

Supposing it granted that previous knowledge and preparation are growing more and more necessary for success in war, let us see what sort of knowledge is required by any country; for instance, our own.

First of all we ought to know our resources in men, arms, horses, and money. We ought to know, exactly, what troops, reserve or otherwise, must be retained at home for the defence of the country, and such troops should be always assigned to the places they are to occupy. They should be definitely organized, as they must be in war, for why should we leave such simple, but tedious questions, to a time when all our energies should be free? Next, we must know the military features of our own country, and have thought over them so much, and turned them over in our minds so often in connection with the disposable force, that there can be no difficulty in deciding upon the plan of the defence; no hurry or indecision at the last moment. Garrisons having already been told off to their places, the great bulk of the remaining troops will form a field army. Its strength, organization, and means of supply may all be arranged at leisure during peace; and finally, we must know what expeditionary force is available for a counter stroke against the enemy's territory.

This expeditionary force should be told off now in time of peace, so that nothing will remain to be done but the periodical substitution of regiments, as they relieve each other in the ordinary course. The force should be definitely organized on paper with all its material and transport. The railways or roads by which it will move to concentrate on the coast should be specified, and the exact number of trains or days marches should be settled. The amount of tonnage required for its sea transport should be calculated, and the character of the various ships decided while there is plenty of time to think the subject out quietly. Even the boats required for embarking and disembarking should not be forgotten, nor the means of supply for the first few days. In short, the Staff ought always to be prepared with a definite answer to the questions—"How many troops are available for a movement on such a country (perhaps to the assistance of one of the colonies), and how soon can they be landed at the point of disembarkation, ready to commence a campaign?" This is no more and no less than all continental nations are prepared to do. They call the work, so far, "Mobilization" and "Concentration."

Arrived on the enemy's territory, or our own colony which is to be defended—the commander of the expeditionary force should not be like a stranger in a forest, nor as our gallant comrades were when they arrived on the Gold Coast. The information required for the successful and economical prosecution of war is obtained with comparatively little difficulty during peace, and should be ready in a concentrated form when war breaks out. It is of exactly the same character as that needed at home for home defence; only we must have knowledge of the enemy's preparations, and such information is obtained more easily by the invader than the invaded, because the invader chooses his own time. This is one great advantage of the offensive in war. Finally, the commander should have his plan of campaign in readiness, so that his first blows may be struck at once. All these preparations may be so made at leisure, in peace, as to await only the last touch according to circumstances when war is imminent. The Army should be well supplied with maps, and carefully compiled

military handbooks of the country. In Prussia, Austria, France, the minor States of Germany, and, I believe, in almost all other European countries, the work above sketched is done by the "General Staff," and I now proceed to describe how they do it.

PRUSSIA.

The Prussian "Great General Staff" is the first to engage our attention, both because it has existed almost in its present form since the beginning of the great peace, having been organized in 1816, and because those of other countries have been formed on its model though with slight modification.

The principles on which its founders and successive chiefs have acted, are that the Officers composing it, must be the very cream of the Army in talent, conduct, education and physical as well as mental power, and that all arms must be represented. There is an excellent school for the development of the higher qualifications of Officers called the War Academy, which is, in many respects, like our Staff College; but neither does it furnish the whole of the candidates for Staff employment, nor is the successful accomplishment of its course considered to give any claim whatever to appointment. It is true that some of the best scholars of the War Academy, are annually chosen to work under Count Moltke, but with them there are always other Officers recommended by Colonels of regiments. No pupil, leaving the War Academy, knows whether he will be one of the chosen. All return to their regiments, and those selected are afterwards summoned to Berlin, where, together with the Officers sent up from regiments by their Colonels, they are placed for a year under the immediate eye of Count Moltke, who tests their abilities by giving them tasks to perform such as are the usual work of the Great General Staff. After the year they all return to their regiments. A few months elapse and then the best of them receive the rank of Captain on the Staff, putting on staff uniform for the first time. Some of them are allotted to the corps or divisions, others to the Great General Staff at Berlin. In all cases the chosen ones are employed on real Staff duties, and the greatest care is taken, in the case of all Staff Officers, *not to cloud their faculties by too much routine labour at the desk*. Such routine work as is necessary is performed by a class of Officers called Adjutants, who form a corps distinct from that of the Staff though recruited to a great extent from the Officers who have passed through the Staff course. Bear in mind, if you please, this question of Adjutants for office work. We shall meet with it again hereafter.

