser quality ~~rather~~ of Wheat — but it
will be found on a variety of trials
& better as regards the market price of Bread & meat
that the scale of 6/10 is a moderate
& rather a low scale than otherwise.

If therefore the Public can
be secured from loss when the ration
costs ~~&~~ more than 6d. & that an
equitable & sufficient sum in aid can be given
to the ~~Public~~ Soldier, (that is, not
~~more than~~ expending what
the Public wd. have to
pay ~~under~~ to the Contractor under the
present system) ~~one of~~ the main

objection to any ~~change~~ alteration of system wd. be obviated. The proof of the accuracy of the Scale of $\frac{6}{10}$ can hereafter be made matter of more minute & careful examination — but ~~if~~ whether it be correct or not, there can be no doubt, that it is impossible to find any an adequate scale, which shall protect the Public & satisfy the Soldier, by tapping the proportion which the Contract Prices have borne to the Market prices for several years past & fixing what that proportion shall be as the Scale to be used which wd. only be req.d ~~to be used~~ when the price of the Ration rose above 6d. At all other periods there wd. as in Ireland be no interference on the part of the Public.

There can be no doubt, that the quality of the Army bread is inferior to any bread ~~used~~ offered for Sale, or than any bread used in the Jails, any Poor Houses throughout the Country. As the quality ~~in the face~~ of this Army loaf is unknown, never being offered for Sale

Sale, there is no Criterion of what the Army loaf should be. Even the Specification by which the quality is attempted to be defined by the flour passing through a 12th. Cloth are perfectly unintelligible ~~both~~ to the Trade, to the Officers & to the Soldiers.

The Theory therefore of rejecting the Bread & remedying frauds by Courts of Enquiry, has always been & must be a matter of great difficulty in practice, because the quality must defy all Regs. ~~when~~ in an article where the Standard of comparison cannot be got at. ‡

& The adulteration of the flour as a general practice admits of little doubt – When made up into Bread, the proof is almost impossible – but the fact of the Victualling Bd. in 1824 condemning upwards of 6000

‡ In the outset of the Inquiry in London, the Bread during the last 3 months had been frequently yielded, altho' the Contract Price was so high for wheat, that the Bread Bakers was 2d in excess with the best quality at £12, which the Contract price was 5s 8d, making the Soldier pay a half-penny a day for the wheat alone, more than the Bread Sub-Commission yielding a day for the Contractor afforded indifferent & occasional injustice, the Price was 2d lower than the Sufficient to remunerate him for such losses – whilst the 4lb loaf supplied was 6 oz 10 dr, a very poor quality & not a marketable loaf for 7½, being 1/4 less than 3/4 in.

* Meat

6000 Sacks of flour, & importing the larger portion of all Contract flour to be adulterated, compelled the Admiralty to relinquish their Contracts in flour & to erect Mills at an Expense of £44.000.

The worst system appears to secure immunity to the Contractor, who profit is divided by his Sub-Agents. — & who is enabled to give a bad flour by the necessity of his being under the contract down to its lowest terms — It deprives the Country Gentleman of the Mill as ready-money customers, & whilst it frequently affords to the Soldier inferior nourishment, the cheapness of the price by leaving him a larger balance furnishes him with the means of mischief without any corresponding advantage to the Government.

If therefore the Public Interest can be effectually protected in times of scarcity by the Scale of $\frac{6}{10}$ or any

other, scale I should consider the Irish system of Regtl. ~~Contracts~~ agreements wd. be most adventageous to the Discipline of the Army. The connexion between the Soldier & his Offr. by the daily interference of the latter to guard the Soldier's interest wd. be an useful part of the interior economy of a Regt.

