

of German officers, could do practically as it pleased with Canadians. Military service would certainly be compulsory, and, even should no more stringent regulations than those of Germany be required, they would seem unbearable. A vast army of regulars stationed throughout the Dominion, maintained at our expense, does not sound attractive, and it is hard to think of the rank and file made up of our Canadian boys, frequently under domineering and over-bearing German officers. The Prussian military system is the basis of the imperial system and under that code every male is liable for active service at seventeen and must commence to serve by the time he is twenty years old. He serves for seven years, of which two must be spent with the colors. During his reserve years he is twice called for training with his corps for a maximum of eight weeks. He then serves under various regulations until his thirty-ninth year, making the whole length of his service nineteen years. Then he joins a further reserve list until he is forty-five years of age. The only exceptions to the above fixed rule apply to those who are physically or mentally unfit for service, or those who have attained a certain standard of education which allows them to join a special class and serve one year. This last classification is attainable by only a few, because, in addition to the qualification of learning, they must be wealthy in order to pay the expenses of their division.

As one authority has expressed it "The new Empire was founded with the sword and the essential theory of its structure is that it must be defended."

Thus we would have Canada over-run with a military system which, when once fully organized on such an elaborate scale, would not fail to have a deteriorating influence upon our now free Canadian manhood.

Our trade and commerce would all be changed. In place of our fine steamers, flying the British flag, leaving our ports for England, we would have boats sailing for Hamburg, with the German flag. Regulations so stringent as to practically prohibit communication with England would be bound to be enacted.

Our railroads, those vast systems which have been our pride, would probably pass to government ownership and the powers that be would see to it that they produced every penny of revenue that was possible. Since 1881 all the railroads in Prussia have been owned by the State and of the German systems, with a total of 24,470 miles in 1906, only 2,579 miles were owned by private corporations.

The heavy trade which we now enjoy with our neighbors to the south, trade which in the last fiscal year was reported to be in excess of six hundred and twenty-six millions of dollars would become disorganized, principally because all of the treaties and agreements which we now have with the United States would become inoperative and our new masters would make such arrangements for the settlement of the various questions as would best suit the imperial purpose.

In Germany the posts and telegraphs, with the exception of Wurttemberg and Bavaria, all belong to the imperial postal district