

given to roaming about—the less so, as to give up what he has got before he has got something better is very dangerous in a country where labor is in excess of the demand, and no uncultivated soil to be found. For this reason a regulation can be easily enforced which it would be impossible to carry out in the United States.

Each year, in April, all the young men who reach their twentieth year within the current year appear at the seat of the Landwehr battalion before a recruiting board (Kreis Ersatz Commission) composed of the commander the civil administrative officer of the circle (Landrath), and a surgeon. Here a first examination takes place. Those obviously unfit for any service, those who are exempt by law (for instance, the only son of a poor widow) are set aside the lists verified, and absentees called in. This is the business of one day; and the men are requested to appear again some day appointed in June or July, when the department board (Departments Ersatz-Commission), headed by the brigadier general, one field officer of the corps of the guards, and other members, make their circuit. They, in the first place, revise the decisions made already by the former board, and then proceed to a careful medical examination of the men. Young men not yet fit for duty, but promising to be so later, are put back for re-examination for one, two, or three years, as the case may be. Men fit only for certain branches of the service are pointed out. Why should a man who is too near-sighted to be a soldier not be fit to act in the company of stretcher bearers? The men are assorted according to their qualities. The first selected are the sharpshooters; next the strongest and best looking men are taken for the corps of the guards; the tallest and strongest men are next designated for the artillery and cuirassiers; the lightest built go to the hussars; tradesmen and mechanics are properly distributed; and the whole thing, descriptive lists included, is settled and reported. Formerly, when not yet every man was actually taken, lots were drawn immediately after the medical examination; and I cannot help remarking upon a great mistake in the draft law adopted during our great war, when we drafted before the examination had taken place, instead of examining first and drafting afterwards. Prussia is divided into military districts (Landwehr battalion districts) in such a manner as that each district contains so many inhabitants, that on an average about 200 each year reach the age of twenty. Of these 200 about 150 go to the infantry, 50 to all the other arms of the service, cavalry, engineers, and administrative branches. The corresponding battalion of the line is 400 strong in peace time, one third each year being dismissed to the reserve and replaced by recruits. The men remain in reserve six years up to their 26th year, and belong to the Landwehr proper during six more years. This gives a total number of 1200 available for the line or field battalion, and 800 for the Landwehr battalion. The infantry recruits after their three years' service, and those who have served somewhere else, all return home and remain under the orders of the Landwehr battalion commander. We propose to how, by and by, how all these soldiers are disposed of in case of a mobilization. Any of them changing their home report the fact, and their military record is transferred to such district as they choose to go to.

The Honolulu Gazette denies that the native Hawaiians of the present day are fond of pickled sea captains and roast baby.

## OUR BEST MILITARY MODEL.

(From the London Echo.)

About a year before the Franco-German war Count von Moltke told a statesman at the war office, at Berlin, that his military arrangements were so complete he could place the whole Prussian army, in complete fighting order, upon any part of the frontier, north, east, south, or west, in thirteen days. With allowance of some time for adjustments with the South German States, he did this in very nearly that time, at the commencement of the present war, to the immense surprise of the French. But within two days little Switzerland had 30,000 men under arms, and within one week after the declaration of war she had on her frontier, 40,000 men, infantry (practised riflemen), cavalry, and artillery, ready to protect her neutrality, and, if there had been need of it, she would have had in the field within a fortnight a well appointed army of 200,000 men of an educated and trained rank and file, as good as the soldiers of Prussia. Think of Switzerland, which has only two millions and a half of population, or half a million less than Scotland, and which is poorer than Scotland, doing this; and of what we might do with the like administration for 23,000,000 of population in the United Kingdom. The Prussian organization is excessively oppressive and detrimental to productive industry as compared with the Swiss organization; and it is confidently declared that it is not, in any important degree, more efficient. Equivalent results are, it is proved, obtained by Switzerland at a vastly lower expenditure of money and time than in Prussia, and that mainly by the transference of a great part of military training from the economically productive adult stages of life to the non-productive or school stages.