It wd. not be expedient on a subject involving so much detail at once to attempt the abolition of the Genl. Contract system, but as the Opposite system has been found to answer in Ireland, & also with the Gd. Mil. Corps in Fr. Bn. I ~~should propose~~ submit for the consideration of the ~~Genl. Cmdr. in Chief before~~ + that a ~~Regt.~~ Batt. of Guards in Middx. a Batt. at Portsmouth, Plymouth, Chatham

a bad quality of food,

+ L. Cmdr. of the Forces with the concurrence of the Genl. Cmdr. in Chief

chester, Windsor, & Glasgow, ~~[illegible]~~ should be excluded from the next Army Contracts & be allowed to provide their own Supplies by Regtal Agreements.

I have named the largest Garrisons where the Contract Prices are always the cheapest & not detached Stations where the Contract Prices are usually ~~in general~~ higher than the Market Prices — in order that the experiment may have the severest trial for the next 6 months.

I conceive ~~that~~ this ~~mode~~ will be the safest mode of gradually coming to a sound decision, without any risk to the existing system: & if upon trial the Regtal agreements are not found to answer, the complaints now made will in a great ~~can be never~~ ~~degree cease~~ ~~proof made~~ as the Soldier is so important a question as his Ration will generally discover which is the most advantageous mode of ~~supplying~~ securing his food consistently with the interests of the Public Purse.

Wm. 2 H. H.

Thus can be no doubt that the Soldier during this period was supplied with inferior Barrack rations at a higher rate of expence & in Detached Stations where there are few Troops such as in Northumberland — Rutlandshire — Derby, Staffordshire, Westmoreland, the Soldier has been paying by Contract a higher price, than the best market price. &

	Wheat	Bread	Total
By Contract	3/7 1/8	1d 45/64	5d 37/64
Private Contract White Bread 8 1/4	3d 3/8	2 3/8	5 1/2
D. Hospital Bread - 8 1/2	Same as the Coast		
D. Household Bread 7 1/2	3d 3/8	1d 7/8	5d 1/4

Mr Chenoi.

This should be
registered &
entered

33.726

1

L _____ 0/0

Rec'd at U.S.
30 Aug 1829

~~Chip 2/4~~ 26/8

1 pr ~~Fill~~ 26/9

33.726

1

L & L.

Lie to Hon.ble Stewart 5/8/29
& Lord Fitzroy Somerset 12/8/29

Mist Jol. 21 @ 26

Copy

33.726

War Office
5th August 1829

Sir

My attention for some time past has been drawn to the difference of systems which exists in the provisioning of the Troops in Great Britain and Ireland. — This difference consists in the Soldiers food being supplied in Great Britain by General Contracts under the Commissariat Department, and in Ireland by Regimental agreements or marketting under the authority of the Officer Commanding the Regiment without the intervention of the Commissariat. —

In all Military arrangements great importance has always been justly attached to the introduction of one uniform system, which when practically proved to be the best should be permanent in its advantages, and not be resorted to according to temporary circumstances liable to frequent fluctuations, such as the high or low prices of Provisions. —

In

The Honble J Stewart
&c — &c — &c
Treasury Chambers. —

In the present question, the practice although entirely different in England from that pursued in Ireland, has been asserted to have perfectly answered in each Country. — If such be the fact, it would undoubtedly be a most useless experiment to attempt any change for the mere advantages of assimilation. — But it does not clearly appear that this is the case, and there can be no doubt that whilst the complaints have been frequent and proved to be well founded in England against the General Contract system, particularly by Regiments returning from Ireland, that the Regimental system in Ireland has given universal satisfaction. — If this be the case, there can be no doubt, that it is an important consideration, with reference to the health, satisfaction and discipline of the Soldier, that the stoppage from his daily pay should be applied in the mode which upon investigation and practical trial shall be found to be the preferable one, for the combined interests of the Soldier and the Public. —

The question as it relates to Ireland

was

was discussed in 1826, when it was proposed to extend the system of General Contracts to that Country. — The Lieut: General Commanding Sir George Murray and Mr. Secretary Poulbourne were decidedly adverse to the proposal. — Their opinions are declared in Letters of the 28th September and — October 1826; and the Treasury the 18th January 1827, in deciding upon the proposition, called for a Return of the total expense in Great Britain, of the excess of price paid by the Public for the Rations for the three years 1824, 1825 and 1826, when it was found to have cost the Public on an average £1733 a Year in Great Britain, and for the same three years in Ireland an average of £15.12. a year. — I do not notice the expense of the Establishment required by the Commissariat System in Great Britain because I understand it is very moderate, including the occasional expense of the retirements of the Individuals —