The Staff Captains, whether attached to the Great General Staff at Berlin, or to corps and divisions, are kept perpetually engaged either in surveying, reconnaissance, acquisition and arrangement of information, or in duties having direct reference to the conduct of troops in the field.

After four or five years of Staff service they return to regimental duty; and, later on, part of them only are selected as Majors on the Staff. These fortunate ones have, by this time, gained some seven or eight years' promotion above their regimental comrades. But there is little or no jealousy, for their tests have been severe, and every one has confidence in Count Moltke.

Promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel goes in the Staff, and the successful Staff Officer thus reaches the command of a regiment some years before he would have done so if he had remained

what is, by a strange misnomer, sometimes called amongst us "at his duty." Surely a hard working Staff Officer is as much "at his duty" as he is who has remained with his regiment. The latter has doubtless done his duty in his sphere of action. So has the former, and his sphere has been a wider one, his work more severe.

Thus it may be said that the only passport to the Prussian Staff is hard work, the only admitted claim to remain in it is that of approved power. The system has found such favour in the eyes of other nations that it is likely to be adopted with very little alteration by both France and Austria.

Having thus watched the accumulation of a large body of highly qualified Staff Officers, let us now see how they are employed in peace. The first great fact is that their labours are directed to one end—preparation for war—and that so thoroughly that there is nothing left unprepared when the time of trial comes. Prussia, and therefore, Germany, can never be caught unawares. She is always and absolutely ready. It has been said that when war is declared, Count Moltke has only to touch a bell and the machine is set in motion. If for Count Moltke's name we substitute that of the War Minister, and for the bell a few telegraphic messages, the metaphor becomes a simple fact. Nor is there anything secret or incomprehensible about the means. The only wonder is that all nations did not know the fact and prepare themselves in like manner long ago. You know that each detail of mobilization is arranged beforehand, so that the Army Corps are immediately raised to their war strength by their Commanders. The rest of the preparation is worked out by the Great General Staff at Berlin. What are its organization and action?

Great General Staff at Berlin,

At its head is Count Moltke, whose name will shine the brighter as history grows older. He and his subordinates have nothing to do with the War Office, except to supply it with any information it may require. Nor have they anything to do with the troops except the Railway battalion, a sort of nucleus for railway studies in peace. Of this battalion Count Moltke is Inspector. The celebrated chief and his hand of workers occupy a magnificent palace lately built outside the Brandenburg Gate, at Berlin. Bearing in mind that Bavaria and other German States have similar establishments, it is not a little remarkable that Count Moltke has under his hand, exclusive of all Staff Officers doing duty with the troops; exclusive of Officers permanently employed on the survey of the country; exclusive also of the establishment of the Minister of War, —no less than from 91 to 101 trained Officers always at work on the studies considered necessary as preparation for war. The number is made up by 61 chiefs of sections, Field Officers and Captains actually on the Staff, and 30 to 40 Officers who have been trained at the War Academy or recommended by their Colonels. The are, besides, 115 employes such as registrars, draughtsman, printers, &c., but I think that for the purposes of the lecture, we had better confine ourselves to the Officers.

The 61 Staff Officers belong to the classes:—

1st The Active Staff liable to service with corps and divisions in their turn.

2nd. The *Neben Etat*, or necessary establishment, consisting of Officers noted for special scientific acquirements who are con-