

## THE GERMAN LANDSTURM.

The bill for organizing the German Landsturm threatens to lay upon the German people a new burden of extraordinary magnitude. A letter from Berlin which appeared in the *Times* some days back will help us to understand what this burden is. The number of able-bodied men, it appears, who annually escape military service on various grounds is estimated at 70,000, and of men between seventeen and forty there are at least 500,000 who have never been in the army. Besides these there are 500,000 men under forty who, after serving in the active army, the reserve, and the landwehr, have been set free at the age of thirty-two. Both these classes will be swept into the all-embracing net of the landsturm. Hitherto the Landsturm has been little more than a name. It could only be called out for service when the country was invaded, and its relation to the real army was scarcely closer than that of the English Volunteers. When this bill becomes law the Landsturm may be called out at the pleasure of the Emperor, and the battalions composing it may, if necessary, be drafted off to fill vacancies in the Landwehr. It may be taken for granted that no German troops upon whom this last mentioned duty may possibly devolve will be allowed to remain without proper preparation; so that, even if we assume that the men who have passed through the army will need no further practice after they are thirty-two, there is not much doubt that those who have not passed through the army will be subjected to whatever training is required to fit them for foreign service. The effect of this new legislation will therefore be, first, to lengthen every man's liability to military service by eight years, and those between thirty-two and forty in other words, the best of his life; and secondly, to abolish the greater number of the exemptions which have hitherto been enjoyed on one ground or another by many men under thirty-two. For the present, it appears, only 300,000 out of the 1,000,000 comprised in one or other of these categories are to be organized. But the sense of insecurity will be imparted to all. No young man will in future be able to look forward to thirty-two as to the age after which, even if he is most unlucky, he cannot be called on to leave his home. Wherever marriage has been delayed until the period of liability to serve in the Landwehr is over, it will now become a question whether it ought not in prudence to be delayed until after the period of liability to serve in the Landsturm is also over. Where a man has postponed investing his capital in trade until he could feel sure that he would not be called off from attending to his business by the exigencies of military law, he will now have to calculate whether the prolongation of the risk is a sufficient reason for postponing the investment still further. Probably in both the decision will be to take no account of the new obligation—at all events, until the first Landsturm battalion has been sent off to replace an invalidated battalion. But the sense that such questions have to be considered will remain, and with it the feeling of the excessive burlesqueness of life under the imperial rule. Again, in so far as the organization of the Landsturm constitutes an effective addition to the military strength of Germany, it must involve a corresponding addition to the taxation of the country. This addition will, in part, take the most costly of all forms of taxation—contribution of personal service. Not only will the profits of all trades be dimin-

ished by the necessity of paying the expenses of the Landsturm, but the productive power of all trades will be diminished by the diversion of the labour which would otherwise be engaged in carrying them on. The financial crisis will be hurried at both ends—Germany—especially Prussia is a poor country, and consequently can ill afford these fresh inroads upon her resources.

## THE CLOSING ARGUMENTS IN THE TRIAL OF COUNT VON ARNIM.

PERLIN, Dec. 14.—In the Von Arnim trial today the Public Prosecutor made the speech for the Crown. He declared the Count had been guilty of bad faith, and his statements were unworthy of credit. He argued that the Count purposely abstracted the documents and never had any intention of returning them. The revelations communicated to the *Vienne Presse* were intended to be used as weapons for a campaign against Prince Bismarck; but the accused retreated almost before the attack was commenced. The echo of the assassin's shot at Kis ingen was too much for him. The offence was without extenuation, and was aggravated by the rank of the Count. Nevertheless, concluded the prosecutor, the Government would refrain from demanding deprivation of civil rights.

Houze-dorff, counsel for the defence, argued that even if all the charges were admitted an acquittal was unavoidable on purely legal grounds. It could not be maintained that the Crown had any proprietary right in the missing documents. The accused, in his conflict with Bismarck, considered that he was defending his honor.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—Intense feeling has been aroused in France by some of the papers read in the Arnim trial. One despatch especially, in which Bismarck says he cannot but wish to see France weak, and seems it unadvisable to strengthen her by contributing to the establishment of the monarchy, causes profound indignation.

