

and its relations with neighboring powers must decide the method to be adopted for filling the army. Situated as the nations of continental Europe now are, they have no choice but to adopt a system of conscription, and the tendency now is toward the rigorous system of Germany. In Great Britain neither the form of government nor the habits of the people permit the establishment of conscription, although they meet with no little difficulty in maintaining the force required by their situation. We are so happily situated as not to require a large army in ordinary times, and, being separated by an ocean from the great military powers of the world, it is not probable, so long, as we remain united among ourselves, that we shall again require armies so large as to render a resort to conscription necessary. This condition of affairs is not the least of the favors that Providence has bestowed upon us. It would have been far otherwise had the war in which we were recently engaged resulted in the disruption of the Union and a division of the country between two great powers; for both sections must then have maintained large standing armies, and submitted to the many evils and sacrifices they entail. Any one who fully comprehends and appreciates the effects of the immense armaments of Europe upon every pursuit and condition of life must acknowledge that the great sacrifices made by the present generation in our country are more than compensated by the blessings which will follow their results through a long future.

In England the term of enlistment is for ten or twelve years. In the United States it is for five years in time of peace, while in war it has been our habit to enlist men for three years, or for the duration of the war. For our present purposes the various systems of conscription may all be classified under two heads: first the universal conscription, under which all able-bodied men are liable to and actually called upon to render military service during peace as well as war; second, the system under which only a portion of the able-bodied are called out by conscription, and under which those drawn are usually permitted to furnish substitutes.

Russia and Austria come under the second class, for in both the number of men to be drawn by lot each year from among those liable for duty is determined annually by a law or decree based upon the needs of the moment, and in both substitutes are allowed. In Russia the term of service is fifteen years, of which a portion is on leave of absence. In Austria the term is eight years with the active army and two years in the reserve; of the former period the infantry pass two years and three quarters with their regiments, the cavalry five years and a half, the special arms four years.

In France the manner of recruiting and the liability to service are now regulated by the law of July, 1872. Every Frenchman fit for service is liable for duty in the regular army or the reserves from the age of twenty to that of forty. Those who have been condemned to any ignominious or disgraceful punishment are excluded from serving in any capacity. Pupils at the Polytechnique and at the Forest schools are allowed to count at the time passed there, after they become liable for draft, as so much active service. There are other exceptions (not exemptions) in favor of professors in sundry institutions, and others that we have not space to enumerate. Volunteers for one year are also admitted, essentially as in the German army. Under the law all Frenchmen lia-

ble for duty belong to the active army for four years, to the territorial army for five years, and to the reserve of the territorial army for six years. As the total annual contingent of young men reaching the proper age is too great for the current needs of the active army and the financial resources of the country only about one half are drawn by lot for five years' service, while the remainder are to receive from six months to one year's instruction, and then return to their homes, subject to the call of the government. For the present year the second half has not been called out, and the regiments are generally so weak that it is more than doubtful whether the whole of the first half is really in service. Under the new law no substitutes are permitted, but re-enlistments are still allowed.

In Germany alone is the principle of the universal obligation of military service strictly carried out, and even there only since the reorganization of 1859 and 1860.

The members of reigning princely houses are exempt from this liability. Men who are physically incapable of serving as soldiers of the line are nevertheless held to perform such other duties as they are fit for, *e. g.* tailors and shoe makers, clerks, hospital attendants, etc., etc. Men who have been convicted of crimes are excluded from the service, as unfit to associate with honorable men.

Every German liable for military duty becomes a member of the standing army upon completing his twentieth year, and so continues for seven years. In peace he serves the first three years with the colors, and the remaining four on the reserve. For the next five years he belongs to the Landwehr, thus making his total service twelve years. No substitutes are permitted; re-enlistments are allowed.

While forming part of the reserve the German soldier is of course liable to be recalled to his regiment in the event of a mobilization of the army for any purpose; but with this exception he is only held to attend two annual manoeuvres, which can not exceed eight weeks each.

While belonging to the Landwehr the infantry soldier is only obliged to attend two manoeuvres, of from one to two weeks each, in special companies or battalions of Landwehr. The Landwehr men of the rifles, artillery, pioneers, and train are liable to the same service, but with regular troops of their own arm. The Landwehr cavalry are not called out for manoeuvres in time of peace.

In most of the Continental services during profound peace it is the practice to reduce the expenses of the army by giving a certain number of furloughs to infantry soldiers who have completed their instruction, but not yet finished their full term of service with the colors. In the German army the regular time for the discharge of the contingent of three years' service into the reserve, and for the new contingent to join their regiments, is the 1st of October of each year; but it is usual not to require the infantry men of the new contingent to report until the middle of December, and also to send the men of the third year to the reserve immediately upon the ending of the autumn manoeuvres, that is, about the middle of September. The effect of these two measures is to save the pay and rations of one third of the infantry for three months of each year. To effect a further saving, it has also been customary during the last few years to give temporary furloughs to men of the second year of service; this is done to the extent of five men in each company

At the International Congress to be held at Brussels, for settling the usages of war, the British representative, says *Punch*, will be instructed to press the following points: 1. No bombardment of London to take place while Parliament is sitting. 2. No battles to be fought on the D rby Day, the Oaks Day, or during Ascot, Goodwood, or Newmarket Races. 3. In case of invasion, Brighton, Weymouth, and Scarborough to be considered neutral territory. 4. Prisoners of war (being commissioned officers) to pay an entrance fee to the regimental messes of which they may be elected honorary members. 5. Regimental bands captured on the field of battle to be available at festivals held at the Royal Albert Hall or at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham. 6. Portrait medals of captured Generals to be permitted at Mme. Tussaud's Exhibition of Wax works, on the understanding that (a) some site other than that of the Chamber of Horrors be selected for the display; and (b) that a ticket of admission for the season be presented to each captured General inelligibly so exhibited. 7. Invading armies travelling by railway to pay at the rate of not less than £5 per mile per person. Return tickets (in Great Britain and Ireland) not to be guaranteed.

It is said, says the London *Army and of infantry*, and sixty four in each battalion of rifles. The class of "volunteers for one year" must not be passed over in silence. Young men of good education, who possess the means of providing for their equipment food, and clothing, are permitted to present themselves as volunteers for one year. If they pass the necessary examination, they are received as such, and serve for the time specified just as the other men, except that they receive a more rigorous and full instruction. If they pass the examination at the close of the year, they are free from further service with the colors in time of peace, and pass at once into the reserve. From this class many of the officers of the Landwehr are selected. If they fail to pass the examination at the expiration of the year, they lose the benefits of volunteering, and remain on the same footing with the other conscripts.

The effect of this system is to afford great relief to the classes engaged in the learned professions and in important manufacturing and commercial pursuits, while it at the same time provides a large number of capable officers for the Landwehr, and is of benefit to the army by infusing an additional element of great intelligence and respectability.

The Italians as well as the French have of late adopted the system of volunteers for one year.

*Navy Gazette*, that the committee which is engaged on the reorganization of the French Army has adopted a plan for improving the condition of non-commissioned officers, and such a measure is decidedly necessary. At present no inducements are held out to men to remain beyond the time they are bound to serve, and the consequence is that there are hardly any sergeants and Corporals capable of teaching recruits. According to the present law, a man who draws what is called a bad number is draughted into the Active Army, where he has to remain for five years. Supposing that after three years he becomes a sergeant, and that two years afterwards he withdraws from the Active Army, by whom is his place to be taken? It is evidently necessary to make the berth of a non-commissioned officer superior to what it is at present.