In Switzerland boys are drilled in the national schools from eight years of age, and participate in annual exercises and reviews; and in the secondary middle class or superior schools they are exercised in the use of light arms as soon as they can wield them. With such preparation the young Swiss is entered on the lists of the army by his twentieth year. Before he is enrolled he is trained for 28 or 35 days, according as he enters the infantry, the cavalry, or the artillery. All are called together annually in their respective cantons, one week for the infantry and two weeks for the cavalry and the artillery, while periodically the troops of all arms of a number of cantons are mustered and exercised together. The principle of the drill in the school stages was adopted in Switzerland in 1848, but was first practised ten years before in this country, and has been in operation in some half time schools; and on the evidence of English experience, which has hitherto been neglected in this country, it has been adopted in the New England States and in Canada. It is in course of extension in Holland. At the cost of maintenance, and of giving to one militiaman a comparatively inferior drill is given in the school stages to 130 boys. The total cost in money of the great Prussian army is about one-third less than that of the English army. The whole cost in money of the Swiss army does not appear on the general budget, but is known to be about as much less in money as it is in compulsory service when compared with the Prussian army. There can be no doubt that the Swiss rank and file, being as well educated and as good as the Prussian rank and file are as apt as they are for the use of all the new arms of precision. As to the introduction of the military drill in the school stages in England,

there is a very general agreement among military men with the leading civil army reformers that it ought to be introduced into all State-aided and rate-aided schools. On this system county forces would generally be the equivalent of cantonal forces.

## THE FISHERY QUESTION.

Aside from the question of American vessels fishing within the prescribed three-mile limit in the lower Provinces, there is a phase of the American fishing business which has escaped public notice. Not content with infringing the maritime law of nations in general, and that of the Dominion in particular, the Americans last summer carried their illegal traffic and system of piscatorial plunder into the very heart of the Dominion. The *modus operandi* was very simple and no doubt will be repeated next season if not put a stop to. A sharp New Yorker engaged to furnish, daily, a supply of fresh trout to the Saratoga and other leading hotels of resort by summer tourists, and knowing that he could not depend upon American waters for a tithe of the fish wanted, he previously made arrangements for the carrying on of a wholesale system of poaching upon the fresh-water lakes and rivers of the Dominion. Expert American anglers were engaged at the rate of a dollar a day to fish for trout—surrendering the result of their day's labors to their employer, who in turn boxed the fish up in ice and sent them off, as per contract, at the rate of seventy five cents per dozen. In this way our lakes and rivers were mercilessly drained of their trout. Moreover, when the rod failed to provide that was wanted the services of the otter were called into requisition, and of course the legitimate rules of angling were entirely disregarded. We learn that arrangements are now being made by several Americans for more extended warfare on our inland fisheries and that not less than two hundred anglers will be employed to fish on Canadian lakes and rivers.—*Witness.*

## CANADA COAL FIELDS.

A contemporary says:—"The railway celebration in honor of the opening for traffic of the International Coal Railway between Bridgeport mines and Sydney harbour has brought clearly before the inhabitants of Canada the enormous value of the coal deposits of Cape Breton. The speech of the Rev. Mr. McLeod, at the celebration, was replete with statistics, and it furnishes us with precisely that description of information which we always desire, but so seldom receive. Sydney harbor is as the reverend gentleman correctly stated one of the finest harbors known. It can be entered at all tides. It is safe from storms no matter how the wind blows. It would hold the paves of the world. The anchorage is excellent, the water deep enough along the shore for the heaviest steamers, and it is free from fogs. This magnificent harbor has been judiciously selected as the shipping port for the coal taken from the mines twelve miles distant. A first class railway, well equipped, connects the harbor and the mines, and facilities exist for shipping 2500 tons daily. "The quality of the coal," Mr. McLeod says, "is unsurpassed by anything in British America, and the variety is such that you may find a coal for every purpose for which coal is used." Sydney Harbour lies 300 miles nearer Europe than Halifax; it is 700 miles from Quebec, and as coal can be furnished to steamers at a third of the price it costs at Boston or New York, it is a safe calculation