

*failure of the volunteering system.* There were more gunners than were needed and not sufficient foot soldiers. Thus was frustrated a project of increasing our forces at the front.

The number in hospitals vary from time to time, but recently on a certain day numbered 15,000 men. There is a constant flow of wounded men back and forth. Some are nursed back to health and return to France and others are sent back home.

The administrative services absorb some 15,000 to 16,000 men. Of these not far short of 10,000 are men who are physically unfit for service at the front, and are being used in various capacities—in training recruits, in hospital work, in the forwarding of supplies and stores, etc. Only some 4,000 are physically fit for general service.

#### RESERVE UNITS.

This leaves to be noticed the category of reserve units. The general plan is to have in England a reserve or depot corps for each corps in France. For example, the Central Ontario Regiment has a fighting battalion in one of the Divisions at the front; in England there is a corresponding Central Ontario Reserve Battalion, and the recruits, or recovered wounded, who are serving and training in it know that when they are needed in France they will, normally, go to their Central Ontario fighting battalion; they thus are interested while in England in the performances and fame of their destined corps. In these reserve units of infantry rank and file, there were a while ago not far short of 40,000; but of these rather fewer than 22,000 were available as infantry reinforcements; the remainder were not available, some because they were not physically fit, others because their training was not complete. In the other arms and services—cavalry, artillery, engineers, medical corps, army service corps, forestry corps, railway troops, etc.—there were more than 25,000; of these, some 15,000 or 16,000 were fit and could be used; but not as infantry. Of the remainder, some were physically unfit, some had not completed their training. Thus there are in sight rather more of the other arms and services than will be needed for some months, and an uncomfortably small number of that invaluable and most necessary article, the Canadian infantryman.

Coming to Canada it may be stated that in round figures there are some 20,000 officers and men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, of whom only 6,000 to 8,000 are infantry. Here we see the weakness to remedy which the Military Service Act was needed. *The infantry recruits in Canada are fewer than the month's*