## WAR STATISTICS.

M. Chenu, medical inspector general of the French Army, whose statistical and clinical observations on the Crimean and Italian campaigns were exceedingly valuable, has published a similar work on the last war. He reports the losses sustained by the French to have been as follows:—Killed, disabled, or died of wounds and diseases, 138,871; wounded by the enemy's fire, 143,000; men disabled by marching, 11,421; 11,941 missing and treated as dead. These figures include 2881 officers killed or who died of wounds and disease, and 95 missing, with 17,240 prisoners who died in Germany, 1701 in Switzerland, and 124 in Belgium. While 17,240 deaths, then, occurred in captivity, only 1223 soldiers were killed at Gravelotte, the bloodiest battle of the war. The German losses were:—Killed or died of wounds and disease, 40,741; missing and treated as dead, 4000; wounded, 127,897. To these have to be added 1795 killed, 6930 wounded, and 1539 missing in skirmishes, patrols, and slight engagements. The Germans had 41,000 deaths, the French 138,871, the Prussians 127,000 wounded, the French 143,000. The French had 14,421 men disabled by *pluies de marche*—through defective socks, boots, and gaiters while the Germans suffered but little from this cause. M. Chenu shows that in the Crimea and Italy, as well as in the last war, disease was more fatal than the sword, this being partly attributable to commissariat, outfit, and hospital shortcomings.

## WINNIPEG FIELD BATTERY.

This Battery was inspected on Thursday evening 26th Nov. by Lt. Col. W. Osborne Smith, D.A.G., District No. 10, who was accompanied by Captain Tschereu and Lt. Cotton of the Dominion Artillery. The Battery mustered sixty officers, non-commissioned officers and men. The force were complimented by the Deputy Adjutant General for their efficiency in drill and on the state of their guns and equipment. The following extract from the order book of the Battery is highly complimentary to both officers and men:—

HEAD QUARTERS,

Military District No. 10.

Winnipeg, 27th November, 1874.

Extract from District Orders:

No 3. The officer commanding the district desires to record the gratification he experienced at the highly creditable annual inspection passed by the Winnipeg Field Battery yesterday.

The proficiency exhibited in drill both with the mountain howitzers, and small arms, was, considering the limited training this corps has had, most satisfactory and reflect very favourably on the pains which must have been taken by the Instructor, Lieutenant Young.

The Non-Commissioned Officers and men were steady under arms, and their general appearance was clean and soldierly.

Continuous attention to their drill cannot fail to make this corps equal to any Volunteer Militia Battery in the sister provinces.

WM OSBORNE SMITH,

D. A. G. Commanding Dominion Forces, North-West—*Manitoba Gazette*.

## AN IRON STEAMSHIP IMBEDDED IN THE SAND OF THE ROMER SHOAL.

The steamer August André, Capt. Greer, from Antwerp, with fifteen passengers and a general cargo consigned to Funch, Edge & Co., arrived off Sandy Hook on Saturday night. In trying to enter the Swash Channel she ran on the southwest end of the Romer Shoal, two miles north of Sandy Hook wharf. She settled in the sand, and all efforts to pull her off were unavailing. Yesterday morning the tug H. W. Crawford took off the passengers, twelve of whom are Sisters of Charity. They were taken to St. Peter's Hospital in Hicks street, Brooklyn.

The ship pounded all night on the shoal. Lighters and tugs were sent to her relief. Four tugs of the Coast Wrecking Company worked until 3.30 P.M., but still she remained imbedded in the sand. The high wind at length forced the tugs and lighters to seek a place of safety at the Sandy Hook Railroad wharf.

The André is an iron vessel of 1,512 tons. She was built last spring for the White Cross Line Antwerp trade. This is her fourth trip to New York.

The French Academy of Science, it is announced, are about to consider the propriety of adopting the meridian of Greenwich, which is already recognized by the other nations of the continent, in lieu of that of Paris. The meridian would touch the French soil at Trouville, and, in the event of the Government sanctioning the change, a column would be erected on the spot.