The discussion in 1826 only proved that it was not desirable to substitute the Commissariat for

for the Regimental System in Ireland. — It left the question as regarded Great Britain where it was before —

An experiment was however made in England in April 1821 by an application to the Master General of the Ordnance, the Duke of Wellington, to permit the Artillery Men at Woolwich to purchase their own Bread, in consequence of the perpetual complaints of the badness of the quality of that which was supplied by the Army Contractors. — The same permission was given for the supply of Meat. —

The Sappers and Miners at Chatham next obtained the same permission, and in the Order of the Master General his opinion is expressed, that the Provision of Bread and Meat is a Regimental concern, and that he has no objection provided no additional expense be thrown upon the Public. — Since 1821 this Regimental system, similar to that in Ireland has been

pursued

pursued with complete success, to the satisfaction of the Soldier of the Ordnance Military Corps stationed at Woolwich and Chatham.—

When the Contract price in time of scarcity has exceeded 6d. the Artillery-men have followed the Standard of the Army price in the County of Kent.—

There has therefore been no difficulty so long as the General Contracts have been in existence of arriving at a correct knowledge of what sum the Artillery Soldier in dear times should receive from the public in aid of his ration.— In times of cheapness there is no difficulty when the price of the Rations is below 6d. as the saving is a profit to the Soldier, and there is neither loss or gain to the Public.—

If the system of General Contracts were to be altogether abolished in Great Britain there would be in dear times a difficulty in

deciding

deciding what proportionate sum the Soldier ought to receive in aid of his rations. — This difficulty after a very minute calculation by entering into the details of the Army Contracts for the last ten years, can in my opinion be overcome. — The result of the enquiry that has been made is, that the Army Ration will always be 40 ℘ Cent below the prices of the best Provisions in the Market. — If therefore the scale be fixed for the Soldiers rations at six tenths of the market price of Bread and Meat, there would be compared with the Commissariat Contracts generally, a saving to the Public by adopting this scale, whilst in dear times the scale would afford to the Soldier a sufficient protection. — For instance assuming the Quartern Loaf of 4 ℔ 5 oz of the best Wheaten Bread to be 12½d — The 4 ℔ Loaf of the same Bread would cost 11½d. — By act of Parliament Household bread was estimated at three fourths of the price of Wheaten Bread. — The true value of the 4 ℔ Loaf of Household Bread would be 8 5/16d, but

according

according to the Scale of six tenths of the Quartern Loaf of the best Wheaten bread the price would be 7½d. — This makes due allowance for the Army Bread being of a cheaper and coarser quality of Wheat, but it will be found on a variety of trials, both as regards the Market price of Bread and Meat that the scale of six tenths is a moderate and rather a low scale than otherwise. —

If therefore the Public can be secured from loss when the Ration costs more than 6d. and that an equitable and sufficient sum in aid can be given to the Soldier / that is not exceeding what the Public would have to pay to the Contractor under the present system / the main objection to any alteration of system would be obviated. — The proof of the accuracy of the Scale of six tenths can hereafter be made matter of more minute and careful examination, but whether it be correct or not there can be no doubt that it is very possible to find an adequate scale, which shall protect the Public

and

and satisfy the Soldier by taking the proportion which the Contract prices have borne to the Market prices for several years past, and fixing what that proportion shall be as the Scale to be used, which would only be required when the price of the Ration rose above 6d. — At all other periods there would as in Ireland be no interference on the part of the Public. —

