

of these officers are sent abroad at the expense of the Federal Treasury to witness field manoeuvres, visit the military establishments, &c., of other countries, and report thereon. Each officer, moreover, besides his regular routine of service, is held to perform such special duty, as may be assigned to him by the commander of his brigade or division.

I shall doubtless be expected here to make some mention of the cadets—those tiny warriors from nine years old to fifteen, whom most tourists in Switzerland have admired at their mimic drill. They are not, as is often supposed, properly speaking, a part of the Swiss military system, although by the projected reforms they may in time partially become so. As they at present exist, they are simply juvenile Volunteer corps connected with the national schools in some of the larger towns, more or less encouraged by some of the cantonal authorities, but chiefly dependent on the free will of the parents and the private contributions of liberal friends of youth. They are not so numerous as I should wish them to be; they are probably not exceeding 7,000 or 8,000 in all Switzerland, that is barely 3 per cent. of the boys within the school attending age; but precise statistics on this point are wanting. So far as it goes, this school boy play at soldiering is worthy of the highest commendation, and, I know of nothing in the manners and customs of my native land which I would so unhesitatingly recommend for immediate imitation than this. The great public schools of which England is justly proud, appear to me marvellously well adapted for fructifying an idea which had its origin in the Swiss Cantonal Schools, and there to contend against serious and peculiar difficulties, without preventing it from achieving a very fair success. There are, of course, valid objections to be raised against it. Playing with fire arms is proverbially a dangerous game, and if they are entrusted to youngsters of the playful age within 9 and 15, a vast amount of un-safety may safely be reckoned upon. My valued collaborator, Mr. Martini, has directed my attention to the fact that a certain reaction has lately gained ground in Switzerland against the cadet system, that is justified by facts which cannot in fairness be ignored. To mention only one, by way of illustration. A friend of his who was as warm an advocate of the schoolboy "cadet" as I am supposed to be, had his ideas on the subject severely modified latterly by having his eldest son brought home to him shot through the lungs with a ramrod. (Let us hope that breech loading will diminish gun accidents of this as of other descriptions to a minimum.) It has also been found that the boy tired of his cadet drill, and on reaching manhood, took unkindly to a serious duty which had palled on his taste as a boyish play. I am bound to say that Mr. Martini's personal observations are in a canton—the only one I know of—where the cadet instruction was attempted to be made compulsory. I have a strong conviction for my own part, that many things excellent in their way, are "run into the ground" in other countries as well as in Switzerland, by enthusiastic partizans, disregarding the poignant wisdom of Talleyrand's maxim, *Surtout pas trop de zèle*.

In my humble opinion the boy has, in this particular case, been wiser than the man and the Swiss schoolboys have engrafted on the military system of their country a new and original feature, which their fathers are doing their best to spoil.

I am not prepared with any statistics to confirm *a priori* opinion of mine, that the

use of fire arms by boys, under reasonable precautions, will not necessarily cause more numerous accidents than the ordinary athletic exercises of English universities and public schools, not to make any invidious mention of Rugby football. The majority of these have an unfortunate tendency to degenerate into mere sport, and assimilate to "turf practice" and at their best they are apt to take up an undue proportion of the time and energy of a youth whose sole business is to qualify himself for some useful and remunerative civic pursuit. Now there is in the mere mimicry of the soldier's duty something of itself serious, steady, and disciplinarian. Whether considered as a preliminary preparation for military service, or—as I should prefer to consider it on broader grounds—as teaching boys self-respect, as distinguished from the rowdiness which at their age is often mistaken for manliness—subordination without obsequiousness—smartness in the good sense of the word, or what the French call *tenue*—I can imagine nothing better than this plan of boy volunteers, provided always that they are truly Volunteers, and join their company of their own inclination, with consent of their natural guardians, and without compulsion from the State.

