

Never may traitorous hand cut asunder
 One tie that is dear to a patriot's heart,
 While the Bulldogs of Ocean still wield the Isles' thunder
 No traitor or foe-man can rend it apart — *Ottawa Citizen*.

2. PRUSSIAN MILITARY SYSTEM ADAPTED TO CANADA.

The Prussian army and militia, which have so thoroughly proved its efficiency, present to the people of Canada both a model of organization and an example of patriotism; and although it is always bad policy to attempt to graft on any people a foreign system whole and entire, we have long been convinced that it is to Prussia our statesmen should look when the much needed remodelling of our militia is undertaken in earnest. There is so much similarity, both geographical and political, between Prussia and Canada, that the study of the Prussian organization becomes doubly interesting, and we propose giving a short account of it without dwelling on internal details. These may be adapted to suit the differences of the English tactics under which we are trained, without affecting its fundamental principles.

The changes over which the King and the Parliament of Prussia have been quarrelling are changes of detail, only intended to keep men in the reserve and prevent them passing into the Landwehr for two years longer. But the system itself was devised by Scharnhorst and other gifted patriots at the time of their country's supremest need. During those dark days which succeeded the battle of Jena, when Prussia, stripped of half her territory, lay prostrate at the feet of the first Napoleon, she was yet allowed by her conqueror to keep on foot a small army. Though watched by French spies and compelled to smother their aspirations, the Prussian youth entered this army as fast as possible, learned their duty and then were dismissed on furlough or resigned, thus making way for others, until, by the time the fortunes of Napoleon had turned, so many had been drilled that a large and well-trained army sprang suddenly as by magic into being and restored the faded glory of the Prussian arms. The lesson then learned was not forgotten, and the idea of making the army a military college for the people, became rooted in the nation, and has borne fruit continually in spite of the opposition of its adversaries.

The whole system is based on the following fundamental ideas:—

- 1st. That every man owes to his country the duty of military service.
- 2nd. That the standing army should be a college for training the nation.
- 3rd. That to wear a soldier's coat is an honour, and that no one who has committed a disgraceful action is to be considered worthy of it.

Based on these principles, the fabric rapidly grew until the people of Prussia became the army of Prussia, and the merchant, the banker, the farmer and the clerk could all find their places in the ranks in any hour of danger; and when we contemplate this wonderful result of organization and patriotism, we must remember that this Prussian nation is the most highly educated in the world, and among the most industrious and prosperous.

The army of Prussia, then, consisted of—

1. The Standing Army, consisting of men from 20 to 25 years old, divided into—
 - a The Active Force..... 20 to 22 years.
 - b The Reserve..... 23 to 25 years.
 - (or by new regulation..... 23 to 27.)
2. Landwehr, or militia army, consisting of men from 25 to 39 years, divided into,
 - a First Levy..... 26 to 32.
 - (or by new regulation..... 28 to 32.)
 - b Second Levy..... 33 to 39.

3. The Landsturm, "Home Guard," consisting of the remainder of the population, of which only
 - a Men between 39 and 50 are enrolled.

For the sake of clearness we have given the divisions of the nation at a glance. We will now consider them separately.

Every youth arriving at the age of 20 must enter into the standing army. The exemptions are exceedingly few, and no substitution is allowed. The heir to the throne and the son of a peasant are alike bound. The officers and sergeants of the standing army are permanently appointed as in the English service, but the privates are continually changing, and the trained officers are really their school masters. The term of service is three years, but any youth who will pay for his own equipment, and who gives proof on examination of superior education, may serve for one year only. He is then appointed an officer of Landwehr, and thus, while education is promoted, a superior class of officers is provided without trouble.

After serving three years in three in the actual standing army, the young man is passed on to the reserve. There he serves for two years longer, but he may engage in any business, for, excepting in case of war, he is called on for a few weeks only in the two years to drill with his regiment.

Arrived at the age of 25, the former youth (now a man,) his physique improved by drill and exercise, passes into the Landwehr. He may now settle down in life, marry, and engage as actively as he pleases in business. For six years longer he is liable to be called out every two years, and manœuvre with the standing army, but he is no expense to the country, though in his place he is always ready for an emergency.

At 32 years of age commences the second levy of Landwehr. This is never called out but in extreme peril, and is used as an army of reserve and for the garrisons of fortresses. Still, it is ready organized for service. The rolls are strictly kept, and the arms and accoutrements are ready in store.

Finally, at 39 years of age, the Prussian passes into the Landsturm. This we have designated by the American name of "Home Guard,"—a term of opprobrium as used here, but a useful force if Government know how to utilize it. It is really equivalent to our old, well-known Sedentary Militia, but made up, generally, of men who have been drilled. This class is never called beyond the district; it is truly a local force, and is available for garrison duty, or in case of actual invasion or imminent danger. All younger men exempted from any cause must fall in here.

Now it is specially to be noted that the arms, accoutrements and clothing of all this force are always ready. Each commandant of a district has sealed orders for calling out (mobilising) the reserves and landwehr. A simple telegram causes the orders to be opened, and in three days the reserves and in fourteen days the landwehr are assembled, armed and ready for the march. In reality, the privates of reserve and the landwehr are better troops than the standing army on account of their age and consequent steadiness and vigour.

Great care is taken in the most important point of instruction and appointment of officers. In the standing army the officers are all of the upper classes, the sergeants are picked men of inferior social position, but the greatest attention is paid to the education of all. The military colleges are numerous, and the examinations are so severe as to prevent any ignorant officer from being appointed. The officers of a regiment in any branch of the service may refuse to receive a comrade, if they consider that he is a man of honour, no matter what his position, acquirements, or influence may be. We have already explained that the Landwehr officers are appointed from those young of superior education who have paid for their own equipment and have served one year in the standing army. It may, however, well happen that, being immersed in business and distracted by other cares, the few weeks drill of the landwehr are not sufficient to enable them to keep up their knowledge. This difficulty is thus obviated. Each regiment of the line consists of three battalions, and has a corresponding regiment of landwehr consisting also of three battalions. Both regiments have the same number, and on service are brigaded together. Thus, say the 10th regiment is composed of 1st, 2nd and 3rd battalions of the line, and 4th, 5th and 6th of landwehr, and on service the experienced superior officers of the regular service have general supervision of all six battalions.

From the close relations thus established between the standing army and landwehr the garrisons are seldom changed, and the regiments are recruited from the Province where they are serving; so that every precaution is taken to interfere as little as possible with the occupations of the people. It must be evident that this might be admirably adapted to our country. Every battalion of volunteers, or active service militia under continual drill, could have a second class battalion attached to it, while experienced officers from the Queen's regular army might be carefully selected from regiments serving in the Province to take charge of brigades in time of war, to whom temporary or local rank might be given.

The whole army of Prussia, active and landwehr, is divided into nine army corps—one of the Guards—and the other eight corresponding to the eight Provinces of the kingdom. Thus the first army corps is always stationed in Prussia proper, the eighth in Rhineland. There are nine regiments of artillery, one to each army corps; nine reserve regiments of the standing army, and eight reserve battalions of landwehr. These reserve troops are in times of war continually feeding the army in the field with fresh troops and trained recruits. The engineers, pioneers, etc., form a separate body, and serve in detachments. There are also eight battalions of chasseurs; and it must be noted that these three last services, viz., Artillery, Engineers and Chasseurs have no landwehr attached to them, but that all who have passed through them return to their old regiments in case of war. We have not considered the cavalry separately, as it is organized in the same manner as the infantry,