There can be no doubt that the quality of the Army Bread is inferior to any Bread offered for Sale or than any Bread used in the Paols, or in Poor Houses throughout the Country. — As the quality of the Army Loaf is unknown, never being offered for Sale, there is no criterion of what the Army Loaf should be. — Even the specifications by which the quality is attempted to be defined by the Flour passing through a 12l. Cloth are perfectly unintelligible to the Trade, to the Officers and to the Soldiers — The theory therefore of rejecting the Bread and

remedying

remedying frauds by Courts of enquiry, has always been and ever must be a matter of great difficulty in practice, because the quality must defy all regulation in an article where the standard of comparisons cannot be got at.—

In the supply of the Guards in London, the Bread and Meat during the last three Months has been frequently rejected, although the Contract price was so high for Meat that the Guards Hospital was daily supplied with the best quality at 4½d whilst the Contract price was 5⅚d, making the Soldier pay a halfpenny a day, for the Meat ration alone, more than the private Tradesman required.—

The Contractor appeared indifferent to occasional rejections, the price received by him being more than sufficient to remunerate him for such losses.— Whilst the 4 lb Loaf by Contract was 6 13/16d, a very superior quality of Bread

was

was supplied for 7½ being less than ¾ in the 4 ℔ Loaf dearer than the bad Bread —

The daily expense of the Ration was as follows

		Meat	Bread	Total
By Contract. —		3⅞	1 45/64	5 37/64
" Private Contract White Bread —	8½	3⅜	2⅓	5½
" Do — Household —	7½	3⅜	1⅞	5¼
" Do — Hospital —	8½	3⅜	2⅓	5½

There can be no doubt that the Soldier during this period was supplied with inferior Provisions at a higher rate of expense, and in detached Stations where there were few Troops such as in Herefordshire, Rutland, Derby, Stafford, Westmoreland, the Soldier has been paying by Contract, a higher price than the best Market price. —

The adulteration of the Flour as a general practice admits of little doubt. — When made up into Bread the proof is almost

impossible

impossible, but the fact of the Victualling Board in 1824 condemning upwards of 6000 Sacks of Flour, and reporting the larger portion of all Contract Flour to be adulterated, compelled the Admiralty to relinquish their Contracts in Flour, and to erect Mills at an expense of £44,000.—

The Army System appears to secure impunity to the Contractor while profit is divided by his Sub Agents, and who is obliged to give a bad quality of food by the necessity he has been under by running the Contract down to its lowest terms.— It deprives the Country Tradesman of the Military as ready money customers, and whilst it frequently affords to the Soldier improper nourishment, the cheapness of the price by leaving him a larger balance furnishes him with the means of mischief without any corresponding advantage to the Government.—

Pf

If therefore the Public interest can be effectually protected in times of scarcity by the scale of six tenths or any other Scale, I should consider the Irish system of Regimental agreements would be most advantageous to the discipline of the Army. — The connexion between the Soldier and his Officer by the daily interference of the latter to guard the Soldiers Interest, would be an useful part of the interior economy of the Regiment. —

It would not be expedient on a subject involving so much detail at once to attempt the abolition of the Penal Contract System, but as the opposite system has been found to answer in Ireland, and also with the Ordnance & Military Corps in Great Britain, I submit for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, with

the

the concurrence of the General Commanding in Chief, that a Battalion of the Guards in Middlesex, a Battalion at Portsmouth, Plymouth, Chatham, Chester, Windsor and Glasgow, should be excluded from the next Army Contracts, and be allowed to provide their own supplies by Regimental Agreements.

I have named the largest Garrisons where the Contract prices are always the cheapest, and not detached Stations, where the Contract prices are usually higher than the Market prices, in order that the experiment may have the severest trial for the next six Months.

I conceive this will be the safest mode of gradually coming to a sound decision without any risk to the existing system, and if upon trial the Regimental Agreements

are

are not found to answer, the complaints now made will in a great degree cease, as the Soldier in so important a question as his Ration, will easily discover, which is the most advantageous mode of having his food supplied out of his Pay in Great Britain.—

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most Obedient

humble Servant

Signed H Hardinge.—