The Swiss cadets have a serviceable and inexpensive uniform, which answers capably for a school dress, and it is at its worst more pleasing to the eye than the tall "chimney pot" on the head of a small sized lad in a jacket. The armament is in part supplied by the canton, or by private subscription, and I know of one or two neat artillery companies, and one of pontoniers, who occasionally attempt field manoeuvres with their brethren in arms of adjoining cantons. They officer themselves up to the grade of captain of a company, which is filled by one of their teachers acting as instructor, and as a high sense of honor there is instilled in a boy—not devoid of a grave sense of responsibility as well—who at 13, 14, 15, wears his tiny sword as second or first lieutenant of a company of his school mates. Shooting matches for prizes take place from time to time, and it is difficult to say who enjoys the fun the most, whether the little competitors, swelling with conscious self-importance, or the admiring papas, mammas, sisters, and the grown up folk generally.

It is now proposed to do away with the cadet system in its present and well developed form, by abolishing all grades among boy Volunteers, and making it obligatory on the Cantonal Governments to provide elementary military instruction or drill in the schools, at least within the ages of 13 and 15. Moreover, the boy, after he leaves school at 15, and until at the age of 20 he becomes a federal recruit, is to have at least 15 half days practice drill. With a sincere respect for the logical minds of the leading Swiss Army reformers, with equally sincere admiration for the lucidity with which they propound their views, and giving them credit for the best intentions, I cannot help thinking that they are "riding a willing horse to death." My preference, be it understood, is throughout for the voluntary principle, applied wherever possible, and the largest admixture of it with any scheme of military organization that may be found consistent with efficiency and with the necessities of each country.

I propose now to sum up in a few words the leading facts which characterize the Swiss system, and for this purpose I cannot do better than avail myself of the admirable statistics collected by Mr. Stampfli, whom I have already quoted.

It appears then, that under the present

practice about 10,000 recruits, of the age of 20, are annually drilled, clothed, armed, and organized into tactical units. About 40,000 men, between the ages of 21 and 28, belonging to the *elite* or first ban, are annually mustered, and practised in bodies of greater or less strength, occasionally increased to the size of a division of, say 10,000 of all arms. Some 20,000 more between the ages of 28 and 34, and belonging to the reserve, or second ban, receive annually the same instruction. The last ban or *landwehr*, merely muster one day each year, or two days every alternate year.

The entire available Federal force of the three classes is, in round numbers as follows:—

<i>Auszug</i> , or first ban	80,000 men.
<i>Reserve</i> , or second ban	45,000 "
<i>Landwehr</i> , or arrier ban	75,000 "

Total 200,000 men.

As the present legislation, making the liability to service 25 years, only dates from 1850, the last class, or *landwehr*, will still annually augment until 1875, when the total will have reached approximately 250,000 men.

The special arms comprise about 20 per cent of the total force in the two first bans, and somewhat less in the last. The cavalry is the weakest, numbering only about 3,000 horse. On the other hand, the artillery is comparatively strong, with 45 mounted batteries, and a corresponding number of guns in position and reserve parks.

The sharpshooters number between 9,000 and 10,000 men: of sappers and miners, pioneers and pontoniers, about 1,600.

The time occupied by each man during the whole period of his military service may be reckoned approximately as follows:—

	Days.
From the infantry from	100 to 110
Engineers, artillery sharpshooters	160
Cavalry	170

All non-commissioned officers on an average of about half as many days more, and commissioned officers double that number of days. This gives an average of about 6½ days annually for all grades and arms.

The actual annual outlay is below 400,000/ which is apportioned as follows:—

The Federal military budget about	£120,000
The different cantons, about	200,000
The men themselves, who in some of the cantons are called upon to pay partially for their equipment, about	30,000

Total, one year in another, about £350,000
Which averages about 3s. per man, or 2s. 10d. per head of the population.

In this outlay are comprised besides, of course, the cost of the higher branches of military administration, the following important items:—

1. The man's pay, 4½ per diem, and a ration of meat and bread.
2. A complete outfit, equipment and arming of each recruit.
3. Ordinary maintenance and replacement of military stores and material.
4. Hire of horses, at 2s. 6d. per day.

The clothing is estimated at about 5l. per man for the infantry soldier, a trifle more for the sharpshooters and otherspecial corps, and rather more than 10l. per man for the cavalry.

(To be continued.)

The first Turco-European train over the railroad skirting the Sea of Marmora, entered Stamboul (Constantinople) on the 16th, crossing the old Seraglio grounds.