

An explanation of the most important clauses of the Draft Convention and their comparison with the clauses of the Treaty of Versailles regarding German disarmament will throw light upon the situation. We know that by the Treaty of Versailles Germany is forbidden universal military service, that her army is limited to 100,000 men, with a period of service of twelve years each. All measures of mobilization are forbidden, as well as the listing of discharged soldiers, which makes it impossible to train reserves. The Draft Convention does not forbid conscription where it exists. The limitation of personnel is not to be achieved by numerical fixation of effectives, but by means of limiting the "average daily effectives." This means that the total number of service days performed during one year by all effectives is divided by the number of days in the respective year. This applies not only to the army, but also to the "formations organised on a military basis", namely police forces of all kinds, gendarmerie, customs officials and forest guards. With this kind of calculation all trained reserves are first of all left out of consideration, i.e. the most decisive part of military armaments as far as personnel is concerned, and that part which Germany is prohibited from having trained reserves and from listing them, they are to be allowed to other states to an unlimited extent. It is evident that such procedure would serve only to establish once more Germany's hopeless military inferiority as against her neighbours, an inferiority created as regards peace forces, and especially in case of war, by the Treaty of Versailles. This inferiority would not be removed thereby, it would be established anew.