

able to military service a man in the infantry, for example, ONLY SERVES AN AVERAGE OF 8 DAYS A YEAR, INCLUDING INSPECTIONS OF ARMS AND EFFECTS.

Perhaps the Swiss "spirit" is clearly shown by one of their officers who wrote "That which characterizes the Swiss army is the absolute willingness of every man, which is the key-note of his work. Patriotism is highly developed in Switzerland, the instruction of even the little ones is directed to this end by their teachers. Consequently, the Swiss citizen accepts with enthusiasm all the inconveniences emanating from the military law, which he knows has been confirmed by a solemn vote of the electors of his country. Besides, he realizes that every moment of his military instructions is usefully employed, and all, from the lowest to the highest rank, endeavour to perfect their attainments, with the fixed idea that the existence of their country may depend upon it."

Perhaps the recognition of the National "Spirit" comes all the better from a foreigner, and a Capt. A. de Tarle of the French army, in his review of "The Swiss Army and its Manoeuvres in 1912" says:

"All classes of the population take a passionate interest in matters connected with the army. Our manoeuvres have never brought such a popular concourse as that which one saw at Willes, the 3, 4 and 5 Sept.; nearly all the officers of the army who were not taking part in the manoeuvres obtained tickets to allow them to follow the operations in detail, on foot or riding.

"As a matter of fact there is nothing very surprising in this, if one recalls that the Swiss have the oldest military traditions and perhaps the most glorious in Europe; for five centuries there was scarcely a battle in which they did not take some, if not a predominating, part. The real creators of the infantry, they serve as the model to all nations for their military instruction. . . . For 30 years" (since adopting Universal service) "they have not drawn back from any sacrifice to guarantee their independence if ever it came to be menaced again. In speaking to a Swiss officer, I asked him about the eventual attitude of Switzerland and Belgium, in case of the violation of their neutrality, he replied, in a tone full of meaning, 'Oh! the Belgians have no patriotism.' When we recall that Belgium, with a population of eight millions of inhabitants and a budget of 700 millions (francs), only puts in line for its defence 4 divisions of 16 battalions and 2 divisions of cavalry, we can understand the disdain with which the Swiss speak of them!"